

Asking the Indian Police Service officers to be sensitive to the plight of the voiceless, President Droupadi Murmu said that officers should ensure that an illiterate poor man living in a remote corner of the country gets sympathetic support at a local police post. “The criminals should tremble with fear at the very thought of the police. But, at the same time, the common citizen should look at the police as a friend and saviour,” she said while addressing probationers of the 74th batch of the Indian Police Service at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

Cervical cancer is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus and India accounts for 21% of cases and 23% of deaths occurring in the world. To tackle this, the government announced the rollout of vaccines for girls aged between 9 and 14 years through schools. Girls who do not attend schools will be given the vaccines by community outreach and mobile health teams. The indigenous HPV vaccine, called CERVAVAC, has been cleared by the DGI and is likely to be rolled out by mid-2023. It will be issued through the Universal Immunisation Programme one of the largest public health programmes which offers free vaccines for at least 12 diseases.

Merely drafting a National Tourism Policy is not enough for the development of the tourism sector in the country, a parliamentary committee has said. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has suggested fast tracking the creation of a National Tourism Council on the lines of the GST Council to directly make recommendations to the Union and the State governments. Observing that “Vision without action is a daydream, and action without a vision is a nightmare”, the panel sought to know from the government the action taken for the creation of the Tourism Council after the inter-ministerial consultations.

It has been a year since West Bengal stopped receiving Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds from the Centre over alleged widespread violations by the State government in its implementation. With just three months to go for the financial year 2022-23 to end, the latest figures, however, show that the Centre’s dues to many other States are also significantly high. The Centre, as on December 14, owes ₹4,700 crores in wages to 18 States and ₹5,450 crore in material cost to 19.

Taiwan on Tuesday announced an extension in mandatory military service from four months to one year, citing the threat from China. Beijing considers self-ruled, democratic Taiwan a part of its territory, to be taken one day, by force if necessary, and the island lives under the constant fear of invasion.

In its report, the CAG stated that there was a five-fold increase in the originally planned budget of ₹288.18 crore resulting out of time delays and changes to software. The report also found that the amount of wages paid to

EXPEDITE CATEGORISATION OF DENOTIFIED, NOMADIC, SEMI-NOMADIC TRIBES (DNT/NT/SNT): PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Panel observed that the slow process to categorize over DNT/NT/SNT under either the SC/ST/OBC lists, delayed benefits of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED). In 2014, a National Commission (also known as I date Commission) was set up to identify and prepare a state-wise list of them including their inclusion in SC/ST/OBC lists.
2. It categorised 1,262 communities under SC/ST/OBC lists while 267 communities were left uncategorised. DNTs were notified as ‘born criminals’ under the colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) 1871.
3. Post-independence, CTA, 1871 was repealed, and these communities were “De-Notified”. NTs and SNTs are social groups undertaking a frequent, usually seasonal physical movement as part of their livelihood strategy and moving from one place to another. SEED is an umbrella scheme (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) launched for empowering DNTs, NTs, SNTs.
4. **Components of the SEED scheme-** Educational empowerment: Free coaching to students from these communities for competitive examinations to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA, etc. Health Insurance through PMJAY of the National Health Authority. Livelihoods to support income generation. Housing (through PMAY).

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES THE PROJECT “DEVELOPMENT OF SRISAILAM TEMPLE IN ANDHRA PRADESH” UNDER PRASHAD SCHEME

1. The project has been sanctioned and executed under PRASHAD scheme viz. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive of the Ministry of Tourism. It is a central sector Scheme which aims to focus on integrated infrastructure development to harness pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations for employment generation and economic development.
2. **About Srisaillam Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh)**-It is built on the top of the Nallamala hills situated on the banks of river Krishna. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva (Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy) and Goddess Parvati (Goddess Bhramaramba Devi). It is the only temple in India significant to both Saivism and Shaktism.
3. The presiding deity is Brahmaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy in the shape of Lingam. It is considered one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva and one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas of Goddess Parvati. It is also classified as one of the Paadal Petra Sthalam (glorified in Tamil Tevaram hymns).
4. It has earliest reference in Pulumavi’s Nasik Inscription (2nd Century) of Satavahana Dynasty. It has Ikshavakus Patronage (200-300 AD) with its golden age under the Reddi Kings (1325-1448). Chalukya, Kakatiyas and Vijayanagara empire also contributed to its development.

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG) DETECTS ANOMALIES IN ASSAM NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (NRC) UPDATION PROCESS

1. CAG report on compliance audit of ‘logistical arrangements for NRC updation project in Assam’ has flagged data tampering risk in updating of NRC in Assam.
2. **Key highlights of CAG report**-NRC updating process requires highly secure and reliable software but software was developed in a haphazard manner. There is further risk of data tampering in NRC. There is an escalation of project cost due to time overrun and updating of software. NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens.
3. At present, Assam is the only state to have an NRC. It was first prepared in 1951 and finally updated in 2019. NRC was updated as per provisions of Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. It includes persons whose names appear in any of the electoral rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971 or NRC, 1951, and their descendants.
4. Its origin can be traced back to the Assam Accord 1985. Non-inclusion of a person’s name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared a foreigner. Such individuals will have option to present their case before foreigners’ tribunals.

