

Rani Gaidinliu statue unveil in Uttar Pradesh

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8:

A 3.5 ft statue (bust) of Rani Gaidinliu installed in a public park in Rail Vihar colony of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was unveiled by Sitaram Jaiswal, Mayor of Gorakhpur city today.

The statue unveiling function was attended by luminaries from Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, RSS, BJP and other socio-cultural organisations of Gorakhpur.

While speaking Mayor Sitaram Jaiswal said, "Rani Gaidinliu is true daughter of Bharatmata who fought against British for the freedom of our country. On other front she clashed against conversion crusade of Christian missionaries who were in league with Christian terrorists."

The Mayor of Gorakhpur said further, "The story of freedom struggle of Rani Gaidinliu is a golden chapter of Bharatiya history. The life of Rani Gaidinliu is a source of inspiration for all of us like Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi."



Prof. Prithviraj Singh, RSS Chief of Goraksh Prant of UP said, "People in other parts of the country generally believe that all Nagas are Christian and all Christian Nagas are anti-Indian. There are handful of misguided youths who are spearheading the secessionist armed

struggle at gun point and those who oppose them are gunned down."

Earlier, Jagdamba Mall highlighted the salient features of freedom struggle led Rani Gaidinliu against British invasion and Christian conversion. The function was marked by Zeliangrong Heraka devotional song followed by Heraka dance presented by Naga students of

Shri Ram Vanvasi Chhatrawas, Gorakhpur UP. The function started with worship of statue of Rani Gaidinliu with Ved mantras pronounced by Brahman priest followed by garlanding of statue by the Mayor Siyaram Jaiswal. The function was organised under joint venture of Sewa Samarpan Sanathan, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Municipal Corporation, Gorakhpur UP.

9.79 lakh vacancies in central govt departments: MoS Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 8:

The ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that there are 979,327 vacancies in the central government for different posts and departments.

Ministry of railways has 293,943, followed by 264,704 in defence (civil) and 143,536 in home affairs, said the ministry.

According to the ministry, these vacancies are against the 4,035,203 sanctioned strengths of the government, with 3,055,876 posts occupied as of March 1, 2021. The least number of vacancies are in the vice-president's secretariat, where only eight of the 64 posts are vacant, followed by 13 in agricultural research and education and 14 in public asset management.

Responding to a question by Congress MP Deepak Baij on the number of vacancies in various central departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs), minister of states (MoS) Jitendra Singh, on behalf of the Centre, said during the current fiscal year, "about 1.47 lakh new appointees were inducted by various ministries, departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies, banks and other establishments."

"There are 2,93,943 vacant

posts in railways against the total sanctioned strength of 15,14,007. Currently, the railways is running with 12,20,064 employees. Similarly, defence (civil) has 2,64,707 vacant posts against the sanctioned strength of 6,46,042, while the department of home affairs has 1,43,536 vacant posts against the sanctioned strength of 10,85,728," said Singh in Lok Sabha.

Moreover, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has 129 vacant posts against the sanctioned strength of 446 and the President's Secretariat has 91 vacant posts against the sanctioned strength of 380, he added.

As of August 2022, the government informed the Parliament that 9,79,327 posts were vacant in government offices. Of these 23,584 were group A posts, 1,18,807 were group B posts and 8,36,936 were group C posts.

In October, newly recruited by the government were 75,000, followed by 71,000 in November. The new recruits will join various ministries and departments of the central government. The appointees will join primarily group C and D posts, which have been vacant. The posts on which the new recruits will be appointed include central armed force personnel (CAFP), sub-inspectors, constables, steno,

personal assistance, and income tax inspectors, among others.

The government plans to hire 1 million people in "mission mode" over the course of the next year and a half including nearly 98% vacancies in Group B and C services that are lying vacant.

"PM @narendramodi reviewed the status of human resources in all departments and ministries and instructed that recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by the government under 'mission mode' in next 1.5 years," a tweet on the official handle of the Prime Minister's Office stated in August.

The details of recruitment made through three major recruiting agencies, including Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) in central government during the last three years are as follows — for UPSC the number stands at 4,399 in 2018-19; 5,230 in 2019-20; 3,609 in 2020-21; and 13,238 in total.

The SSC, in the meantime, hired 16,748 people in 2018-19; 14,691 in 2019-20; 68,891 in 2020-21; with a total hiring of over 1,00,330 employees.

The railway board in the interim overall hired 1,51,900 people, with the highest being in 2019-20, which was 1,28,456.

ZUF rolls out red-carpet to new cadre

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has rolled out red carpet welcoming cadres who joined the Front.

A statement by John Pame Secretary, Information & Publicity ZUF, said, "It is a matter of great delight to accept Lance Corporal Rejoice Kamei who took right decision to join the front along with arms

from NSCN-IM."

He added that the cadre after conducting all formalities have been officially installed into the fold of the Front on Dec 5, 2022. His testimonies and resolute decisions conveyed testifies that he have fully realized the logical and pragmatic approach of ZUF with the GOI. And that the demand of the Zeliangrong people for a secured position and status

within the Union of India is the legitimate and political rights of the people.

The Front is ever extending its wide arm of acceptance with utmost humanitarian gesticulation and brotherly love to whosoever would love to serve for the common cause and aspiration of the dearly upheld movement of the Zeliangrong historical struggle said John Pame.

Launching of Grand Opening of GUN BAE at New Checkon

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8:

Do you like Southeast Asian food? Are you looking for something a little different? Then you're in luck! Much-anticipated grand opening of GUN BAE, an Oriental restaurant, has finally unfolded its doors to the public today by Kumbi AC MLA Sanasam Premchandra Singh and different celebrities from Manipur. He further stated that We, the Manipuri, are much more advanced to compete with other states and countries.

