

13th National Voters' Day

President Murmu urges all citizens to consider voting as their contribution to nation-building; Voters' day observed at various district in Manipur

PIB
New Delhi, Jan 25:

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, graced and addressed the 13th National Voters' Day Celebrations in New Delhi today (January 25, 2023). On the occasion, the President presented the National Awards for the year 2022 to State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections during 2022. National Awards were also presented to important stakeholders like government media and communication organizations and other departments for their valuable contribution towards voters' awareness.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that the members of the Constituent Assembly expressed immense

faith in the wisdom of citizens and made the provision of election on the basis of adult franchise. The people of India have made their belief true. India's democracy is respected as the world's largest, vibrant and stable democracy.

The President said that social revolution has been possible in our country during the past seven decades through the election process. It is a great success of our democracy that the common voter living in remote areas feels that he/she has a major role in deciding who would and how they would govern the country or state. She said that our democracy is continuously moving forward towards achieving the objectives of social, economic and political justice enshrined in the Constitution. She expressed confidence that with the combined efforts of the Election Commission and all other participants, our democracy would become stronger.

The President said that the motto of the Election Commission 'no voter to be left behind' to motivate the voters, is commendable. This sentence explains the goal of the Election Commission to make the voting process easier for all voters. She said that the theme of this year's National Voters' Day 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' shows the resolve of the voters. The collective contribution of the Election Commission and the voters strengthens the electoral process of our country. She urged all citizens to consider voting as their contribution to nation-building and must vote with the spirit of 'nation paramount'.

The President said that it is a great achievement of our election process and our

democracy that the active participation of women in the democratic process is continuously increasing. In the 2019 general election, the number of female voters was slightly higher than that of males. Also noteworthy is the fact that for the first time in the history of our Parliament, both the Houses together, the number of women parliamentarians has crossed the hundred mark. From Gram Panchayat to Parliament, women are contributing significantly. Their participation and numbers should increase further.

The President received the first copy of a book titled 'Electing the First Citizen - An illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections' from the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar. This book gives glimpses into the historic journey of Presidential Elections in the country.

Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated on January 25 every year, all across the country to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950. The main purpose of this celebration is to create electoral awareness amongst citizens and encourage them to participate in the electoral process. The National Voters' Day is also used to facilitate enrolment of voters, specially the newly eligible young voters.

Voters' day observed at various districts in Manipur

In line with the ECI's objective of encouraging participation of eligible voters in political process, the 13th National Voters' Day (NVD), 2023 was observed at the District Training Centre (DTC) Hall, Churachandpur today even as the District achieved a feat at the national level when the district's police SP received National Award from the

President of India on the grand occasion of NVD at Delhi in recognition of his performance in the Assembly elections held last year.

Superintendent of Police, Churachandpur District ShivanandSurve, IPS received the Best Electoral Practices Award, 2022 (For Security Management) from President of India Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of National Voters' Day organised by the Election Commission of India at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment, Delhi.

The National Award was presented to the SP of Churachandpur in recognition of his outstanding performance in the conduct of the last year's Manipur Legislative Assembly elections. Surve is among the seven officers selected for the general awards in the country.

Senapati, District Election Office, Senapati also observed the 13th National Voters' Day, at DRDA Conference Hall, Senapati.

Speaking on today's programme, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, District Election Officer/ Deputy Commissioner, Senapati stated that voting is a unique way of exercising ones right. He also applauded the electioneering teams for their immense effort in preparation and smooth conduct of election in the district. He said the machine for printing EPICs already available in the district so that anyone can avail at ease from the office. He further said that the ECI has also brought lot of changes for old age persons and people working outside the state by enabling to vote from their own respective placethrough postal ballot. For qualifying the eligibility of voting, the ECI has set the date on the 1st of January, April, July, and October

whereas in the earlier year, it was once in a year, he added. He also appealed every citizen both old and young who are eligible of voting to come forward in exercising their voting rights. Later, the DEO, Senapati distributed EPIC to the newly registered voters and

administered the National Voters' Day pledge. The song 'Main Bharat Hoon' by ECI was also launched.

Kangpokpi

In Kanpokpi district The 13th National Voters' Day, was observed in the MultiPurpose Hall, DC Office Complex.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the function, Deputy Commissioner, Kengoo Zuringla, IAS said that since 2011, National Voters' Day has been observed on January 25th every year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India.

State cabinet approves delimitation of disputed boundaries of Administration Districts

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25:

The state cabinet meeting of the government of Manipur has approved to settle the issues of disputed boundaries of administrative districts of the state. Talking to media person Minister for Information and Public relation Sapam Ranjan said that at present there are around 500 villages in the state where the district administrations are facing

difficulties in settling issues due to disputes among the villagers. He said that in order to make convenient for the district administration to act and ensure the governance, the state cabinet meeting held today has approved to settle the issue. At present there are 16 administrative districts in the state of Manipur.

On the other hand the cabinet meeting also approved to ex-gratia for those victims of the

December 21 bus accident at Old Cachar road in Noney district where 9 persons including 7 students were killed and leaving several other injured. IPR Minister Ranjan said that the state cabinet meeting had resolved to grant ex-gratia to those victims of the tragic accident. Other resolution taken during the cabinet meeting are upgradation of PHC to CHC in Noney district and appointment of Chief Engineer at PWD.

Guv', CM, Ministers and others greet on Republic day

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25:

Governor of Manipur La Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th Satyabrata, Education Minister Th. Basantakumar among others greets the people on occasion of the 74th Republic Day Celebration which falls tomorrow.

