



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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PRIME MINISTER ON RETIREMENT REPORT

New Delhi, Magha 4, 1882
January 24, 1961.

"The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, has issued the following statement to the Press:

I find that there is a great deal of speculation about my possible resignation or retirement from the Prime Ministership. This is due to a report of an interview I gave to a representative of a paper in London. I am sorry that some casual remarks about the future that I made, have led to this misunderstanding. There is no thought in my mind at present or in the foreseeable future of my retiring and so there need be no speculation about it. What I said to the newspaper correspondent was that the idea of my retiring from the Prime Ministership and devoting myself to other activities had often come to me. It was present in some corner of my mind and some time in the future it may be given effect to. But there was no such idea with me now. There need, therefore, be no speculation about it. Indeed, I have not mentioned this to any of my colleagues or members of our Party because I did not think of it seriously."

ARV/SRV/Pool

959/24.1.61/17.30h/541

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

REPUBLIC DAY RELEASE No. 17

FUN AND GAIETY FOR CHILDREN

JUMBO PROCESSION TO LEAD CULTURAL PAGEANT.

New Delhi, January 24, 1961.

For the eager and excited children who would form more than one-third of the two million crowd that is expected to witness the Republic Day Parade on Thursday (January 26), there is no greater feast for the eye than the richly caprisoned elephants which will lead the cultural pageantry on that day. These pachyderms, clothed in jhools and other accoutrements, will follow the Armed Forces Parade and the civilian personnel on the festive day. In organising this jumbo procession, the authorities were faced with a tough problem presented by a cub-elephant "Gopala Reddy". This five-year old baby would not march on his own with the pageant and neither persuasion nor threat would coax him to be separated from his foster mother with whom he has been living in the zoo for the past years. After much cajolery, however, he was persuaded in to-day's full-dress rehearsal to keep close behind his 'mother' and Gopala Reddy marched past today with much dignity and decorum.

There is a surprise packet in the tableau for children which is reported to have such skilful contrivances as to make the young ones roll with laughter. Eight children who have won national awards of the Council of Child Welfare for outstanding courage and service, will be rewarded by having a seat in the 'howdah' of the elephant that will lead the procession.

ARMED FORCES PARADE

Preceding the elephant's procession will be the parade of the Armed Forces consisting of personnel drawn from the various units and formations, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force throughout the country. These men are so selected that the same individual does not participate in the Parade twice, as every year, a new set of officers...

~~officers and men are chosen for this festive occasion.~~ Likewise, the cadets of the National Cadet Corps, Auxiliary Cadet Corps, Territorial Army and Lok Sahayak Sena, all of whom are new every year. Of the 1,000 cadets taking part in the Parade, there is not more than one cadet from each unit and not more than three or four cadets from each town. The cadet corps contingent of boys and girls are, therefore, from different parts of India selected from various educational institutions thus making them fully representative and national in character. For the first time, the public will see the newly formed NCC Rifles, boys and girls division, marching past the President. It may be recalled that ^{the} NCC Rifles were conceived and raised as part of the NCC. They represent their counterparts of rifle regiments of the Infantry arms of the Army.

Some special tier^{ed} stands in the public enclosure behind the seating space have been put up to provide better facilities to witness the Parade this year. This, it is hoped, will afford the public to have a better view of the Parade and Pageantry than the previous years. As the seats in the enclosure will be wet due to the falling of dew in this time of the year, the public are advised to bring towels or a piece of cloth to sit on.

As the children and spectators are having the eyeful of this ~~their thrill and excitement~~ will reach its crescendo with the all-Jet fly past of the I.A.F. giving the finale to the ceremony. At to-day's full-dress rehearsal, however, the visibility was poor with mist and low-lying clouds over the Rajpath, as a result of which a few aircraft strayed off its course. Over five lakhs of people are estimated to have witnessed the full-dress rehearsal of the parade and pageantry today.

SSR:Arun.