

RIGHT MOVE INDEED

In a bolstered attempt to safeguard the interests of Indians the government has finally took a much needed step of banning 59 Chinese mobile apps over suspicion of setting up backdoors in the mobile phones of Indians through utility, entertainment and other software thus collecting the intimate data for ulterior motives. This harsh step came as retaliation against Chinese expansionist desire of occupying Indian territory which resulted into unprecedented border row between the two countries leading to martyrdom of 20 Indian soldiers and death of over twice the number of China's PLA personnel on June 15, this year. The apprehension of China extracting the data by using this kind of modus-operandi was in news for quite some time but the government's action now has rightly put a full stop on prevailing uncertainty. In a well thought out strategy to dent and combat the Chinese misdemeanor, those steering the nation have took this unprecedented and the most necessary step to uphold defence, sovereignty and integrity of India which besides ensuring all this will also prove detrimental to China in terms of financial losses as so many things related to business are connected with these mobile apps. This should not be taken as the only step in teaching a lesson of life to China rather it should be considered as the start of the crusade against that country with umpteen more such steps in the offing so that the misadventure which it has dared in eastern Ladakh should be responded befittingly. It was long back that our intelligence agencies were battling for prohibiting Chinese mobile applications suggesting that the same were designed to extract data and use it for intruding into the privacy of Indians. Skepticism of many with regard to dire consequences over surreptitiously transmitting significant data to servers located outside India has now been addressed with the prohibition of around 60 Chinese mobile apps but remaining cautious against that country's devious plans is the prime duty of every Indian at this crucial juncture as tension is still simmering along LAC with China's treacherous PLA changing colours on daily basis.

PROTECTING GREEN GOLD

It is quite imperative that J&K Union Territory which is gifted by the nature by way of splendid forest cover should ensure that its green gold remains conserved till the eternity otherwise the charm, sheen and beauty of this place known worldwide as 'paradise on earth' will be lost forever. It is inspiring that Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department is strengthening its network of control rooms and check-posts for effective protection of forests in the Union Territory. The fact to this effect was shared by none other than Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Mohit Gera on Monday. He has said the department would make use of latest technology and involve forest protection force to achieve its goal. Surely it is the most needful step in ensuring that the green wealth of the UT can be preserved which in turn is very important for maintaining ecological balance in the entire region. To stop deforestation there is dire need to deal effectively with encroachments, damages and fires. The onus of forest protection mainly is on the frontline staff. The field functionaries are supposed to maintain a high vigil through joint patrolling with the forest protection force to make it sure that flora and fauna of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is not harmed by the wood smugglers and natural calamities. The step of fortifying check posts and control rooms can prove very effective in protecting green wealth therefore helmsmen behind such a move need appreciation so that more measures in this direction could be taken for ensuring failsafe conservation of woods, jungles and animal kingdom of the Union Territory. Sustainable development and management of forests is imperative for welfare of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as tourism is one of the mainstays of the region and forests play a significant role in wooing visitors and tourists. Surely, this noble cause by the forest department is very significant for the coming generations and people should also support the concerned department by way of informing and reporting the matters of theft of woods to ensure longevity of trees, birds, animals or in nutshell sustenance of life.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Ratha Yatra is celebrated every year on the second day in the bright fortnight of the Ashadha month. This grand 'car festival' that began in the Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha, is now celebrated worldwide.

The occasion is when Jagannath leaves the Sri Jagannath Temple and travels with his siblings, Balabhadra and Subhadra, to spend nine days at their maternal home at the Gundicha Temple, 2.6 km away. Jagannath does not take his consort, Lakshmi, along with him.

The Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri is known as Srimandira. Sri means Lakshmi, and mandira means temple; the name Srimandira signifies that Lakshmi is the principal goddess of the Sri Jagannath Temple.

As the Ratha Yatra separates Lakshmi from Jagannath, she awaits his return to Srimandira. But as she misses Jagannath, she decides to pay him a visit on the fifth day of the Ratha Yatra. This day is called Hera Panchami. Hera means to 'see' and panchami means the 'fifth day'. Hera Panchami ritual is performed on the Ashadha Shukla Shashti tithi - day.

