

Implement RTE Act, ensure 25% seats for poor students at private schools – DESAM



IT News
Imphal, June 22:

Democratic Student's Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) today urged the government of Manipur to reserve 25% of the total seats for marginalized students in all private schools in the state under the Right to Education Act.

Joining the campaign by the Coordinating Committee on Disturbance Free Educational Zone Demand, presi-

dent of DESAM, Leishangthem Lamyamba said that enrolment in government schools has come down to just 26 to 13% in the state of Manipur as per report by ASER. This showed total failure of the government schools in providing quality education and thus many parents and guardians, irrespective of the economic conditions today prefer private schools.

As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, all private

schools should provide free and compulsory education to 25% of the total seats to poor and marginalized students, Lamyamba said. He said that the government should implement the RTE provision to provide free education to the poor students in all private schools from this current session as government schools have failed.

It may be mentioned that, the RTE provisions for ensuring free education to 25% stu-

dents of the total seats, among others, has not been implemented in the state of Manipur. President of the United Assn. of Recognised Schools of Manipur (UARSOM), L. Joy Khuman had said that private schools could not provide 25% seats free education to the poor students as the government is not ready to reimburse the students' fee. During a penal discussion, L. Joy had said that as per the RTE Act, government should reimburse the fees for the 25% students that private schools are providing free education.

Today's protest by the Coordinating Committee on Disturbance Free Educational Zone Demand was staged in front of Standard Robarth Higher Secondary School. Students forms human chain with placards with slogans demanding implementation of RTE Act at private schools, to make educational institution free from any form of interventions including corruption and violence and also to ensure conducive atmosphere at all educational institutions.

Imphal Peace Museum stands as a place to pay tribute: Governor



IT News
Imphal, June 22:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has said that Imphal Peace Museum at Maibam Lotpa Ching is a scared place of Manipur and is famous for 2nd World War where Japanese Army fought against the Allied Forces till their last breath. Therefore, this place is known as Peace Museum which stands as a testimony and a place to pay tribute for an everlasting peace and reconciliation.

Speaking at the 3rd Anniversary celebration of Imphal Peace Museum held today at Maibam Lotpa Ching, Governor said, the Maibam Lotpa Ching or the Red Hills is a historic war memorial site of the Battle of Imphal, an important branch of WW-II that took place in Nambol, Manipur. He said, this is one of the important places in the history of Manipur. Lauding the efforts made by the Manipur Tourism Forum in

establishing the Peace Museum, La. Ganesan said, the museum displays and depicts hardships experienced by the people of Manipur during the war and how Manipur which was a peaceful state and the people had to flee from the ravages of war. It has been one of the most visited tourist place in Manipur. The Imphal Peace Museum has become the hallmark and testimony of the strong historical connection which the people of Manipur have with Japan, he added.

Expressing the need to conduct more research on the battle sites, Governor said, these sites need to be preserved and restored with proper memorials so that future generations can understand the sacrifices made from both sides while also spreading the message of peace and affirming that war benefits no nation. La. Ganesan further stated that the states of North East are blessed with nature's bounty. The tremendous po-

tential for tourism in the region needs to be explored for the economic growth and prosperity of the people. This can be an event to make Manipur known to many parts of the world and for making Manipur a World War II heritage site and attract tourist from across the globe.

Earlier, Governor tours the museum and witnessed the old war related artifact which are being displayed there. Commissioner (Tourism) P.K. Jha also spoke on the shared and common history of India and Japan especially with Manipur.

Kawazu Kunihiro (Charge d'Affairs, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission), Embassy of Japan, Atsushi Sunami, President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation and representatives of Nippon Foundation, Japan participated among others in the celebration. The celebration was co-organized by Manipur Tourism Forum and 2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation.

Minister Awangbow Newmai graces felicitation programme



IT News
Imphal, June 22:

Water Resource and Relief & Disaster Management Minister Awangbow Newmai today graced the Felicitation Ceremony of Meritorious students at Olivia Higher Secondary School, Kanglatongbi, Imphal West.

While addressing the gathering

as Chief Guest, Minister Awangbow congratulated and expressed happiness on the performance of the students in the recently declared Higher Secondary Examination conducted by Council of Higher Secondary, Manipur. The school produced Subject Toppers of three different MILs namely Thadou Kuki, Liangmai and Nepali.

He further encouraged the students to continue giving their best and bring laurels for the schools and contribute at large for the society. Awangbow extended cash reward to the subject toppers and financial aid for the development of the school.

During the programme, the Minister was felicitated by the

school authority and the meritorious students were also felicitated. The subject teachers of different MILs namely Thadou Kuki, Liangmai and Nepali that produced subject toppers were also feted on the occasion.

Additional SP, Senapati, ML, Kaisungbou also attended the ceremony.

Droupadi Murmu is a sureshot political choice of BJP for Presidency

Narendra Modi is looking with confidence towards 2024 Lok Sabha Polls

By: Sushil Kuttu
New Delhi, June 22:

The NDA's choice for President of India, a woman, and a tribal — Droupadi Murmu, is a sureshot winner, considering the political situation in the country. And Murmu is no stranger to power, and high office. She was Jharkhand Governor from 2015 to 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was at the head of the table when the BJP parliamentary board picked her name from a list of 20 potential first citizen candidates. Also, probably this is the first time people are getting to know that an NDA presidential candidate is decided by the BJP alone.

Of course, it was disclosed that NDA constituent Janata Dal (U) leader Nitish Kumar was informed of the Murmu candidature before it was let out into the public domain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made it a point to inform

beforehand Biju Janata Dal leader and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of the BJP parliamentary board's decision to field a Santhal from Odisha for President of India.

Reports say Patnaik couldn't hide his joy when told of the decision. If Murmu gets elected the 'First Citizen of India', which is more or less a surety, it will be a first for Odisha. Murmu has been a two-time Odisha MLA, but it was her governorship of Jharkhand that really brought her into national glare, a fact which also went in her favour.

