

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TOPIC: PRESIDENT

Rajpath to be renamed Kartavya Path

Modi to inaugurate Central Vista Avenue on September 8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Rajpath is likely to be renamed Kartavya Path ahead of its opening on Thursday after 20 months of redevelopment, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry officials said on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the redeveloped Central Vista

Avenue, which has been closed to the public since January 2021, on September 8, the officials said.

While some portions of the avenue would be opened after the inauguration ceremony on Thursday evening, the entire stretch from India Gate to the Rashtrapati Bhavan was likely to be opened to the public on Friday, the

officials added. According to sources, the two-km stretch that was known as Kingsway before Independence would be renamed by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as Kartavya (duty) Path.

An NDMC source said that a Council meeting is yet to be scheduled but is likely to be held on Wednesday.

TOPIC: CULTURE

Stolen Natarajar idol traced to museum in New York

It was taken from Vedapureswarar temple 62 years ago

- ✓ Vedapuriswarar Temple, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in Thiruvedhikudi near Tiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu, India.
- ✓ The presiding deity is revered in the 7th century Tamil Saiva canonical work, the Tevaram, written by Tamil poet saints known as the nayanars and classified as Paadal Petra Sthalam. The temple is counted as the earliest of all Chola temples.
- ✓ The temple complex is one of the largest in the state and it houses four gateway towers known as gopurams.
- ✓ The temple has numerous shrines, with those of Vedapuriswarar and Mangayarkarasi being the most prominent.

TOPIC: EDUCATION

Funding public education

The idea that higher education could be funded fully by students or their parents is grossly misplaced

A few days before India celebrated the 75th year of Independence, Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan said in reply to a debate in the Lok Sabha that people should let go of the idea that universities must be funded only by the government. His remarks are only a corollary to the General Financial Rules of 2017, which encourage all autonomous bodies to maximise generation of internal resources and attain self-sufficiency (Rule 229(iv)). Still, the Minister's remarks shocked many, for only a week earlier, while launching education and skill development-related initiatives to mark two years of the launch of the National Education Policy (NEP), Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the public education system is the basis of a vibrant democratic society.

The National Education Policy's vision
The NEP 2020 envisaged that it would "promote increased access, equity, and inclusion through a range of measures, including greater opportunities for outstanding public education." It also provided an assurance that the autonomy of public institutions would be backed by adequate public funding. The NEP noted that public expenditure on education in India was nowhere close to the 6% of GDP envisaged by the 1968 policy, reiterated in the 1986 policy, and reaffirmed in the 1992 review of the policy. Against this backdrop, it was gratifying that the 2020 policy endorsed a substantial increase in public investment by the Central and State governments to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest. Elaborating on the reasons, NEP 2020 said this level of public funding was "extremely critical for achieving the high-quality and equitable public education system that is truly needed for India's future economic, social, cultural, intellectual progress and growth."

Going by the National Education Commission, also known as the Kothari Commission, which was the precursor to the 1968 policy, higher education should have been getting at least 2% of GDP. In contrast, the expenditure on higher education by the Centre and the States taken together nosedived from 0.86% of GDP in 2010-11 to a measly 0.52% in 2019-20 (Budget Estimates, or BE). It is disquieting that the Centre's expenditure on higher education dropped from 0.33% of GDP in 2010-11 to a mere 0.16% in 2019-20 (BE). The decline in public investment in higher education

Consequence of privatisation

Higher education in India is already highly privatised. Most private higher education institutions are run on a self-financed basis, a euphemism for full cost-recovering institutions. Besides, private tendencies have also penetrated deeply into public higher education. The thrust for resource mobilisation, internal revenue generation, cross-subsidisation, resource use efficiency, cost reduction, accelerated cost recovery and enhanced user charges may further exacerbate the trend. The most obvious consequence would be a substantial increase in fees and other charges from students. The idea that higher education could be funded fully by the students or their parents out of their savings or through bank borrowings appears grossly misplaced in the Indian context.

The NEP 2020 envisages enrolment in higher education to be nearly double by 2035. Considering the fact that the social and economic elites, the rich and the affluent, have already crossed a gross enrolment ratio of 100%, the future growth in higher education has to come from the socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Would these people be able to afford full-cost recovery from their higher education institutions?

