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HAL developing long-endurance drone for vigil over LAC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is working on an AI-driven multi-role, advanced and long-endurance drone for strategic missions in high-altitude areas including along the frontiers with China, people familiar with the development said on Sunday.

The rotary-wing drone will have the capability to carry a load of 40 kgs, including missiles and sensors, and it is being developed considering the requirement of the armed forces to keep a strong vigil over the mountainous areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), they said.

The HAL has set a target of conducting the maiden test-flying of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by the middle of next year and plans to produce 60 such platforms in the first phase of the project, the people in the know told PTI.

They said the operating system of the long-endurance drone will feature applications of Artificial Intelligence and the armed forces will be able to use it for multiple purposes including transporting essential supplies.

"The drone is being developed in such a way that it can carry a wide range of



vital military systems including sensors, missiles and various other weapons," said one of the people cited above.

Separately, HAL is also looking at the possibility of producing the Israeli Heron TP drones in collaboration with its manufacturer under an ambitious project.

"This project is aimed at addressing the requirement of our armed forces as well as global supplies," the person said.

The medium-altitude Heron drones are capable of operating for nearly 45 hours at an altitude of up to 35,000 feet.

The Heron TP drones are equipped with automatic taxi-takeoff and landing (ATOL) and satellite communication (SATCOM) systems for an extended

range. The HAL is also working on two separate drone projects with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The three services are planning to acquire a sizeable number of unmanned aerial platforms in the next few years to significantly ramp up their surveillance capability, particularly to monitor Chinese activities along the LAC and Indian Ocean Region.

Each of the three services has drawn up plans for the acquisition of the new-age platforms.

The armed forces have been focusing on procuring unmanned platforms including armed drones following the eastern Ladakh standoff with China and a drone strike on the Jammu air-base last year.

Explosives-laden drones were used to carry out the attack on the Jammu Air Force station in June last year in the first such instance of suspected Pakistan-based terrorists deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital military installations in India.

India is also planning to procure around 30 multi-mission armed Predator drones from the US for the three services at

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Ashoora Holiday on Aug 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The government on Sunday postponed the holiday on account of Ashoora.

"In partial modification of Government Order No. 1337-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated December 16, 2021 and Government Order No. 1338-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated December 16, 2021, it is ordered that the holiday on account of "Ashoora" shall now be observed on 9th of August, 2022 (Tuesday) instead of 8th of August, 2022 (Monday)," read an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

Restrictions in Srinagar city areas to thwart Muharram processions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Sunday imposed curfew-like restrictions in parts of the city to prevent members of the Shia community from taking out Muharram processions on the eighth day of the 10-day mourning period, officials said. Authorities had disallowed the

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JKHB approves Satellite Township at Bhalwal; Colonies at Srinagar, Ganderbal, Kathua

Twin-Towers for Gole Market Gandhi Nagar; ARHC at Sunjwan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative for expansion of Jammu city, the J&K Housing Board (JKHB) is going to develop an Integrated Smart Satellite Township for a population of about 50,000 along the ring road at Bhalwal.

The decision to develop the satellite township was taken on Sunday during a meeting of JKHB's Board of Directors under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Managing Director J&K Housing Board, Shahid Saleem; Chief Town Planner Jammu, Anil Raina; Chief Town Planner Kashmir, Iftikhar Hakim, representatives of R&B, Finance, and Planning departments and other senior officers attended

the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, it was informed that the proposed township will be a completely self-sufficient state-of-the-art satellite town with all modern infrastructure and amenities, including commercial and institutional usage, besides it will also provide livelihood opportunities for its residents within the township. It will be for the first time in about three decades that the Housing Board will take up development of a housing colony in Jammu.

The proposed township will fully take care of the expansion needs of Jammu city.

Apart from this, the Board approved setting up of residential colonies at Chatterhama in Srinagar on 353 kanals of land, Bakura on 214 kanals of land, and at Kathua on 80 kanals of land. These colonies will have a mix of individual housing plots as well as flatted

accommodation.

To cater to the needs of the floating and migrant population, the Board approved the 1st ever Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) at Sunjwan in Jammu. The ARHC comprising 336 1-BHK apartments will become operational by March 2023.

