

COVID-19 scare: Precautionary measures strengthens; patients attended by 3 doctors tested positive at district hospital restless

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

State government has strengthened its measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic after the situation appears worsen in the last couple of days. Police have been empowered more to make sure that the lockdown has been implemented. Several people who were found violating the lockdown and SOPs have been either fined or detained today at various places. A source said that around 200 staffs of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences including doctors and nurses were tested today after the tracing of the virus to one of the staff and two other subordinates and their result are being awaited. On the other hand journalists who had attended the July 22 press conference at the Chief Minister Office premises have also been tested and result are being awaited. Mentioned may be made that as many as 18

reporters have attended the press conference and almost all staffs assigned at the COVID Control room opened at CMO premises had been kept in isolation and tested after a staff was tested positive of COVID-19. Health Minister L. Jayentakumar's close relatives were also tested

positive with the virus. The situation at Thoubal district is worst comparing to other districts of the state. People now fear to come out of their home as the virus seems to have been spreading at community level even as authority denies of any such community spread in the

district. Many among those affected are found to be without any travel history or have no knowledge of either they have contacted with affected people directly or not. On the other hand after three doctors of the Thoubal District Hospital had been tested positive, patients and staffs

who had attended those doctors are now restless on the fear that they too might get infected by the virus. Local club and organization along with the district administration have been taking up stringent measures to contain the virus by imposing lockdown.

Only affected departments and general OPD closed; others including Emergency services open – RIMS

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

Following news reports about the total closure of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) which panic the general public, the Medical Superintendent of the premier Institute Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh today clarified that not all departments of RIMS is closed. "Normal health Care Service in

other departments viz Casualty, Emergency Obs. & Gynae service (including Delivery), in-patient service, Flue clinic, Cancer Treatment, PMR Dept., Psychiatry Dept., Dental, etc. shall function as usual", a statement by the Medical Superintendent said. However, the general OPD and other affected departments have been close on the recommendation of experts and Head of Departments. Source from inside RIMS said

that a serious meeting comprising of all head of departments and the administrative authority was conducted yesterday in view of the rising case of COVID-19 pandemic and it's reached out to even at the Institutional premises. After thorough discussion, the meeting decided to take up some precautionary measures like the closure of some department including the general OPD to make sure that

people visiting RIMS and those working are safe from the virus. However, till today morning no official decision has been made and a report about closure of the entire RIMS is not true, a source from RIMS said. Some sections of media reports stated that due to the rise of the COVID-19 positive cases among the RIMS staff and Health workers RIMS hospital has been shut down till July 29.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates three high end COVID-19 testing labs virtually

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will today launch high throughput COVID-19 testing facilities through video conferencing. These facilities will ramp up testing capacity in the country and help in strengthening early detection and treatment, thus assisting in controlling the spread of the pandemic. Our correspondent reports that these three testing facilities have been set up strategically at ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai and ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata. The government has

adopted the test-track-treat strategy for early detection and containment of the Covid-19 pandemic. These three new testing facilities have been set up in Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata and they will be able to test over ten thousand samples a day. These labs will also reduce turn-around-time and exposure of lab personnel to infectious clinical materials. The labs are enabled to test diseases other than COVID as well. Post the pandemic, the labs will be able to test for Hepatitis B and C, HIV, TB and Dengue. With Dipendra Kumar, Suparna Saikia, New Delhi. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, along with Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh will participate in the event.

Proposal of Online Education opposed, suggests to double budget for education by reducing teacher student ratio to 1:20

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

Having acknowledge the helplessness of the government for resumption of education due to the overwhelming presence and amoebic spread of the global pandemic, corona virus or COVID-19, the North East Dialogue Forum (NEDF) has urged the government to reconsider the idea of on-line education submitted memorandums to find alternatives giving details about the probable impact. Memorandums in the regard has been submitted to the Chief Minister and Education Minister of Manipur. Similar memorandums have also been

submitted to all the MPs of the North East India urging them to double the budget of the education if not treble. The forum also suggested for review of the teacher students ratio and increase of the school buildings. "Education means four things as illumination, as an agency of improvement, as physical development and as not merely book learning. ... It is physical training, intellectual training, ... moral deportment and good manners," the memorandum stated while defining the meaning of education.

The memorandum further said, "It is now a well-studied and accepted fact that long

term and excessive exposure to radiation will produce negative biological and health effects in humans." (Christian Thomas, Wi-Fi Radiation — Everything You Need To Know. This includes interruption of the brain glucose metabolism, increased permeability of the blood-brain barrier, interruption of cell metabolism, breaks in DNA chains as also fatigue, trouble sleeping, tinnitus, brain fog, chest pain and heart palpitations, skin reactions and others. Further, it is more acute on those aged 18 and below, i.e. School going age. One may say that online education is within a given and limited time frame per

day but who monitors when there isn't human or person-to-person contact. It is stretchable and flexible timings unless disciplined and uniformed class timings is imposed and ensured. However, who will be guarantor of such an undertaking? Parents? But it is impracticable and debatable, it added.

Moreover, the forum also stated that computer, mobile handset are not affordable for all students.

The NEDF suggested the Union Government to double the Budget for Education from 3 % to 6 % if not treble to 9 % which is still better.