"It was on this day in 1950, that we gave ourselves a Constitution which is the guiding principle of our country. Despite reservations from various quarters, the experiment of democracy in India has been successful and we are going from strength to strength, respected by other nations", Governor La Ganesan said in his message.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in his message said that the nation celebrates January 26 every year commemorating the enactment of our Constitution which came full force on January 26, 1950 and made our country a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic.

"On this historic occasion, let us remember and pay homage to our visionary leaders in Constituent Assembly who has gifted us our Constitution", Chief Minister N. Biren said.

Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, Th. Satyabrata, Education Minister Th. Basantakumar, Industries Minister Nemcha Kipgen, among others also greets the people of the region on occasion of the 74th Republic Day celebration.

By- Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

Peer pressure can be understood as the push experienced by an individual from a peer group to follow the standards and expectations set by them. Since adolescence is a critical developmental stage where children undergo various changes, such pressure could result in detrimental effects on one's physical or mental health. Adolescence comes with a certain amount of peer influence. The urge to blend in with the group and have a social identity makes teenagers vulnerable to peer pressure. They experience pressure or could be coerced to participate in harmful activities by the more "popular" kids at school. The youngsters could feel

trapped in such situations, and might not be able to figure another way out than to participate. Peer pressure could also convey to the teens that if they do not follow the rules and behaviours of the peer group, they would be isolated. All this could generate immense stress and worry among the students. However, opposed to popular belief, peer pressure is not always harmful. It can be constructive as well. By looking at their peers doing well, students could get inspired to focus on academics, and take part in co-curricular activities too.

Reasons leading to stress and anxiety due to peer pressure

The need to "fit in": Adolescence is also a period where individuals usually seek company, popularity,

and attention. The fear of being rejected and isolated from others makes the teens give in to peer pressure.

Social comparison: Comparing one's circumstances and social standing to others might also convince the students to engage with peer pressure.

Bullying: Being forced by the majority or popular groups to participate in activities one does not want to, or those which are unhealthy or harmful like using substances (drinking alcohol, smoking), engaging in sexual acts/relationships, committing crimes, late night partying, overspending, harassing or abusing others.

Lack of healthy and supportive relationships: Not being able to confide in parents or friends about what they are going through could

be another stressor for the student.

Low self-esteem: Not being sure of themselves, lacking the confidence to take a stand for themselves, and saying 'yes' to everything is another factor contributing to them being influenced by peer pressure and its consequences.

Peer pressure is a fact and its existence needs to be accepted. Be accommodative, receptive and supportive to your teen and use your experience and intelligence to deal with situations.

Dealing with peer pressure

There are multiple ways in which the students can handle peer pressure. For example, developing a positive view of themselves, engaging in positive self-talk, being aware of what they wish

to achieve and the various ways in which they could do that, embracing their differences and unique qualities, practicing and saying "NO" to situations and conversations which are uncomfortable or harmful for them.

Parents could try being more open to conversations with their child. Instead of setting boundaries and using harsh words, they should listen, and try to understand their child's situation. Together, they both can discuss and set some ground rules for the child's own good. It is crucial to not judge your child, rather understand them and gain their trust. Creating an atmosphere of trust and warmth at home is also important.

Teachers could play an important role here in

Picnicking, trekking at reserved forest areas banned

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25:

Picnicking, trekking, camping, expedition or gathering inside the reserved forest areas of the state has been banned by the Forest department of the state in connection with the increasing forest fire reported in the last couple of weeks.

An order passed by the Divisional Forest Officer R.K. Amarjit Singh, IFS, Central Reserved Forest Division said that activities such as camping, picnicking, trekking, expedition, gathering etc. inside Langol and Langol

Extension Reserved Forest, Heingang Reserved Forest, Chingkeicheing Reserved Forest, Nongmaiching Reserved Forest, Sambei Purum Reserved Forest, Khamenlok Gwalitabi Reserved Forest, Taingangkopki Reserved Forest and Laiching Reserved Forest without permission are strictly prohibited under Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It further said that any individual found violating the order are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or both under the Indian Forest Act 1927.

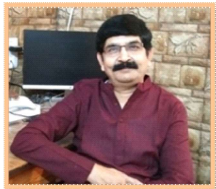
Dealing with Peer Pressure: Tips for Students

educating the students about peer pressure and bullying; and in having sessions with them on developing important life skills (like assertiveness, critical thinking, healthy coping techniques, etc.) to help students feel empowered in dealing with different situations. Encouraging dialogue about such concerns in the classrooms and society is essential for raising awareness to battling the pressure in a healthy way.

Peer pressure might look like an inevitable situation, nonetheless, we can educate and empower our children and ourselves on dealing with it effectively.

(The writer is the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Government of India)

Tourism – becoming a growing and developing economic sectors worldwide



By - Vinod Chandrasekhar Dixit

25th January is marked as National Tourism Day with a motive to appreciate our country's beauty and spread awareness of the importance of tourism and its impact on the Indian economy. It is a day to promote the tourism industry and recognize its contribution to the growth and sustainability of tourist destinations and local communities. Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes and it has now become a popular global leisure activity. Tourism is the engine of economic growth. India is a diverse nation and it offers several forms of tourism including cultural, nature, heritage, educational, sports, rural, eco-tourism, etc. This diversity of India makes it a prime attraction for tourists. Tourism helps in women empowerment and youth employment. This day help us to spread the word of both the importance and immense benefits universal accessibility has and can bring to society at large. It is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of tourism to global well-being. We all know that when Tourism has become the continuously growing and developing economic sectors worldwide because of the occurrence of various attractive and new destinations for the tourists, it has become the main source of income for the developing countries. The tourism industry has helped growth in other sectors as diverse as horticulture, handicraft, agriculture, construction and even poultry.