In another decision, the Board decided to set-up Twin-Towers at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The prime piece of property has been mired in litigation for a very long time. The Board directed the Managing Director Housing Board to pursue the case before the High Court so that the prestigious project could be launched on priority. The project would overcome the major issue of parking in Gole Market, Apsara Road market, and the nearby offices and hospitals by providing space for about 720 cars. It would also

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3 IAS, eight JKAS officers transferred Kabra Prpl Secy Jal Shakti; Parmar ARI & Training; Amit Mining Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Sunday transferred three IAS officers and eight JKAS officers.

According to order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department (PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Department). He shall continue to hold the charge of the post of Financial Commissioner (Revenue),

J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Ashok Kumar Parmar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department (PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Department), has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, ARI and Trainings Department and Amit Sharma, IAS, Administrative Secretary, ARI and Trainings Department, holding additional charge of Mining Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, on

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RS members to bid farewell to VP Naidu today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu will be accorded a farewell in the House on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders in attendance.

Naidu demits office on Wednesday and his

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Israeli airstrike kills 2nd top Islamic Jihad commander

■ AGENCY

GAZA CITY: Israel said Sunday that it killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander in a crowded Gaza refugee camp, the second such targeted attack since it launched its high-stakes military offensive against the militant group just before the weekend. The Iran-backed militant group has fired hundreds of rockets at Israel in response,

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 33.9°C Min: 24.9°C

Humidity

Max : 85 Min : 72

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 32.4°C Min: 18.6°C

Humidity

Max : 78 Min: 43

Sunset : 19:24 Hours

Sunrise : 05:51 Hours

Chugh exhorts J&K BJP to make PM's vision of Har Ghar Tiranga big success

Special programme for PoJK to cheer abolition of Art 370

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Sunday exhorted party workers in J&K to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Har Ghar Tiranga " a big success in the Union Territory.

Addressing a meeting of former MLAs, minister's, district incharges and other senior BJP leaders here, Chugh said Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav would see every house unfurling national flag during the



BJP J&K Chief, Ravinder Raina presenting bouquet to BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh at Party Headquarters, Jammu on Sunday.

Cop injured in attack by bovine smugglers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/JAMMU: A policeman was injured when suspected cattle smugglers hurled stones at a search party in Kathua district on Sunday, an official said.

Police fired two rounds in the air to restore order and arrested one of the attackers early morning at Check Gotta village in Lakhampur area, Deputy Superintendent of Police Shami Kumar told PTI.

He said the police party was rushed to the village on receiving information about the movement of cattle smugglers. "As the police party was approaching

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Rousing welcome to Charri Mubarak at Mattan Amid decline in arrival of devotees, Amarnath Yatra remains suspended from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: The auspicious Charri Mubarak reached the historic Surya Temple of Mattan from Srinagar on Sunday which was welcomed by all sects and beliefs of the locality along with the representatives of the Mattan Tirith Trust.

It is pertinent to mention that Puja of the Charri Mubarak is held at various places enroute to Holy Cave and has to stay at various padavus {stations} as per the past Hindu religious practices.

The Charri Mubarak has



Sadhu Mandals performing Puja of Charri Mubarak at Mattan.

to reach Holy cave on 11th of August on Sharvan Purnima. Puja of Charri Mubarak was held by the

sadu mandals and other devotees at Mattan in presence of a large number

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NITI meet: Modi urges States to focus on 3Ts, modernising farm sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday made a strong case for modernising agriculture, animal husbandry and food-processing to help the country become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector, even as some states demanded that the MSP mechanism be made more effective in case of pulses and oilseeds.

The Prime Minister also asked the states to focus on promoting 3Ts -- Trade, Tourism, Technology -- with

a view to reducing imports and increasing exports, said an official release after the seventh meeting of the



Governing Council of NITI Aayog.

"We should encourage people to use local goods wherever possible," he said, adding

'Vocal for local' is not the agenda of a political party but a common goal.

India, he said, needs to "focus on modernized agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing to become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector."