It suggested to provide

two school buildings instead of one since pupils/students will have to be reduced by half the number so as to adhere to social/physical distancing with many sections/streams for one grade/class; and that the teacher student ratio be reduced by 1:20. Recruitment of double the existing required number of teachers with crash course training on education and providing financial assistance to private schools to accordingly enhance appointment of more teachers and construct more school buildings, are better option than the online class proposal, the Forum added.

Recovery from COVID-19 surpasses 9 lakh mark; Record five lakh 15 thousand coronavirus samples tests in a day

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

Total recoveries from Covid-19 today surpassed 9 lakh mark. With this, the recovery rate stands at 63.92 per cent in the country. The case fatality rate has further declined to 2.28 percent in the country. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry today said, a total of nine lakh 17 thousand 568 people have recovered in India so far and 31 thousand 991 recoveries have been reported in the past 24 hours.

The Health Ministry said, the highest 49 thousand 931 new cases of Covid-19 have been registered in the country in one day taking the total number of cases to 14 lakh 35 thousand 453. Presently, the total number of active corona cases in the country is four lakh 85 thousand 114. In a single day, 708 deaths have been reported taking the nationwide toll to 32 thousand 771.

AIR correspondent reports that Delhi stands at top position with 87.95 percent recovery rate. Ladakh, Haryana, Telangana and Assam are other top performing States and Union Territories wherein the recovery rate is above

74 per cent. 17 States and Union Territories have better recovery rates than the national average of 63.92 per cent. Maximum numbers of people have recovered in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh. In terms of fatality rate, there are 29 States and Union Territories which have lower fatality rates than the national average of fatality rate. In the total active cases, 68.83 per cent caseloads are from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

India achieved a remarkable feat today by performing more than five lakh tests of coronavirus samples in one day. Indian Council of Medical Research said that a record five lakh 15 thousand 472 tests of corona virus samples were conducted by the various laboratories within 24 hours. More than one crore 68 lakh tests have been conducted in the country so far. Starting from less than 100 tests per day, a multiple fold increase in a few months was made possible by dedicated teams of research institutions, medical colleges, testing laboratories, Ministries, airlines and postal services.

Covaxin: Part I of first phase clinical trials completed at PGIMS, Rohtak, results encouraging

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 27:

The first part of phase-I of "Covaxin", human trial was completed on Saturday, by Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak (Haryana), by administering the vaccine to 50 people across India. Dr Savita Verma, principal investigator of the vaccine trial team said that "First part of phase-I of vaccine trial (Covaxin) was completed and the results were encouraging. Six people

were administered vaccine on Saturday under second part of phase-I". Human trials of "Covaxin", India's first vaccine candidate against coronavirus, began at PGIMS on 17 July, when three volunteers were administered "Covaxin" on that day. The "Covaxin", developed by "Bharat Biotech", a pharmaceutical company based in Hyderabad (Telangana), in collaboration with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Delhi and the National Institute of Virology (NIV),

Pune, was recently given the approval for human clinical trials by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). Simultaneously, AIIMS Delhi has also been conducting human trials of "Covaxin". A total of 12 medical institutes have been selected by the ICMR to conduct two phases of randomised clinical trials of "Covaxin". AIIMS Delhi had administered the first dose of "Covaxin" to a 30-year-old male on Friday. The second dose will be given after two weeks. ICMR has informed that

institutions in India are developing the vaccine prototypes only after complying with necessary rules and regulation stratified by international customs since no compromises are to be made in an attempt to be ahead in the race for coronavirus vaccine. Under Phase I trials testing is done primarily for safety and preliminary dosing in a few dozen healthy subjects. Following the success of Phase I trials, Phase II trials, evaluate immunogenicity, dose levels (efficacy based

on biomarkers) and adverse effects of the candidate vaccine, typically in hundreds of people. Phase III trials involve more participants, including a control group, and test effectiveness of the vaccine to prevent the disease (an "interventional" trial), while monitoring for adverse effects at the optimal dose. Only after every step has been ratified by the medical community, can a vaccine prototype be allowed to be released to commercial use in markets.

★ Editorial

The dawn of a new-normalcy: think about it

The world today is haunted by COVID-19 pandemic. Rich, poor, male-female, caste-creed, etc. all have been affected either in one way or another. Human being continues to find a solution and maybe the day is not far that the virus is contained either by finding a cure or eradicating it from the entire planet. But it will not happen as desired. For almost half a year the virus has been invading human kinds and there is still no guarantee on how long it will keep haunting us, as mankind is still yet to find a solution. It may take another half year, a year or more, and as long as a solution is found it seems that the people with exception to few, especially in this part of the globe are going to live life like prisoners. Either because the authority lacks a proper mechanism to contain the virus or it is wiser than them, four months of lockdown didn't help in the state of Manipur. If the four months lockdown hasn't helped how could one be convinced that another weeklong lockdown will help people in protecting themselves from the attack of the virus? There is no doubt that the virus now spread to people who have no travel history or who are not frontline warrior, which indicates that the transmission is probably taking place among the community.