Both directly and indirectly, increased tourism in India has created jobs in a variety of related sectors. Almost 20 million people are now working in the India's tourism industry.

Tourism today plays a vital role in bringing the world closer as it has been a major social phenomenon of societies all over the world and it is driven by the natural urge of every human being for new experiences, and the desire to be both educated and entertained. Every time we travel, for whatever reason, we are part of a global movement; a movement that has the power to drive inclusive development, create jobs and build the sustainable societies we want for our future. Perhaps every citizen can do the role of city ambassador and play courteous hosts. Each one of us is responsible for contributing our bit to protect the natural resources of our planet. India has innumerable attractions for tourists. Throughout the country there are numerous beauty and scenic spots. We live in such a country that others dream of visiting and becoming wiser by the experience. Can't we help them with right directions, authentic fares, uniform pricing and respect for the personal space of tourists while maintaining basic facilities that we ourselves are comfortable using. We must remember that the tourism is an ever-evolving and thriving industry that contributes to the economic wellbeing of every nation and generates lakhs of employment opportunities besides focusing on environment-friendly measures. As we celebrate the National Tourism Day, let us recall that all of the world's citizens have the right to experience the incredible diversity this planet has to offer. Tourism in India can become a viable industry if effective and concerted steps are taken. It promotes national integration, international understanding, harmony, friendship and goodwill. Diversity, unity and assimilation have always been the hallmark of the eternal India and these make India the ultimate tourist destination.

India has a composite culture. India has fascinated people from all over the world with her secularism and her culture. Let us take adequate steps to protect and preserve the flora and fauna, the historical monuments and heritage sites of this great country.



By - N. Munal Meitei
Environmentalist

India is a treasure trove of exquisite vast beaches with glistening sand, magnificent mountains covered in snow and adventurous forests boasting of rare and beautiful flora and fauna. Every tucked snugly in the foothills, waterfall, mountain peak, estuary, desert or forest is unique and no one can fathom how beautiful the country is. This is a great time to appreciate our culture and the heritage of different parts of India and helps to understand the country better.

National Tourism Day is celebrated on 25th January which aims to foster and create awareness in society about the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, historical, political, economic and heritage values and protecting the nature. This year's theme is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.

A wanderer is almost always intrigued by dense forests and the excellent wildlife that it houses. India is a tourist's paradise and this sector plays an important role in the economy of the country. In India, the tourism contributes for 9.2% of the country's total GDP and 8.1% of employment.

India has a rich heritage with 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The country also has 32 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and one mixed property. The country has 1065 Protected areas including 104 National parks, 566 Wildlife sanctuaries, 32 Elephant reserves, 52 Tiger reserves, 97 Conservation reserves and 214 Community reserves covering 171921 sq. km which is 5.03% of our geographical area. We also have 75 Ramsar sites of wetland importance.

Maharashtra tops with the maximum number of tourists wherein more than 5 lakh foreigners visited last year followed by Tamil Nadu,

National Tourism Day 2023

Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. As per the annual report generated by the World Travel and Tourism Council, India's tourism sector generates Rs. 17820 billion annually. Moreover, medical and education tourism are growing by leaps and bounds and has reached Ra. 243 billion and is further forecasted to grow in the coming years.

Manipur, literally meaning "A jeweled land", is a state nestled deep within a lush green corner of North East India. Mrs. St. Clair Grimwood once described Manipur as "A pretty place more beautiful than many show places of the world" and Japanese army once termed Manipur as "A flower on the lofty height".

Manipur is an elongated shaped valley at the centre surrounded by hills, rich in Art and tradition with nature's beauty landscapes. The Manipur River flows across the

fledged state on January 21, 1972. While talk of Manipur, we always remember our lovely dancing deer, the Sangai, the Siroy Lily, the Manipuri Dance, the modern Polo-our gift to the world, the Emma Keithel, the Loktak Lake and our Sports and Culture.

A dream destination for many environmentalist and wildlife enthusiasts, Manipur has world's only floating National Park, the Keibul Lamjao National Park with the most endangered, Sangai, the state animal. Home to over 1200 species of plants and animals always fascinate us. These species comprising of 472 orchids, 52 edible fruits, 120 species of fishes including 29 in ornamental forms. The state supports nearly 40% of the total flowering plants recorded in India, out of which 31.58% are endemic. The wildlife of Manipur includes about 1200 medicinal

the state are unique to the tribes who make them. Kauna (water reed) products, cane articles, pottery, artistic weaving, and wood carving are some of the favorites for tourists. Manipur has carved a niche for itself in traditional forms of handicrafts, take joy in picking your arts and crafts from the best of the best like the lotus thread clothes.

One of a kind, Manipur has the only women market in the world, a show of feminine might. The skill of Manipur is not limited to textiles, people's exemplary skill at pottery knows no equal. The items on show never fail to enchant, these skills passed on from each generation make Manipur the best place to shop. Our cuisine, rich in aroma from the local herbs and spices, a typical platter mainly comprises of rice, vegetables, salad, a curry of fish with chak-hao kheer, ironba and shinjau will never be forgotten.



valley and joins in Chindwin River on its head. Rajashree Bhagachandra made the famous classical dance of Manipur, Ras Lila out of his enchanting dream by the grace of Lord Krishna.

Having a varied and proud history, after the defeat in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891, Manipur became under the British Rule as a Princely State. Manipur merged with the Indian Union on October 15, 1949 after India's independence and became a full-

plants, 55 species of bamboo, 695 birds, 160 fish species, 21 migratory aquatic birds and many big animals that just take a deep breath and step into the majestic, natural beauties of Manipur.

