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Renaming does not make illegally held territory legal: India tells China

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20 /-/ Hitting back at China, India on Thursday said that renaming or inventing a name did not make illegally held territory legal. "Arunchal is an integral part of India," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Gopal Baglay emphasised. China had on Wednesday announced that it had 'standardised' official names for six places in Arunchal Pradesh and had termed the provocative move as a legitimate action. Their move had come days after Beijing had lodged strong protests with India over the Dalai Lama's visit to the frontier state. The state media in Beijing had said that the move was aimed at reaffirming China's claim over Arunchal Pradesh.

China claims the state as 'South Tibet'. "China's ministry of civil affairs announced on April 14 that it had standardised in Chinese characters, Tibetan and Roman alphabet the names of six places in 'South Tibet', which India calls 'Arunchal Pradesh', in accordance with the regulations of the Central government," state-run Global Times had reported. The official names of the six places using the Roman alphabet are Wograinling, Mila Ri, Qoidenggarbo Ri,



Mainkuqa, Bumo La and Namkapub Ri. These names reflect China's territorial claim over South Tibet (Arunchal Pradesh) is supported by clear evidence in terms of history, culture and administrative. "Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang had told newsmen, as per PTI. Defending the action to standardise the names, Lu had said, "to issue these names is actually carried out in accordance with the regulations about the names of the localities and it is a legitimate action by the

Chinese government". "Let me stress that about the Indian government's indulgence of (the) Dalai Lama activities in disputed eastern section of the India-China boundary and also about his anti-China

retaliation to the Dalai Lama's recent visit to Arunchal Pradesh, he had further said that China chose this time to announce the standardisation as it was now doing a second census of names of localities and an important part of it was to standardise names in ethnic languages. "In the next step, we will also step up our study of those names in Tibetan ethnic languages and in the next step we will announce more standardisation of these names," he had gone on to say. Reiterating that China's claims over the east section of India-China boundary in Arunchal Pradesh were clear and consistent, Lu had said, "these names have been passed on from generation to generation by people who have lived there for generations, the Tibetan ethnic and Monpa ethnic groups. It is also an example that shows China has clear administration over these areas and there are many activities by the Chinese people in that area." China's move had come just days after the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunchal Pradesh, which was seventh since the 81-year-old spiritual leader fled from Tibet through Tawang and sought refuge in India. (PTI)

Reprieve for Pak PM in Panamagate

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 20 /-/ Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today narrowly survived being disqualified after a three-two split decision by a Supreme Court bench which ordered to set up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) within a week to probe the allegations of money laundering against his family. The court also ordered Sharif and his two sons - Hasan and Hussain - to appear before the JIT, which would consist of officials from the Federal Investigation Agency, the National Accountability Bureau, the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Military Intelligence (MI). The JIT will present its report before the bench after every two weeks. The five-judge bench comprising Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan, Justice Azmat Saeed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan issued the landmark judgement 57 days after concluding the hearing. The case was launched on November 3 and the court held 35 hearings before concluding the proceedings on February 23. The case is about alleged money laundering by Sharif in 1990s when he twice served as Prime Minister to purchase assets in London. The assets, surfaced when Panama papers last year showed that they were managed through offshore companies owned by Sharif's children. The case in the Supreme Court was based on several identical petitions by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan and others about alleged illegal assets of the Prime Minister Sharif's family in London. According to the judgement, Sharif, 67, survived as majority three judges supported the setting up of JIT to further probe the allegations while two other judges wanted to disqualify the Prime Minister. The court also ordered that it was important to probe how money was transferred to Qatar.

Mamata meets Naveen, says regional parties strong enough to tackle BJP



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee with her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 20 /-/ The regional parties are strong enough to counter the BJP, said West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today after meeting her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik, who made no comment on the perceived saffron surge in his state. "The regional parties are enough to tackle the BJP," the Trinamool Congress supremo told newsmen after a 10-minute meeting with Patnaik at his residence here. Asked about the threat to regional parties, particularly from the BJP in wake of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll results, Mamata shot back: "I do not believe that they (BJP) are a threat." Coming down heavily on the BJP, she said the party (BJP) divides people and split political parties, a tactics that the regional parties do not resort

to. "They divide parties. Sometimes they purchase ministers, MLAs and whatever they can. They create division among Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, tribals and scheduled caste people. They even create division within the Hindu community. We regional parties do not do that. We say Jai Jagannath as there is no caste, creed and religion in the Jagannath culture," said the West Bengal chief minister. To a question on the proposed federal front, the TMC chief said: "That is my consistent effort. We love regional parties and we want regional parties to persist and grow." "In the federal structure, regional parties strengthen the very system under the Constitution," she said adding all states are important in a federal setup. "We are already in the federal structure. Look, he (Naveen) is Odisha

chief minister and I belong to West Bengal. Therefore, I say all regional parties are there. Secular parties are always secular and are together," Mamata said. Asked whether she finds a naturally in Patnaik's BJP, the TMC supremo said: "We have great respect for it." On the upcoming Presidential election, she said: "It is still early for that. If he (Naveen) proposes any name, I will talk to him. Don't worry. We have the best of relationship." The two chief ministers, who spoke to the press together, maintained that their meeting was not political in nature and it was out of courtesy. "I'm very glad that honourable chief minister of West Bengal came to pay a courtesy call today," said Patnaik and denied having any political discussion with her.