The worst thing witnessed in the last couple of days is the attack by the virus to one of the frontline workers assigned at the COVID Control Room. When an attendant of a hospital got infected, or even when a health worker was transmitted with the virus laterally, it is logical, but when someone assigned on official works for controlling the spread of the virus by stationing at a far of place from either quarantine centers, COVID Care Centers or hospitals, it is a perfect indication of failure in taking up measures to contain the virus on the part of the government. It showed that nothing like an awareness campaign has been taken up with a dedication to making sure that people were made to understand how to be protected from the virus. When a person working in the COVID Control Room got infected with the virus it naturally is a sign that even people assigned to control the spread of the virus have not yet understood to remain protected. When a person like him could not be properly educated about the spread of the virus how could one expect that common people across the state are given proper awareness that has to be taken up during the prolonged lockdown. If the prolonged lockdown hasn't helped what is the use of another lockdown as it is not going the change.

As there is no guarantee on how long the virus will be with us, those authorities who are responsible for protecting and running the society now need to find for the restoration of normalcy but should not forget that the normalcy that we are talking about here is a neo-normalcy. Even if a cure is found in the course of time life cannot be resumed to the kind of life of pre-COVID-19 Pandemic. A complete change in normal life will only let society march forward. Rules and regulations for the running of government and private offices need to be restructured, the schooling system needs to be reformed and leaders and those assigned to run the society should clean their mind as enjoying alone with suffering all around will not give happiness to them.

This lockdown even though is unequalled for, the government should think of working out a plan for a new beginning and for resuming of new normalcy, because human is and will always be social animals always.

“Stealing and Mining of App Data can lead even to unanticipated National Security Risks”

By - Dheep Joy Mampilly

The Government of India, on 29th June, 2020, made an important announcement. The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology banned 59 mobile apps, based on information that these apps threaten the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order. The list of apps which will no longer be available to users in India includes the popular social media platform TikTok, file transfer service Shareit, social networking service Hello and document scanning application CamScanner. The Government has done this by invoking its powers under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, as well as relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.

Stealing and Mining of Data by Elements Hostile to National Security

One of the stated reasons that led to the ban of these apps is the intelligence that some apps have been stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data to servers based outside India. Well, this might make someone wonder: *how can transmission of seemingly innocuous data from something like a social networking app threaten the national security and defence of the country?*

To gain a better appreciation of the gravity of the issue which may tend to be looked upon as a relatively harmless issue by the lay person, let us hear from Dr. Deepak P., Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Queen's University Belfast (United Kingdom) who specializes in Artificial Intelligence and Data Ethics. Dr. Deepak explains the sensitivities involved in the use of applications run by firms which are based outside India and who are bound by the laws and regulations prevailing in a foreign country. The data collected by these firms may be stored on servers located outside the country. While

such data normally resides in the custody of the company itself, they may have to honour data requests received by governments of those countries. Moreover, many firms have been found to honour such requests, which thereby poses the risk of Indian users' data getting into powers which could use that information strategically, against our national interests.

Data is powerful. Data Mining technologies have become very advanced today, throwing open many ways in which danger may strike. Dr. Deepak cites the example of online fitness tracker app Strava, a San Francisco based service that uses a mobile phone's GPS to track the subscriber's exercise activity. It enables users to evaluate and compare their performance with each other and over time. In November 2017, the app released a heatmap – a data visualization of 27 billion kilometres of running activity recorded on the app between 2015 and September 2017, containing around 3 trillion data points. Looking at the data, Nathan Ruser, a young international security student at an Australian university realized this can be dangerous. Why? It occurred to him that among the millions of users of the app are military personnel who regularly go for running and jogging. He found that the app data can reveal unknown information about military bases, including the routes taken by soldiers, commonly used exercise routes and patrolled roads. This could hence pose a direct threat to national security.

Another point to bear in mind when thinking of data and information security, says Dr. Deepak, is that *we will not typically be able to anticipate the myriad ways in which a data set can end up being used, while the data is being produced or even transmitted.* The above example of the running app illustrates this. He gave another example, of what is known as forensic genealogy, wherein genetic information sourced from consumer companies are used to identify suspects or victims in criminal

cases. This has been used by police in USA to solve many cases, recalls Dr. Deepak. The DNA profile from the crime scene is uploaded to a public-access database containing genetic information of people. The database enables identification of relatives based on comparison of DNA profiles, thereby helping law enforcement agencies in identifying potential suspects or victims of cases.

The Government of India has said that the compilation of data from mobile apps and its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures.

Need for More Public Awareness

Dr. Deepak says there is a need for building and promoting greater public awareness on data privacy and data and information security. There has been a phenomenal expansion in our use of digital technologies. While they improve our lives in many ways, it is necessary to be conscious and aware also of the risks they pose and to be judicious consumers of mobile and internet technologies. On this particular decision of banning the 59 mobile apps, Dr. Deepak says that it will be helpful for the government to let citizens know the specific ways in which these apps pose a threat and the details of the process by which the complaints and reports which led to the ban were obtained and examined, to instill public confidence that due process has been followed and required action taken in time. He adds that doing so will also help increase public understanding and participation on this issue, in a deliberative democracy such as ours.

Does the Ban Violate WTO Regime?

The Government of India has said it has invoked the ban to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and to ensure the safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. However, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, has expressed concern regarding the

decision, stating, among other things, that the decision “suspects of violating the WTO rules”. Let us listen to Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Professor and Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade to help us evaluate the validity of this argument.

