

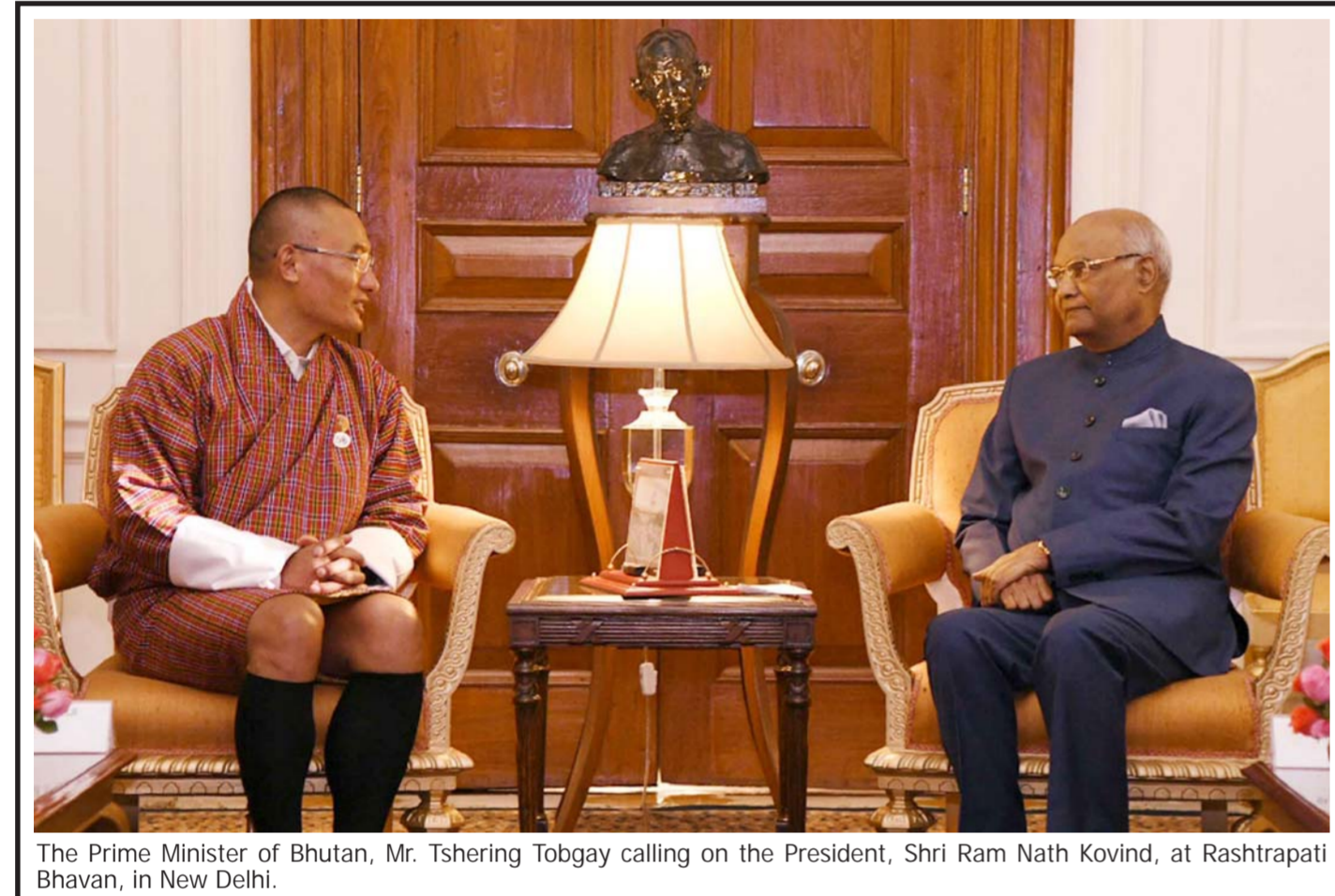
Prime Minister of Bhutan calls on the President

His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, called on President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (July 6, 2018). Welcoming the Bhutanese Prime Minister to India, the President said that India and Bhutan share an exemplary bilateral partnership. Our relations are unique and special. Our historical and cultural linkages make us natural friends. He stated that the government and people of India appreciate the vision of the Druk Gyalpos, which has guided relations between India and Bhutan. With the wisdom and foresight of the Monarchs of

Bhutan and the Indian leadership, India-Bhutan relations have gone from strength to strength. The President said that Bhutan has made rapid economic progress in recent years. It has made advances on social indicators in pursuance of happiness as a national philosophy. He was happy to note that many of the projects under Bhutan's recently concluded 11th Five Year Plan have been implemented in a timely manner. He emphasised that India is firmly committed to partner Bhutan in its socio-economic development and to support its 12th Five Year Plan based on Bhutan's



The Minister of State for Railways, Shri Rajen Gohain along with the Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb and other dignitaries flagging off the Agartala-Deoghar Express Weekly train, at Agartala Railway Station, in Agartala.