Famed throughout the world for their dexterous styles, Manipur is one of the largest producers of bamboo crafts in India and you will find items such as dolls, handmade baskets, musical instruments, bamboo umbrellas and more. Absolutely irresistible, all crafts in

With literacy rate of 76.94%, many educated youths in the state are float with no employment. Tourism will be the only viable Industry that will solve from all these problems. Therefore with coming of National Tourism Day, 2023, let's save our forests and the beautiful hilly sides with plenty of flora and fauna to attract the visitors in future days.

(The writer can be reached at email-nmunall@yahoo.in)

India, Bangladesh, Myanmar 'paddy diplomacy'

By - Harunur Rasid

Bangladesh has offered over \$40 a tonne more to Indian cooperatives to import 2.5 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice in a government-to-government deal compared with prices quoted by the private trade in a global import tender. The import deal will be through NCCF (National Cooperative Consumers Federation) and KendriyaBhandar in two tranches with Dhaka getting rice at \$443 and \$443.5 a tonne each, according to media report.

Two Indian co-operatives will export 2 lakh tonnes of rice under government-to-government deal to Bangladesh, which will also buy another 50,000 tonnes from private traders in India. The G2G deal has taken place at 11% higher than the tender price of the private trader.

"The two co-operatives will get a huge premium of \$40/tonne over the private trade, which will earn a huge profit for the government. The private trade has been in losses by undercutting each other in fierce competition," said an

exporter, who requested not to be identified.

New Delhi-based KendriyaBhandar (Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society) will supply 1 lakh tonnes of non-Basmati parboiled rice within 75 days from the date of opening of letter of credit at \$ 433.50/tonne. KendriyaBhandar will have to ship 70% of the total contracted quantity by ship and the remaining 30% by train.

National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India will supply another 1 lakh tonnes of par-boiled rice to Bangladesh at \$ 433.60/tonne within 70 days from the date of opening of the letter of credit.

According to trade sources, Raipur-based rice exporter has bagged the tender to supply 50,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh at \$ 393.30 per tonne.

India has banned export of broken rice on concerns about its kharif rice output, while it has put a duty of 20% on export of rice.

Meanwhile, the rice exporters

from India had requested the commerce ministry to take up the issue of transparency in Government-to-Private (G2P) trade with Bangladesh during a delegation level discussion of commerce minister Piyush Goyal with Bangladesh commerce minister Tipu Munshi.

"Many times, we face rejection when our goods reach Bangladesh ports. In case of the trade taking place through the land border, our trucks get stranded for 4/5 days to get clearance to cross the border," said another rice exporter, who did not wish to be identified.

It is heard the term 'Myanmar-Bangladesh rice diplomacy' recently through media platforms. The use of rice as a diplomatic tool has received global media coverage (the sun daily, modern diplomacy, eurasia review, pakistan today, burma news international, counter review) despite Myanmar-Bangladesh tensions. There is nothing new to say about the influence of food on politics. It is really appreciable that Myanmar and Bangladesh have already started rice diplomacy to mend the ties. Now, time will say how fruitful Myanmar-Bangladesh rice diplomacy would be.

In ancient times, many kings used food as a diplomatic tool to entertain their guests. The tradition continues in the modern political world. Many leaders of political parties and presidents have used and continue to use food diplomacy to strengthen relations between allies or diffuse tensions with opponents.

According to an English report, Rice appears to have emerged as a favourite diplomatic tool for building strong ties with neighbouring Myanmar and Bangladesh. It is said that the product is a staple food for most people in countries like Indonesia and Thailand and neighbouring countries like China and India. The agriculture sector is one of the most important and strategic sectors for the survival of a country.

Without food, the country can experience chaos and bankruptcy. Bangladesh government relies on various measures to maintain rice availability. The most popular way is to import rice. This import policy causes a lot of damage because Bangladesh is an agricultural country or country that mainly has rice.

Although Bangladesh's agricultural sector is one of the best

sectors, the country continues to import rice. Due to the current state of the world facing a global food crisis due to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, many countries have closed their doors to exports to maintain their domestic reserves.

Rice is an essential product in the life of the people of Bangladesh. Dhaka, which imports about a million tonnes of rice every year, has ordered imports from Myanmar despite tensions between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Since agriculture and livestock are the backbone of Myanmar's economy, it earns foreign exchange from rice exports beyond self-sufficiency. The state is helping stockholders including farmers and investors to bring business opportunities.

According to a memorandum of understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, two lakh tonnes of white rice will be exported from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

For the first time, 2,650 tons of rice will be sent directly to Bangladesh in January 2023. According to data from the ministry of commerce of Myanmar,

according to the government-to-government agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar sent 150,000 tons of white rice to Bangladesh in 2022.

Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade on September 8 this year.

According to this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the food directorate of Bangladesh and the Myanmar Rice Federation signed an agreement to sell 200,000 tons of Myanmar white rice for export to Bangladesh. According to the sales agreement, Myanmar has exported around 15,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh till 19 December 2022. The remainder will be delivered within the deadline.

According to the Government-to-Government pact between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has sent over 174,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh by sea, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

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Defence Minister reviews Aero India 2023 preparations during in New Delhi

PRO (Defence)
Kohima, Jan 25:

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh reviewed the preparations of the forthcoming Aero India during the apex committee meeting held in New Delhi yesterday. The Raksha Mantri was given a detailed account of the arrangements of the 14th edition of Asia's largest aero show, which will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka between February 13-17, 2023. Shri Rajnath Singh exhorted all the stakeholders to ensure fool-proof arrangements for the participants. He said, Aero India 2023 will not just be an event, but a display of the growing prowess of the defence & aerospace sector and the rise of a strong & self-reliant 'New India'.