The programme was followed by live acoustic music. It is run entirely by a team of young entrepreneurs passionate about providing their guests with an unforgettable dining experience and an impressive menu of Asian-inspired dishes with modern cooking techniques.



The menu at Gun Bae Oriental offers a variety of dishes that is a great place to enjoy authentic cuisine from over Asia, including traditional Manipuri, Chinese, Japanese, Burmese, Korean, and Thai. The chefs have also included fusion creations that blend flavours from multiple cultures. It's a great way

to experience the restaurant's unique atmosphere and get a sneak peek at some of the dishes that will be served.

Gun Bae Oriental is friendly and attentive. Guests are greeted warmly and offered menus upon arrival. The restaurant is decorated with beautiful buildings with traditional touches

and bamboo architecture. The restaurant is family owned and operated and provides a comfortable atmosphere for both locals and tourists alike. It, thus, will be a first step to taking advantage of India's Act East Policy by attracting local and international tourists. It provides an opportunity for Manipur to leverage its proximity to the South East Asian countries and build a stronger relationship with them. Thus, the restaurant provides a great chance for Manipur to benefit from the Policy.

The restaurant is committed to using the highest quality ingredients and offering exceptional customer service. It also provides free of cost for organizing an event if it is related to art and culture in the restaurant. It is also offered of flat 50% discount for organizing other events in different slots.

Manipur Film Archivist honoured at Mumbai

IT News
Mumbai, Dec 8:

In the opening ceremony of the ongoing Film Preservation and Restoration workshop in Mumbai, a film archivist from Manipur, Johnson Rajkumar has been honoured for his remarkable contribution to the field of film archiving.

Johnson was awarded 'Champions of Film Heritage Award' by the Film Heritage Foundation with the citation that reads, 'For his selfless commitment and courage in taking the road less travelled with limited support and



Johnson receiving 'Champions of Film Heritage Award'

resources and taking on the challenge of sparking a movement for film preservation and laying the foundation to building a film archive and training archivists in his home state of Manipur. The professionally trained film

archivist, Johnson has been instrumental in setting up the film archive of Manipur and has been voluntarily working in SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum. He is currently participating in the ongoing Film Preservation and

Restoration workshop as a Tata Trusts Scholar. In the workshop, Johnson along with Film Heritage Foundation and experts from L'Immagine Ritrovata, Bologna are working to save the recently found reels of Mainu Pemcha (1948), the first feature film attempted of Manipur.

The workshop which commenced on December 4 is jointly organised by the Film Heritage Foundation in partnership with Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation (TFF) and the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), in association with the World Cinema Project.

Eemom Bakerster Cafe & Bakery opened

IT News
Imphal, Dec 8:

In what could be termed as a unique symbol of women empowerment, a very young, dynamic and enthusiastic woman entrepreneur, Wangkhem Chandni, 20 opened today her maiden bakery line that goes by the name Eemom Bakerster Cafe & Bakery at Thangmeiband Sinam Leikai near NLC club.

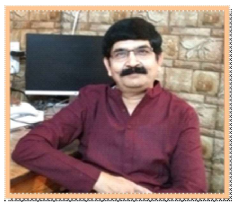
The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (Grand Opening) was flanked by the noted actor RK Somorendro @ Kaiku admist hundreds of well wishers. When asked, the young entrepreneur said she wanted to



show the world what the youth could do and become a successful women entrepreneur completely free from financial hardships. At her young age, she has already

given employment to three young girls. She dreams of expanding her entrepreneurship under the aegis of Startup Manipur.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Pramukh Swami Maharaj - the great saint dedicated his entire life for his cause had worked tirelessly to nurture BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha by serving others without any expectations. He had no desire for credit or recognition because in his heart was the feeling of servitude. The centenary festival of Brahmaswarup Pramukh Swami Maharaj, who had lived his entire life by his words will be celebrated from December 15, 2022 to January 15, 2023 in Ahmedabad. Lakhs of

followers of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) from different countries are expected to attend the month-long 'Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav' or 'Pramukh Swami Maharaj Centenary Festival'—the grand finale of the centenary events that is being hosted on a 600-acre site called 'Pramukh Swami Nagar' along the Sardar Patel Ring Road near Ognaj Circle on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. The BAPS is a spiritual, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to improving society through individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service. Its worldwide network of 3,800 centers supports these character-building activities.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj was the spiritual guru of the sect. He was born on December 7, 1921, became chief of the sect in 1950 and died on August 13, 2016. In childhood, the guru got the name Pramukh Swami, which means president saint. Maharaj means king. He was formally ordained a saint at 18, renouncing worldly pursuits, and became president of the sect in 1950. He was made spiritual head of the sect in 1971, becoming the fifth man to hold the title. He was also the driving force behind month long BAPS festivals held across the United States, events that helped recruit new devotees.

People from all walks of life will visit and offer their heartfelt tributes to Pramukh Swami Maharaj and gain inspiration from the fascinating presentations, displays and programmes about his universal life, works and messages. The BAPS spiritual leader always gave enlightenment, guidance, and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and administered abundantly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all.

His was the simple life of a celibate, ignoring fame and recognition. His greatness lay in his ability to relate to the common man. He understood the problems people face in their everyday lives and empathized with their pain. His success was not measured by the awards he received nor by the recognition he accumulated. Rather, it is measured by the number of lives he transformed.

A 30-foot high statue of Pramukh Swami Maharaj on a 15-foot pedestal is encircled by 24 recesses, with depictions of his life and work, it said. Other key attractions include a 67-foot high massive replica of New Delhi's Swaminarayan Akshardham, an open-air theatre, children's cultural land or Bal Nagri spread over 17 acres and a glow garden.