As four nights pass, Lakshmi wants her spouse to come back.

Being concerned, she takes the advice of Goddess Binala, for Jagannath's early return. Lakshmi decides to visit Jagannath at the Gundicha Temple where he is staying with his brother and sister. In

When Lakshmi is angry

the evening, Lakshmi - the golden idol of Goddess Sridevi - is carried to the Gundicha Temple in a bimana, decorated palanquin, by servants, with great pomp and show with traditional music and a colourful procession via the Grand Road.

After reaching the Gundicha Temple, the procession halts near the Nandighosha Ratha, the chariot of Jagannath. Lakshmi is welcomed with ceremonial offerings. She enters the Gundicha Temple during sandhya dhupa, an evening prayer ritual. On behalf of Jagannath, she receives an Agyan Mala, a garland of consent. This is Jagannath's message that he will return soon. For the sandhya dhupa, a strip of cloth called tera is hung in a way that the faces of the deities are veiled from sight. Due to this ritual, the door is closed. Goddess Lakshmi feels hurt and angry. She leaves the Gundicha temple through the Naka Chana Dwara where Bhitaraachha Mahapatra sevak worships her with offerings. Outside the Gundicha Temple, she again comes in front of Jagannath's chariot that is parked there.

Jealous and angry because Jagannath is enjoying himself with his siblings, and to teach him a lesson for ignoring her, she asks her servants to break a part of the Nandighosha Ratha. A small part is symbolically broken and this damage caused to the chariot demonstrates Goddess Lakshmi's ire.

See how Pakistan Embassy has turned into a hangout of spying

■ R. K. SINHA

After Pakistan harassed two Indian senior personnel of the High Commission of India in Islamabad, the order of the Government of India to reduce the number of its staff from the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi by 50 per cent would be considered absolutely correct. Now it is clear that the Imran Khan government is not even serious about resolving all the issues with India.

Governments before Imran Khan have also tried to weaken India indirectly. They do not even have the courage to fight directly with India. They think that by sending ISI agents to their high commission in India, who will keep making a strategy to harm India in some way or the other and provide all help to the pro-Pakistani traitors who are hiding inside our country. The Government of India is fully aware of all this. It is another matter that for some reasons, till now has been avoiding taking strict decisions. Now the Modi-Shah government has taken a tough stand. Somewhere, this is why it gave orders to reduce the number of personnel of Pakistan High Commission in India. In fact, Pakistani army and ISI personnel often come to Delhi wearing the diplomat's mask. They try to get important documents related to the Indian Army. Sometimes they get success.

Along with this, one of their tasks is to provide ration and guidance to the terrorist organizations in India. It is not hidden from anyone that Kashmiri separatists were treated like sons-in-law in the Pakistani High Commission. But, all these are stopped after the Modi government came to the power.

Nishant Aggarwal, who was spying for Pakistan, was arrested for leaking information of BrahMos missile to Pakistan. He used to keep on leaking information to the Pakistani High Commission officials for money. It would not be wrong to say that there are hundreds of Jaichands who are betraying their own country.

In the month of May itself, Delhi Police caught two officers of the Pakistan High Commission red-handed while spying. Their names were Abid Hussain and

Tahir Hussain. India did not take action on them due to diplomatic immunity and asked them to leave the country within 24 hours.

The government is keeping a close watch on the activities of the Pakistani High Commission, while those who betray their country will also have to be caught and punished severely. They cheat with Bharat Mata for some money. They disrespect thousands of soldiers who sacrificed their lives for India. Any citizen of the country who gives important information to Pakistan should face the death penalty.

The case of Nishant Aggarwal, a spy for Pakistani intelligence agency, was very serious. He was selling the BrahMos missile's secret to ISI. He was a scientist in the DRDO institute under the Ministry of Defence. Those who cheat the country should be asked that under what influence or greed they start cheating the country?