Rest assured Droupadi Murmu will get Odisha's votes. And if she doesn't get Jharkhand's votes, then Chief Minister Hemant Soren might have to answer to the people of Jharkhand. It is not a secret that Jharkhand has a substantial tribal population, more than enough to make a difference to any political party's fortunes.

Come to think of it, the

tribal is a running feature in wide swathes of Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, the northeast, and no political party can dismiss the tribal as of no account, even in a presidential election.

For the tribal population of India Droupadi Murmu will be a feather in the tribal cap even before the votes are cast. Therefore, to believe that "20 names" were considered at the BJP parliamentary board meeting is beyond belief. Most likely Droupadi's name was decided by Modi days before Modi sat down with BJP President JP Nadda, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to place the finger on Droupadi Murmu's name.

To expect anybody BJP to take a decision independent of Modi is beyond the pale of belief. The combined Opposition's candidate is Yashwant Sinha, a former Union Finance Minister, who

once famously told a Chief Minister, "I can become a politician, but you can never become an IAS!" Sinha is a bureaucrat-turned-politician, and that should explain his cutting edge dialogue delivery.

That Modi and Sinha don't get along is history! In fact, Sinha is often referred to as the "utterly-bitterly Sinha" because of his numerous differences with Modi's governance style. He was also called "Rollback Sinha" for many of his decisions were compelled to be withdrawn. If truth be told, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be dreading Yashwant Sinha in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. If that happens, the Centre will be forever running errands between the PMO and the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

But that is not likely, and Murmu will spend her time in "office" amicably, at least till 2024, when another general election will take place and who knows what might hap-

pen? Born in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, Murmu was a teacher before she became politician. With NDA accounting for approximately 50 per cent of the total Electoral College, Murmu cannot be defeated.

There is talk that Droupadi Murmu, with her rich administrative experience and outstanding gubernatorial tenure, will be an outstanding President. Also, her understanding of policy matters and her compassionate nature are worthy to be emulated. Murmu on her part said she "never expected my name to be announced."

The BJP expects non-NDA and non-UPA parties like Naveen Patnaik's BJD, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRC and the AIADMK to vote for Murmu. Jharkhand's JMM might also tag along. Of all of the parties, it's Nitish Kumar's JD(U) that might break rank and vote against Droupadi Murmu, the likely next President of India! (IPA Service)

AR conducts wreath laying ceremony to remember braveheart

IT News
Imphal, June 22:

Sajik Tampak battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) conducted a wreath laying ceremony for late Rifleman Sakil Ahmed of 15 Assam Rifles Battalion at Sajik Tampak, Chandel district today. The ceremony was conducted to

honour and remember the supreme sacrifice of the braveheart in the line of duty.

On 22 Jun 1994 while deployed as part of the road opening column of 15 AR astride route Makokchung-Kohima, insurgents ambushed the column in which Late Rifleman Sakil Ahmed succumbed to his injuries.

★ Editorial

Season of discontent: This time it is about 'territory'

As if on cue, the eternal dance of confusion and confrontations which has come to embody the unrequited simmering social turmoil of the state have once again started without missing a beat. It is that time of the year again, and despite assurances of stability and uninterrupted progress, the elusive peace has ditched the state yet again. The increasing chaos and unsettling developments which, thanks to bureaucratic and policy goof-ups, have turned the present state into a theatre for protestations and demonstrations for discontents ranging from threat perceptions to the territorial integrity, educational atmosphere, identity of the inclusive society and personal liberties amongst others.

This time it is about the Territory of Manipur. Perhaps for the first time, the N. Biren Singh administration faces wrath from civil society organizations over its inaction to the Indo Myanmar Border issue. The United Committee Manipur (UCM) has been submitting memorandum after memorandum to resolve the disputed border issue between Myanmar and India in Manipur side. For years, the CSOs of Manipur has been drawing the attention of both central and state government over the encroachment of India's territory in Manipur region by the Myanmar government. But the silence of both the Center and State government has left with no choice to the CSOs but to launch agitation. It is all about the love for motherland, many had sacrificed, and many more will sacrifice.

People of Manipur had experienced loosing of Kabaw valley soon after the erstwhile nation was merged to the Indian Union (in 1952). Time and again, the government had been told that the ongoing border fencing is losing Manipur's territories. Many people including state government representatives as well as representatives of political parties have visited the Indo Myanmar border area and found that the border fencing is done around 1 to 5 km inside the Indian territories. It is worth mentioning that only few government officials having less knowledge of the pillar have visited the area.

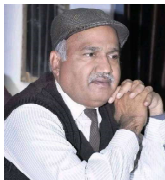
For the disgruntled and dissatisfied organizations, groups or individuals, without going into the severity of the perceived problems or issues, resorting to disruptive measures to force the government's hands should be the last option rather than the beginning, as in a land-locked and geographically challenged state as ours compounded by the diverse ethnic communities with different and sometimes diametrically differing views and outlooks, catering to the needs and aspirations to the satisfaction of one and sundry would be practically improbable.

The most pertinent question is: rather than putting efforts to solve the myriad issues after damages have been done, should not the state government take up proactive measures to ensure that a system is put in place to tackle issues which have the potential to snowball into social catastrophe before things get out of hand? The tragic irony here is that for effectively nipping the social troubles in the bud, the state government has to have a sensitive hand on the social pulse, and judging by the current social developments, it has missed more than a few beats. The present social perception of the state government is one which started out as a decisive and well-meaning lot but one which has been compromised by the system which have been the ultimate victor for so long.

The aspirations of the people of the state when they set out to vote the previous party out of power, during the last general election was for a radical change which would enable them to have a greater say and witness more transparency in governance and administration. A little more than a year down the line, the hopes, heightened by a blitzkrieg of promises and assurances at the beginning, have all but vanished.