He was named as one of the 20 most influential people in the world by Guinness World Records in 2000. Pramukh Swami Maharaj has also been recognized by the British Parliament, Canadian Parliament, and the United Nations for his work in promoting religious harmony and giving back to local communities. He inspired religious activities in BAPS mandirs and sat sang centers throughout the world in addition to the Swaminarayan Akshardhams in New Delhi and Gandhinagar.

Swami inspired millions with his powerful motto: In the good of others lies our own. There is no doubt that this legacy of his selfless service will continue to benefit humanity for a long time to come and the deeds of Pramukh Swami would set an example in the history of this time.

How to prepare for JEE & NEET simultaneously



By: Vijay GarG

(Planning to Appear for Both Medical and Engineering Entrance)

JEE and NEET are the common and most-sought streams among students after Class 10th. But at the same time, there are some cases where a majority of students encounter a dilemma whether to opt for Math to prepare for IIT JEE or to take Science to prepare for the NEET.

In such a case, it is best & most viable to keep all the options open and choose all the subjects PCMB (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Biology). Though it requires extra effort to take and the methods of preparation may vary, it brings a wide variety of professions to choose from later on.

What are IIT JEE and NEET Exams?

IIT JEE (JEE Advanced) and NEET are the entrance tests that are conducted for admissions in the engineering and medical field respectively. Students who qualify for the IIT JEE exam can get admission to top engineering colleges whereas NEET grants admission for courses like MBBS, BDS, or BHMS.

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Qatar's s world cup success punctures FIFA's political fantasy

Live and let live policy sees several potential troubles off

By: James M Dorsey

If the Qatar World Cup proved anything, it's that sports and politics are inseparable Siamese twins joined at the hip.

Politics popped up at every twist of the World Cup's road, whether related to the right of freedom of expression of players, sports commentators and fans; anti-government protests in Iran; anti-Israeli sentiment among Qataris and Arabs; a backlash against Western, particularly German, critics of Qatar; or ultra-conservative religious rejection of soccer as a sport.

Qatari efforts to stage manage the intrusion of regional politics ranged from picking and choosing which protests fit its foreign policy agenda to seeking to ensure, where possible, that events elsewhere in the region would not overshadow or inflame passions during the World Cup.

Amid escalating violence between Israelis and Palestinians, Mohammad al-Emadi, the Qatari official handling Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip, travelled to the region to ensure that it and Islamic Jihad, another Gaza-based organization, would not respond with rockets to Israeli use of lethal force against Palestinian militants on the West Bank.

Qatar feared that a response to last week's killing of an Islamic Jihad commander on the West Bank and near-nightly Israeli raids could spark a renewed Israeli intervention in Gaza, already crippled by a 15-year-long Israeli-Egyptian blockade.

The Qatari pressure puts in a different perspective the Gulf state's endorsement of expressions

of support for the Palestinians during the World Cup in the form of pro-Palestinian flags and T-shirts and a refusal by Qatari and Arab fans to engage with Israeli reporters covering the tournament.

Despite refusing to follow in the footsteps of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan in recognizing Israel without a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Qatar has a long-standing working relationship with the Jewish state that serves the interests of both countries.

The Gulf state, often at Israel's request, has pumped millions of dollars into paying government salaries in Gaza, providing aid to thousands of families affected by past wars, and funding fuel for the Strip's power plant as well as infrastructure projects.

Moreover, Qatar became the first Gulf state to put money into Israel when it funded in 2006 a six-million-dollar stadium in the predominantly Israeli Palestinian town of Sakhnin, an investment long before the UAE-led Arab recognition of the Jewish state 14 years later.

Sakhnin and the Doha Stadium are home to BneiSakhnin, Israel's most successful Israeli-Palestinian club.

As a result, allowing expressions of pro-Palestinian sentiment during the World Cup served multiple Qatari purposes.

It gave a release valve to Qataris, a minority in their own country, who were concerned about the impact on their society of the government's live-and-let-live approach towards soccer fans with very different cultural values visiting their country during the World Cup.

Preventing fans from taking pro-LGBT paraphernalia such as One Love and rainbow-coloured armbands and shirts into stadiums served a similar purpose.

It also allowed Qataris to vent their frustration at perceived double standards in European and American criticism of Qatar's rejection of LGBT rights, particularly after the German team's hands-over-mouth gesture in protest against FIFA's denial of their right to wear pro-LGBT armbands.

In one instance, Qataris wore pro-Palestinian armbands of their own to a match as a protest against the donning of a pro-LGBT One Love band by German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, who attended the game.

Expressions of pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli sentiment also suggested that Qatar's refusal to recognise Israel was more in line with Arab public opinion than efforts to project the UAE-led recognition of the Jewish state as genuinely popular and indicative of a drop in support for the Palestinian cause.

If anything, recent polls show that public support for establishing diplomatic relations with Israel had fallen across the Arab and Muslim world, including in countries that normalized their ties to the Jewish state.

In Bahrain, 20 per cent of the population supports the accords, compared with 45 per cent in 2020, according to a Washington Institute for Near East Policy poll in July. Support in Saudi Arabia fell from 41 to 19 per cent. Even in the UAE, where normalisation had the greatest impact, support dropped to 25

per cent this year from 47 per cent in 2020.

For Qatar World Cup managers, Palestine was low-hanging fruit. Protest against the government in Tehran was a far trickier challenge.

A regional behemoth, Iran is a partner as well as a potential threat with which Qatar shares the world's largest offshore gas field.

Maintaining relations with Iran has allowed Qatar, at times, to be a background mediator with the United States on issues like the moribund talks to revive the 2015 Iranian nuclear agreement.