If we look back, in 2016, Mahmud Akhtar, who works in the Pakistan High Commission, was arrested for illegally obtaining sensitive documents. The Indian government also sent him back to Pakistan. That means the Pakistani High Commission is made the base of espionage of India. Different nations open their High Commissions / Embassies in each other's country so that relations between the two countries can be strengthened further.

Some countries go beyond this and also open their own cultural centers and libraries. In New Delhi cultural centers of the countries like America, Italy, Britain, Spain, Russia are there. Seminars, discussions and other events related to arts and culture keep happening there. Similarly, countries like America, Iran, Japan also have their schools in Delhi.

Children of those countries citizen's who are living here, study here. It is 70 years since American School got established here. But Pakistan High Commission keeps itself away from all these meaningful and constructive activities. Pakistan High Commission is interested only in spying on India's defence and government. It's hard to remember if there was

Murder of 'Loktantra': 45 years of 'The Emergency'

■ AKSHIT BARU

As a student of Political Science I have a strong interest in the political events which happened in the country since the Independence. Ours democracy is known as the world's largest democracy.

India is also regarded as one of the most successful democracies in the world. But in all this we had faced a 21 months of dark age, when Indira Gandhi popularly known as the "Iron Lady" backstabbed the people of India by forcing Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed the then President of India to proclaim a state of National Emergency on the night of 25th June, 1975.

It was for the first time when emergency was declared on the basis of "Internal Disturbances" which was mentioned in the Article 352 of the Indian Constitution, which was openly misused by Indira Gandhi who was in power at the center. Base of this event dates back to 1971 when Indira Gandhi came into power with giving a slogan of "garibi hatao" which failed drastically as India had to go on in a war with Pakistan after which the US Government stopped all the aid to India.

At the same time prices of oil in international markets also increased which led to the increase of prices by 23 per cent to 30 per cent in 1973/74. This all created a general atmosphere of dissatisfaction among the common people of India.

Along with this, in 1974 students from Gujarat and Bihar started protesting against the local state government on the issue of the rise of prices of food products and against corruption. Government was run by Congress in both the states. This protest was initially started by the ABVP which in a very short period of time gained support from major opposition parties.

Large student community supported by major opposition parties demanded fresh

elections in both the states. In Gujarat the movement was joined by Morarji Desai and in Bihar it was joined by Jaya Prakash Narayan who converted the students protest into a social movement which gained support from across the whole country. Congress and in particular Indira Gandhi was under immense pressure. Protests from every part of country were taking place. Under the intense pressure from students assembly elections were held in Gujarat in June 1975 wherein Congress was thrown out of power. In another major development of those times a protest by Railway Employees was held on the national level which was led by George Fernandes. This strike added to the unrest in the country. This was a clear message to Indira Gandhi and her government in the center.

Then came the biggest reason which led to the "Tuglaki Farman". On 12th June 1975, Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha of Allahabad High Court passed a judgement in an election petition filed by Raj Narain who contested election against Indira Gandhi in 1971, declaring her election to the Lok Sabha invalid. The judgement of the High Court meant that legally she was no more an MP, and therefore she could not remain in the office of Prime Minister.

She was also banned for 6 years for contesting elections. This Judgement was challenged in the Supreme Court. On 24th June, 1975 Supreme Court granted her a partial stay till her appeal was decided. Court said that she could remain an MP but wouldn't be allowed to take part in the proceedings of Parliament.

Seeing all this, Jayaprakash Narayan who was leading the opposition called for a massive public meeting at Delhi's Ramli Ground on June 25, 1975. The meeting was attended by a huge number of people. Narayan started his speech by

any formal programme organized in the Pakistan High Commission since 1960 after it was built.

After 1958, the Government of India allotted plots to various countries in the Chanakyapuri area of the capital to construct their embassies and high commission. Pakistan was also allotted a place here and India hoped it would try to maintain a good relationship with India. But Pakistan disappointed India. Never worked on constructive things. There is a hatred against India in it's umbilical cord.