Hope however springs eternal. It is not too late to try and salvage what is left of the pride and dignity with which the present state government started off and take informed and staunch resolutions taking into consideration the welfare and progress of the state in its entirety. It should be brave enough to weather the political and ideological pressures from within and without.

How to prepare for the NDA exam without coaching



By: Vijay GarG

Yet we would suggest practicing self-study when it comes to cracking and exam, being regular or competitive. That said, National Defence Academy -2022 (NDA) is one such challenging and competitive entrance exam and is known to pave the way for success for many people. While most aspirants prefer taking up classes and coaching to prepare for the NDA exam, you can design and crack this "tough" exam without coaching.

The exam has been scheduled to be conducted in 2022, so kick start your preparation

and revision.

If you don't believe our words, well, then you've got to read our current blog because we are going to give you some fantastic self-study tips that will be a panacea for your preparation.

KNOW YOUR SYLLABUS

This is the crucial step of all. You cannot miss knowing the exam pattern and syllabus as well. We mean, you need to know what to prepare before you start training. You can visit the official site and download or jot down each subject's syllabus for the exam. Prepare each topic thoroughly.

PRACTICE MOCK TESTS AND PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTION PAPER

There is no rocket science; that why we have included this point in the self-study tips. This is a pro-tip that any of your seniors would even recommend blindly. The internet is flooded with lots and lots of previous years' NDA exam question papers and offers various samples or mock tests.

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"Look & Act East Policy" of India

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
Asst. Prof. JCRC Global College, Babupara, Imphal

The "Look East Policy" of India was launched by the former Prime Minister P.V. Naramsimha Rao in 1991. The main focus of this policy was to shift the country's trading focus from the west and neighbors to the booming South East Asian countries. This policy continued till the formation of NDA government in 2014. The "Act East Policy" was launched at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014. The focus of the "Look East Policy" was to increase economic integration with the South East Asian countries and the area was just confined to South East Asia only. On the other hand the focus of the "Act East Policy" is economic and security integration and the focus increased to South East Asia as well as East Asia. The "Act East Policy" is a political gesture to increase the pace of "Look East Policy" that is meant to connect North-East India (NEI) to South and South East Asia (SSEA). The objectives of Act East Policy are: (i) To promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop a strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at regional bilateral and multilateral levels. (ii) To increase the interaction of the North-Eastern Indian states with other neighboring countries (iii) To find out the alternatives of the traditional business partners like, more focus on the Pacific countries in addition to the South East Asian countries. (iv) To curb the increasing impact of China in the ASEAN region.

Two way trades between India and ASEAN moved up to 71.6

billion dollars in 2016-17 from 2 billion dollars in the early 90s. In contrast two-way trade between China and ASEAN stood at 452.31 billion dollars in 2016. Experts say that under the "Act East Policy" the government is relying on 3 C's (Culture, Connectivity and Commerce) to develop better relation with ASEAN nations. In order to ensure the success of the policy, the Modi government is putting steady efforts to develop and strengthen connectivity of North-Eastern Indian states with ASEAN region through people-to-people contact, trade, culture and physical infrastructure (airport, road, power, telecommunication etc.). Some of the major projects include Kaladani Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, the Indo-Myanmar -Thailand Trilateral Highway Project, Border Haats and Rhi-Tiddim Road project etc.

The right wing government at the Centre argues that the pace of development during the short life of Act East, when compared to Look East, is very promising. It seeks to further the philosophy of looking east through its focus on 'connectivity, culture and commerce'. They argue that the bilateral trade agreements have leapfrogged. The Act East policy goes beyond ASEAN countries and now reaches out to Japan, Australia, Pacific

Island Nations, South Korea and Mongolia. The optimists even claim that the fruits of such a foreign and trade policy are sweet indeed. Japan's promised investment in the high-speed railway is shown

to us as the shining example of such benefits.

However, there were many organized oppositions against the consequences of such an extensive infrastructural development and policy by various local tribal bodies, student unions in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, members of the academia, and from the larger civil society. These various concerned groups were asking the basic question—at what cost, and for who is this so called development? As much as these questions are moral and ethical in its nature, it is also essentially a reflective of survival of local people and their everyday living. Raising question to such developmental projects and opposing them can also make life difficult for people. Look East, and subsequently Act East, reduces the entire region's cultural, social and economic spaces into a mere corridor to fulfill the dreams of the policy initiative. It is nothing but 'politics of self-actualization'. Policies directed at the region are 'blind, self-directed and intransigent'. Between Look East and Act East, the choices of people suffered the most. It is the most undemocratic of its kind. It is only capable of fulfilling the elite, upper caste and Delhi-based politicians. Such bypassing of the local in arriving at a consensus is a typical example of structural violence orchestrated by the various institutions of the state—a modern micro and macro governmentality complex.

The Look East, by its very name, suggests that the people do not have a vision in life! *Manipur is the gateway to Southeast Asia under*

the flagship program of India's "Look East Policy (LEP)" / "Act East Policy" (AEP), which is a synonym of "Nongpok Thong Hangba" in Manipuri, has many challenges to meet in the near future. There are numerous problems in Manipur. Some of the problems are geo-political, insurgency, civil movement, social unrest, corruption, infrastructural development, transportation, communication, topography and location, etc. At the same time the people in NEI particularly in Manipur, have been looking East and have interacted with the East for centuries. There is no need to even remind us to Act East either. If that is the case, whose looking and acting are we talking about? The nation is not shared equally nor is the market. Act East/Look East leaves everything to the market to achieve—a holy equilibrium of supply and demand. The market in a capitalist state is a site of injustice. This positionality of the state—imposing development and making people thankful about—brings about a typical case of life. The Act East policy is also a reality of our predicament. It is a question not just of one's life but of the entire cosmos that surrounds that life—a life world. The state likes the infrastructural ensemble. However, the larger question is—would you like to live in a place where there is an impending danger of your home and health being washed away? Or, is it a glass palace the Modi and Ambanis want to build it, and not live in it?

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Why India should help Bangladesh solve Rohingya refugee crisis?

