

Visit of Nepal Army Chief to India

General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepal Army will be visiting India from 12 to 15 January 2019 on his first official bilateral visit after taking over the command of the Nepal Army. Based on an age old tradition existing between the armies of both countries, the Nepal Army Chief is being conferred with the Honorary Rank of 'General of Indian Army' by the Hon'ble President of

India on 12 January 2019 at Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

During the visit General Purna Chandra Thapa shall be interacting with senior Indian Army hierarchy and shall be visiting formations based at Jaipur and Lucknow. The visit symbolises the deep-rooted military to military ties and shall be a platform to further strengthen the defence cooperation between the two armies.

Armed Forces Veterans Day

The Armed Force are celebrating the Veterans Day on 14 Jan to honour the veterans of the Army, Navy and Air Force. To mark the occasion, veteran rallies will be held country wide at Armed Forces stations. The

main celebration in Delhi will take place at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt. Raksha Mantri and Raksha Rajya Mantri will grace the occasion amongst many other eminent officials associated with the Veterans affairs.

Year End Review 2018- Ministry of Human Resource Development

In the year of 2018 MHRD has launched an integrated scheme Samagra Shiksha for School Education to treat school education from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels as a whole for the betterment of the students. Beside this, MHRD launched so many new schemes in Higher Education Department to boost research & Innovation culture in the country. It is for the first time in the country where any government is emphasizing so much attention on research and innovation. MHRD has given graded autonomy to selected Higher Educational Institutions to promote research and innovation in their campuses so that they can enter in global institutions ranking. Some new important schemes/Initiatives of MHRD like IMPRESS, Study in India, SPARCK, STARS, NTA, NDL, HEFA, LEAP, ARPIT and Innovation Cell etc. are the game changer in the field of education in the country.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education - Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19. Samagra Shiksha envisages 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

A total of Rs.30891.81 crore has been provided for Samagra Shiksha in BE 2018-19. Out of Rs.30891.81 crore, an amount of Rs.19808.36 crore (64%) has been released to the States and UTs as Central share (as on 31.12.2018). Preference will be given to educationally backward Blocks (EBBs), Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog.

Allocation for uniforms has been enhanced from Rs.400 to 600 per child per annum and allocation for textbooks from Rs.150/250 to Rs.250/400 per child per annum. Energized textbooks have been introduced. In order to complement the activities under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat and inculcate the reading habits among students of all ages, strengthening of school libraries is being undertaken including provision of books by providing library grant for government schools, under the newly launched centrally sponsored scheme of MHRD like IMPRESS, Study in India, SPARCK, STARS, NTA, NDL, HEFA, LEAP, ARPIT and Innovation Cell etc. are the game changer in the field of education in the country.

Primary to Senior Secondary. Reading corners have been created to inculcate habit of reading among children. Library Grant of Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000 has been provisioned from Primary to Senior Secondary Schools. Realizing the need for holistic development of children, Samagra Shiksha has included the Sports and Physical Education component to each school under which sports grant is being provided for sports equipments for indoor & outdoor games.

Sports Education has been an integral part of the curriculum. Provision has been made for sports equipment for indoor and outdoor games. Every school will receive sports equipments at the cost of Rs.5000 for Primary Schools, Rs.10,000 for Upper Primary Schools and up to Rs.25,000 for Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools to inculcate and emphasize relevance of sports.

In the year 2018-19, an outlay of Rs.50690.37 lakh has been estimated under sports grant for 894307 schools of different categories. Stipend of Rs.200 per month for CWSN girls will be provided from Classes I to XII. Earlier it was only for Classes IX to XII. Allocation for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) has been increased from Rs.3000 to Rs.3500 per child per annum. In the year 2018-19, an outlay of Rs.102350.91 lakh has been estimated towards CWSN grants.