Dr. Nedumpara says that it would be difficult to establish a National Treatment obligation (i.e., obligation to treat foreigners and locals equally) from India, in terms of its services commitments in terms of the apps. The apps do not specifically come under the schedule of concessions of WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In his view, the argument that India has violated Most Favoured Nation obligation is also not tenable. In any case, he notes that irrespective of any trade obligations, India's measures squarely fall within the national security exceptions provided under Article XIV bis of GATS. Dr. Nedumpara explains that there has been a clear case of emergency in international relations which has been prevalent at the time the decision has been taken. Further, India has already articulated its security interests in taking the decision. He adds that while the official statements by the two countries do not expressly mention any connection between the border tension and the decision to ban the apps, a sufficiently strong case can be constructed based on the accompanying incidents. Dr. Nedumpara makes it clear that India is hence in a position to prove the existence of all requirements necessary for the invocation of the national security exception under GATS. He however added that recourse to trade exceptions is not called for in the absence of any trade violations.

(The author is an officer of the Indian Information Service, based currently in Mumbai; e-mail - dheep@nic.in) -From PIB

Indian Constitution: A Comprehensive Analysis, Loopholes and More

By Sumedha Upadhyay:

When we hear these familiar words, only one thing comes to our minds ‘the INDIAN constitution’. These are the very first words of the Preamble. The commencement of our constitution marked the beginning of an independent India. Drafted by the Drafting Committee headed by B.R. Ambedkar, this Sovereign document is the largest and the lengthiest constitution in the world with 395 articles and 12 schedules. The Constituent Assembly was believed to be the representation of the will of the people. The words ‘We the people’ signifies that it was a document given by the people, to the people and for the people.

Today, in the 21st century can we say that the real power to govern this country is vested in its people? But the question that often arises is, does the constitution in true terms express the will of the people or is it has just become a tool in the hands of some hungry politicians? Are the people of India in real terms assured of Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity? Is the common man today receiving justice? Does

equality really prevail? Is Liberty being exercised by all today?

In the wake of the changing times in the Indian society a constitutional review is highly required. The constitution, though a very impressive piece, has failed in some respects. And in this article, I wish to express my opinion on the need of an overhaul in our constitution.

The preamble says that we are a Democratic Republic. What does democracy mean to all of us? To define it in a layman's language Democracy means that the power is in the hands of the people to decide how and by whom the country is run. But today does the real power lie in the hands of the people as it was believed when the constitution was applied? It is no more ‘by and for the people’. Now it is more or less a board game and the players are the politicians with personal profits as the winning amount.

I also believe that our constitution is a borrowed constitution. When the drafting committee drafted it, they adopted a major part of it from the Government of India Act 1935 with few modifications here and

there. Besides this, we have borrowed many provisions from various other constitutions of the world. The Parliamentary System has been taken from the British Constitution and Judicial Review & federalism from the US Constitution. We cannot say it's a piece of novelty or originality. Many provisions need to be amended as they were adopted from the 1935 Act and maybe forgotten for that period; however in today's time they have become obsolete.

One of the biggest flaws of our constitution is the never-ending length due to the tough language in which it has been drafted. Being the sovereign document of our country it should have been drafted in a language easily comprehensible by the citizens. But unfortunately the legal jargon used can hardly be deciphered by the common man. With that length, the parliament today will never get the time to modify and simplify it but I feel this is something which should have been kept in mind at the time of its commencement.

Securing justice to all — social, economical and political, is one of the chief aims of our constitution. But this has hardly been actually put into action. Our judicial system which is responsible to provide justice to each and every individual is one of our slowest systems.

Today we have at least 10,000 cases per day pending for each judge of Tis Hazari court which is at least ten times higher than the prescribed number. Even the fast track courts take 3-4 years to solve cases; the term ‘fast track court’ thus fails the purpose. As we all know it took 63 years for the judiciary to come out with the historical judgment of Ayodhya Babri case. Criminal cases like that of Jessica Lal, Priyadarshini Mattoo, Nitish Katara case are among the many examples of delayed justice. Besides the procedure to approach the courts is so tedious that a poor farmer ends up selling his land, the only source of his livelihood, to pay so that he can get his rights back. The guidelines issued in the landmark judgment of D K Basu v. State of West Bengal in order to bring about prison reforms are rarely followed. Thousands of under-trial prisoners are still in jail, living in inhuman conditions and are being denied basic rights of living.

The fundamental rights under part III of our constitution too need to include many of those rights that have developed over a history of various judicial pronouncements. These rights though not really stated in part III have been recognized as fundamental in nature and are better known as ‘implied fundamental rights’. Right to food,

right to privacy, right to livelihood, right to clean potable drinking water, right to fresh and clean environment, right to be silent, right to speedy justice etc. These rights need to be added in chapter III as they are equally important in today's time for every Indian.

At the same time I feel that the framers of our constitution gave more importance to fundamental rights than to the fundamental duties. Rights and duties are the two sides of the same coin. A right given to one person prevents another person from violating it thereby imposing a duty on him. Today everyone only wants to enjoy the benefits of the rights and no one lays importance on fulfilling their duties towards the society, country, environment and other human beings.