By: Dr. Shakuntala Bhabani

Myanmar has been widely criticized for human rights crimes since the crackdown and forced displacement of Rohingya Muslims. Despite signing various agreement in 2017, 2018 respectively, Myanmar has remained hesitant to provide a suitable climate for the displaced Rohingya to return in a voluntary, safe, and dignified manner. Due to their narrowly defined geopolitical calculations, key regional powers such as China, Russia, and India are not interested in taking any action against Myanmar.

On the Rohingya crisis, India has merely remained mainly silent. To its credit, India has helped Bangladesh financially while caring for over a million Rohingya refugees. But it's a piece of good news that India urged the international community to increase financial and other aid to Bangladesh in order to help the country cope with the humanitarian crisis of hosting a million Rohingya refugees on June 14.

India also requested that the international community aid Bangladesh in addressing issues such as radicalization in Rohingya refugee camps and other security concerns.

Bangladesh has been seeking help from India and other countries in the region to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar from time to time. Ministers of Bangladesh seeks Indian help in this regard since the inception of the crisis. For more clarification, Bangladesh foreign minister has already raised the issue at various platforms such as the inaugural session of the two-day Asian Confluence River Conclave, Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence 3 (NADI-3), in Guwahati in 2022, three-day trip to India to attend the India-Bangladesh Joint

Consultative Commission (JCC) very recently.

Over one million Rohingya people left their homes in Myanmar to escape a harsh military campaign, and Bangladesh provided them asylum on humanitarian grounds. Armed attacks, bloodshed, and human rights violations drove thousands of Rohingya Muslims to escape Myanmar's Rakhine province and seek refuge in Bangladesh in August 2017.

The Rohingya people are a Muslim minority that have lived in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar for generations but have been denied citizenship since 1982. According to the United Nations, Rohingyas are the world's "most persecuted minority."

In this regard, Bangladesh's seeking assistance is valid and relevant. It is India in the region which is an influential country between South and Southeast Asia. Dhaka expects New Delhi to do more in response to Bangladesh's request for assistance in the repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. Bangladesh sought India's assistance "because of India's 'excellent relationship' with Myanmar."

As a friend of both Bangladesh and Myanmar, improvements can be made if India "pushes them a little bit" and "put[s] a little effort into it."

Support from India in resolving the Rohingya situation can strengthen the bilateral ties more. It is said that Bangladesh is all-weather friend of India. Thus, India can prove that India is really all-weather friend of Bangladesh by standing with Bangladesh with its crisis moment. The Rohingya situation must be resolved quickly because it threatens regional

stability. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh may gravitate to terrorism.

For the past five years, they have been temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, and they all wish to return to their homeland. We are afraid that such activities may create pockets of extremism and radicalism and may lead to uncertainty in the entire region, as a result, they must be repaired as soon as possible.

The growing humanitarian crisis and incidences of violence can lead to an influx of thousands of people from Myanmar through Indian borders and any instability in Bangladesh, Myanmar, immediately impacts India. The humanitarian situation in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar is most severely affecting women and children. Therefore, India should place the utmost priority on the restoration of peace, security, and stability. Stability in Bangladesh's CHT region and Cox's bazar and Myanmar's Rakhine, Chin state is very urgent for the stability for the Indian Northeastern region.

It is well established that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "policy of zero-tolerance" for terrorism has brought "stability" and "development" to India especially Northeast India and all of South Asia. India must help Bangladesh PM in this regard. The whole regional stability may destabilize from the Rohingya refugee issue. Thus, a sustainable solution of Rohingya crisis is very urgent for India also.

India is able to conduct bilateral and diplomatic negotiations with Myanmar. It enjoys positive bilateral ties with Myanmar. To resolve the situation, India might cooperate with other states in the area.

Indian businessmen are capable of participating to some level. Because fostering trade and investment in the area depends heavily on regional stability.

Without a long-term solution to the Rohingya issue, India needs to understand what is at risk along Bangladesh-Myanmar-India border.

India has been a dependable development partner ever since Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971. It was India and the people of India who gave the people of Bangladesh shelter and accommodation and also helped them in gaining independence, with a population of 170 million, Bangladesh is one of the fastest-growing countries in the area and an important market for India.

Since the Rohingya problem emerged in the area, India must keep in mind that it has the potential to directly undermine the strategic and economic goals of the QUAD countries, which value the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and freedom. In order to solve important regional concerns like the Rohingya crisis for peace and stability, India must join with and exert influence over other important parties in the region.

It is a problem that affects the entire region. The entire region of South Asia and South East Asia could be volatile as a result of this issue. India bears some responsibilities as a South Asian country.

India should understand how refugees can be a security threat for a country. Bangladesh has been dealing with the same issue. India might comprehend Bangladesh's pains in this regard as a well-wisher friend. As a result, India should take action in accordance with its capabilities.

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The MVA Government is on the Brink of Losing its Majority

"Operation Lotus" Begins With a Rebellion by Disgruntled Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, June 21:

A three-party Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government was on the brink of collapse due to the mass rebellion by Shiv Sena MLAs, reportedly backed by BJP, under the leadership of Minister Eknath Shinde (Kopri Pachpakhi constituency) on Tuesday.

A group of 22 Shiv Sena MLAs which was huddled up in Hotel Meridian, Surat (Gujarat) left for Guwahati in Assam by a Chartered plane late Tuesday night. BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis who was in New Delhi was slated to reach Surat and escort them to Guwahati.

The drama began soon after the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) elections on Monday. After the election, Shinde and others left Vidhan Bhavan located in South Mumbai. They began their journey towards Surat on Monday night and reached Surat on Tuesday morning.

One MLA escapes

While MLAs were being taken to Surat by different vehicles, MLA Kailas Patil (Kalamb, Osmanabad) escaped under the pretext to ease out at the Maharashtra-Gujarat border. He walked at least five kilometers and hitched a ride on a bike and a truck to finally reach Mumbai.