The scheme of Samagra Shiksha has provision for existing KGBVs at upper primary level and Girls Hostels at secondary level to be extended/ converged to provide residential and schooling facilities upto Class-XII. This would provide the facility of at-least one residential school for girls from Classes VI-XII in every educationally backward block which does not have residential schools under any other Scheme. It is for the first time in the country where any government is emphasizing so much attention on research and innovation. MHRD has given graded autonomy to selected Higher Educational Institutions to promote research and innovation in their campuses so that they can enter in global institutions ranking. Some new important schemes/Initiatives of MHRD like IMPRESS, Study in India, SPARCK, STARS, NTA, NDL, HEFA, LEAP, ARPIT and Innovation Cell etc. are the game changer in the field of education in the country.



The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Nitin Gadkari signed an MoU on Renukaji Dam project with the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, in New Delhi on January 11, 2019. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, the Secretary, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri U.P. Singh and the Principal Director General (M&C), Press Information Bureau, Shri Sitanshu R. Kar are also seen.

Year Ender 2018: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ayushman Bharat is a centrally sponsored programme anchored in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). It is an umbrella of two major health initiatives, namely Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY). Brief details of these components are as following: Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) Delivery of comprehensive primary health care services through Health & Wellness Centres is a critical component of the newly announced Ayushman Bharat scheme. It places people and communities at the center of the health care delivery system, making health services responsive, accessible and equitable.

Nearly 1.5 lakh Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres would be transformed as Health & Wellness Centres by 2022 to provide comprehensive and quality primary care close to the community while ensuring the principles of equity, affordability and universality. Key components of AB-HWC: Additional Human Resource - New cadre of health care professional- referred to as the Mid-Level Health Provider-who is a nurse or an Ayurvedic Practitioner trained and accredited for a set of competencies related to primary health care and public health. Mid-Level Health Provider will lead the team of MPWs and ASHAs at SHC level Multiskilling/ Training of existing service providers - upgrading skills to provide expanded package of services Efficient logistics system to ensure availability of wide range of drugs and point of care diagnostics

Dr Jitendra Singh addresses the training programme on Pension Rules & Bhavishya

The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the training programme on Pension Rules & Bhavishya, organised by the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, here today. The programme was organised for the officials of various Ministries/departments dealing with pension related matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said that organising these kinds of workshops provides knowledge to these officials while dealing

with the pension-related issues. He said that the number of pensioners has increased significantly during the last few years because increase in the life span of individuals post independence.

He added that, on the one hand, India has a huge population below the age of 40 years, and on the other hand, the ratio of elder population is also rising, due to which we have to deal with the both situations simultaneously. The Minister said that the Government led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken various steps for the pensioners, including increase in minimum pension, issue of Digital life certificates, Anubhav and Bhavishya initiatives, among others. Modern

and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any (both public and private) empanelled hospitals across India. All beneficiary families of RSBY and SCHIS are entitled for benefits under PMJAY. Under PMAJY, the States are free to choose the modalities for implementation. They can implement the scheme through insurance company or directly through the Trust/Society or mixed model.

There is no restriction on family size, ensuring all members of designated families specifically girl child and senior citizens get coverage. At National level, National Health Agency (NHA) in the form of Society has been registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, to implement the scheme. NHA is responsible for all operational matter of PMJAY. NHA is functioning w.e.f. 11.05.2018.

MoU has been signed between National Health Agency, Government of India and 31 States/UTs namely, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Bihar, Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Out of these 31 States/UTs, 25 states/UTs namely Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh,

Mizoram, Manipur, Gujarat, Nagaland, Sikkim, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Goa, Bihar, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar have launched PMJAY on 23.09.2018. Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council, as an Apex body has been set up to provide policy direction to the scheme. More than 1350 packages have been finalized by an expert committee headed by Director General, Health Services and peer reviewed by NITI Aayog. Operational Guidelines on various operational matters of PMJAY, Model tender documents etc are in place. Details are available on official website i.e. www.abnphm.gov.in.

The Cabinet Committee on Economics Affairs had on 19th September, 2018 approved a proposal to introduce an ASHA Benefit Package w.e.f from October, 2018 (to be paid in November, 2018) with two components, namely, coverage of ASHAs and ASHA Facilitators meeting the eligibility criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and an increase in the amount of routine and recurring incentives under National Health Mission for ASHAs from Rs. 1000/- per month to Rs. 2000/- per month. The total estimated cost of the Scheme is Rs 1905.46 Crore of which Central share is Rs 1224.97 Crore for two years i.e 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The Secretary, DARPG & Pensions, Shri K.V. Eapen said that the Department has done a root cause analysis for the pension-related issues, which will be helpful in the grievance disposal of pensioners. He said that some changes have been introduced in the NPS recently which were discussed during the workshop.

