

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act.

Bryan White

Founder : Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

Two Front War

After Doklam fiasco the China is now upgrading and widening its existing motorable roads around 10 kilometer from Diklam face off site. Doklam is a Bhutanese territory on which China is putting its claims like other border disputes of the China with the neighbouring countries. India backs Bhutan's claim on Doklam.

Indian troops stopped China from road construction at Doklam on June 16 and for 70 days the troops of India and China remained face to face confrontation that ended on August 28 with China withdrawing from there with construction equipment.

Despite China's pullback the Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat had warned that China would continue with its efforts to nibble away the Doklam territory through "Salami slicing" and other measures. It came true with China constructions and widening the roads just 10 kilometer away inside the China border on Bhutan.

Earlier during Doklam hot-up General Rawat said that the Indian Armed forces were ready to fight on both the fronts – the China and Pakistan.

Indian Air Force Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa said we could handle Pakistan and China in

two front war. The IAF could locate fix and strike nuclear weapon of the Pakistan. India's nuclear doctrine clearly holds that as adversary first strike by a strategic or even smaller tactical nuclear weapon – will invite massive retaliatory strikes.

In the event of conflict fully loaded Indian Sukhai – 30 MK1 taking off from baseline Tezpur, Chabua and Hasmara in turn can strike high value targets deep inside China. The possibility of two-front war is the current geographical situation is low, but we keep in mind that the intentions of the enemies can change overnight.

The IAF is updated with Russian MiG and Sukhoi, American F-16, French Rafales, Swedish Gripen jet fighter planes. Now we are also having our own Tejas fighter plane. The Jagurs fighter planes will continue in service till 2027 then it will retire.

The IAF first three women fighter pilots are set to be commissioned by end of this year and second batch has been sent for training.

The Air Chief has said there were no space violations during the Doklam stand off. The situation is not that of confrontation but readiness is constantly maintained.

Talent and Tourism

In Madhya Pradesh Talent festival in high and higher secondary schools and Tourism festival launched on October 6. The Talent festival will go upto 16 October and tourism festival till 25th October.

There are 8500 high and higher secondary schools in the state. During the talent festival the collectors of the districts will nominate an officer who will inspect the schools allotted to them see the standard, quality and education there. On the findings the School Edu-

cation Department will take up the task to bring the institution upto the required standard.

The schools will be categorized from 'A' to 'D' to judge them for updation. During the tourism festival the district tourism promotional council will be focused on any one tourist spot of district.

The State Tourism has set a goal of construction of way side amenities at every 40-50 kilometer distance on important roads under the wayside amenities policy. For this more than 300 spots have been identified.

Promise to end AIDS by 2030: Are we on track?

Shobha Shukla

Governments of over 190 nations, including India, have promised to end AIDS by 2030 by adopting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But the current data, trends and experiences of HIV experts pose serious concerns on if we are on track to end AIDS by 2030.

"Since India diagnosed its first case in 1986, we have enough piled up scientific evidence to know what are the proven approaches for preventing HIV transmission and caring for people living with HIV (PLHIV), so that they can live normal lives. But is this a reality on the ground? There is no excuse for inaction lest we may fail to meet promises of ending AIDS" said Dr Ishwar Gilada, President of the AIDS Society of India (ASI) and President of 10th National Conference of ASI (ASICON 2017) which will open in Hyderabad on 6th October 2017 on the theme of: Action, Science and Innovation for ending AIDS.

Promise of 90:90:90: Real or mirage? The National Health Policy 2017 of Indian government promises to "achieve the global target of 90:90:90, for HIV/AIDS by 2020, that is, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression" (Source: 2.4.1.3. of National Health Policy 2017 of Government of India).

These NHP-2017 goals are in line with UNAIDS commitments too. Despite progress there is a long way ahead of us, if we are to meet these goals.