The five-day event, on the theme 'The runway to a billion opportunities', will be the largest-ever aero show organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in a total area of around 35,000 sqm. As on date,

731 exhibitors have registered for the event. Defence Ministers' Conclave, with the theme 'Shared Prosperity Through Enhanced Engagement in Defence (SPEED)', and a CEOs Roundtable are among the marquee events. The Manthan start-up event and Bandhan ceremony, which witnesses signing of MoUs, will also be part of the event, along with a fabulous air show on all the five days. It will showcase the paradigm shift the Government has brought in the aim of organising such events, that also include DefExpo. The events have been restructured with focus on increasing defence exports and forging partnerships rather than merely import of weapons/equipment.

The Raksha Mantri pointed out that the Indian defence industry is going through a transformational phase and the active participation of the private sector is the biggest catalyst to that change. "Not

just the private sector, but R&D establishments and academia are also working together with the Government. Aero India is a medium to provide a platform to all the stakeholders to jointly strengthen the defence & aerospace sector and contribute to Nation Building," he added.

Rajnath Singh emphasised that while Aero India is a business event, it also aims to strengthen India's relations with other countries. He also underlined the importance of these events for the business ecosystem of the states in which they are organised as well as available opportunities. The Raksha Mantri commended Bengaluru for successfully organising several editions of AeroIndia, saying that the event is shaping Karnataka as an epicenter of aviation and aerospace industry. He described Karnataka as one of the leading states which contributes to the economic

growth of the country. "The state is known for its skilled manpower and robust defence manufacturing ecosystem. It is a preferred center for manufacturing and R&D activities for domestic & multinational defence and aviation companies," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh noted the excellent coordination among the officials of MoD and the Karnataka Government to make the event a grand success.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and state government officials joined the meeting through video conferencing, while Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pandey, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence attended the meeting physically.

Governor attends Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan's celebration



By Navathakuria
Guwahati, Jan 25:

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, while attending the closing function of Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan's silver jubilee celebration at Ramdia in Kamrup district on Tuesday, commented that the success of any educational institution is determined by the impact it creates in young minds and its ability to teach its students to dream big.

"I sincerely believe that a successful educational institution should be in a position to enable its students to dream big and helping them to translate their dream in reality", said Governor Mukhi adding that Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, Ramdia being a premier centre of education has completed its glorious 25 years, should continue working to create ripples of joys, success, laughter, achievements as well as some challenging moments for its entire fraternity.

The importance of education is that it should never be used

as an instrument for earning degrees and it should be adequately used to develop an all-round personality with a keen commitment to social development, he stated urging the management and teachers of Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan to work dedicatedly for holistic development of the students.

"It is a fact that every child is born with inherent talents. Our primary responsibility should be to nurture those inherent qualities with love & care and help him to become an able citizen of the country with a humane heart to work for the society," said the Governor.

Quoting the lines of Nelson Mandela that education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world, Governor Mukhi said that education should be used to find the genesis of any problem and find solution accordingly. Moreover, he said that the success of any educational institution is determined by the impact it creates in young minds. The minds of the young students will one day grow to

become the pioneers in their chosen fields, but learning is always a life-long process, added the Governor.

"It is the students on which the nation depends, and it is the students' skill and wisdom which have been India's greatest strength. Hope the new generation serves society both globally and locally and become a powerful force for 'Vocal for Local'," said Governor Mukhi adding that he wanted to congratulate the entire fraternity of Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, Ramdia on its 25 years of completion.

In presence of Kamrup district magistrate Keerthi Jalli, KKHOU dean Dibya Jyoti Mahanta, SMDC chairperson Nripen Das, RSS Assam Karjyabah Khagen Saikia along with a host of other dignitaries, the Governor lauded the faculty members of the school for providing all opportunities which enabled their students to inculcate in them values, commitments and services for manifesting a knowledge driven society.

\$90,000 concealed in books seized at Mumbai Airport

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai: January 25

The custom officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, seized USD 90,000 (Rs 81 lakh) in currency notes, from two foreign passengers who had hidden them inside a book, officials stated on Tuesday.

"On 22-23 Jan Mumbai Airport Customs intercepted two foreign nationals in two separate cases and seized 90,000 USD concealed in pages of books and over 2.5 Kg Gold in paste form concealed in undergarment respectively. Both the passengers have been

arrested", Mumbai Customs III Tweeted.

A passenger was intercepted on the basis of intelligence inputs. When his luggage was checked, it was found that he was hiding dollars between the pages of a book which he was carrying. On being inquired, he could not produce valid documents to carry such a huge amount of foreign currency.

Another passenger had concealed over 2.5 kg Gold in paste form in his under garment. The recovered foreign currencies and Gold was seized under section 110 of the Customs Act and the passengers were

placed under arrest under section 104 of the Customs Act. They were remanded to 14-day judicial custody a special court in Mumbai. During the examination, the officials learnt that they were involved in smuggling.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai Airport Customs had seized foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 1.5 crore from an Indian passenger travelling to Dubai. Currency notes included USD, Pounds, Riyals and Dirhams ingeniously concealed in side walls of two fruit cartons. The Customs officials are in the process of tracing the supplier

and recipients of foreign currency and gold.

Seizures at airport this month
January 10-Foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 1.5 crore found hidden in fruits cartons, January 6-2.81 kg cocaine valued at Rs 28.10 crore found concealed in duffle bag. Similarly on the same day, 1.596 kg cocaine valued at Rs 15.96 crore ingeniously hidden in clothes buttons was seized, January 5-Four lakh cigarette sticks valued at Rs 30 lakh were impounded and on January 4, 4.47 kg heroin valued at Rs 31.29 crore found hidden in folder covers.

