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Armed forces to recruit en masse from Kerala soon

Alwin Benjamin Soji

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Defence at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, February 22, announced the schedule for the Combined Army Recruitment Rally which is to be held at Greenfield Stadium, Karyavattom between February 26 and March 12.

The rally will be organised by the Army Recruiting Offices of Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram.

The Thiruvananthapuram office will conduct the rally for seven southern districts from February 26 to March 5: Thiruvananthapuram itself, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki.

The Kozhikode office will conduct the rally for seven northern districts from March 6 to March 12: Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod.

The official Twitter handle of the PRO also said, "All candidates must produce a Covid-19 Free/Asymptomatic certificate and No Risk certificate when they report for the rally. Format has been attached in the Rally notification and has also been forwarded in the candidates' personal email."

Budget: Modi hails defence spending

Pavithra Prabhu

The Central government has introduced strong reforms such as de-licensing and de-regulation, and promoted exports and foreign investment liberalisation for the defence sector, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a webinar on Monday, February 22, in an effort to emphasise his regimes claim that effective implementation of the Union budget provisions had taken place in the defence sector.

The Budget laid more emphasis on making India self-reliant in terms of manufacturing defence equipment and encouraging private sectors to take part in the development of the sector, he said.



Representational Image

"In the defence capital budget, there is a reservation for domestic procurement. I request the private sector, not only in manufacturing but to move forward in designing and development as well," said the prime minister.

He added, "With the establishment of the Chief of

Defence Staff post, bringing uniformity in the procurement process, trial, testing and induction of equipment has become easy for all the three wings of the Army. In this year's budget, after a decade and a half, in the defence sector, in capital outlay there has been a hike

of 19 percent. After independence this is for the first time that the participation of private sectors has been stressed upon."

There are 101 items which can be manufactured indigenously with the help of local industries. He said a

timeline has been set so that our industries can plan to meet these requirements. "It is called a negative list in the official language but it is a positive list in the language of self-reliance. This is the positive list on which the country's manufacturing capacity is going to increase, it will generate employment, reduce India's dependence on foreign countries for our defence needs and guarantee the sale of indigenous products in India."

Modi also said the defence corridors that are being built in the country today will also help local entrepreneurs and local manufacturing. That is, today, self-sufficiency in the defence sector has to be seen as the empowerment of these two fronts – "Jawan as well as Naujawan".

Siddaramaiah bats for VTU students

Megha Bhattacharjee

Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Monday, February 22, urged authorities to take action to protect the interests of the students of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), who have been reportedly subjected to continuous exams to be conducted without holidays.

Members of the Karnataka unit of the National Students' Union Of India (NSUI) met Siddaramaiah on Monday to express concerns regarding



Twitter

the issue after NSUI State General Secretary Manish G Raj wrote a letter to him requesting to direct VTU to issue a fresh time table for upcoming examination of second and third-year engineering students.

Gupta said, "The three days'

gap wasn't demanded based on last-minute hustle from students or any kind of irresponsibility from anyone demanding the gap. The demand is extremely legitimate. The students have not appeared for offline exams for over a year. A lot of them could not access online classes because all students do not belong to the same socio-economic stratum. Now, to give exams without any gap, especially for technical subjects like engineering, is an injustice for the students."

IMA slams 'blatant lie' on Coronil

Arakkal Shada Amina

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), in a statement released on Monday, February 22, rejected the claims made by Patanjali Ayurved regarding the effectiveness of Patanjali Ayurved's as a medicine against Covid-19.

The IMA also questioned Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan's presence during the launch of the medicine, saying in the statement that it was "a shame" on the part of minister.

Patanjali Ayurved, founded by Ramdev, launched the "Coronil kit" on February 19 in the presence of Vardhan and his Cabinet colleague Nitin Gadkari.

At the event, Ramdev cited

a research paper that claimed Coronil was the "first evidence-based medicine for Covid-19."

The IMA statement noted that Ramdev also claimed Coronil, an ayurvedic medicine, had received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) as well as certification from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

WHO's South-East Asia Twitter handle subsequently said on the platform: "WHO has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment" of Covid-19.

The IMA also said the country needs an explanation from the health minister, who is a doctor of modern medicine, for his actions.

SJC conservation club gears up for Neerathon

Athul Krishna

CAMPUS: "It is amazing that the youth is stepping up to take care of the wildlife," said Prem Koshy, the managing director of Koshy's Cafe, at the launch of fourth edition of Neerathon on Saturday, February 20, a marathon conducted by the Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) of St Joseph's College (Autonomous) to raise awareness about water and wildlife conservation.

Neerathon is an annual marathon conducted by WACC with the motto of "run for the cause of water."



Neerathon 4.0 launch

Mohan R

Neerathon 4.0, launched by Prem Koshy, saw WACC office-bearers take oath. "Neerathon is conducted to preserve water and to spread its awareness among the

public. In the fourth edition of Neerathon, we are expecting more people to realise its cause and to show their active participation in the event," said WACC Vice-

President Moses Jayakumar.

Anivitha, the convener of Neerathon, said, "As students, the crowd or resources that we can access is very less when compared to movements initiated by someone famous. But still we are trying our best to bring this event something useful to raise awareness among the public on water conservation."

As a part of Neerathon's launch, WACC members performed a flashmob on Church Street on the day of launch.

This year's Neerathon is going to take place on Sunday, March 14.



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