Qatar feared that allowing stadiums to become venues of confrontation between opponents and supporters of the Iranian government could have persuaded Iran to rank the Gulf state, alongside Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United States, as an instigator of sustained anti-government protests in which security forces have killed hundreds.

As a result, Qatar sought to prevent anti-government banners, T-shirts, and pre-revolution flags from entering stadia. The problem resolved itself when Iran was knocked out of the World Cup in the group stage.

Yet, the larger issue remains. The Qatar World Cup demonstrates that FIFA's insistence that sports and politics can be separated amounts to a political fantasy.

More concerning than that, it enables FIFA and autocratic World Cup hosts like Qatar to decide what are convenient and inconvenient expressions of politics. That hardly makes for a level playing field, the starting point for any sport. (IPA Service)

Modi's Civilizational Revamp



By: M.R. Lahu

India, the world's largest and oldest civilization has been witnessing scores of initiatives by the Modi government since 2014. Many of them were largely indicative of a civilisational revamp that Prime Minister Modi has been unequivocally manoeuvring and with the global acceptance, his government at the centre is upbeat about everything that it believes as a cultural necessity.

While critics prefer to hoot from behind the fence on anything the government brings in its platter, the Prime Minister is seen unperturbed and busy and relentless on his cultural revamping mission. India's G-20 Presidency came at a point when the government enjoys all possible reasons to celebrate the global leadership that it was pacing forth in a post pandemic world.

The Vedic hymn "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" that the Prime Minister tried to set as the focal thesis for the global community under India's G-20 presidency was taken from the Maha Upanishad. Modi's undisputable efforts to channelize the global attention towards the spiritual splendour that the Vedic traditions defined for humanity had received support from all the corners. This is again marked as a guaranteed significance as the human race is severely troubled by the harrowing effects of war and the

highhandedness and hegemony that the superpowers deal with the rest of the world with. India's global reach through the new leadership of the G-20 would further strengthen its efforts to take the global community closer to knowing the Indic traditions and this should be seen as an occasion that the world would directly test the flavour of spiritual concomitance that India has been actively advocating. Undoubtedly the presidency becomes more significant as India takes its strides through the Amrit Kaal, which the Prime Minister puts as a matter of pride and great opportunity.

To see the world as a family has been a Vedic expression and India's efficiency in effectively communicating this idea of oneness in a post pandemic world irrespective of the differences that humanity is engrossed in deserves admiration. The message "One Earth, One Family, One Future" in itself is all encompassing and would probably break all the assumptions that have been keeping the global community on the edge of scepticism and surreptitious denial. Well before its G-20 presidency, India, under the leadership of Modi, was catapulting its agenda of Yoga heritage by highlighting the essence of the tradition and its global relevance. The world community tilting its mind in acceptance for Yogic life and declaring June 21 as the International Yoga Day was undoubtedly a victory that the Modi government could take the credit of.

India's civilisational revamp since 2014 has been hugely accepted and admired. But Narendra Modi's ideological interventionism has been forcefully painted as majoritarian by his rivals. The interconnectedness that the Vedic traditions had discovered centuries ago was transformed into a global narrative by the Indian state. With its multiplicity flourishing and expanding, India sets an example for coexistence while diverse views gain respect and resonance. Truth and non-violence and the Vedic means of Dharma would gain global acceptance and its inheritance such as Yoga, Vedanta and Ayurveda would be seen playing a pronounced role in bringing the global diversity under the Indic wisdom of oneness. Aspiring to bring a multicultural world together by stitching differences into amity and eradicating enmity, India's G-20 leadership is potential and holds vitality to speak for the entire world.

The world being divided and disabled by political, ideological and geographical differences, India stands as a potential platform for the global community to lean on for peace and tranquillity and experience the essential principle of oneness. Back home, Modi's civilisational leap in India has been termed as a scripted narrative and the efforts protruding in the direction of a significant revamp are lambasted as divisive. A deliberate denial that India's civilisational symbols have been made a victim of have now been officially given a face lift, a titivation. You call it an ideological take-over that India never attempted for decades since independence, Modi's courage to redraw between the missing dots should be seen as an endeavour to retrieve the heritage of an erstwhile colony of the Mughals and the British. The colonial hangover is broken and the chain of servitude is unfastened.

The monumental statue of Subhash Chandra Bose installed in

the Kartavya Path tells us stories of valour and sacrifice and the element of pride that the initiative injected in Indians is momentous. To speak about another initiative of the Modi government, with more visible changes put in place, the National Education Policy 2022 comes as a revolutionary step in the area of education. With its ancient glory restored, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor stands as an example for India's cultural revival and the Mahalak Lok Corridor in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh dances in tune with the spiritual jugalbandi of Ayodhya, Kedarnath, Sonmady and many other spiritual places that received a refurbishment in the Modi era. Abrogation of Article 370 brought significant changes in Jammu and Kashmir too and a spiritual rejuvenation that the Himalayan region is witnessing through the restoration of temples and shrines, would be enlisted as a step towards India's spiritual renaissance led by a constitutionally elected government.

India's global humanitarian interventions and its distinctive multilateralism and the ideals that it drafted for the global concomitance would redefine geopolitical aspirations of countries. Modi's spiritualised global diplomacy and the G-20 presidency seem to be emerging as an actual catalyst, cementing irritable differences in a world that is desperately seeking consensus to stay together peacefully and polarization kept at bay. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam would further illuminate the global community to stand in line with 'oneness' gaining momentum as a vision and a mission that it can probably cultivate for the future.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist / Author of the book)

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Navy Chief asks the youth of Nagaland and North East to join Navy

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 8:

The 10-day 23rd Hornbill Festival providing a glimpse of tribal culture, and art is being held at the Naga heritage village Kisama in Nagaland till December 10. The festival was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhanekar on Nagaland's 60th Statehood Day on December 01.