After three Shiv Sena MLAs cross-voted in the election of the MLC, a meeting was convened

by the Shiv Sena party chief and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on Tuesday. But out of 55 only 18 Shiv Sena MLAs were reportedly present in the meeting. But Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut claimed that 31 MLAs attended the meeting and a few others were attending to agencies by Central Agencies including CBI.

In a tweet, Shinde said that he was neither against the Shiv Sena nor wanted chief ministership, but was against its unholy alliance with the NCP and the Congress to form the Government in Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena was deviating from the true Hindutva propagated by the Shiv Sena founder late Balasaheb Thackeray, he added.

Later Shiv Sena Secretary Milind Narvekar and Shinde's close aide Ravi Phatak reached Surat to persuade Shinde from defecting. But they couldn't cut the ice since Shinde stuck to his demand that the Shiv Sena should sever its ties with the NCP and Congress and should form the Government with the BJP.

Subsequently, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray held a telephonic talk with Shinde and tried to persuade him. However, Shinde stuck to his guns. Resultantly Thackeray removed Shinde from the post of the Group leader and announced the appointment of MLA Ajay Chowdhary (Shivdi Vidhan Sabha constituency) as the



The Shiv Sena workers staged protests across the state after the news of rebellion by Eknath Shinde broke out. (Inset: Left): Uddhav Thackeray, (Right) Eknath Shinde.

party's Group leader in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. The letter communicating the appointment, signed by 17 Shiv Sena MLAs, was handed over to the Vice President of the Assembly Narhari Sitaram Zinval, by Shiv Sena MLAs Sunil Prabhu and Uday Samant.

Late on Tuesday night, Thackeray held a meeting with MVA constituents at his official residence "Varsha" in South Mumbai. The meeting was attended by Jayant Patil and Chhagan Bhujbal-NCP and Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan-Congress. In the meeting Thackeray hoped that Shinde would reverse his decision.

With rebellion by Shinde, the strength of the MVA is slated to get reduced to 117 (Shiv Sena 20 (Since 35 MLAs are stated to be with Shinde), NCP 53, and Congress 44) as against the required number of 145 to prove

the majority in the 288 members Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. As against this, the strength of the BJP-led group is poised to muster the strength of 155 MLAs (BJP 106, Shinde group-35, Independents-13, MNS-01).

Congress

While Congress's high command has summoned its MLAs to New Delhi on Wednesday, the AICC observer H K Patil reached Mumbai to assess the situation on Tuesday. Speaking to the media he said that the MVA Government was stable and there was no threat to its continuance.

NCP

Whereas the NCP Chief Sharad Pawar said that the probable defection of Shiv Sena MLAs was an internal issue of the Shiv Sena and it was Shiv Sena's prerogative whom to make the chief minister. If the MVA loses its majority, the NCP

was ready to seat on the Opposition benches, he added.

MLAs Not reachable

The cell phones of most of the Shiv Sena MLAs from the defecting group were not reachable throughout Tuesday. They included: Narendra Bhonekar (Bhandara), Lata Sonawane, (Chopda, Jalgaon), Kishore Appa Patil (Pachora, Jalgaon), Prakash Surve (Magthane, Borivali, Mumbai), Srinivas Vanga (Palghar), Balaji Kinikar (Ambarnath (Thane district), Sambharaj Deasi (Patan, Satara), Bharat Ghogavale (Mahad, Raigad), Mahendra Dalvi (Alibaug, Raigad), Mahendra Thorve (Karjat, Raigad), Nitin Deshmukh (Balapur, Akola), Sanjay Raimunkar (Mehkar, Buldhana), Shahaji Patil (Sangola, Solapur), Pradip Jaiswal (Aurangabad Central), Abdul Sattar (Silod, Aurangabad), Vishwanath Bhoir (Kalyan West, Thane district), Shantaram More (Bhiwandi Rural, Thane district), Ramesh Bomare (Vajapur, Aurangabad), Dada Bhuse (Malegaon, Nashik), Kande (Nandgaon, Nashik), Tanaji Sawant (Paranda, Osmanabad), Anil Babar (Khanapur, Sangli), Mahesh Sambhaji Shinde (Koregaon, Satara), Sanjay Shirsat (Aurangabad West), Sandipan Bhume (Patthan, Aurangabad), Dnyanraj Chowgule (Umarga, Osmanabad), Sanjay Gaikwad (Buldhana), Prakash Abitkar (Radhanagari, Kolhapur) and

Udaysingh Rajput (Kannad, Aurangabad),

A heart attack to the MLA

After MLA Nitin Deshmukh suffered a heart attack, he was admitted to the Civil Hospital in Surat. But since he did not return till Tuesday night, his wife Pranjal Deshmukh lodged a missing complaint with the Akola police.

Protests by Shiv Sainiks

No sooner did the news of MLAs Coup d'état spread out, than there were massive protests outside Shiv Sena Bhavan in Dadar in Central Mumbai, Lalbaug in South Central Mumbai, Panvel, Kolhapur, and other parts of Maharashtra by Shiv Sena workers who branded Eknath Shinde as a traitor. Former Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and others visited the Balasaheb Thackeray memorial at Shivaji Park and prayed that Shinde reverse his decision of joining the BJP to save the loss of face for the Shiv Sena.

Eknath Shinde

Eknath Shinde joined the Shiv Sena in 1980 and grew under the stewardship of late Anand Dighe in Thane (near Mumbai). After working as a Shakra Pramukh (local head) he became corporate in Thane Municipal Corporation in 1997. He won Assembly elections consecutively in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019. He was Assembly Opposition leader from October 2014 to December 2014. He was PWD (Cabinet) Minister from 2014 to 2019 in Devendra

Fadnavis Government. He became Urban Development Minister in November 2019 under MVA Govt headed by CM Uddhav Thackeray. He has also been a guardian minister of Thane and Gadchiroli.