Contd. from Page 2

India, Bangladesh.....

Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade on 8 September this year.

As per the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, 48 companies, under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, are to export 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh with Chinese yuan payment between October 2022 and January 2023.

Under the contract, white rice (ATAP) GPCT Broken STX variety will be delivered. The FOB prices were 2,788.56 Yuan per kilogramme and 2,788.56 Yuan per tonne.

Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract.

Myanmar and Bangladesh have started practicing their rice diplomacy. Myanmar supplies to Bangladesh will deepen their ties. This can be a great effort by both sides to build good relations with the Bangladeshi and Myanmar governments.

It will also build good bilateral relations between the people of Bangladesh and Myanmar. In the short term,

the new generation on both sides wants better relations in terms of economy, tourism, etc.

There may be some problems between Bangladesh and Myanmar. However, these issues (Rohingya refugees and border issues) should be properly addressed by both sides. Bangladesh is going to become the economic miracle of South Asia. Bangladesh is praised by the international community in every international forum.

Ping-pong diplomacy led by China and the United States was set up to strengthen their relationship. We can also expect another application of ping-pong diplomacy similar to rice diplomacy.

Paddy's diplomacy is a small initiative but its significance is huge. This small initiative will turn into a great achievement for both parties.

A high-level official visit could be a step to strengthen ties. The two prime ministers may exchange visits to normalize relations. This is good news for Myanmar and Bangladesh.

(The writer is a London-based Bangladesh expatriate who is a Bangladesh and Myanmar affairs observer, analyst, and researcher)



By: Vijay GarG

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will conduct the NDA 2023 Examination. This exam is conducted two times in a year, i.e. NDA I and NDA II in the Month of April and September.

NDA entrance exam

The exam is divided into two parts, first is Written Test and second is the SSB Interview.

As the admission in Defence Academy would not be easy, hard work is required at every step. Before discussing the preparation tips, let's begin with the first and foremost thing:

Stop relying on the coaching

Relying only on coaching will not help you in cracking any level of competitive exam. Self-study is the key. Work hard and you will succeed.

1. Time and study Management

Before beginning anything, time management and proper study timetable are important.

As you can see, Mathematics is an important part of the written examination, work on your Maths skills. Your basics should be clear and you must be aware with the theorems and formulas of every chapter and topic.

Manage your timetable giving 2 to 4 hours a day for Mathematics, 1 hour of English and 2 hours of General Knowledge every day.

For Mathematics, your school textbooks are enough. Go according to your school studies of 11th and 12th class and do every question and solved example as many times as you can. Do not leave any question, whether it is easy or difficult.

For English, you can take help of BBC. It is one of the best books to prepare for Grammar, Reading and Writing section of the English exam. Work on your Grammar basics and start from the very beginning – prepositions, verbs, tenses etc.

For the Reading and Writing section, do comprehension and poems and write the letters, notices, stories etc.

For General Knowledge, watch the news on daily basis. Stay aware of what's happening around you and read magazines daily. Read newspapers and read them aloud in front of a mirror which will help you in the Interview. Learn about India's geographical system

Career Guidance

How to Crack NDA Entrance Exam without Coaching

through books.

Always add a break after 2 hours of study. Do your favourite thing at this time – play, write, draw – anything. It will keep you refreshed and active.

2. Online content

Browse and collect previous year question papers and solve them. Try to solve the question paper 15 minutes before the finishing time, so that you would have time to revise. This will help you in understanding the exam pattern better and learn which type of questions comes in the exam and how.

Take online mock tests regularly. It will help you stay up to date with your preparations.

3. Diet and exercise

Diet and exercise not only matters in the SSB Interview but also in the preparation of any exam or in your daily life. If you stay healthy, you would be able to do anything anytime.

Have carbohydrate-rich food and take protein. Eat the maximum amount of food at the breakfast and the minimum amount of food at night.

Add chicken or fish in your regular diet. Milk and oats are important and drink at least 5 to 10 litres of water every day at every hour interval.

Dedicate 30 minutes to exercise in the morning and take a few minutes rest after it. Have a proper diet after the exercise. You

can also consider yoga.

PHASE II – SSB Interview
Now comes the most difficult part which is the SSB Interview. Many students are able to crack the written exam but fail to clear the interview.

In the interview, they check your physical strength, confidence, communication skills and what not. They put you through the toughest of the tasks.

So here are the few points which you must remember during the interview.

1. Maintain Your Health Properly

Maintaining not only your health but also your physical strength is important. The type of diet and exercise and eating routine mentioned above must be followed timely.

Work hard on yourself and you can also join a gym. You can consult a dietician and a personal trainer at the gym to have you through the right type of diet and exercise every day in a better way.

2. Improve Your Communication Skills

Work on your English speaking skills.

Reading the newspaper on a daily basis is the best way to improve your English speaking skills.

Whenever you find a new English word, write it down in a separate notebook with meaning and a sentence made by your own imagination or a situ-

ation which you have been through which describes the meaning of that word.

It will help you remember this word.

Read a newspaper or magazine aloud in front of a mirror and pay attention to your body language.

Your body must give the positive vibes with a firm and satisfied smile on your face.

You must not feel panicked and nervous in any way. Stay confident and your body and words will reflect the same.

Tip: If you don't know the answer to a particular question, don't pretend to know or don't think hard about it.

Be firm and let them know that you are unaware of it.

This will reflect your self-confidence and on spot thinking level which is tested in the interview.

