

Three-member panel to probe ethnic violence in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Sunday appointed a three-member Commission of Inquiry headed by Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, to investigate the ethnic violence in Manipur that has claimed 98 lives so far and displaced over 35,000 people.

A notification issued by the Union Home Ministry said that the "Commission shall submit its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting". Its headquarters will be in Imphal.

The other two members of the commission are Himanshu Shekhar Das, retired IAS officer from the 1982 batch of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, and Aloka Prabhakar, a 1986-batch retired IPS officer of the Te-



Justice Ajai Lamba (retd)

langana cadre.

The terms of reference of the commission said that it would inquire into the causes and the spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, the sequence of events and whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty on the part of any of the authorities or individuals responsible.

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Panel to probe ethnic violence in Manipur

It would also investigate whether adequate administrative measures had been taken to prevent and deal with the violence and the riots, and to consider such matters as may be found relevant in the course of the inquiry.

The inquiry by the Commission shall also be with regard to "complaints or allegations that may be made before the commission by any individual, or association, in such form and accompanied by such affidavits, as may be specified by the Commission", and the role of government officials as may be brought to its notice by the Government of Manipur.

"The Commission may, if it deems fit, make interim reports to the Central Government before the final deadline," the Commission's terms of reference added.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday appealed to the people of Manipur to lift blockades on the Imphal-Dimapur National Highway-2, a critical line for all supplies to reach Manipur's valley areas. Starting from Dimapur in Nagaland, the highway passes through Naga and Kuki hill districts in Manipur. Since Manipur does not have rail connectivity yet, the National Highway is the lifeline for transport of essential goods.

"My sincerest appeal to the people of Manipur is to lift the blockades at the Imphal-Dimapur, NH-2 Highway, so that food, medicines, Petrol/Diesel, and other necessary items can reach the people. I also request that Civil Society Organisations do the needful in bringing consensus. Together only we can restore normalcy in this beautiful state," Mr. Shah said in a tweet.

New urban health centre at Teynampet to provide consultation via video call

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Teynampet will have a new urban health centre. Set up on Raghavaiah Road, it is one of the 500 centres being commissioned by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday.

Each centre will have a doctor, nurse, health inspector and an assistant, who will be appointed by the respective district health societies. The UHCs will function from 8 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Recruitment via NRHM

The staff for these centres will be via the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

The UHCs will offer 12

It will be one of 500 urban health centres being inaugurated by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin tomorrow

health services, including tending to pregnant women, immunisation of children and reproductive child health besides disbursing 171 types of medicines, including for diabetes and hypertension.

The UHCs will be in-charge of the welfare of children in schools that fall within their ambit.

The centres will function in tandem with the school health committees and conduct surveillance.

Thirty-two equipment

will be available at each centre to conduct a variety of investigations. Facilities have been provided for patients to consult doctors through videoconferencing and doctors can, through e-sanjeevini facility, refer patients for further consultation with specialists.

Mayor R. Priya, Deputy Mayor M. Magesh Kumar and Thousand Lights MLA N. Ezhilan inspected the health centre at Teynampet on Sunday.

Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan, Health secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi and NRHM director Shilpa Prabhakar Sathish were present.

Understanding the Kavach system

What are the salient features of the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation? In which networks and routes has the system been implemented?

EXPLAINER

Ravi Reddy
V. Geetanath

The story so far:

The death of over 288 passengers in the ghastly train accident on June 2 at Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in the Balasore district of Odisha has brought into sharp focus the safety mechanisms needed to prevent such tragedies.

What is Kavach?

The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry. The trials were facilitated by the South Central Railway to achieve safety in train operations across Indian Railways. It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards. It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision. It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions. In addition, it prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems. The system also relays SoS messages during emergency situations. An added feature is the centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System. 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, SIL-4 certified technologies where the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.

How does Kavach work on Railway Systems?

The Traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS), with the help of equipment on board the locomotive and transmission towers at stations connected with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, helps in two-way communication between the station master and loco-pilot to convey any emergency message. The instrument panel inside the cabin helps the loco-pilot know about the signal in advance without visual sighting, and the



Tragic loss: Restoration work is underway at the site of Friday's triple train accident in Balasore district on June 4. PTI

permissible speeds to be maintained. If a red signal is jumped and two trains come face to face on the same line, the technology automatically takes over and applies sudden brakes. Additionally, the hooter activates by itself when approaching a level crossing which serves as a big boon to loco-pilots during fog conditions when visibility is low.

Both the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express and the Yeswanthpur-Howrah Express were not fitted with KAVACH-TACS. The Kavach system project is yet to be implemented on the Howrah-Kharagpur-Chennai line. However, Jaya Varma Sinha, a member of the Operation and Business Development, Railway Board, reasoned that the reaction time and distance were very short as the train was travelling at a very high speed. "If an obstruction comes suddenly in front of a high-moving vehicle then no technology in the world would prevent an accident," she explained at a press

conference.

Where has Kavach been implemented?

The Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the trial of the Kavach working system between Gulluguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway last March.

The South Central Railway (SCR) Zone is a pioneer in the implementation of the KAVACH - (TACS). The Kavach system has been deployed over 1,465 kms in the SCR limits in 77 locomotives and 135 stations till March this year. Additionally, the Secunderabad-based Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications (IRISET) hosts the 'Centre of Excellence' for Kavach. IRISET has been mandated by the Railway Board to train the inservice railway staff on Kavach. The Institute's Kavach lab carries

out round the year training programmes.

What is the Kavach deployment strategy?

Kavach implementation is being taken up in a focused manner by the Railway Board. The first priority are the High Density Routes and the New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah Sections, as they have higher chances of accidents because the trains run closer to each other. The second priority lines are the Highly Used Networks, the third ones are other Passenger High Density Routes and the final priority is of course to cover all other routes. The RDSO has approved three firms - Medha Servo Drives, HBL and Kernex - for providing Kavach equipment with two more being in the pipeline. Glitches about vulnerability of a vehicle crossing a closed level crossing, stray cattle or boulders on track, radio communication issues in tunnels, ghat sections, have been tackled.

HC: new law needed for presentation of electronic evidence in criminal cases

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has underscored the need for Parliament to take a complete relook at laws relating to the presentation of electronic evidence before criminal courts and come up with appropriate legislation that could address the present day needs, besides making procedures simpler to let in such evidence during trial.

A Division Bench of Justices M.S. Ramesh and N. Anand Venkatesh said the legislature ought to have introduced 'electronic evidence' as a separate chapter in the Evidence Act, 1872, considering its magnitude and growing importance in solving crimes, instead of having inserted it into Chapter V, which deals with documentary evidence.

"In the considered view of this court, this has really opened Pandora's box for



Provisions found to be obsolete by the U.K. in 1995 were readily acceptable by the Indian legislature in 1999

DIVISION BENCH

all the confusions with which the courts are dabbling these days," the Bench remarked, lamenting how the prosecution's failure to obtain a certificate under Section 65B of the Evidence Act could make the entire electronic evidence inadmissible during trial.

Complex conditions

Tracing the origin of Section 65B to Section 5 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, of the United Kingdom, the Bench said the United Kingdom itself had repealed its law after realis-

ing that it had become outdated and there was no need for formulating complex and inflexible conditions, such as obtaining certificates from persons who were in-charge of such electronic evidence.

"It is rather unfortunate that provisions found to be obsolete by the U.K. in 1995 were readily acceptable by the Indian legislature in 1999. By virtue of the same, certification requirements conceived by the United Kingdom in 1960 are now applicable in India. There could be no better instance of fitting a square peg into a round hole," the Bench rued.

Pointing out that most crimes in the present day get solved only with the assistance of electronic evidence such as closed circuit television camera (CCTV) footage, the judges hoped that the legislature would take note of the observations made by the court and come up with

appropriate legislation on presentation and admissibility of such evidence.