The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Tshering Tobgay calling on the President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

PM addresses International Convention of Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj through video conference

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today addressed the 8th International Convention of Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj through video conference. The International Convention of Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj is being held in California, United States of America, this year. Applauding the efforts of NRIs, particularly Saurashtra Patel community, Prime Minister said that NRIs have always made India proud. He added that their efforts have ensured that Indian Passport

is respected everywhere. Prime Minister said that various schemes of the Government, like Swachh Bharat has boosted tourism in the country. He also appealed to NRI community to motivate at least five foreign families to visit India every year for Bharat Darshan. This can pave a new way to serve the purpose of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Abhiyan, ultimately providing a great boost to India's tourism development. He also talked about how NRIs can contribute to the success of

Mahatma Gandhi's dream, Swachh Bharat. Prime Minister said that India would celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, beginning from 2nd of October. He added that in the name of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a mammoth Statue of Unity is constructed on River Narmada and it will be completed on 31st October, 2018. Once completed, the Statue of Unity will be the highest statue in the world. Addressing the gathering, Narendra Modi said that India

is now seen as a shining star in the world. He added that today India is associated with fast economic growth and honest, transparent governance. Initiatives like GST and strict action against corruption has helped people doing honest business. These initiatives have resulted in 42-place jump in the Ease of Doing Business rankings in the last four years, he added. Prime Minister also appealed to the NRI community to work towards the dream of creating a New India.

Government committed to smoothen Immigration and Visa processes: Rajnath Singh

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh today said that the Government was committed to strengthen and smoothen the twin processes of Immigration and Visa for the Indian citizens and foreigners. He was addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting on Immigration and Visa for the Indian citizens and foreigners. He said, "We also have to keep in mind the security aspect while facilitating easier immigration. At the same, there is need to track the movement of foreigners already present in the country". "E-Visa scheme has become very popular among the foreigners. In 2015 the number of e-Visas issued was 5,17,417 which increased to 19,01,309 in 2017. This year till 5th July 11,16,985 e-Visas have been issued", he said. "This scheme ensures that the Foreigners do not have to meet any Indian official before their arrival at the designated landing port. MHA has now decided to increase the scope of this scheme to include e-Conference and e-Medical Attendant Visa also", the Home Minister added. Giving the future projection of the e-Visa scheme, Shri Rajnath

Singh said, "It is expected that in few years time the number of e-Visas issued by MHA's Bureau of Immigration (BoI) would overtake the number of regular visas issued by all the Indian Missions abroad." "We are increasing the number of Departure and Arrival counters at major airports as well as providing Human Resource to the BoI to fast-track the immigration process", said Shri Rajnath Singh. The IVFRT project has been implemented in 165 Indian Missions abroad and 91 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) and Biometrics software installation in 132 Indian Missions has been done within the given time. On November 27, 2014, the Government launched e-Tourist Visa scheme in 44 countries. This e-Visa facility has now been extended to 165 countries. The government has installed e-Visa processing facilities at 25 airports and 5 seaports in the country. The MHA is now working to extend the e-Visa scheme to more countries

in a planned manner after consulting all the stakeholders. The extension of e-Visa scheme is aimed at encouraging tourism, business travel and health tourism in the country. After the introduction of e-Visa scheme more than 90 percent Visas are issued within 72 hours of application submission. The government has done away with Embarkation and Disembarkation cards for Indian citizens and foreigners to streamline the immigration process. MHA has also introduced e-FRRO services for those foreigners who are staying in India and who need services like visa extension, visa conversion, exit permit, registration, change of passport details, change of address and others. The MHA Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting was attended by MoS Home Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba, Members of Parliament and senior Gol officials.