History of Rebellions

The Coup d'état by Shinde is considered the biggest in the Shiv Sena's history which was formed on June 19, 1966. In 1991 Chhagan Bhujbal (then in Shiv Sena) had defected with 18 MLAs to join the Congress-led by Sharad Pawar. That brought the Shiv Sena's strength to 34 (from 52 MLAs) eventually late Gopinath Munde (BJP) claimed the post of Opposition Leader. Ganesh Naik began his career as an MLA in 1990 with Shiv Sena but later switched to the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999. Narayan Rane (now Union Minister in Narendra Modi Government) was expelled from the Shiv Sena in 2005. Balasaheb Thackeray's estranged nephew Raj quit the party to form his Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) in 2006.

Since over 50 percent of Shiv Sena MLAs (out of 55 MLAs) are slated to defect, they will not attract the provisions of the anti-Defection Act. Now after ascertaining the total strength of the MLAs, the BJP is expected either to directly state the claim to form the Government or move a No-confidence Motion against the MVA Government stating that it has lost the majority in the lower house.

Fresh Covid infections above 12K mark again; active cases jump to 81,687

Agency
New Delhi, June 22:

The number of daily Covid cases in India crossed the 12,000-mark once again on Wednesday after a let up in single-day infections yesterday. In the last 24 hours, the country saw 12,249 cases as against 9,923 infections on Tuesday. 13 new fatalities were also reported on Wednesday as per health ministry data.

This is the 6th time in the last seven days that daily cases hovered above the 12K mark. As per the data

shared by the health ministry, the number of active Covid-19 cases have crossed 81,000 and now account for 0.18 per cent of the total cases.

Maharashtra witnessed a 55 per cent increase in its daily Covid tally with 3,659 new infections in the last 24 hours. Of the new cases, Mumbai alone accounted for over 1,700 cases yesterday.

Delhi reported 1,383 fresh Covid-19 cases and one more death due to the viral disease in a span of 24 hours. The positivity rate was 7.22 per cent on Tuesday according

to data shared by the city health department.

Tamil Nadu reported 737 fresh infections, whereas Telangana saw 403 new cases. As per data shared by news agency PTI, 226 new cases were reported in Gujarat, 135 in Goa, 88 in Chhattisgarh and 80 in Madhya Pradesh.

Over 9,800 people were said to have recovered from the deadly virus, taking the total number of recoveries to 4,27,25,055 or 98.61 per cent of the total case.

In terms of vaccination, over 12.2 lakh doses were

administered in the last 24 hours, of which 1.24 lakh were booster doses. Over 2 lakh jabs - including first and second dose - were administered to children between the ages of 12-14 years.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020. It surpassed the grim milestone of four crore cases on January 25 this year.

The 13 new fatalities include eight from Kerala and one each from Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

PM Modi to attend BRICS virtual summit in China on June 23, 24

Agency
New Delhi, June 22:

India on Tuesday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the annual summit of the five-nation grouping BRICS on June 23 and 24 following an invitation by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Russian President Vladimir Putin will also attend the summit.

This announcement came from the Ministry of External Affairs, after New Delhi decided to go for a virtual summit, and not

an in-person summit in China.

The decision was taken in view of the strained ties between India and China over the two-year-long border stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

China is hosting the virtual summit in its capacity as its chair of BRICS this year. Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are likely to attend the virtual summit.

At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending

the 14th BRICS Summit hosted by China in virtual format on June 23 and 24. This includes a high-level dialogue on global development with guest countries on June 24," the MEA said in a statement.

It said the BRICS has become a platform for discussing and deliberating on issues of common concern for all developing countries, adding the grouping has regularly called for reform of the multilateral system to make it more representative and inclusive.

Contd. from Page 2

How to prepare for the NDA exam without.....

Try to incorporate these test samples each day, and it would turn out to be the best way to prepare yourself better. This gives additional benefits to manage time and understand the trend of paper.

STUDY FROM BEST BOOKS AND RESOURCES

You know that books have complete information about any topic. Besides, reading any book can gift your brain a lot of knowledge. However, when it comes to competitive examinations, the choice of books and other resources matter a lot. It can make or break the deal, especially if you are preparing for the NDA exam without coaching.

It would be best to consult previous NDA achievers and do an online survey to make a list of the best books to prepare for the NDA exam. Always study from books and then make notes, rather than reading the notes borrowed

from fellow.

MAKE A PREPARATORY SCHEDULE

Now that you have followed the tips mentioned above, you will require to make a time table for your preparation. Always start early and do not commit the mistake of waiting to release the date of examination.

As experts, we would advise you to start your preparation for the NDA examination when you make up your mind and collect the pre-requisite resources. Early birds get the worms, remember?

Another advantage of starting early is that you do not get panic attacks and can revise your content as much you want. Revision is a must for retaining the data, which is otherwise highly volatile.

So prepare a schedule using daily, weekly, and monthly planners to track your study and performance.

FOLLOW YOUR SCHEDULE

NDA exam 2021 is about to surface. Following your time table is even more important than making one. Often aspirants create a highly polished schedule and study plan, which becomes hard to follow. We would suggest you not to pack your days, instead study in breaks. A fancy timetable will fetch you nothing but will make you breach it and distract you.

And while you plan to study, begin each topic from the primary or grass-root level. And thank us later for these words of wisdom.

WRITE AND WRITE

NDA is highly competitive because of the vast syllabus and volatility of the subject topics. Therefore, to retain your information, you should pick your pen and paper and write at the most that you can. This habit of writing and making notes while studying

will benefit you in two excellent ways. Firstly, you will have note cards to revise quickly, and secondly, you will be able to retain better for the NDA exam 2021.

Two birds, one arrow!

Besides, we would advise you to quiz yourself for practice questions as soon as you finish a topic. This will clear your doubts and firm your understanding of the subject. Make it a point that you do not skip or procrastinate the issues scheduled for the day until you understand them.

