

**HEADLINES:-**

- ❖ The festival of colours, Holi will is being celebrated throughout the country today.
- ❖ Indian Army provides essential infrastructure to a remote village along the Line of Actual Control in East Sikkim under its flagship mission “Operation Sadbhavana”.
- ❖ Assam Rifles, the oldest and most decorated Para Military Force of the Country celebrates its 189<sup>th</sup> Raising Day.
- ❖ Union Health Ministry writes to all states and union territories asking them to take urgent measures to prevent hospital fires during summer months.
- ❖ Election Commission focuses on accessible voting to live up to its motto of ‘no voter is left behind’.
- ❖ Electioneering is gradually picking up in Tripura with the election machinery conducting training for the polling staff and micro-observers.

**NEWS IN ORDER:-**

**HOLI:**

The festival of colours, Holi will is being celebrated throughout the country today. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil and celebrates the arrival of the Spring season. On this day, people apply Gulal or colours on one another, exchange greetings, and seek the blessings of elders. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted the people on the occasion. The President said, that Holi is a vibrant and joyous festival, which infuses hope and enthusiasm into people’s lives. She said various colours of Holi symbolise the diversity of the country and this festival promotes the feelings of love, unity and brotherhood among the people.

**DEVELOPMENT:**

The Indian Army has taken a significant stride toward sustainable development and community welfare by providing essential infrastructure to a remote village along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in East Sikkim under its flagship mission “Operation Sadbhavana”. The village, nestled amidst the rugged terrain, lacked access to basic amenities such as electricity and clean water. In a noble effort to uplift the lives of the villagers, the Indian Army installed 10 solar street lights in the village. These solar-powered lights will illuminate the narrow pathways, enhancing safety and security during the evenings. The use of renewable energy not only reduces the village’s dependence on conventional power sources but also contributes to environmental conservation.

**DAY:**

Assam Rifles, the oldest and most decorated Para Military Force of the Country celebrated its 189th Raising Day yesterday. Raised in 1835, the Force has done yeoman service to the nation and contributed immensely in bringing peace in the North East states. Director General Assam Rifles, Lieutenant General P C Nair and all ranks of the Force paid homage at the War Memorial in Shillong to the Brave hearts who in the past have made the supreme sacrifice. The DGAR complimented all ranks of the Force for their outstanding contribution in fighting insurgency in the North East and Kashmir.

**HEALTH:**

Union Health Ministry has written to all states and union territories asking them to take urgent measures to prevent hospital fires during summer months. In a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all states and Union Territories, Health Secretary Apoorva Chandra said hospital fires become a more significant threat as temperatures escalate during the summer months. Health Ministry requested the States and Union Territories to direct the State Health Departments and State Disaster Management Authorities to work in close collaboration to ensure that all accredited hospitals within their jurisdiction take immediate action to prevent hospital fires. It said hospitals must regularly inspect fire-fighting equipment such as fire extinguishers, hydrants and alarms.

**ECI:**

The Election Commission has always focused on accessible voting every time as it has the motto of 'no voter is left behind'. Akashvani correspondent reports that the Election Commission has announced that the voters above 85 years of age and Persons with Disabilities with 40 percent benchmark disability can vote from home. Volunteers and wheelchairs will be available at every polling station. The poll body is also arranging transport facilities for Persons with Disabilities and the elderly. The Commission is also pushing for permanent Assured Minimum Facilities in schools as a gift of election process to the students.

**POLL:**

In Tripura, electioneering is gradually picking up with the election machinery stepping up activities by conducting training programmes for the polling staff and micro-observers. The state is going to poll in two phases on the 19th & 26th of April. Akashvani correspondent reports that the number of eligible voters for the two Lok Sabha seats in Tripura stands at 28.57 lakh. In the current political scenario, it is most likely that there would be a two-cornered electoral battle between two political blocks of the BJP-led NDA and Congress-led INDIA alliance.

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