As far as the directive principles of the state policy are concerned, they too are not satisfactory since no strict implementation is practiced. These are those principles which the state has to keep in mind while making any policies or laws. For example, the equal distribution of material resources is to prevent resources from being concentrated in one or fewer hands. But in reality we have at least 60% of the population still living below the poverty line. A special provision out to be made

regarding population control. In a developing nation like India it is very important to have population control. In the current situation the supply of everything is too low in comparison to the steep increase in demand. Landmass remains the same but the inhabitants are increasing at a very fast pace.

Right to education needs to be given maximum importance. Even though compulsory education has been enforced till the age of 14, majority of Indians remain uneducated. Private schools are too expensive for a poor man to educate his child, and the government schools' standards are deteriorating year by year. Government schools, the only source of almost-free education to all the children, need to be renovated to provide a healthier environment and teachers with better qualifications so that even a family belonging to the middle class or upper class does not hesitate in sending their children to a government school.

Kelson, a famous jurist said that every piece of legislation derives its validity from the “Grundnorm”. According to him the Grundnorm is that sovereign document from which all other legislations derive their validity.

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“Babri case dismissal will be homage to temple martyrs” says Shiv Sena

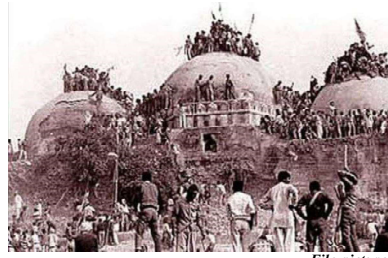
By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 27:

The Shiv Sena has said that the dismissal of Babri masjid demolition case, before ground breaking ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, will be real homage to “martyrs” of Ram Janbhoomi movement.

In an editorial in party mouth piece Marathi daily “Saamna”, the Shiv Sena said that although the Ram Temple issue has been resolved in the Supreme Court, the CBI has been dragging the old Babri mosque demolition case. In all fitness of things, the case pending with CBI should be wound up before 5 August,

2020, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be present for the bhoomi poojan for the construction of Ram Temple

“The topic of Babri masjid demolition automatically gets over and the Babri demolition case becomes obsolete, once you accept that Mughal Emperor Babar was an aggressor” the editorial said. The Babri mosque was reportedly brought down on 6 December, 1992 by kar sevaks. A kar sevak is someone who offers free services for a religious cause. The kar sevaks were organized by the Vishva Hindu Parishad for the construction of the Ram



File picture

temple. They believed the structure was built on the birth place of Hindu god Ram. The decades-old dispute over the site was settled in November 2019, when the Supreme Court

ordered that the site be given to a trust to build a temple, and that alternative land be provided in Ayodhya for a mosque.

Shiv Sena said that the day the

Babri masjid was demolished, the world saw that the faces of many “warriors” turned black with fear. The then BJP Vice President Sunder Singh Bhandari, had shrugged off his shoulders saying that “we haven’t done this, this is the job of Shiv Sena. However only Shiv Sena Chief late Balasaheb Thackeray had thundered that indeed if his Shiv Sainiks had done it, he was proud of them.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray who visited Ram Janbhoomi on 6 March, 2020, had announced that he would contribute Rs 1 crore from his own Trust, to assist the construction of Ram temple.

He was sworn in as the CM of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress combine) on 28 November, 2019. He had earlier visited Ayodhya in June 2019 and offered prayers at the makeshift Ram Lalla temple along with 18 newly-elected party MPs. The Shiv Sena, a former ally of Bharatiya Janata Party, is a strong supporter of the construction of a Ram Temple at the Ramjanmabhoomi site.

In the meanwhile, on 24 July, the Special CBI special court in Lucknow, recorded the statement of senior BJP leader L K Advani (92), under section 313 of CrPC

through video conferencing. Earlier court recorded the statement of another BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi (86) and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Uma Bharti. Bharti had appeared in person for hearing. These BJP leaders accuse the then Congress government at the Centre of falsely implicating them in the case due to political vendetta.

The special CBI court is recording the statements of as many as 32 accused in the case after examination of the prosecution witnesses. It is conducting a day-to-day hearing to complete its trial by 31 August, 2020.

CRPF celebrates 82nd Raising Day

IT News

Imphal, July 27:

Group Centre CRPF Imphal, and all CRPF Battalions under the aegis of IGP, Manipur and Nagaland sector, today celebrated CRPF raising day. CRPF celebrates its raising day on July 27 every year. It is an effort to create awareness about CRPF and to inspire people about patriotism. The Force came into existence as the Crown Representative’s Police on this day in 1939. CRPF was raised as a sequel to the political unrest and the agitations in the then princely States of India following the Madras Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee in 1936 and the ever-growing desire of the Crown Representative to help the vast majority of the native States to preserve law and order as a part of the imperial policy. It became the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the

enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949. The Force has grown into a mammoth organization with 246 battalions, (including 204 executive Bns, 6 Mahila Bns, 15 RAF Bns, 10 CoBRA Bns, 5 Signal Bns and 1 Special Duty Group, 1 Parliament Duty Group). Each battalion is commanded by an officer designated as Commandant, and consists of seven CRPF companies, each containing 135 men. The Mission of the CRPF is to enable the government to maintain rule of law, public order and internal security effectively, efficiently and to preserve national integrity by upholding supremacy of the Constitution. The CRPF is the leading force in dealing with militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, fighting the Left – Wing Extremism and insurgency in Northeast. Randeep Datta (PMG), IGP, M&N Sector on this occasion paid homage to