With its daily cultural events, such as music festivals, fashion shows, adventure sports, and night carnivals, the festival has been enrapturing audiences for roughly a week now.

As part of the Indian Navy's Outreach program, the Indian Navy has set up a large stall at the festival. The focus of the stall is to provide local youth with information about the Indian Navy, its contribution to national security and the various opportunities for employment as officers and sailors, an official statement read.

A part of the stall has been converted into an Audio Visual Room where movies highlighting the Indian Navy are being screened. Virtual Reality headsets are also available which provide the viewer with a life-like experience of being on a Naval ship INS Kolkata and an aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. These sets have been a great hit with the visitors. Some interesting products exhibited at the venue are innovative solutions for Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security. In addition, an Indigenisation desk to interact with Industry/Startups has been set up.

On Wednesday, the chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral R Hari Kumar, graced the afternoon cultural session as



The Naval expedition team posed for a photograph with senior officers.

the chief guest and said that to generate maritime consciousness through the festival was the Navy's aim. The outreach programme seeks to create better consciousness about the "silent services" of the Navy, as this part of the country witnesses less representation. At present, there are only about 200 personnel in the Navy and "We are very keen to increase the number of personnel from Nagaland in the Navy," he said.

The Naval chief informed that the response at the Navy stall has been very positive and over 6000 visitors have stepped foot at the Indian Navy stall. He hoped that the huge footfall would see more recruitments into the Navy.

He also explained the opportunities at the Indian Navy, the Agnipath scheme, and the types of recruitment along with eligibility criteria. Further, the naval chief stated that around 3,000 Agniveers have been recruited for the first time out of which 341 are women.

The Indian Navy is working towards ensuring that all

key technologies are developed in India in the next 25 years for which it is in dialogue with startups and MSMEs. The Navy is working out ways to sign MoUs with startups in Nagaland that can help build technology for defence purposes, Kumar said. He also called on Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday.

Motivational lectures
Motivational lectures on 'Career in the Indian Navy' were organised for school children in association with the State Education Department at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Dimapur, GHSS Purana Bazar and Pranab Vidyapith HSS and Ruzhukhrie GHSS and Thenocha Memorial GHSS, Kohima. In all 1280 students attended the interactive lectures.

Naval Band
As part of the festival the Naval Band with a total of 17 musician sailors performed from December 05 to December 07. The band gained immense popularity amongst the local population.

Motorbike Rally
Besides, the Indian Navy Motorcycle Expedition was flagged off by the CNS from Guwahati on November 25, from INS Vikramaditya, to coincide with Lachit Divas, the 400th birth anniversary of the famous Commander-in-Chief (Borpuhan) of Ahom Kingdom.

The Indian Navy expedition is supported by Royal Enfield who have provided 15 Meteor 350 Royal Enfield Motorcycles, along with service support. The team comprises 31 naval personnel including 02 women officers, spread over two phases covering a total distance of 3500 km in 21 days.

During Phase I, the riders covered a distance of 2000 km. The riders visited and interacted with students at schools in Guwahati, Sohra, Aizawl, Kolashib, Loktak and Imphal. The interaction with students provided the boost and motivation to young students to join Indian Navy & Armed Forces. The rally reached the Hornbill festival site on Wednesday.

Meghalaya Records Strong Economic Growth in last financial year

IT News
Guwahati, Dec 8:

The State of Meghalaya recorded a strong GDP growth of 8.2% for the FY 2021-22. While the growth rate for Meghalaya's GDP during 2011-12 to 2017-18 was the slowest among all the States/UTs of India (33rd rank), it grew at a faster rate during 2018-19 to 2020-21. From the slowest-growing State, it went on to become the 19th fastest-growing State/UT in India.

The strong growth of Meghalaya can be attributed to the increase in government expenditure. Since 2018, the State government expenditure has doubled from Rs. 9,858 Cr in 2017-18 to Rs. 18,881 in 2022-23. An exponential increase in expenditure by almost 50% and large-scale investments taking place, have led the State to record an impressive growth and put the state on the national development pedestal.

• Meghalaya recovers from last rank in terms of growth in GDP during the period of FY 2013-2018 to 19th rank during FY 2018-2021
• Despite covid-19, economy of Meghalaya recovers at a very fast pace on account of major thrust through government expenditure and external aided projects

The data also revealed a low GDP which led to the state to rank bottom on the national scale, especially during the period of FY 2013-18.

As per the RBI released data on GDP of states, the compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) for Meghalaya's GDP during 2011-12 to 2017-18 was 2%, which was the lowest among all the States/UTs of India. However, the State grew at a faster rate during 2018-19 to 2020-21, with an impressive jump of 13 places nationally.

Recently, published data from Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) has released GDP for 33 states for the period of FY 2021-22 and FY 2020-21 at constant prices. RBI released GDP data of all states for the financial year of 2020-21. As a practice, RBI also releases 10-year GDP for all States/UTs from which CAGR can be calculated. Meghalaya's growth has been slow during the period, however upon detailed analysis reveals that the slow growth rate can be attributed to the period of FY 2013-2015. The State has further recovered and witnessed strong economic growth during FY 2021-22.

Professor (Dr.) R.K. Uppal conferred upon "Preeminent Professor National Award 2022" By Chennai Teacher's Council

IT Correspondent
Bathinda (Punjab), Dec 8:

Professor (Dr.) Rajinder Kumar Uppal has been given the Preeminent Professor National Award for 2022 by the Chennai Teachers' Council of Tamil Nadu for his outstanding work in both teaching and research. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, an acclaimed academician, research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research.