'Crucial pieces'

The observations were made by the Bench while upholding the life sentence (till death without any remission) imposed by a trial court on eight convicts in the Scheduled Caste youth V. Gokulraj murder case.

CCTV footage of the Tiruchengode Ardhanareswarar Temple and some mobile phone recordings were crucial pieces of evidence in the case.

Though counsel for the appellants attacked the admissibility of the electronic evidence on the ground that the police had failed to obtain Section 65B certificate, the judges in the Division Bench rejected such defence on the ground that the question of admissibility ought to have been raised before the trial court and not before the appellate court.

T.N. power sector might see coal demand of 65.7 million tonnes by FY30

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The power sector in Tamil Nadu may see a maximum coal demand of 65.7 million tonnes by the financial year 2030 from actual consumption of 27.95 million tonnes in financial year 2022, as per government's report on Integrated Coal Logistics Plan for efficient coal evacuation.

The report prepared by Deloitte brings out a realis-

tic and optimistic coal demand across India factoring in the macro-economic forecasts for the power sector and also long-term State-wise electricity demand forecast by Central Electricity Authority.

The realistic coal demand for the power sector in Tamil Nadu is projected at 56.6 million tonnes. For the existing power capacities in Tamil Nadu, the realistic projection for coal demand is 43.43 million



T.N.'s actual coal consumption was 27.95 million tonnes in financial year 2022. FILE PHOTO

tonnes and the optimistic estimate is at 50.46 million tonnes. As per the report, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corpora-

tion Limited's (Tangedco) existing thermal capacity of 4,320 MW would see a coal demand of 25.98 million tonnes based on optimistic estimates and 22.34 million tonnes based on realistic estimates.

In the financial year 2022, the actual consumption of Tangedco's power plants was 16.48 million tonnes. As per State Energy Department policy note for 2023-24, Tangedco's annual requirement coal for

existing power plants at 85% plant load factor is 22.34 million tonnes per annum.

The Coal Ministry's plan takes into account plant load factor of 73.15% on a realistic basis and 85% on an optimistic basis for Tangedco's existing power plants. In the financial year 2022, the plant load factors ranged from 49% to 65%.

For upcoming thermal capacities of Tangedco of 3,440 MW, the realistic

coal demand is estimated at 13.13 million tonnes and in an optimistic scenario it is projected at 15.26 million tonnes.

The upcoming thermal plants mentioned in the report include Ennore SEZ Super Critical Thermal Power Project of 1,320 MW, North Chennai Thermal Power Station Stage III expansion of 800 MW and Udangudi Super Critical Thermal Power Project Stage I - 1,320 MW

Gautami-Abhinav duo wins mixed air rifle

The two put it across Muller & Aufrere of France 16-12: India on top of the medals table with two gold, one silver and one bronze

JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw won the mixed air rifle gold by beating Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere of France 16-12 in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, on Sunday.

It was the second gold for India after the air pistol gold won by Sainyam.

In mixed air pistol, Sainyam and Abhinav Choudhary topped qualification with 578 but the duo was beaten to the gold 16-12 by Koreans Kim Juri and Kim Manghyun.

The second Indian team of Suruchi Singh and Shubham Bisla won the bronze by beating Uzbekistan 16-14. India was on top of the medals table with two



Golden finish: Abhinav and Gautami, champions in the mixed air rifle event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gold, one silver and one bronze, while Korea followed with one gold and two silver. Italy was the third to win a gold medal.

The results:

Mixed air rifle: 1. India-2 (Gautami Bhanot, Abhinav Shaw) 17 (628.3); 2. France (Oceanne Muller, Romain Aufrere) 7 (630.2); 3. Norway (Pernille Nor-Woll, Jens

Oestli) 17 (627.4); 4. Italy (Anna Schiavon, Luca Sbarbati) 13 (626.6); 7. India (Swati Chowdhury, Saalim) 624.3.

Mixed air pistol: 1. Korea (Kim Juri, Kim Kanghyun) 16 (577); 2. India (Sainyam, Abhinav Choudhary) 12 (578); 3. India-2 (Suruchi Singh, Shubham Bisla) 16 (571); 4. Uzbekistan (Nigina Saidkulova, Muhammad Kamalov) 14 (571).