With the aim of eliminating all unattended Level Crossing Gates over Sambalpur Division, East Coast Railway launches highest ever 6 (six) Limited Height Subways (LHS) in Sambalpur Division and completed it in a single block of four and half hours on 5th July, 2018. Launching of 6 Limited Height Subways in Sambalpur Division is a first of its kind not only in East Coast Railway, but also in the entire Indian Railways. In view of the launching of six Limited Height Subways, seven unmanned Level Crossing gates will be totally closed in Bhawanipatna-Lanjigarh

Sports should be made as a compulsory subject in Schools and Colleges: Vice President

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that sports should be made as a compulsory subject in Schools and Colleges and extra marks should be given in Examinations and there should also be a quota for employment for Sport Persons. He was addressing the gathering after laying foundation stones for Multipurpose Indoor Hall, Swimming Pool and SAI Girls Hostel, in Pudukcherry today. The Lt. Governor of Pudukcherry, Dr. Kiran Bedi, the Chief Minister of Pudukcherry, Shri V. Narayanasamy, the Sports Minister, Pudukcherry, Shri Malladi Krishna Rao and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that children and youth as well all human beings have a right to physical education and sport. He further said that this has to be recognized and action has to be taken to realize this vital requirement for a good quality life. Sports and games are an important part of our lives and they improve our physical fitness, improve our cognitive abilities and in the case of team games, enhance our social skills, he added.

The Vice President said that participating in games and various sports will improve the concentration levels of an individual, promote the concept of team work and help in developing an attitude of stoicism, which is essential to accept defeat without any sense of bitterness, ill-will or grudge.

Physical Education and Sports, 1978 and revised it in 2015 amending in tune with modern day requirements and changing lifestyles. It states that "Every human being has a fundamental right of access to physical education and sport, which are essential for the full development of his personality. The freedom to develop physical, intellectual and moral powers through physical education and sport must be guaranteed both within the educational system and in other aspects of social life".

The Vice President said that children and youth as well all human beings have a right to physical education and sport. He further said that this has to be recognized and action has to be taken to realize this vital requirement for a good quality life. Sports and games are an important part of our lives and they improve our physical fitness, improve our cognitive abilities and in the case of team games, enhance our social skills, he added.

Underlining the lack of sports infrastructure in the country, Vice President highlighted on the need to build or develop state of the art sports infrastructure in India. He further said that may be it is time for entering into Public Private Partnerships for building sports infrastructure and its maintenance. Wherever possible, the sports infrastructure can be used for exhibitions, seminars and conferences, he added.

Following is the text of Vice President's address: "I am delighted to be with all of you for the three events connected with the development of sports in Pudukcherry. Sports and games are an important part of our lives. They improve our physical fitness, improve our cognitive abilities and in the case of team games, enhance our social skills. We learn how to work in teams, how to focus and improve our competence and how to enjoy a game for sheer pleasure as well as sometimes play to win. Participating in games and various sports will improve the concentration levels of an individual, promote the

concept of team work and help in developing an attitude of stoicism, which is essential to accept defeat without any sense of bitterness, ill-will or grudge. It improves the general quality of life. It also assists in developing the habit of obedience, discipline, the determination to win and enhance willpower. Regular participation in games or sports will also enable a person to develop a sense of determination. Eventually, a good sports person can become a good leader too as sports also inculcates leadership qualities. I would like to recall the ancient saying: "A sound mind in a sound body", underscoring the link between physical exercise and mental equilibrium. It is evident that a healthy and strong body is not possible without sports and physical activities and we cannot aspire to become a wealthy nation without being a healthy nation.

East Coast Railway launches highest ever 06 Limited Height Subways



With the aim of eliminating all unattended Level Crossing Gates over Sambalpur Division, East Coast Railway launches highest ever 6 (six) Limited Height Subways (LHS) in Sambalpur Division and completed it in a single block of four and half hours on 5th July, 2018. Launching of 6 Limited Height Subways in Sambalpur Division is a first of its kind not only in East Coast Railway, but also in the entire Indian Railways. In view of the launching of six Limited Height Subways, seven unmanned Level Crossing gates will be totally closed in Bhawanipatna-Lanjigarh

Road Section of Kalahandi area of Odisha. While completion of one single LHS in a block of four hours is itself an achievement, completion of 6 LHSs within the same time frame was unheard of earlier. In spite of the tremendous challenges involved in launching six LHSs in one go and despite the unfavourable monsoon weather conditions, Sambalpur Division has converted the mighty challenge into a favourable opportunity and completed the onerous task of launching of six LHSs in one go and thereby has set up a new mile stone in the history of Indian Railways.

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Date: 07-July-2018
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