the martyrs who laid down their lives while performing their duties. In his speech he mentioned that during the Chinese aggression of 1962, the Force assisted the Indian Army in Arunachal Pradesh. Eight CRPF personnel were killed in action. In 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars also the Force fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Indian Army, both on the Western and Eastern borders. He emphasized the importance of the day by mentioning the country’s largest paramilitary force’s commitment and dedication in serving the Nation. He also said that our Nation is extremely proud of CRPF valour and courage.

A football match was also organized on this occasion followed by Prize distribution ceremony in which T-shirts presented to the CN paid staff and CT/SK for keeping the campus clean.

A bara Khana was also organized in evening on this occasion. Suresh Sharma, DIGP, H.K Kanaujia, DIGP, I Lokendra Singh, DIGP, Dr Ashok Kumar, DIG(Medical) and Dr. Deepak, CMO(Anesthetist) along with other Officers, Doctors and Staff have organized the programme in befitting manner. During the programme all norms relating to COVID-19 issued by Ministry of Health, MHA, are strictly adhered by all force personnel.



PM greets CRPF personnel on Raising Day

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has greeted the CRPF personnel on the 82nd Raising Day. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, “Greetings to all @crpfndia personnel on the 82nd Raising Day of

this outstanding Force. CRPF is at the forefront of keeping our nation safe. The courage and professionalism of this force are widely admired. May the CRPF achieve even greater heights in the coming years.”

Narendra Modi

Greetings to all @crpfndia personnel on the 82nd Raising Day of this outstanding Force. CRPF is at the forefront of keeping our nation safe. The courage and professionalism of this force are widely admired.

May the CRPF achieve even greater heights in the coming years.
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Kargil war hero runs a juice shop for survival

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 27:

While 21 st “Kargil Vijay Diwas” was celebrated, to mark India’s victory over Pakistan in 1999 Kargil war, a pathetic tale of a grievously wounded army man, running a small juice shop in Delhi’s village for survival, surfaced in media on Sunday.

Lans naik Satbir Singh (55) of the Rajputana Rifles-II, who was left disabled when Pakistan soldiers fired six bullets at him during the 1999 Kargil war, is forced to run a shop to support his four member family in North Delhi’s Mukhmelpur village. There is no bus stand, railway station near Mukhmelpur village, so there are hardly any customers. In the past many years he worked as a vegetable seller, farmer, electrician and at construction sites to earn a living.

He limps as one of the bullets still lies in the arch of his right leg. Due to a severe injury, he had to take voluntary retirement from his post. While

families of others at that time, who were injured or martyred received either petrol pump licences or an acre of land for their livelihoods, Satbir, who was spending his days on the hospital bed, was unable to fill the forms which were a prerequisite. His children were very young at the time.

While the war went on for 85 days, Singh got his pension after protracted correspondence with government agencies. He claimed that he was promised a pension of Rs 40,332/month, but till 2000, he was given a pension of Rs 4,000/- per month. It was revised and he began receiving a pension of Rs. 23,000/per month since 2019. In the meanwhile he spent a sizable amount of money for nursing his wounded leg.

He was allotted one acre land by the then Central Government, on which he did extensive farming. However, it was reportedly snatched away from him in 2006 by some people with strong political connections. They not only deprived him of the land, but also threatened him and built a wall around the land to stop him from using it. Not only that but the petrol pump, as



Lans naik Satbir Singh at his juice shop

promised by the Government was also not given to him, Singh said.

The Kargil aggression which began on 3 May 1999 was concluded on 26 July 1999. On 12 June, 1999 India launched an attack on the Pakistan army. Singh’s unit consisted of 24 soldiers, out of which seven were killed and rest received grave injuries. This victory is considered to be a pivotal point for India which led the country to win the battle. Singh was admitted to the Army hospital

on 14 June 1999 and was discharged on 23 May, 2000 because he could barely walk.

He was five years old when he used to participate in social movements raising slogans like ‘Jai Jawaan, Jai Kisaan’ and waving Indian flags with other villagers. He was an ardent participant in school parades. Later, he became a part of the NCC (National Cadet Corps) cadre and received training for about two

years. But due to financial instability, he left the school. Subsequently he worked for the Indian Home Guard and finally joined the Indian Army. He served as a soldier in Srinagar for eight and a half years, out of a total 14 years. Speaking telephonically to IT, he said that the soldiers grievously wounded in war are a neglected lot since they cannot work. Their children also do not get jobs easily and eventually they lead a pitiable life.

Pak army initiates unprovoked and indiscriminate firing along LoC in Poonch district

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

In yet another ceasefire violation, Pak Army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing with small arms and heavy mortar shelling along the LoC in Mankote sector of district Poonch today.