REVISE WHILE YOU LEARN

We do not want to sound repetitive, but this is honestly extremely vital. Skipping revision or delaying it for the last days of the exam will drag you back to the race's starting point. Right from where you began and will make a cocktail of the topics.

Failing to revise or a low revision schedule can prove fatal, and

would not want to try this. Therefore, dedicate a couple of hours and include revision of topics on a daily and weekly basis. It is vital for cracking the NDA exam 2021, even if you take coaching or not.

TAKE ENOUGH REST BEFORE EXAM

We understand that you are a little more anxious than usual as the examination days approach you. But it is essential to take rest and have six to eight hours of sound sleep before appearing for the exam. It is the buffer period for your brain to reset itself before it begins to exercise itself again.

So now you the smart and challenging way to prepare for the NDA exam that too without coaching. Beware of your strategies and resources you choose to prepare for the competition. Try and practice daily mock tests and sample paper in your schedule and be ready for how to prepare for the NDA exam 2022 without coaching.

Why India should.....

Both Myanmar and Bangladesh have excellent connections with India. Improving bilateral relations could help ASEAN and SAARC countries strengthen their commercial and investment relations. This will open up the possibility of serving broader regional interests. If political and diplomatic solutions to the strained ties between Bangladesh and Myanmar can be found, Himalayan-South Asian connectivity can be restored. Bangladesh usually backs India in every major international forum. It is now India's turn to stand by Bangladesh in this time of distress.

South Asia will not benefit from India's quiet on the Rohingya catastrophe, which has reaped no rewards. Instead, this eerie silence will make an already dire situation

worse.

In accordance with its own peace and religious-centric society, India must abandon its policies and take a firm stand for justice and human rights on all international platforms on matters like the Rohingya crisis. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and India needs to remember that. Indian must help Bangladesh solve Rohingya refugee crisis. Such a gesture will not go unnoticed in Dhaka. Such help will bolster the ties between the two neighbours.

(The writer is a Kolkata-based educator (Assistant Professor) and South Asian affairs researcher in the Political Science department at a Kolkata Honors College which is affiliated to the University of Calcutta)

Assam flood situation critical, NDRF rushed to Barak Valley for rescue operations

Agency
Guwahati, June 22:

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was rushed to Cachar in Barak Valley of Assam for rescue operations as the flood situation in Assam remained critical on Tuesday with Brahmaputra and Barak rivers along with its tributaries in spate and affecting nearly 48 lakh people, officials said. The devastating flood, triggered by incessant rains since last week, has inundated 32 out of 36 districts of the state in its second spell and 11 persons were reported missing during the last 24 hours, the officials said.

A total 44 people have lost their lives so far in floods and landslides in the state since June 14. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that four units of the National Disaster Response Force were rushed from Bhubaneswar to Silchar to carry out rescue operations as the flood situation in Karimganj and Cachar districts worsened due to the rising waters of Barak and Kushiya rivers following heavy rains.

"Four units of NDRF from Bhubaneswar with total 105 personnel have been sent to Silchar to carry out rescue operations in Barak Valley", he said and thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the "prompt action and help". In Cachar, a population of 2,07,143 in 449 villages have been affected, while in Karimganj 1,33,865 in 305 villages were hit by the flood, according to the bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).



A total crop area of 1,13,485.37 hectares and 33,84,326 animals have been affected while 5232 animals have been swept away in the state, it said. The calamity has affected 125 revenue circles and 5,424 villages across Assam forcing 2,31,819 people to take shelter in 810 relief camps. At least 11,292 people and 27,086 animals have been evacuated by agencies engaged in rescue operations in the past 24 hours.

Relief materials were distributed to the affected people who have not taken shelters in relief camps through 615 temporary relief distribution centres and points opened by the government. Among the worst affected districts Barpeta with a population of 12,30,721 is reeling under flood waters followed by Darrang where 4,69,241 people have been hit and Bajali where 3,38,515 have been affected, according to the

bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

According to the bulletin of the Central Water Commission (CWC), Kopili river is flowing above its high flood level at Kamrup in Nagaon district and Brahmaputra at Nimatighat, Tezpur, Guwahati, Kamrup, Goalpara and Dhubri. Puthimari, Pagladia, Beki Barak and Kushiara are flowing above the danger levels. Urban flooding was reported from Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang, Goalpara, Kamrup (Metro) and Karimganj. Landslides occurred at Kamrup and Karimganj during the day, it said.

Two embankments were breached, 349 roads and 16 bridges were damaged on Monday, the CWC said. Large-scale erosion of river banks was reported from Baksa, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Hailakandi, Lakhimpur,

Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts, it added.

In Kaziranga National Park 42 of the total 233 camps have been inundated by the flood water. Eight animals have died due to drowning and vehicle hit so far, while 12, including nine hog deer and three pythons have been rescued by forest officials. In Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, 14 of the total 25 camps have been inundated though there are no reports of animal casualty so far, officials said.

Northeast Frontier Railways has cancelled, short terminated or diverted several trains following damages in railway tracks due to flood induced breaches at Chaparmukh Kamrup and Chaparmukh - Senchoa sections of Lumding and Harisinga - Tangla section of Rangia divisions in the state on Tuesday, NFR official said.

Presidential Elections 2022: NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu to file her nomination on June 24

Agency
New Delhi, June 22:

Draupadi Murmu, the presidential candidate of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA, is likely to file her nomination on June 24, reports ANI.

Murmu, a former Governor of Jharkhand and a former Odisha minister, was declared NDA's presidential candidate on Tuesday.

After the announcement, the 64-year-old leader said she was surprised to learn about her candidature and was unable to believe it and noted that she will work according to the powers of the President enshrined in the constitution.

The former Jharkhand governor said she will reach out to members of the electoral college for their support. "I am surprised, I was not able to believe it. I am thankful and do not wish to speak much (at this stage). Whatever powers are there of President in Constitution, I will work accordingly," she said in response to a query about her priorities if she is elected as president.