(14 lakhs) are diagnosed with HIV and 902,868 PLHIV were on life-saving ART (source: WHO SEARO). Not only have we not yet reached out to 33% of PLHIV in the country, but also less than 50% of PLHIV are on ART, despite WHO and NACO guidelines to 'test and treat all'. Less than 65% of PLHIV who know their status, are receiving ART. We cannot become complacent in our efforts, because failing to reach out to each of the estimated PLHIV and putting them on ART threatens to reverse the progress made in fighting AIDS" said Dr Gilada, who was among the first few doctors in India who came forward for HIV management when the first case got diagnosed in the country.

suppression for 90% of those PLHIV who are receiving ART by 2020? Dr Naval Chandra, Co-Chair, ASICON 2017 and Professor in Medicine, Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad said: "In other states of India number of new HIV infections might have come down, but in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana combined, in last 1-2 years we are seeing a sudden increase in new HIV infection." Dr Franco Buonaguro, National Cancer Institute, Italy, said that viral hepatitis co-infection in PLHIV is now recognized as a major public health problem resulting in increased morbidity and mortality among PLHIV including those on ART.

Australia we have reached the goal of 90:90:90 but we have not changed the numbers of new HIV infection." She put the spotlight on challenges in HIV prevention and new ways we need to explore to effectively prevent transmission of HIV.

"In India today, almost 80-90% of PLHIV on ART are being managed, not treated, at some 530 ART centres of NACO, and the remaining PLHIV access private health care. Retaining PLHIV on ART at public sector ART centres is extremely crucial for managing HIV in India, as they cater to the majority of PLHIV. Clinical studies tell us about efficacy of drugs in a controlled environment, but long-term effectiveness studies are important to corroborate clinical studies' findings" added Dr Ishwar Gilada.

India had an estimated 86,000 new HIV infections in 2015. Children less than 15 years accounted for 12% (10,400) of total new infections while the remaining (75900) new infections were among adults (over 15 years). The goal to eliminate parent to child transmission of HIV by 2020 also mandates accelerated roll-out of evidence-based measures in India. Countries like Cuba, Thailand among others have already eliminated parent to child transmission of HIV.

Academic partners of ASI include Government of India's National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Medical Council of India, UNAIDS, Association of Physicians of India, Forum of Parliamentarians on HIV & AIDS, People's Health Organisation (PHO), CAPRISA South Africa, among others. Over 500 HIV medical experts of various clinical and scientific disciplines from across the country, and other nations including USA and Australia, are taking part in ASICON 2017.

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Scientific evidence has shown that if every PLHIV is on ART, with viral load suppression, the risk of HIV transmission is negligible, and the person can lead a normal healthy life.

But in India, with very limited capacity to do viral load testing, it is not known how many of the documented 9,02,868 people on ART are virally suppressed. Viral load monitoring of every PLHIV on ART is necessary, emphasizes ASICON 2017 experts, else how would India meet the goal of achieving viral load

Nonetheless all PLHIV should be tested for HCV.

Professor Sharon R Lewin, Plenary Speaker, ASICON 2017 and Director, Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity University of Melbourne, Australia, who is also a member of the Governing Council of the International AIDS Society representing the Asia Pacific region, said: "In Asia Pacific, about 5 million people are living with HIV and about 40% of them are receiving treatment [antiretroviral therapy]." She added that "in

Vasundhara's water storage prog all set to counter Cong campaign

By Nirendra Dev

In the wake of intensive campaign by Congress on farmers' distress in Rajasthan, the BJP government is all set to showcase its innovative water management programme to deal with erratic monsoon and potable water scarcity.

"The water management campaign in our state is scientifically planned on watershed basis. The sole objective of Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA) is designed to render villages self reliant in the context of mitigating basic water needs," says Vishnu Mallik, Collector of Udaipur district. The programme is based on Four Water usage concept and in last four years have already helped at least 3,529 villages across the state.

she was actually the CM for the second term. Agrees Udaipur Collector Mallik and says in his district alone there was a salutary effect and the programme has already resulted in tapping of additional water, increase in ground water table, increase in irrigated area and cropped area. "Due to increase in water table and cropped irrigated area....even agriculture pro-

"The water management campaign in our state is scientifically planned on watershed basis. The sole objective of Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA) is designed to render villages self reliant in the context of mitigating basic water needs," says Vishnu Mallik, Collector of Udaipur district. The programme is based on Four Water usage concept and in last four years have already helped at least 3,529 villages across the state. MJSA was tailored with 'astute planning' and proper scientific multi-layer review and has at the state level brought sea change in improving water table in a state which is water starved, says Rakesh Reddy Consultant for MJSA. Mr Reddy further told UNI here that "...Matters concerning water did bother Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in 2013 about six months before she led BJP to a record victory."