PRO defence, Colonel Davinder Anand has said that the Pak army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing and heavy Mortar shelling along the LoC in Mankote sector of Poonch district today at about 1030

hours. He said Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and thereafter heavy Mortar shelling along the LoC in Mankote sector of Poonch district. The Indian Army troop guarding the fence are retaliating befittingly with equal caliber. The exchange of fire continued till reports last came in. Moreover, there are no reports of damage to any property and loss of any life from over side yet, the PRO added. More details are awaited.

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Nation remembers former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

The Nation remembers former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary today. Popularly known as people's president and Missile Man of India, Dr. Kalam passed away in Shillong on 27th July 2015, while delivering a lecture to students.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has paid tributes to former President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary today. In a series of tweets, Mr Naidu said, Dr Kalam was an outstanding scientist, a great human being and a people's President, who inspired the people of the country, particularly the



youth through his actions and words. Vice President said, Dr Kalam's contributions to nation building will always be remembered.

Home Minister Amit Shah has paid tributes to former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his death

anniversary. Mr Shah described Dr Kalam as an epitome of intellect, wisdom and simplicity. In a tweet, Mr Shah said, Dr Kalam was a people's President, who left indelible marks on several fields ranging from science to politics. He said, Dr Kalam's

relentless quest for knowledge continues to inspire and capture the idea of self-reliant India. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar paid tributes to the nation scientist and teacher Dr Kalam.

Ujjwala and Ann Yojana in times of pandemic

PBB
Imphal, July 27:

Women play the most important role in an Indian household - more so in periods of crisis. Government is well aware of this reality and is exploring all possible means to help people stay at home. One such means is by giving cooking gas cylinders free of cost under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana to over 8 crore poor families in the country.

Ujjwala Yojana is an initiative that is in line with the dream of the Prime Minister for creating smoke-less village households across the country. It is a big moment in the life of a woman in a BPL-household when she gets an LPG connection. It gives her a big health relief as it helps her lead a smoke-free, less polluted, convenient and healthy life. Moreover, free delivery of cooking fuel reduces the need to earn for it and thus helps the family manage

affairs during lockdowns and scarce jobs.

Another scheme which is companion for the people is the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, under which 80 crore poor people are to get 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg pulses for free every month for 9 months. The vision is that no poor family should suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrains due to supply disruption or lack of resources in the coming months.

Under this initiative of the central government, the state government has ensured that food grains are distributed efficiently to all the targeted people. This distribution is closely monitored by top officials.

Success stories of both the schemes are narrated by the beneficiaries to our officials. In the field. These testimonials are really heartwarming. For example, Smt. Adim from Namluang Ward No-2, Tamenglong district Manipur got LPG for free under PMUY. According to

her, her family was facing acute shortage of money during lockdown, but after she got Rs. 891 for Ujjwala Yojana to buy cooking gas some of her problem was solved instantly. She is grateful to the Central Government and State Government's initiative. Shri. Bekum, a farmer from Chandel district, expresses his gratitude to the Central Govt and State Govt for distribution of 25 Kgs rice to all his family members and 3 Kg of Dal free under PMGKY during this lockdown period. His family was facing shortage of foodgrains as means of earning livelihood was limited but with 25 kgs of rice provided regularly to his family by the government, there is a feeling of relief and security.

Smt Maya from Churachandpur District expresses her gratitude to the Government for providing ration under

PMGKY during this COVID19 lockdown period. She narrated that her family of 3 members is getting 15 kgs of rice every month since the imposition of lockdown.

Another beneficiary has a similar story to tell us. Smt. Roma of Leigangchong village from Chandel district expresses her gratitude to the Central Govt and State Govt for distribution of 5 Kg rice to each of her family members and 3 Kg of Dal free under PMGKY during this lockdown period. She said this ration has been saviour to her family as she has less to worry and more to save.

The more we speak to the beneficiaries, the more we are convinced that with the cooperation of all citizens, the country will overcome the phenomenal challenge we face today. It is heartwarming to learn that the needs and interests of the most vulnerable are being looked after.

Sports News

ICC launches Super League qualification pathway for 2023 ODI World Cup in India

Agency
Dubai, July 27:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday launched the ODI Super League, a qualifier for the 2023 World Cup in India that aims to add context to the 50-over format.

Hosts India and the next top seven teams in the Super League will automatically qualify for the World Cup, the world body stated in a press release.

The competition begins with a series between world champions England and Ireland, beginning at Southampton on July 30. The rest of the schedule will be unveiled later.

"The league will bring relevance and context to ODI cricket over the next three years, as qualification for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 is at stake," ICC's GM Operation Geoff Allardice said.

With T20 cricket thriving and Tests remaining the ultimate challenge, former players such as Ricky Ponting have questioned the relevance of ODIs.

Featuring 13 teams, the 12 ICC Full Members and the Netherlands, who qualified by winning the World Cricket Super League 2015-17, the Super League will see each side play four home and four away three-match series.

The five sides which fail to qualify directly will play along with five Associate sides in the Qualifier 2023, with two teams making it to the 10-team World Cup in India.

"The decision last week to move the World Cup back to late 2023 gives us more time to schedule any games lost due to COVID-19 and preserve the integrity of the qualification process, meaning

it will be decided on the field of play, which is important," Allardice said. Each team gets 10 points for a win, five for a tie/no result/abandonment and none for a loss.

Teams will be ranked according to total points earned across the eight series. There are criteria in place to separate two or more teams on equal points.

