

25th August, 2021

NSA Ajit Doval hosts 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval hosted the 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security through video conferencing. India holds the Chairship of BRICS this year which coincides with the 15th anniversary of the BRICS grouping.

Meeting reviewed the regional and global political and security scenario with particular reference to current developments in Afghanistan, Iran, West Asia and the Gulf and emerging threats to national security, such as Cyber Security. Other items on the agenda were cooperation among Law Enforcement Agencies, Health Safety and Healthcare and Counter Terrorism.

India raised the issue of cross-border terrorism and activities of groups such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed which enjoy State support and threaten peace and security.

The Action Plan aims to further strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation in areas such as financing and combating terrorism, misuse of the internet by terrorists, curbing the travel of terrorists, and border controls.

Govt to launch e-Shram portal - National Database on Unorganized Workers on 26th Aug

Government will launch e-Shram portal - National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW), on 26th of this month.

Unveiling the logo for the E-Shram portal, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav today said that targeted identification of the unorganized workers was a much needed step.

He said the portal will be the national database of nation builders, the 'Shram Yogis', and help take welfare schemes to their doorstep. Mr Yadav said targeted delivery and last mile delivery has been a major focus of the schemes of government and the E-Shram portal is another key step towards that.

India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine DCGI nod to move into Ph-2 & Ph-3 trial

India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine has received a nod from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to move into Phase-2 and Phase-3 trial.

Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd which is the Pune-based biotechnology company is working on the mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine- HGCO19. It submitted the interim clinical data of the Phase I study to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) which is the Government of India's National Regulatory Authority (NRA).

Ministry of Science and Technology in a statement said that the vaccine Subject Expert Committee reviewed the interim Phase- I data and found that HGCO19 vaccine is safe, tolerable, and immunogenic.

The vaccine is being developed in partnership with Department of Biotechnology (DBT)- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under Mission Covid Suraksha.

Haryana clears Bill to speed up land acquisition, Cong calls it 'black law'

The Haryana Assembly passed a Bill to fast-track land acquisition, even as opposition Congress demanded it be either withdrawn or referred to the House's select committee alleging that many of its provisions are "anti-farmer".

Congress legislators also termed it a "black law" hinting it may further fuel the farmer agitation going on for the past nine months.

The BJP-JJP state government had proposed 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2021' to amend the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The Bill states that "to ensure that the existing infrastructural projects are completed and do not suffer and to protect the public interest, the state government intends to amend Section 2 and insert Section 10-A in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, to exempt certain developmental projects, including rural infrastructure, affordable housing, industrial corridors and health and education and metro

rail projects from the purview of the principal Act pertaining to conducting social impact assessment study”.

‘Skin-to-skin’ ruling: High Court order in POCSO case outrageous, A-G tells SC

Attorney General K K Venugopal urged the Supreme Court to reverse the Bombay High Court ruling which held that if there is “no direct physical contact, i.e. skin to skin”, no offence of sexual assault under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, can be said to be committed.

The judgment “is outrageous and would set a dangerous precedent”, Venugopal told a Bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ajay Rastogi, which is hearing appeals against the January 12 ruling of the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court.

The Supreme Court had stayed the High Court order on January 27. The AG and NCW had filed separate appeals.

Supreme Court quashes 2016 Haryana notification: Economic criterion cannot be sole basis to decide creamy layer

Supreme Court held that economic criterion cannot be the sole basis for deciding the creamy layer from among backward classes for the purpose of excluding it from the purview of providing reservation.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose said this while quashing a Haryana government notification of August 17, 2016, which specified the criteria for exclusion of creamy layer within the backward classes.

The court said the notification “is in flagrant violation of the directions issued by this court in Indra Sawhney-I and is at variance with the memorandum dated 08.09.1993 issued by the Union of India pursuant to the judgment of Indra Sawhney-I, laying down the criteria for identifying creamy layer”.

Former Indian Footballer O Chandrasekharan passes away

Former Indian Footballer O Chandrasekharan passed away in Kochi this afternoon. He was 86. Chandrasekharan was part of the Indian team that participated in the 1960 Rome and the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

He was also a member of the Indian team that won the gold in 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta and the silver medal in Asian Cup in Tel Aviv the same year.

He captained the Maharashtra team that won the 1963 Santhosh Trophy. Chandrasekharan played for the Caltex Sports Club, Mumbai and was part of the SBI football team later.

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