ANIMATION, VISUAL EFFECTS, GAMING AND COMIC (AVGC) TASK FORCE REPORT CALLS FOR NATIONAL AVGC-XR (EXTENDED REALITY) MISSION

the outsourced staff was 45.59% 64.27% less than what was approved by the NRC coordination committee. The CAG noted that secure and reliable software was required for the SC directed exercise, but as many as 215 software utilities were added to the core software.

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed the Uttar Pradesh government's draft notification on urban local body elections and ordered it to hold the polls without reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) immediately owing to the term of several municipalities ending by January 31.

₹147.19 lakh crore, the total liabilities of the government at September end increasing from ₹145 lakh crore at the end of June this fiscal year, according to the latest data on public debt. Public debt accounted for 89.1% of total gross liabilities in September end 2022, the Finance Ministry informed.

59 percentage of eligible people who are yet to receive the booster dose of the COVID vaccines in Odisha. The State government has urged the Union government to supply the shots to expedite the vaccination drive, an official said. The Odisha government is also planning to hold next year's State board examinations for classes 10 and 12 adhering to COVID guidelines.

5.8 percentage, the decline in Indian banks' gross nonperforming assets (GNPAs), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) informed. The present macroeconomic environment can impact lenders' health, the RBI added. The GNPAs, which touched a peak in FY18 following the asset quality review, have been declining sequentially to reach 5% in September.

The Election Commission on Tuesday said it would begin the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Assam. The Census figures of 2001 would be used for the delimitation process. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel have directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam to take up the matter with the State government to issue a complete ban on the creation of new administrative units from January 1, the EC said in a statement.

The Union government and the Manipur government have signed a cessation of operations agreement with the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), a Manipur based Naga armed group. The banned group, active for a decade, has been demanding a separate State for the Zeliangrong Naga tribe.

1. Task force on AVGC-XR, constituted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has released a report titled 'Realising AVGC-XR Sector Potential in India'. It has asked for budget outlay for integrated promotion & growth of AVGC sector.
2. AVGC sector has potential to provide employment to over 20 lakh people and witness around 17% growth rate in coming 10 years. Centre has also designated audio-visual services as one of the 12 Champion Service Sectors. Challenges to AVGC Sector: Lack of authentic data on employment, industry size etc.; Inadequate training infrastructure; Absence of AVGC academic reference point in India etc.
3. **Recommendations of Task Force**-Launch 'Create in India' campaign with exclusive focus on content 'For India and For World'. Establish National Centre of Excellence for AVGC sector which could help in skilling, education etc. Establish AVGC Accelerators and Innovation hubs in academic institutions on lines of Atal Tinkering Labs. Establish Special incentives for women entrepreneurs in AVGC sector.
4. XR refers to all real-and-virtual combined environments and human-machine interactions generated by computer technology and wearables. It includes representative forms such as augmented reality, mixed reality and virtual reality and the areas interpolated among them.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR) WARNS NGOS AGAINST DEPICTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN FOR FUNDRAISING

1. To protect children's rights, NCPCR has issued a notice to all NGOs instructing them to abstain from raising funds through promotions on print, social media etc. by showing weak minor children in deplorable conditions.
2. Showcasing minor children in such a way is violation of Child Rights and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. For Ethical Imagery, the "Eight Quick Steps to Ethical Imagery" from UNICEF can help in promoting child rights (refer image). Issues involved Child's physical safety, e.g., photo shows what they look like and can reveal their current location, thus facilitating kidnapping, fundraising activities etc.
3. Violates Child's right to consent to how their image is used. Oppressive uses of child's image by evildoers. Future privacy invasions. NCPCR was constituted as a statutory body under Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to protect child rights and related matters in country. It is mandated to monitor proper and effective implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012; Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) PREDICTS, SEVERE COLD WAVE CONDITIONS TO CONTINUE IN NORTHERN INDIA

1. Cold wave, sometimes known as a cold snap or deep freeze, is a weather event involving a cooling of the air, or the invasion of very cold air, over a large area. Weather situation behind Cold Wave in India Build-up of a ridge (an extended area of relatively high atmospheric pressure) in the jet stream over northwest Asia.
2. Formation of surface high-pressure centre over north and Central India. Movement of cold air masses in response to steering by upper-level winds. Extensive snow covers over Northwest Himalayas.
3. Triggering mechanism like strong westerly waves approaching northwest India to enhance winds for transport cold air south-eastward. Studies highlight that cold waves are favoured by La-Nina over most parts of India as compared to El-Nino with cold waves confined to northwest India. Government has notified 'cold wave' as a disaster and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2021 issued guidelines and action plans on cold wave.
4. **Key Strategy of action plan includes:** Identification of cold wave risk and vulnerability assessment; Establish qualitative early warning, forecasting and alerts dissemination etc. Also, in consultation with the NDMA, IMD has developed a colour coded alert for warning dissemination.



"You do not control the surrounding. You knew it. Now, accept it."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)