SSB Interviews are designed to test you in the hardest way possible. They will try to give you situations about anything and you must think of a way out of it.

For this, you can consider going through different and any type of pictures online and generating an imaginary story behind it.

Real hard work and creativity is required to crack SSB Interview but believe that you can do it because after all, the interview is all about testing your confidence level.

G20-Startup20 Engagement Group set to meet in Hyderabad; India to convene global support for start-ups, strengthen ecosystem synergies

PIB
New Delhi, Jan 25:

The G20 Startup20 Engagement Group will hold its inception meeting in Hyderabad this week, featuring delegates from G20 nations and nine special invitees from observer countries, representatives from multilateral organizations as well as the Indian startup ecosystem. The group formed under G20 after India assumed presidency will convene from January 28-29 anticipating a productive development of policy recommendations on entrepreneurship and innovation priorities of and across G20 countries for the years ahead. The meeting will create a global narrative for supporting startups and fostering synergies between startups, corporates, investors, innovation agencies, and other key ecosystem stakeholders. Startup20 India Chair Dr. Chintan Vaishnav stated that as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, India is well-positioned to lead the charge in supporting innovative startups, particularly in the sectors of

global importance. The Startup20 Engagement Group will work to harmonize the global startup ecosystem through consensus-based definitions and promote a global community of knowledge sharing among startup ecosystems to explore opportunities. "The group will also bridge the knowledge gap between the startup ecosystems of G20 member countries and emerging economies through partnerships to enable more industry players across G20 nations to work with Startups and concrete solutions. Finally, it will aim to create supportive policies for industry players and government organizations to work with Startups and provide points of contact for the participating G20 countries sustained collaboration. The Finance Taskforce will aim to increase access to capital for Startups by providing financing and investment platforms specifically for early-stage Startups to broaden the array of financial instruments available to Startups. It will also create pitching and networking opportunities for Startups with the global investor community. Lastly, it will work to provide a framework built upon best practices for global investors to fund Startups across G20 member nations, helping build suggestive frameworks that could be implemented in emerging ecosystems for building investment capabilities. For Inclusion and Sustainability, the roadmap

ecosystems of G20 member countries and emerging economies through partnerships to enable more industry players across G20 nations to work with Startups and concrete solutions. Finally, it will aim to create supportive policies for industry players and government organizations to work with Startups and provide points of contact for the participating G20 countries sustained collaboration. The Finance Taskforce will aim to increase access to capital for Startups by providing financing and investment platforms specifically for early-stage Startups to broaden the array of financial instruments available to Startups. It will also create pitching and networking opportunities for Startups with the global investor community. Lastly, it will work to provide a framework built upon best practices for global investors to fund Startups across G20 member nations, helping build suggestive frameworks that could be implemented in emerging ecosystems for building investment capabilities. For Inclusion and Sustainability, the roadmap

involves increasing support for women led Startups and organizations; promotion of Startups working on making communities more inclusive and to promote Startups working on SDGs in areas of global interest. Besides, this Task Force aims to enable more investors to invest responsibly in Startups built upon sustainable practices and to encourage mentorship support to the Startup ecosystems of the G20 member countries and emerging economies. Meanwhile, The Startup20 activities will span over five events, starting with the inception event on January 28-29, 2023 in Hyderabad and the summit event on July 3, 2023 in Gurugram. There will be three intervening events in different parts of India. Expected outcomes and key deliverables of Startup20 include the official Policy Communique, a Startup Handbook with a set of commonly agreed upon definitions and terminologies, a Global Innovation Centre to foster collaborations across borders, and promotion of Startup20 as a Global Point of Contact for startup ecosystems worldwide.

A 74th R Day Celebrations will be a spectacular affair

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, January 25:

With thrilling military exercises comprising acrobatic motorcycle rides, a fly-past, tableaux display, and participation of national and foreign NCC cadets, the 74th Republic Day celebrations based on the theme "Janbhagidari" will be a spectacular affair.

A massive participation of people in India and the Indian diaspora abroad is anticipated in celebration of R Day, which marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950.

This is for the first time, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest at the R-day parade in Delhi. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including five Ministers and senior officials. A 144-personnel military contingent of the Egyptian Army will also march in the parade.

Parade
The parade will be held in Delhi's renovated Kartavya Path (earlier Rajpath), the stretch of road between India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan. There will be 16 marching contingents from the Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces, Delhi Police, NCC, NSS, Pipes, and Drums Bands. The army's indigenous 105 mm Indian field gun will give a 21-gun salute. There will be Mounted Columns of 61 Cavalry, nine Mechanised Columns, six Marching Contingents, and a fly-past by helicopters of Army Aviation. A team of "Daredevils" Motor Cycle Riders from the Corps of Signals company led by a woman officer will be part of the parade. For the first time, women will form part of BSF Camel Contingent.

While two NCC contingents from friendly countries will participate in the parade, 198 cadets from USA, UK, Argentina, Brazil, Mongolia, Russia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Vietnam, Maldives, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, New Zealand, and Fiji will witness the parade.

The aerial show will include 50 aircraft, including nine Rafale aircraft and the Indian Navy's IL-38, which will be showcased for the first time. Indigenously produced "Prachand", a multi-role, light attack helicopter will also be part of the Indian Air Force flypast along with ALH Dhruv and ALH Rudra.

Tableaux
23 tableaux-17 from states and Union territories and six from various ministries and departments, depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage and diversity and strong internal and external security, will participate in the parade. The theme adopted this year by various states is largely "Nari Shakti" (women's power). Maharashtra's float is based on three and a half Shakti Peethas (prominent seats of the Hindu Goddess).