According to Mr Reddy, who also studied water related issues in the US, the Chief Minister had hired Reddy and his team of colleagues in Hyderabad based NGO Lokheet and invited them to work on watershed plans and water harvesting long before

duction is increased from 18 to 25 per cent,' says Collector Mallik. A large number of villagers who gathered to meet officials and a group of visiting journalists endorse the official version. 'Sahabji...seeing is believing. Had u come few years back....u would not have seen so much greenery around....My village depended on water tankers for drinking water....Now its different. This season we went for maize and

wheat,' says 52-year old Motilal Rout from Vejada village. In the first phase the total expenditure was Rs 1,400 crore, while in second phase it was about Rs 1,600 crore.

Villagers and officials say Chief Minister's much talked about slogan..."Make running water walk, walking water crawl and crawling water stand" has done a magical influence on the MJSA pro-

"In fact, once the first phase of works done in coordination of departments like Watershed, Agriculture, Water Resource and Forest...in the second phase the scope of work has been enhanced and other departments like Rural Development and Horticulture have been added. This has made the entire programme result oriented," says Randhir Singh Bhandar, Independent MLA from Vallabhnagar. Among some of the benefits, he said in areas like Ajmer, the programme MJSA has helped address the issue of soil erosion. Creation of check dams also helped address drinking water problem.

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According to Mr Reddy, the concept of Four Water theory vis rainwater, surface water, sub surface water and moisture was tried in 1986 during N T Rama Rao regime in united Andhra Pradesh.

But he hastens to add even as Rajasthan's MJSA is based on that model....there have been number of changes and the programme has updated technologically

to the latest form.

"In fact we have a new programme here," says Vasu Palagumi of NGO Lokheet, also an associate of Reddy.

The government has ensured geo tagging for all such projects and the structures and this has made real time monitoring system effective. The benefits have been huge. And these include creation of micro storage structures constructed in 12 desert districts. "In fact, once the first phase of works done in coordination of departments like Watershed, Agriculture, Water Resource and Forest...in the second phase the scope of work has been enhanced and other departments like Rural Development and Horticulture have been added. This has made the entire programme result oriented," says Randhir Singh Bhandar, Independent MLA from Vallabhnagar.

Among some of the benefits, he said in areas like Ajmer, the programme MJSA has helped address the issue of soil erosion. Creation of check dams also helped address drinking water problem. In the political context, Bhandar supports Vasundhara government and said the Congress campaign on farmers issue in Rajasthan is only a "motivated move" and initial response shows Rajasthan farmers are not influenced by such negative campaign.

With neither bombast nor bravado, a presidential president

By Wesley Pruden

Donald Trump promised in his barnstorming campaign for president, with bombast and bravado, that once elected he would tone everything down and be "presidential." He was elected and we learned that, candidate or president, the Donald doesn't do presidential.

But sometimes he does. This week in Las Vegas he became the consoling witness to "pure evil," leaving angry bombast for another occasion, struggling like the rest of us to show needed empathy, appropriate and subdued anger, and gratitude for the genuine heroics of the men and women who put

their lives on the line to subdue Stephen Paddock.

This was a week of memorable misery for the nation, the president showed just the proper sense of occasion, first in storm-battered Puerto Rico and then in grief-battered Las Vegas. His remarks in Nevada were particularly poignant, and naturally attracted a quibble from the mob of another bubble, that he was reading from remarks prepared elsewhere, and probably by a speechwriter. Yes, probably. And so what? He was not as solemn and as grave

as critics thought he might be, occasionally bantering with the crowds who met him in San Juan, even playfully tossing rolls of paper towels into the crowd to celebrate the arrival of the aid. Even men and women battered by wind and rain need an occasional moment to lighten up. The president even reminded the local officials who did it that they have "thrown our budget a little out of whack." It didn't hurt them to hear it from the president's mouth. Their profligate ways, demonstrating at least a lack of competence, must now be paid for by

others. Statehood for Puerto Rico seems a dream far more elusive now. But it was in his appearance in Las Vegas that he shared a heart authentically broken. "Our souls are stricken with grief," he said, standing with the first lady, who wore a face that reflected the sadness and sorrow she had seen in countless other faces, and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and other local officials.

Opinion

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chroniclebpl@gmail.com