

Surgical Strike Day

*39. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has suggested/recommended the educational institutions to celebrate a certain day as Surgical Strike Day, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for celebrating a day which essentially marks a cross-border military activity; and

(c) whether there are other such, or more important, military events which are currently a part of recommendations to educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India decided to observe Surgical Strike Day on 29th September, 2018 to commemorate the successes in the war against terrorism. Based on the request received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Human Resource Development requested University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to conduct following activities in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs):—

- (i) All HEIs with National Cadet Corps (NCC) units may be asked to have a special parade on 29th September, after which the NCC commander will address them on the modalities of protection of the borders.
- (ii) Other colleges were requested to organise a meeting inviting ex-service men to sensitise the students about the sacrifices made by the armed forces in protecting the borders.
- (iii) It was decided that Multimedia Exhibitions would be organised around India Gate on 29th September, 2018. Similar exhibitions would be organised at all the State Capitals/UTs and important towns/cantonments all over India as public event, citizen led and with the participation from college students also.
- (iv) The students were requested to pledge their support for the armed forces by writing letters and cards, which may be produced in both physical and digital formats and to share these letters and cards with PRO, Defence and PIB for publicity across various media, including social media.

(c) No such information is available with Ministry of Human Resource Development.