The presidential election is scheduled for July 18 and the votes will be counted on July 21. The last date for filing nominations is June 29. The president is elected by the members of the electoral college consisting of MPs from both Houses of Parliament and MLAs of all states, including the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

On the other hand, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh announced that former Union minister Yashwant Sinha will be the common candidate of the Opposition parties for the

Presidential election.

The Centre on Wednesday provided round-the-clock Z+ security cover by armed CRPF personnel to NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu.

The CRPF commandos took over the security of Murmu early this morning, a senior officer told PTI.

BJP president JP Nadda on Tuesday announced that Murmu, a tribal leader of the party leader from Odisha, will be the ruling NDA's candidate for the upcoming presidential polls.

AR conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, June 22:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a Medical Camp at Phaikhothang village, Churachandpur district today.

In continuation of its efforts to improve mutual trust and to maintain peace and har-

mony in the region while simultaneously addressing the medical requirements in the underdeveloped villages, a Medical camp was organised for locals of Phaikhothang village. A total of 256 villagers were examined during the medical camp including distribution of Essential medicines to all affected people.

The villagers were also briefed about the ill effects of drugs and importance of hygiene and sanitation in daily routine to avoid unwarranted diseases. Special focus was given on educating the villagers on contagious diseases during Monsoon season and ways to prevent them.

Sports

FIH Pro League: Indian women's hockey team beat USA 4-2

Agency
Rotterdam, June 22:

The Indian women's hockey team registered a clinical 4-2 win over the USA in their first of the two-legged FIH Pro League 2021/22 tie in Rotterdam on Tuesday. Vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka (312), Navneet Kaur (322), Sonika (402) and Vandana Kataria (502) contributed a goal each in India's win, while Danielle Grega (282) and Natalie Konerth (452) were the goalscorers for the USA.

It was a quiet start to the match, with both teams trying to create space in each other's striking circle, but without causing much damage. It was the USA who came up with the first real attack in the 10th minute when Megan Rodger's run on the left flank earned themselves a penalty corner, but missed out on converting it. Two minutes later, India also won their first penalty corner of the match, but Gurjit missed out on converting the opportunity, thus ending the quarter at a 0-0 stalemate.

The Indian team showcased their attacking intent immediately at the start of the second quarter and had a chance to break the deadlock, but the USA defence kept the ball away from the goal. In the 21st minute, the USA earned back-to-back PCs, but the Indian defence unit kept the



USA at bay. India responded quickly and created potential goalscoring opportunities but USA defence once again nullified their opponent's every attempt. They even earned their second penalty corner of the match but missed out on converting it. The USA, on the other end, went on to break the deadlock with just two minutes left for the second quarter to end. An aerial ball by Erin Matso into the Indian circle found Danielle Grega at the right place and the right time to deflect the ball into the net to give her team a 1-0 at the end of the second quarter.

Trailing by a goal, India came out all guns blazing and scored two back-to-back goals in the first two minutes of the

second half. While the Vice-Captain Deep Grace Ekka scored the equaliser in the 31st minute through a penalty corner, forward Navneet Kaur scored India's second goal in the 32nd minute of the match. The Indian team rode on the momentum and earned a penalty corner in the 36th minute. However, Gurjit's attempt was yet again blocked by the USA defence line. Slowly taking control of proceedings, India went on to make the scoreline 3-1 through Sonika in the 39th minute. However, the USA tried to fight back and their efforts got paid off as they won a PC with just seconds left for the third quarter. It was Natalie Konerth who found the back of the net on the rebound to make it 2-3 at the end of the

third quarter.

The USA started the final quarter aggressively and created a chance early on, but young goalkeeper Bichu Devi averted the danger. Experienced forward Vandana restored India's two-goal lead on the counterattack in the 50th minute. The USA, not giving up easily, earned yet another PC in the 53rd minute, but failed to convert it. The Indians took control of the game in the closing stage of the game to seal a clinical 4-2 victory at the end to consolidate their spot at the third place in the points table with 27 points.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team will take on the USA on 22 June in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

'Khelo Chess' has the potential to create a chess revolution in India: AICF Secretary Chauhan

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, June 22:

All India Chess Federation's (AICF) Secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan believes that India could witness a chess revolution with the 'Khelo Chess' concept.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay, thousands of players as well as fans were electrified by the mega historic launch at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi and were amazed by the prospect of Indian chess.

"India has a lot of chess potential and AICF has been rigorously working on developing young talents. However, a programme like Khelo India for chess could revolutionise the sport in the country. It will bolster our mission of making India a chess powerhouse. The nation-wide event of that stature will not only inspire and encourage young Indians to take up the sport but will also bring out the best of the talents from across the country," said Chauhan.

With the veteran players like Viswanathan Anand and Koneru Humpy alongside young promising talents such as Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa and Gukesh D, consistently performing on the global stage, India has



emerged as one of the top chess nations in the world in the recent years.

The country has also won three medals at the world's biggest chess event, the Olympiad since 2014. Two of the medals, gold and bronze, came in virtual editions, held in the last two years.

"Indian players have proved their abilities with some brilliant performances at the global stage. There has also been the emergence of some talented youngsters who are the future of Indian chess. Developing and nurturing young talent is very important and I believe, the Khelo Chess programme could provide an ideal platform," the AICF Secretary further added.

The Khelo India programme was launched in 2018 with an aim to develop the sports culture in India at the grass-root level and transform

the country as a great sporting nation. With young players winning international medals for the country, the programme has been a great success.

And for a game like chess, which is not part of Khelo India yet, such program could be the game-changer.

India is all set to add a golden chapter in its chess history by hosting the Chess Olympiad for the first-time ever in the country. The International Chess Federation also named India as the starting flame point for its newly introduced Olympic-style concept, Chess Olympiad Torch Relay, as it will always begin from India for every edition of the event.

With top chess stars participating from across the globe, the 44th edition of the event will take place in Mahabalipuram near Chennai from July 28 to August 10.