The sessions included many topics such as Pension policy & gratuity, Pension procedure and Bhavishya, qualifying service, modules under Pensioners' Portal - Bhavishya, Anubhav and Sankalp, National Pension System, submission of Life Certificate, commutation of Pension, procedure on medical facilities for retirees and family pension etc.

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Chairman ISRO addresses media in Bengaluru

The Chairman, ISRO Shri K. Sivan addressed and interacted with over hundred media persons from Bengaluru and other parts of India in a Press Meet organized today at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru. He highlighted ISRO's achievements in 2018 related to launch vehicles, satellites and their applications towards nation building.

Dr Sivan also briefed about the challenging missions envisaged during this year including the Chandrayaan-2 mission. Several new technologies such as Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, Reusable Launch Vehicle and in-flight connectivity (with launch of GSAT-20) are planned to be demonstrated this year.

"Enhanced industry interface for production of PSLV by industry will be a major milestone and the efforts in this regard are initiated" Dr. K Sivan

remarked.

Dr K Sivan while briefing about India's first manned mission flight, Gaganyaan, said "The mission will be capable of carrying three Indian astronauts and will orbit the Earth for seven days. It is a major expansion in ISRO's Programme. A new Centre - Human Space Flight Centre is formed and will be the lead Centre for the overall management and realization of Gaganyaan".

Chairman, ISRO also briefed about various initiatives being taken up to enhance ISRO's outreach activities.

The extensive briefing by Chairman, ISRO was followed by interactive session with the media. Specific areas of interaction included Chandrayaan-2 mission, Gaganyaan mission, Reusable Launch Vehicle, Small Satellite Launch Vehicle and other upcoming missions.

25TH edition of Partnership Summit in Mumbai

The 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, is being held in Mumbai from tomorrow. The two-day event will be inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu. The Summit is expected to build new partnerships and explore investment opportunities through high level exchanges and B2B meetings.

This edition of the Summit, on 12th and 13th January 2019, will showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging "New India", the "New Global Economic Address". The Summit is being organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, State Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry.

The Summit will see New India in active engagement and collaboration within the country and with the world. Discussions will be held among key stakeholders - policy makers, institutions, business, media and academia. The themes of the

sessions in the two days of the Summit will cover topics like.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu will preside over as Chair of the Summit and will deliver the keynote address on the opening day of the Summit.

A Special address will be delivered by Minister of Trade of South Korea, Kim Hyun Chong and Minister of Economy of UAE, Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri. Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization, Francis Gurry, will also address the inaugural session.

On the side-lines of the Summit, Suresh Prabhu will hold bilateral meetings with Trade Minister of South Korea, Minister of Economy of UAE, Mr. Stepan Kubiv, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, Secretary of State for Commerce, Cambodia, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Nepal, Minister of State for Economic Development of the Maldives and Mr. Crispin Simon, The British Deputy High Commission in India. The Indian Commerce Minister will also meet representatives from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

Army Tech Seminar (ARTECH 2019)

In its quest for modernization through optimum use of emerging technologies, Indian Army organised the Army Technology Seminar-2019 (ARTECH 2019) on the theme "Disruptive Impact of Emerging Technologies on Land Warfare" at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on 11 Jan 2019. The seminar was aimed to bring together stakeholders in the military, academia and industry to provide perspective on the available and emerging technologies which could have an impact on warfighting. The event was attended by Dr Subhash Bhamre, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, Shri Ajay Kumar, Secretary Department of Defence Production and other dignitaries from Ministry of

Defence, army, academia and civil defence industry.

In his keynote address, the Chief of the Army Staff said that technological disruptions are rapidly changing the character of warfighting and future conflicts will be fought across domains wherein networks and integration would be the key to generate military power. An exhibition showcasing military innovations developed by field Army, DRDO, Academia and industry was also organised during the seminar.

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