Some states, during the meeting, came up with various suggestions for expeditious diversification of agriculture, said NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chandel while briefing reporters about the

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Not Dragon or Jihadis; Congress-Pseudo Liberal-Naxal Gang real threat to India

■ DOST KHAN

JAMMU: Having faced stiff resistance from the Narendra Modi's India on Galwan Hills along Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, China is in quandary over real time challenge to its hegemony and the self-assumed super power role in the Asian region, which is why unlike Russia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, the Dragon is playing hide and seek with the world's largest democracy quite often. Pakistan, a Chinese lackey, is of no consequence, as its birth is based on India and Hindu bashing.

Militarily and economically, India is a force to reckon with in the South Asian region. In fact, China also owed its economic super status to its greatest populist and biggest populated Indian market. Sri Lanka's crippled economy is now a biggest shocker for the sovereign nations, thanks to Chinese deceit and deception. Pakistan is following the suit, courtesy China in a way. The rogue neighbor in the backyards is struggling to pay off Chinese loans, facing FAAT category tag and threatened of being blacklisted for its dubious role in Afghanistan. But for aiding, abetting and sponsoring terrorism in India, Pakistan cannot dare fight this great nation. It is sustaining proxy war against India with the support of traitors and Jihadis within the Indian state, hitherto in the Kashmir

Valley and lately spreading tentacles across the country through radicalized fanatics.

People's Republic of China is also traversing the suicidal path of economic degeneration after getting entangled with Taiwan, supported by USA, Japan and the other European countries. Russia has been in the midst of the Ukraine conflict for 165 days now. Chinese are barking on LAC to challenge the mighty India-which is not the India of 1962 under the Congress. It is the new India of Modi that is capable of responding to the arm-twisting maneuvers of the venomous Dragon.

Hindu Nepal and Bhutan are friends with India and thus can't even dare to invade this country. Russian friendship has withstood the test of times. The world saw how India came to the rescue of crumbled Sri Lanka last month. The island nation is seeing only hope in her big brother nation of India. Bangladesh, liberated by India for the suppressed people of the then West Pakistan, has emerged as a new breeding ground for facilitating terrorists to bruise Indian psyche. Though engaged in vandalizing temples and killing miniscule minority of Hindus, Bangladeshi's have no guts to challenge the might of India.

This being the scenario across the South Asian region, it is actually not the neighbouring countries including hostile China and Pakistan that can harm the Indian interest. The real threat to the country's integrity and sovereignty comes unfortunately from the traitors within. They are weakening India's social and cultural fabric and jeopardizing the security of the nation.

Led by the Congress, Pseudo-liberal-Naxal Gang is a real threat to the Indian nation. Most of these parties are being financed by the anti-India lobby, comprising various countries, across the world to weaken the foundations of the land of the greatest global civilization.

The role of the Congress has remained dubious since independence. Pioneer of the 'Chini-Hindi Bhai Bhai' slogan, the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru remained mute spectator to the Chinese backstab in 1962. Egoistic and authoritarian Nehru ignored the counsel of his deputy Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who wrote to him on November 7, 1950, "The Chinese government has tried to delude us by professions of peaceful intention... They managed to instill into our Ambassador a false sense of confidence in their so-called desire to settle the Tibetan problem by

peaceful means... The action of the Chinese, in my judgment, is a little short of perfidy."

The iron-man had also pointed out about the reality of the India-China relationship,"... even though we regard ourselves as friends of China, the Chinese do not regard us as their friends. With the Communist mentality of 'whoever is not with them being against them', this is a significant pointer, of which we have taken due note."

According to former Finance Minister late Arun Jaitley, India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru was the 'original sinner' who favoured China over India for permanent membership in the UN Security Council. His assertion obviously refers to Washington's feeler sent to New Delhi in August 1950 through the Indian Ambassador in the U.S., mentioning the American desire to remove China from permanent membership of the UNSC and possibly replace it with India. The allegation that Nehru refused to take this suggestion seriously and thus abdicated India's opportunity to become a permanent member of the UNSC is the result of the critics' inability to comprehend the complexity of the international situation in the early 1950s and the very tentative nature of the inquiry (The Hindu March 18, 2019).

The Congress' mindset

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