Disputes about the levels of poverty apart, it is now a reality that 62.5% of our population have to be provided free ration to save them from destitution. No nation would want to deprive such a vast section of accessing higher education. Higher education in India may have had its failings, but it has served the nation rather well. It has played a critical role in sustaining the \$2.8 trillion economy that India has become today. But for enhanced investment in higher education, our vision of a \$5 trillion economy and the aspiration of becoming a high-income developed country could be jeopardised.

Furqan Qamar, a professor in the faculty of management studies of Jamia Millia Islamia, is a former Adviser for education in the Planning Commission

TOPIC: SOCIO RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT

'Arya Samaj certificates not proof of marriage'

- ✓ Arya Samaj is a monotheistic Hindu reform movement in India that supports principles and practices based on the Vedas' irrefutable authority. He issued the slogan, "Back to the Vedas."
- ✓ On 10 April 1875, the sannyasi (ascetic) Dayanand Saraswati created the samaj.
- ✓ Arya Samaj was the first Hindu group to practice proselytization.
- ✓ Since 1800, the group has also campaigned to advance the civil rights struggle in India.

- ✓ It was believed that post-Vedic books such as Puranas were to blame for the contamination of the Vedic religion.
- ✓ Opposes God's idolatry and reincarnation idea, but supports the notion of 'Karma' and soul transmigration.
- ✓ Dayanand also rejected the doctrine of fate/destiny Niyati.
- ✓ Believes in a single God who does not have a physical existence.
- ✓ Rejects Brahmanical domination over Hindu spiritual and social life. Brahmins' claim to be conduits between man and God is condemned.
- ✓ Supported the Four Varna System, however, it should be based on merit rather than birth.
- ✓ Everyone has an equal position in the spiritual and social lives of Hindus.
- ✓ Advocated for women's equality in society. There is no place for any type of gender discrimination against women.

TOPIC: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

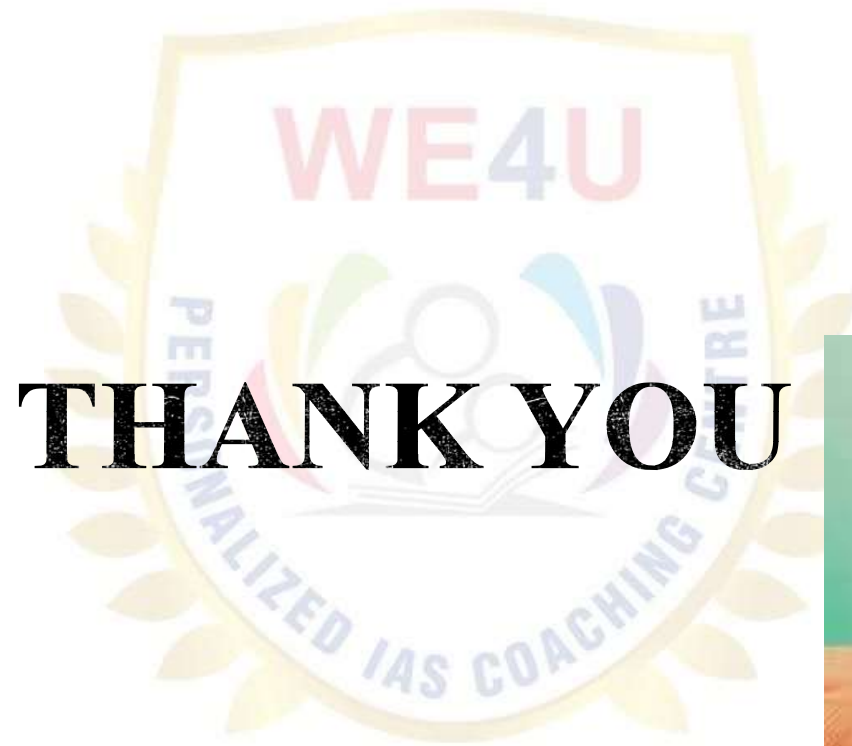
Preventive detentions rose in 2021

Number of people in custody or detained at the end of year highest since 2017

- ✓ Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained. Detention is of two types, namely, punitive and preventive.
- ✓ Punitive detention is to punish a person for an offence committed by him after trial and conviction in a court.
- ✓ Preventive detention, on the other hand, means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.
- ✓ Article 22 has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law.

Rights –Preventive detention

- ✓ The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
- ✓ However, the facts considered to be against the public interest need not be disclosed.
- ✓ The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order.
- ✓ The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
- ✓ The board is to consist of judges of a high court.



THANK YOU