Presently, he is serving in the most exalted institution, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (Punjab), as a Professor-cum-Principal. He is also a visiting Professor in Indus International University, Himachal Pradesh. This doyen of economics hails from a very small town near Bhatinda District in Punjab. Belonging to a poor and modest joint-family, his entire childhood was full of struggles even for bare necessities, yet he rose to a very high and eminent position in his life because of his eternal passion for knowledge and learning.



Dr. Uppal is an accomplished academician, a distinguished author, a collaborative researcher, and an effective mentor to young scholars. He is also a frequent reviewer, discussant, and on session chair for several professional organizations. He has authored a new era of globally competitive Indian banking system. He authored/edited seventy two books and amongst his prominent books Indian Banking in the Globalized World-2013, many

of his books are serving as text and reference books in many professional programmes being run by Indian colleges and universities. Through his books, he envisaged the challenges and opportunities regarding the use of e-banking particularly in public sector banks. His insatiable craving for research got stimulus under the aegis of UGC and HRD.

As many as seven major post-doctorate research projects were funded by UGC, ICSSR and HRD, New Delhi. He reciprocated successfully and harnessed his research skill with incredible finesse and ease. His name is also selected for Amity Excellence Award for the Best Academic Author in the area of Banking and conferred during INBUSH ERA 2020, Best Outstanding Researcher Award-2020, Outstanding Researcher-2021 Award and MTC Global Life time Achievement Award-2022., Top 10 Thinkers Award-2022., Punjab Rattan Award-2022 and Best Researcher Award-2021.

India's active covid cases fall to 4,244

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 8:

India's active covid cases tally fell to 4,244, with 241 new coronavirus infections reported in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry said in an update on Wednesday. The country's total reported cases so far, since the pandemic hit in early 2020, stand at over 4.46 crore covid, while death toll at 530,647.

Active cases account for 0.01% of total reported infections,

while the recovery rate stands at 98.80%, according to the health ministry.

As of now, Karnataka has 1,629 active cases, Kerala has 1,501 active cases, Maharashtra has 257 active cases, Odisha 87 cases, Rajasthan 63, Tamil Nadu has 92 active cases, Uttar Pradesh 103 and West Bengal has 49 active cases.

The country conducted over 1,42,777 tests in the last 24 hours.

Under the covid vaccination drive, more than 219.95 crore vaccine doses

have been administered to the people across the country so far. In the last 24 hours, around 40,438 doses were administered.

INSACOG under the supervision of Department of Biotechnology is keeping a close watch on the covid situation in the country while undertaking constant genome sequencing to keep a track on new variants, if any. Surveillance at hospital level is also continuing, with the monitoring of Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases.

Given the steady fall in active cases, several state governments have eased travel norms and mandatory wearing of masks.

The health ministry, however, has said that during air travel, in-flight announcement about the pandemic will be made and precautionary measures have to be followed (preferable use of masks and following physical distancing). Passenger showing symptoms during travel shall be isolated as per standard protocol.

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How to prepare for JEE & NEET....

Now that you know what these exams are conducted for, let's know whether it is possible to crack these exams together.

Can A Student Prepare for IIT and NEET Both at the Same Time?

Yes. A student can prepare for the IIT and NEET at the same time. The real deal here is all about hard work and time management. Students should be dedicated, vigilant, and hardworking to be able to crack both exams.

Here are some tips to prepare for both exams at the same time. Take a look:

Tips To Prepare for JEE and NEET Together

Students often get so frustrated when it comes to preparing for these exams at the same time. The daunting challenge & pressure of nailing both the engineering and medical entrance exams can sometimes demotivate or distract intelligent students also. To resolve this issue, multitasking is an important approach. Additionally, there should be an effective combination of time management, carefully-carved strategy, and planning.

Below, we have explained a few important tips & strategies

for all the engineering & medical aspirants out there who want to shine in the exam with good scores. Take a look:

1. Prepare a Study Schedule

The very first step towards studying & preparing for the NEET & JEE is to create a timetable. It should consist of all the subjects along with important chapters & weightage. You need to categorize them based on their difficulty level & assign separate time to each subject accordingly. To complete the syllabus within a period, set a short-term goal and stick to that limit. In this way,

you will be able to manage your time efficiently and cover all the subjects.

2. Thorough Knowledge of the Syllabus

Both these exams have Physics and Chemistry in common. Although the extent of Physics is high in the IIT JEE and the difficulty level of the questions may vary, the aspirant should focus on mastering both subjects. The syllabus of Physics and Chemistry is almost the same for JEE and NEET. It is best if you combine the similar topics of these subjects to prepare.

On the other hand, Math

& Biology should be prepared separately. Math requires frequent practice regularly while Biology requires revision and memorizing. Therefore, students should dedicate equal time to both these subjects and try to clear the concepts.

Additionally, students should refer to the official sites of JEE and NEET for the syllabus for JEE Mains & NEET 2022. Plus, NCERT books can help in the basic preparation for both of these exams. Students should make notes and revise them daily.

3. Solve Mock Tests And Previous Years' Questions

Aspirants should start solving the previous year's questions to get a clear idea of the types, & patterns of questions and how to tackle them. At the same time, taking mock tests is a great idea to analyze your performance and improve your speed as per the exam format.

Both of these exams have a distinctive question pattern that needs to be understood. Aspirants can download the last year's question papers from the respective examination site. Solve them by setting a time limit and in case of doubts, ask your professors.

4. Analyze and Improve Weaker Areas

It is common for most students to solve sample question papers or mock tests and forget to analyze their performance. Students take tests but never go back and evaluate the areas where they are lacking, so improving them is a far-away thing. But when a student analyzes their tests, they get to know the areas they are required to work on more and the areas they have developed a good command on. This way they can utilize their time efficiently following the requirements.