"The start of the Super League was delayed due to COVID-19. As part of our contingency planning, we continue to work with Members to find windows where the rescheduled qualifying series can be safely and practically rescheduled," the ICC stated.

A knock-out phase will not be needed as the league standings will determine the qualification for the World Cup. England captain Eoin Morgan said the Super League fixture against Ireland marks the start of their journey for the 2023 edition.

"Given the situation, it will be quite different to the last time we played at home, when we lifted the World Cup at Lord's, but it's nice to be starting our journey for the next edition of the tournament," he said.

"I'm sure cricket fans all over the world will be excited to see white-ball cricket resume and we're looking forward to the challenge. Ireland are a talented team who have shown over the years that they can beat the best on their day," he added.

Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie is hoping to put a competitive show against the world champions.

"It is obviously going to be a huge challenge taking on the team that won the World Cup just a year ago but we have prepared well and have taken confidence from our form over the early months of 2020," said Balbirnie.

"I hope international cricket's return is steady during these challenging times," he added.

HRD Minister, Sports Minister to launch 'Fit India Talks' to inspire school children



Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

The government's flagship program Fit India is launching a series of interactive sessions with some of the top sports persons of the country intended to inspire the school children.

The sessions, titled Fit India Talks, will premiere today in the presence of Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju along with badminton star PV Sindhu and Indian football team skipper Sunil Chhetri. A host of leading sports celebrities will be sharing their experiences of childhood, stories on how they got inspired, their failures, struggles and their success. This will give the audience a very inspirational yet interesting account of their journeys - from common school students to world-class champions. There will be a total of six sessions

which will go on till 14th of this month. The likes of badminton star Ashwini Ponnappa, Indian women's hockey team skipper Rani Rampal, table tennis star Manika Batra, shooter Apurvi Chandela and inspirational Paralympian Deepa Malik will join in at the sessions.

These will be streamed on Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank's social media pages, MHRD social media pages, Fit India Facebook & YouTube channel, SAI Facebook Page, MyGov YouTube channel, SportsTak YouTube channel as well as the DD Sports Television and YouTube channel. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said that this is a series where the champion athletes will speak to the students and share their inspirational life stories. The Fit India Talks sessions are being organized in association with the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Contd. from Page 1

Indian Constitution: A Comprehensive Analysis.....

Likewise is the situation in India where our Grundnorm is the constitution of India where all legislation country too derives validity from the constitution. Anything going against a provision can be challenged in the court. But when our Grundnorm itself is flawed then how will any legislation be fit for the needs of the present society.

The section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with the subject of rape, requires many changes. As per the IPC, "rape" has been categorized into different kinds such as Marital rape, Custodial rape, Gang rape etc. Marital rape refers to a rape where the husband commits a rape on his wife & custodial rape occurs in special circumstances by a public servant. I strongly believe any sexual intercourse without a woman's consent amounts to rape then why is there a need to categorize it?

Rape in itself is most heinous of the crimes whether committed by the husband, a public servant or a stranger. I think instead of having different punishments for different kinds of rape there should be a uniform punishment.

The Evidence Act requires major amendment in the definition clause of "evidence". Till date the act only mentions two kinds of evidences: oral or documentary. With the advancement of technology today we have lie detector tests, DNA proficiency tests, brain mapping and various other kinds of tests that help in extracting the truth out of the offender. The recent examples of the court relying upon these tests are Kasab's case and Arushi Murder case. These tests do not have any validity in the court of law as they amount to self incrimination in light of Article

20 of our constitution. If they can help some innocent get justice then why not recognize them as evidence?

The Land Acquisition Act 1894 requires major changes as it still contains portions which are redundant in today's times. There is a need to redefine the term "public purpose" for which the State can acquire land in return of some compensation. With every judicial pronouncement the court includes something new which falls within the limits of public purpose. There are times when the government acts arbitrary and in the name of 'public purpose' acquires the land for profits. Thus in all the judicial pronouncements related to Land Acquisition Act there is a need to include all those purposes which are purely in the interest of public.

The Water (prevention and control) Pollution Act has some major defects. With

majority of our rivers drying up and the sorry state of Yamuna shows the incompetence of the Act in the present times. The act still talks about wells and streams as being the sources of water. Wells and streams were the sources of water in ancient times but now we have rivers, lakes, ponds, artificial water bodies which have been totally excluded from the purview of this Act. Shockingly this act does not even define what a 'water pollutant' is. Nor does water table levels and potable water etc. find any place in the Act. Whatever amendments have taken place in this act have only been with respect to the Environment Protection Act. Thus the act is a complete failure in itself.

These are only a few glaring examples of some of our legislations that lack competency and are ineffective in today's fast

moving world. There are many more. But what is important is that these reforms should start immediately. Running away from these problems will only make them pile on one another and make them even bigger. India is still a developing nation and if we have to shift from the agrarian economy we are today then it is time that we adopt the reformative approach and make the legislations more dynamic in nature. We need more participation of the citizens in bringing about these changes instead of leaving the change to the selfish politicians, some of whom can barely claim to be educated. All this is necessary because we need a clearer picture of our future. I would like to end by saying- "In today already walks tomorrow. Because the future is much like the present, only longer"