It does not want India to become a world power. It is a different matter that even after Pakistan's conspiracy, India's military and economy has become strong and has emerged as a powerful country in the world. But despite the cheapness of Pakistan, India did not take the initiative to harm Pakistan in any way. This is in our nature. But, now our generosity is seen as our weakness. It has to be corrected.

Pakistan continued to mess with India even after losing 1948, 1965, 1971 and Kargil war. In 2008, it conducted a terrorist attack in Mumbai. Now what Pakistan did to our two diplomats, its motives are absolutely clear.

Maulana Azhar Mehmood and Hafiz Saeed are leading terrorism against India at their level under the supervision of the Government of Pakistan. Who does not know that Maulana Azhar and his organization Jaish-e-Mohammad get openly direct support from ISI, Pakistan? Jaish is been known as an enemy of India. Jaish is trying to rebuild the Khalistani terror group in Punjab.

Jaish is a very dangerous terrorist organization. India's security agencies have to kill the people who raise it in India. The puppets in Pakistan openly oppose India. But the Pak government is silent! How will they speak? At the behest of Pak government, these puppets remain active. But India is capable of destroying them and now there is no need to delay. When the pot of sin is filled, it is the right time to burst it. This is called.

(The author is a senior editor, columnist and former MP.)

saying the famous lines of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar "Singhasan khali karo ki janta aati hai". Jayaprakash further demanded for the resignation of Indira Gandhi from the office of Prime Minister. This added to the political mood of the country which was already against the Congress. On the night of 25th June in 1975 Indira Gandhi asked the President to proclaim Emergency and so the President issued the order of proclamation immediately.

After midnight all the leaders of the major political parties including JP Narayan, LK Advani, Morarji Desai, Devi Lal and George Fernandes were arrested. Social and political organizations were banned from doing any activity. Fundamental Rights were suspended. The Cabinet was informed about this on 26th June, 1975 at around 6:00 AM. Indira Gandhi didn't even bothered about asking the Cabinet about her decision. This was the level of dictatorship done by Indira Gandhi.

All this was done just to save Indira Gandhi the so called Iron Lady from resigning from the office of Prime Minister. The government made extensive use of preventive detention.

This article is to remind all the Dafti Gang that what actually Azadi means. In the present times Dafti Gang hardly talks about what actually happened in 1975, so here's a reminder for you all. It took 21 months for the removal of emergency.

Indira Gandhi had to pay for it. In the next General Election of 1977 Congress was thrown out of the power. Congress lost nearly 200 seats. Both the Iron Lady and her son Sanjay Gandhi lost their seats. Morarji Desai of Janata Party supported by other political parties emerged as the new PM of India. But then also these 21 months are regarded as a black spot on the World's Largest Democracy.

Jammu's initiative to start Radio Classes for helping students in District Doda to complete their syllabus despite coronavirus lockdown is a welcome step appreciated throughout the length and breadth of District Doda. The local Radio Station, which cover almost entire geographical area of Doda District is airing one and a half hour long educational content since May 29, 2020 on frequency 102MHz. Students and their parents especially those living in rural areas with little income and those who could not afford private tuition were worried a lot after all the schools were shut for prolonged period due to the nationwide lockdown on March 23, 2020. The schools in the hilly Doda District usually remain closed from December to March for winter vacation due to harsh climatic conditions while March to September months are the productive period for completion of syllabus before the term end examination upto 12th standard in October-November.

It is a welcome step by authorities who had started online classes from May 27, 2020 and accordingly all the schools of Doda District were linked with it. It is pertinent to mention here that only 55 per cent students in the district had access to Internet and smart phones. 598 Schools were linked. There are total 63,406 students and out of these only 37,837 had access to

Internet according to a data collected by me from the office of Chief Education Officer Doda. To provide education to remaining 25,569 students who mostly belong to below poverty line families and reside far off in hills of Doda, a request was accepted by Prasar Bharti to provide a time slot on AIR Bhadarwah and accordingly virtual Radio Classes were started from May 29, 2020 for students of 9th to 12th classes which benefitted more than 45,000 students. It is a welcome step where students from different parts of District are enjoying the new experience of learning. Till date, only teaching community of schools from Tehsil Bhadarwah is teaching students through the medium of Radio whereas their counterparts have not been allowed for teaching, for the reasons best known to the concerned authorities. It is requested to Director Prasar Bharti AIR - Bhadarwah to increase time slot for teaching and more and more subjects should be taught for board classes from this local Radio Station. These Radio Classes are of great help for students in the absence of regular classes. Last but not least I hope that this arrangement will continue till reopening of the schools.