Assembly elections results: BJP sweeps Gujarat, Congress wins Himachal

Agency
Gandhinagar/Shimla, Dec 8:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has not lost an election in the state since 1995, has won a resounding mandate while sealing a seventh straight term in Gujarat.

BJP crosses majority mark in 182-member assembly, bagging 93 of 107 seats whose results have been declared so far.

Himachal Pradesh has not returned any incumbent government to power after 1985, and that has held true again. CM Jai Ram Thakur has accepted defeat making Himachal the third state after Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where the grand old party will be the ruling party.

The BJP might have headed to the Himachal Pradesh elections with their *riwaz badal raha hai* (the tradition is changing) slogan. But it remained just that — a slogan. The Congress is set to return to power after five years, the flight of their MLAs to Chandigarh notwithstanding.

The BJP had centred their election around PM Modi. "Each vote given to 'Lotus' (the BJP poll symbol) will be a vote for Modi himself," state party leaders had declared.

The major factors at play in deciding the elections possibly include history — Himachal has not returned any incumbent government to power after 1985.

High unemployment also played a part. At 8.6% in October, these numbers are a full per cent more than the national average, according to CMIE data.

No wonder, the Agnipath scheme floated by the BJP government at the Centre recently provoked a lot of heartburn in a state that prides itself in having the maximum number of Param Vir Chakra recipients. The list includes Major Somnath Sharma, the first winner.

The Congress' promise to restore the Old Pension Scheme was another vote winner, our correspondent Harpreet Bajwa stressed.



The angst of the apple growers and the BJP rebels — 21 of them leaving to fight the elections being proof — too worked against the ruling party.

Environmental issues dominated the electoral landscape in the tribal regions, especially in Lahaul and Spiti, and Kinnaur, with the voters asking the candidates to clarify their stand on new hydroelectric projects and implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA). The tribal districts reverberated with a 'No Means No' campaign against new hydroelectric projects after a series of landslides took place last year. The residents were also demanding that the candidates clarify their stance on

the amendment made in the FRA earlier this year, which revoked the condition of getting a no-objection certificate from panchayats for construction of dams.

Finally, this being a vote against the BJP is underlined by a simple fact — despite CM Jai Ram Thakur winning by a huge margin, many ministers ended up losing.

With the Congress set to cross the majority mark in the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur Thursday said he respects the mandate and was going to hand over his resignation to the governor.

"I respect the mandate. In a short while, I am going to hand over my resignation to

the governor," Thakur told reporters here.

The Congress on Thursday appeared to be heading to achieve majority in Himachal Pradesh as it surged ahead of the BJP, winning 16 seats and leading in 23 others.

Isudan Gadhvi, the Aam Aadmi Party's CM face in Gujarat, lost in the Assembly election from Khambhalia on Thursday by more than 18,000 votes as his BJP rival came back from behind to clinch the seat.

Gadhvi was leading at the end of the fourth round over Congress' incumbent MLA Vikram Madam, while the BJP's Mulubhai Bera was trailing in the third place. But Bera surpassed his rivals in the later rounds of vote counting.

Bhupendra Patel to continue as Gujarat CM; oath-taking ceremony on Dec 12

Agency
Gandhinagar, Dec 8:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which looks set to register a landslide victory in Gujarat Assembly polls with a record number of seats, on Thursday said Bhupendra Patel would continue as the Chief Minister of the state and his oath-taking ceremony would take place on December 12.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah would

attend his swearing-in ceremony, BJP's state unit president C R Paatil said on Thursday while addressing a press conference.

The BJP is set for a landslide victory in Gujarat to retain power for a seventh straight term and is likely to break previous records by winning the highest number of seats in any assembly election in the state. The trends available after five rounds of counting showed the party was leading in 155 of the state's 182 assembly

seats that went to polls earlier this month.

"Bhupendra Patel will continue as the state chief minister and his oath-taking ceremony would take place on December 12," Paatil said.

Lashing out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for trying to "demean" the people of Gujarat with "dole politics", Paatil said, "The AAP never thought about Gujarati asmita and was never able to connect with the psyche of the people of Gujarat."

Centre plans to ease congestion at airports, results will soon be visible: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 8:

To deal with the rising air traffic at country's airports, the centre has formulated a plan along with all stakeholders, told Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday. He also said that the result will be soon visible on ground.

He also added that the congestion at airports is due to the "resurgence of traffic" and due to the "democratisation of civil aviation". Another reason is the expansion of the network across the country.

"I have had a detailed meeting yesterday not only with airport operators but with the immigration, the CISF and others. I told them that we must have a planning for peak hour departures and arrivals. Not on the basis of an airport's capabilities of take off and landing.

On the basis of our peak hour traffic, we can manage our departures and arrivals," he said during the Question Hour.

He also highlighted on the fact that there is a great degree of volatility in India's airports graph which have to be smoothen up, just like airports have to prepare winter schedules to handle fog. The minister was confident that the new planning will help in reducing the airport traffics.

He also informed that he had requested the airport operators to do the peak hour planning. He is also hopeful that the airport traffic will be controlled and managed soon. Recalling the chaos at US and Europe airports due to a sudden surge in the number of air travellers, the minister said there was a "mayhem" at the airports of the US and Europe where baggages were lost.

Civil aviation is one of the

most affected sector of the country. Before the pandemic, the highest number of passengers travelling via plane was 4.07 lakh in a day. It was achieved in 2019. The mark was breached recently three days ago when the number of air travellers reached 4.13 lakh on a single day.

While replying a question about the inconvenience to senior citizens while transiting through Indian airports enroute their onward journey abroad, he assured of looking into the matter. He also stressed upon the issue of crowding at airport and elaborated on the seasonability of the civil aviation industry. The peak season comes from October to February. It is followed by normal season which is from March to May. Then comes the lean season of monsoon which begins in June and last till September.