Although the country is



moving towards progress, there are many issues confronting this largest democracy in the world. A stock of different issues must be taken.

Economy
The growth forecast continues to be a cause of concern. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slashed its gross domestic product (GDP) estimate to 6.8 percent from earlier 7 percent. Given the soaring dollar, India's foreign exchange reserves declined to \$562.851 billion in December last. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stood at USD 22.7 billion during April-October 2022 (from USD 21.3 billion in the corresponding period last year), as per RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das's Monetary Policy statement. The Indian rupee which was at an all-time low due to the economic slowdown in 2022, is expected to rebound in the range of US \$-Rs. 77-Rs. 84.5 in the current year.

Unemployment
According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the average urban unemployment rate rose to 10.09% (earlier 8.96%) in December last, while the rural jobless rate decreased to 7.44% (from earlier 7.55%). The highest unemployment rate was 37.4% in Haryana and the lowest at 0.9% in Odisha. The double-digit unemployment rates were noticed in seven other states, including Delhi. With a high level of automation and digitization, manufacturing may not remain an avenue for job creation. As such a focus should be on services and self-employment.

Population/Health
India's population which is around 141 crore, is expected to surpass that of China on April 14 this year. At the same time, the health infrastructure is questionable. The doctor-to-population ratio in India is 1:2148 and the infant mortality rate is 64 per 1,000 live births. The overall mortality rate has declined from 27.4 to 8 per 1,000 population and the life expectancy at birth has increased from 37.2 years to 60.6 years.

As per India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), from 2019 to 2021, 35.5% of children under the age of five had stunting, 19.3% were wasted, and 32.1% had an underweight condition. Over 40% of youngsters receive less food and almost a third of Indians are said to be malnourished.

Despite a hike in food subsidies, a fast-expanding population negates attempts to ensure better health conditions.

Foodgrains
While the Union Government has decided to give free food grains to over 80 crore people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), this year the estimated foodgrain production is 149.92 million tonnes, which is higher by 6.98 million tonnes than the average foodgrain production of previous years (2016-17 to 2020-21).

Literacy
According to the National Survey of India report, the average literacy rate is 74.37%, while the female literacy rate is around 70.3%. Kerala has the highest literacy rate of 94%, whereas Bihar has the lowest rate of 61.80%. India has a demonstrable capability to reach near 100% literacy level by 2025.

Defence
While India is promoting domestic defence capabilities, 70% of the defence budget has been reserved for this work. Contracts worth Rs.54,000 crore (US\$ 7.1 billion) have been signed for domestic defense procurement and the government aims to achieve an export target of Rs. 36,500 crores (US\$ 4.8 billion) by 2025. Amid this, the Indian Navy has already received five India-made submarines.

As for the missiles, India successfully test-fired new-gen nuclear-capable "Agni Prime" ballistic missile off Odisha Coast in October 2022, followed by the launch of the first privately built rocket Vikram-S (Suborbital) on November 18, 2022, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Space
In addition, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to make an Aero-scientific leap in the space sector this year. Apart from Chandrayaan-III, which is scheduled to be launched on the GSLV Mk-III in June this year, the ISRO is also preparing for the maiden human space flight "Gaganyaan", and its first mission of uncrewed "G1" is targeted to be launched in the last quarter of 2023.

The industry must work in tandem with the government to achieve self-reliance and the target of a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2025. Let us hope that India becomes a superpower soon.

BBC Documentary Screening: Security beefed up, several students detained

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 25:

Ahead of the screening of a controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, security has been beefed up across Jamia Millia Islamia University. For the unversed, members of the Students Federation of India (SFI) on Wednesday morning announced the screening of the BBC documentary—**India: The Modi Question**. The screening of the contentious film which has highlighted 2002 Gujarat riots is scheduled to start at 6 PM. However, the varsity administration issued a statement and said that no meeting of students or screening of any film will be allowed on campus without permission. "University is

taking all measures to prevent people/orgs having vested interest to destroy peaceful academic atmosphere here", a notification issued by Jamia Millia Islamia said.

Delhi Police said that four students have been detained for allegedly creating a ruckus outside Jamia Millia Islamia University over the screening of the BBC documentary today.

SFI Delhi State Committee said, "In an atrocious manner, Azeem (Jamia student and SFI Jamia Unit Secretary), Nivedya (Jamia student and SFI South Delhi Area Vice President), Abhiram and Tejas (Jamia students and SFI Unit members) have been detained by Delhi.

The controversial documentary alleged that it probed aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Modi



was the chief minister of the state.

The government has banned the documentary calling it a 'propaganda piece' reflecting a colonial mindset.

Earlier on Tuesday, high drama ensued at JNU during the screening of a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The students claimed that the university administration snapped off the electricity

to supply and internet services to block the screening of the documentary film. Moreover, they alleged that they were attacked with stones while watching the controversial series—a claim denied by Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest), Manoj C. When asked about the incident, the DCP said, "I repeat again no such incident has been reported to us so far."

Pakhangba Motors inaugurates Benelli-Qeeway showroom in Imphal

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25:

Pakhangba Motors today inaugurated a multi brand showroom in Imphal. Various brands like Benelli and Qeeway makes it to Imphal offering customers with a wide selection of sports bike in 125 – 500cc range. They also offer retro styled bikes from various exotic companies. The proprietor Victor Lourembam further said that other brands will also be introduced in the coming days. The company managing director and executives inaugurated the new showroom located at Kanglat near north of Imphal Municipality Office. Two vehicles including one a premium 300cc scooter and a retro looking 125cc bike SR-25 were unveiled today. Bookings have already started and some bikes were delivered today by company managing director.