Why does North Korea want spy satellites?

Why is the isolated nation developing spy satellites? What are the other strategic developments in the region? Will more sanctions weaken N. Korea?

Harini Madhusudan

The story so far:

On May 31, a North Korean military reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1 was launched through a new type of rocket named Chollima-1. The satellite is said to have flown for about 10 minutes before crashing into the Yellow Sea. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported the failure as the instability in the rocket's engine and fuel system. The launch, however, prompted evacuation warnings and emergency alerts in parts of South Korea and Japan. The U.S., Japan and South Korea expressed 'strong condemnation' to the launch.

What is N. Korea's space programme?
North Korea in the past decade has had an active space program that is closely

related to its missile program. Satellite launch vehicles use the same core technology as long-range missiles that deliver warheads capable of destroying intercontinental targets. (the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles or ICBMs). Starting from 1998, North Korea successfully orbited its first satellite in 2012 after three failed attempts. The launch vehicle used was Unha-3, a likely variant of Taepodong-2 ICBM. The Unha-type launch vehicle was also used in the 2016 launch of Pyongyang's Earth Observation satellite. The flight on May 31 was the sixth satellite launch by Pyongyang. It was done through the Chollima-1 which is a new space launcher known to have an engine that is similar to North Korea's dual-nozzle liquid-fuel machine used in Hwasong-15 ICBM.

Additionally, in April, North Korea announced that it had completed the

construction of its first spy satellite.

Why does it want assets in space?

The North Korean spy satellites are expected to play a crucial role in providing advanced surveillance technology, that covers a large portion of the region, to improve the ability to strike targets during conflict. Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea, stated that the nation would have the capability to "use preemptive military force when the situation demands."

Moreover, North Korea's space programme is a response to other strategic developments in the region. Earlier, the U.S. announced that it would be activating U.S. Space Forces Korea. This system would provide South Korea with advanced capabilities of missile warning and satellite communications throughout the Korean peninsula and its

proximate areas. On May 25, South Korea successfully launched its Nuri rocket that is designed to assist Seoul's efforts to develop a space-based surveillance system. These developments nudged Pyongyang to hasten the launch of Malligyong-1.

What does this mean for East Asia?

The security anxiety in East Asia in response to the North Korean satellite launch reveals a sense of urgency among the regional powers. North Korea no longer needs to develop its long-range missile technology under the guise of satellites since its test-firing in 2017. Pyongyang seems unafraid to reveal its technological intentions and strengthen its security apparatus in the region. While the launch is a breach of the UN Security Council resolutions, it is unlikely to attract additional economic sanctions. This displays the weak effectiveness of sanctions imposed on North Korea.

Additionally, while the international responses to the launch were largely focused on the missile technology, the possibility of a successful set of four to five military satellites by Pyongyang in-orbit would provide North Korea's military the surveillance capacity that covers the region, strengthening its missile-launch capabilities.

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'NATO-like' alliances could lead to conflict in Asia-Pacific: China

Agence France-Presse
SINGAPORE

China's Defence Minister warned on Sunday against establishing NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying they would plunge the region into a "whirlpool" of conflict.

Li Shangfu's comments came a day after U.S. and Chinese military vessels sailed close to each other in the flashpoint Taiwan Strait, an incident that provoked anger from both sides.

"Attempts to push for NATO-like (alliances) in the Asia-Pacific is a way of kidnapping regional countries and exaggerating conflicts and confrontations," Mr. Li told a security conference in Singapore also attended by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Mr. Li's comments echoed long-held Chinese criticism of the United States' efforts to shore up



Li Shangfu

alliances in the region and counter China's rise.

Military groupings

The U.S. is a member of AUKUS, which groups it with Australia and Britain.

Washington is also a member of the QUAD group, which includes Australia, India and Japan.

"Today's Asia-Pacific needs open and inclusive cooperation, not buddying up into small cliques," Mr. Li said at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit.

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