Mool Raj,
Bhagota (Panjsoo),
Doda.

Mushrooms: A promising storehouse for antivirals

■ ROSHI SHARMA

Viruses have long been continue to cause a number of serious global epidemics, especially in those cases where antiviral chemotherapies and vaccines are unavailable or significantly limiting drug efficacy by the emergence of drug-resistant strains. Compared to bacterial infection, viral infection is difficult to treat or control by traditional antibiotics and specific antiviral agents are urgently required. Hence, this is high time to explore for the natural product based drugs that could prove effective against viral infections. Mushrooms are here to help us and could be the possible solution of this problem that are known to produce plethora of potentially active natural products which has been screened for antiviral activity. Belonging to the kingdom fungi, mushrooms are known to possess active components against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), herpes simplex virus (HSV), hepatitis virus, influenza virus, and many other human pathogenic viruses like enterovirus-71 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The current year 2020, since, its inception is experiencing a huge loss of life due to the emergence of a novel strain of a virus named Coronavirus. They belong to the family of viruses that are involved in causing illnesses like common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). The name coronavirus assigned to this virus is due to its appearance under microscope, corona means crown. They come under the category of enveloped viruses that means they have the capability to stick to surfaces, but are also able to be killed with disinfectants. The coronavirus first appeared with an animal population and then transmitted to humans and now can be transmitted from human to human. Human immune system have never experienced this particular strain of virus before, that is why we have not developed immunity against this strain of virus which has the potential of worldwide distribution.

For millennia mushrooms have been used for various medicinal purposes. Mushrooms themselves require antibacterial and antiviral compounds for existence in the wild, so they naturally possess a number of these substances. A large number of mushroom species are giving purported benefits ranging from supporting liver and heart health to enhancing energy and many more. One of the most influential effects of medicinal mushrooms is their powerful antiviral and immune-enhancing properties. Many mushrooms, in fact, have been shown fruitful against respiratory viruses like common cold and flu viruses which is remarkable considering the highly infectious nature of viruses and their ability to get easily mutate.

The isolation of antiviral compounds from mushrooms have emerged as part of an exciting field in the treatment and antiviral drug development. Mushrooms are packed with the powerful constituents like beta-D-glucans, beta-glycosides and many other constituents that are known to stimulate our innate immune system. These compounds not only assist in giving kickstart to our immunity but also help to subside inflammation. They are also known to possess vital elements such as selenium, magnesium and zinc all of which play a direct or indirect role against influenza virus. Research is still going on in order to extract the power of mushrooms against other life threatening diseases and the day is not far when these are going to rule the world of pharmaceutical industry and will be frequently taken as nutraceuticals. The predominant group of mushrooms that shows promising results against virus infection are polypores (mushrooms that inhabit wood)- also known as woody conks and these are also believed to be the ancestors of most mushrooms, if not all, gilled mushrooms. It is a matter of great interest that till date no poisonous polypore is known whereas more than 100 poisonous species of gilled mushrooms, of which nearly 20 are deadly poisonous are known. Mushrooms acting as functional food are a rich source of number of bioactive compounds that further offers great therapeutic potential for the treatment and control of many diseases. Therefore extraction and identification of these compounds from crude mushroom extracts are much required in order to assort which compound is responsible for the observed antiviral activity.

Viruses are known to cause global serious outbreaks with varied symptoms and mortality along with enormous economic burden for society. Moreover, the constant emergence of new serotypes of viruses with high mutation rate further adds challenges against these viruses.