Villages in Meghalaya without access to roads and markets

PB
New Delhi, Dec 8:

The Ministry of Rural Development launched Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size (250 & above, in case of North Eastern States as per 2001 Census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population. The mandate of PMGSY has been subsequently widened to include new interventions. PMGSY-II was launched in the year 2013, with a target to upgrade 50,000 Km of the existing rural roads. PMGSY-III was launched in 2019 for consolidation of 1,25,000 Kms through Routes and

Major Rural Links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals. As per PMGSY guidelines, Rural Roads is a State subject and State Government is the nodal implementing agency in the State. Also, the unit for this programme is habitation, meaning a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time. In the state of Meghalaya, 481 habitations have already been connected out of the 602 habitations sanctioned for connectivity under PMGSY.

MDoNER supplements the efforts of the State Government and line Ministries of Central Govt. to provide connectivity in North Eastern Region (NER) including providing road accessibility to remote areas which helps

facilitate the tribal people residing in small and remote villages.

Total length of roads sanctioned under the main Schemes of MDoNER namely - North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) and North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) implemented either directly or through North Eastern Council (NEC), during the last 3 years in the State of Meghalaya is 169.51 Kms.

Further, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has also undertaken 992 projects in NER, including Meghalaya, under "Road & Bridges" sector, from 2014-15 onwards.

This information was given by Minister of Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

Sports

The next World Cup will jump to 48 teams

Agency
Doha, Dec 8:

The next World Cup will be the biggest ever after world soccer body FIFA took the leap from a 32-team field to 48 teams in 2026.

It means more of football's so-called "little teams" that didn't make it to Qatar will be given a chance of a lifetime when the tournament is hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

That could be great news for everyone who was entertained by Saudi Arabia's stirring upset of Lionel Messi's Argentina at this World Cup, Japan's two wins over former champions Germany and Spain or Morocco's humbling of star-studded Belgium and Spain on its way to an unexpected quarterfinal run. More surprises surely await in four years.

Still, it's not clear to everyone that bigger is better.

While 48 teams might increase the chances of fairytale moments such as Saudi Arabia's 2-1 win over Argentina in the group stage, there's also a good chance of the opposite: more one-sided games that may take some of the shine off a tournament that is meant to be the best vs. the best.

Spain 7, Costa Rica 0 also happened at this World Cup. As did England's 6-2 rout of Iran, France's 4-1 dismantling of Australia and Qatar becoming the first host country to lose its three group stage matches. FIFA will need to dig even deeper into the lower levels of international football to get from 32 to 48.

"It means that we will have to find 16 more good teams," said Arsene Wenger, FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development and a central figure in making a 48-team World Cup workable.

FIFA is still promoting the expansion as an upgrade and



good for the global game. All continents will have more slots and FIFA says opening soccer's marquee event to more of its 211 member countries or territories should have an impact beyond the teams, with the prospect of even more eyes on TV screens and more kids inspired to kick balls across the globe.

"I am convinced that if the teams, the countries have more opportunities to go to the world stage, it will do more for (soccer) development inside that country," Wenger said. Qatar's World Cup is the

first in the Middle East and the furthest FIFA has ventured from the game's heartlands in Europe and South America. That decision has provoked its own harsh criticism but the on-field action might have been a timely advert for the 48-team plan, which FIFA announced in 2017 and has had to defend ever since over doubts about what the exact format will be.

FIFA initially indicated it would be 16 groups of three teams, but that idea was widely criticized. Another option could be 12 groups of four

teams. Wenger said FIFA's decision-making council has not decided yet.

In Qatar, Japan was one of three Asian teams to qualify for the last 16, which had never happened before. African teams collected more points in the group stage than ever. Morocco topped a group containing 2018 World Cup runner-up Croatia and semifinalist Belgium and advanced to the quarterfinals by beating Spain on penalties on Tuesday. Cameroon signed off by beating Brazil, the first time an African team has conquered the five-time champion and soccer's most celebrated team at a World Cup.

"Just look at how the World Cup is unfolding," said Senegal coach Aliou Cisse. "It's not like 30 years ago when the big fish were completely eating the little fish alive."

Amid Japan's run in Qatar, winger Takefusa Kubo said "they can't underestimate

Asia." Ghana coach Otto Addo said Africa deserves its extra places and its teams now have a better chance of going further.

However, the expansion may not have much of an impact on the final outcome of the World Cup.

European and South American teams — the big fish Cisse referred to — have gobbled up every one of the 21 World Cup titles so far, with 12 for Europe and nine for South America. No teams from another continent have made a final in nearly 100 years of World Cup history. Eighty-two out of 84 semifinalists have been European or South American. The United States in 1930 and South Korea in 2002 are the exceptions.

In Qatar, while teams from outside Europe and South America did well in the group stage, only Morocco advanced to the quarterfinals, where it will face Portugal on

Saturday. South Korea, Japan, Senegal, the United States and Australia were all eliminated in the round of 16.

Cisse's Senegal are the African champions but were outclassed 3-0 by England. South Korea, ranked No. 3 in Asia, was knocked out 4-1 by Brazil. South Korea forward Son Heung-min, his country's one star, said almost in envy: "Look at their players."

A bigger World Cup does offer clear advancement opportunities for FIFA, though.

Just over 3.5 billion people, more than half the world's population, watched the 2018 World Cup in Russia, according to FIFA, and the soccer body earned record revenues of \$7.5 billion from commercial deals tied to the Qatar World Cup.

With those numbers in the bank from a 32-team tournament, 48 offers the obvious chance to sell World Cup aspirations to more people in more places.