Concerned' over Jadhav's health, New Delhi seeks details of appeal process from Islamabad

NEW DELHI, APR 20 /-/ India has sought from Pakistan details of the appeal process in the Kuthbushan Jadhav case in which it has made 15 attempts to get consular access to the Indian national given death sentence by a military court there. External affairs ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay said India



was "concerned" as it has no information about the location or the condition of Jadhav, who Pakistan says is in custody. Noting that the ministry had "called in" the Pakistani deputy high commissioner on Wednesday, he said Pakistan has been asked to provide details of the trial against Jadhav. If there have been any proceedings against him, we would, officially, like to see details of those proceedings," Baglay said. India would also like to know how it can proceed in the case, and asked Shah about various options available in Pakistani legal system, Baglay said, noting that India is still awaiting a response to its demands for consular access and details of the trial proceedings against Jadhav. "Yesterday also we asked for consular access to Jadhav and in the past we made 13 such requests," Baglay said, adding it was important to know the nature of charges levelled against the retired Indian Navy officer. "We don't know anything about Jadhav's location or condition in Pakistan. It is a matter of concern for India. We are concerned about his health and in the past we've made 13 such requests," he maintained. On reports that Pakistan will present a dossier on Jadhav with evidence of his alleged spying activities, Baglay merely said that in past also Pakistan has attempted to "militarise" the international community. India had also reiterated that Jadhav was innocent and false charges were framed against him when the Pakistan deputy high commissioner was summoned. Shah was also told that not giving consular access to Jadhav amounted to violation of human rights as well international norms as the two countries have a bilateral agreement on consular access. Pakistan Army had on Monday ruled out consular access to 46-year-old Jadhav, days after India had made a strong case for access to the Indian prisoner on death row.

BJP believes in innocence of its leaders in Babri case: Prasad

Party asks leaders to downplay issue in public

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20 /-/ The BJP believes in the innocence of its leaders in the Babri Masjid case, party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said today and rejected an "imaginary" a question on whether the Supreme Court order will impact the possible candidature of L K Advani and Murlidhar Manohar Joshi in the Presidential and Vice Presidential polls. "We believe in the innocence of our important leaders, including Advani ji and Joshi ji... They have been facing trial and they will face trial in terms of process of law," Prasad told newsmen here. Asked whether the SC order asking them to face trial will impact their candidature for the posts of the President and the Vice President, elections for which are due in the next few months, the Union minister said he would not respond to "imaginary" questions. While the term of President Pranab Mukherjee is coming to an end on July 24, the term of Vice President Hamid Ansari ends on August 10.

Top BJP leaders Advani, Joshi and Uma Bharti will be tried for criminal conspiracy in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case as the Supreme Court had on Wednesday allowed a CBI plea for restoring the charge against them. The apex court, however, noted that Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh enjoys constitutional immunity and can be tried only after he ceases to hold the office. Singh was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1992. Prasad said the case relating to the demolition is not a new one and had been on since 1993. "It has gone through various stages of justice... It was a Supreme Court order which said cases in Lucknow and Rae Bareilly should go on separately. Now the court has said that the two cases be clubbed together. Both are the Supreme Court's orders. The Supreme Court is supreme," he said. The Supreme Court verdict may have brought the case back to the spotlight but the BJP has decided to tread cautiously on the matter asking its leaders to downplay its import in public. Party president Amit Shah's direction to Union minister Arun Jaitley had to cancel her trip to Ayodhya hours after she announced it is a case in point, a party leader said. BJP was also quick to dismiss reports last night that Shah had spoken to Advani. Union minister Arun Jaitley had on Wednesday said that the case has been going on since

We believe in the innocence of our important leaders, including Advani ji and Joshi ji... They have been facing trial and they will face trial in terms of process of law

1993 and that no new situation has arisen. "So the situation which was prevailing will continue," he had told newsmen. Jaitley had also virtually ruled out resignation of Bharti from the government following the court order and described as "hypothetical" the possibility of the ruling having any bearing in selection of candidates for presidential and vice presidential polls. While the saffron outfit would be happy with the Ram temple issue being pushed to the fore, it would not "jump the gun" on a matter decided by the apex court and let the issue rather pan out in courts. A daily trial to be completed in two years will suit its interest as the Hindutva issue will continue to simmer till the next Lok Sabha polls in 2019. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah, the party has shown its adeptness in blending its cultural agenda with that of development and has reaped rich harvest, most notably in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls. While it has not much to lose, the situation is different for Joshi and Advani, the latter in a twist of irony seeing his political future being dealt a body blow by an issue which made him a Hindutva icon in 90s as he led his party to an unprecedented electoral high by being re-elected in 2014. The two former party presidents, who are now out of the organisation's decision-making bodies and are members of 'margdarshak mandal' which has never met, have so far maintained a silence over the verdict.

AT A GLANCE

Nitish meets Sonia
NEW DELHI: Bihar chief minister and JD-U chief Nitish Kumar today met Congress President Sonia Gandhi here and is learnt to have advocated unity among Opposition parties to take on the BJP and NDA. JD-U also used the meeting to call for a joint opposition candidate for the election to the President's post and urged Gandhi to take the lead in the matter.

Apollo Gleneagles asked to submit report on Kuheli's treatment

KOLKATA, APRIL 20 /-/ The West Bengal Health Establishment Regulatory Commission today sought a report from Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals after parents of a baby who died there submitted a complaint alleging medical negligence against the medical establishment. "We have asked Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals' authority to submit reports in connection with the treatment of the baby. They have been asked to submit the report within 72 hours or as early as possible," Commission secretary Arshad Hassan Warsi said. Parents of four-month-old Baby Kuheli, Charabarty lodged a complaint with the Commission today, alleging medical negligence of part of the hospital as well as three

doctors. "The Commission will look into the report from the Apollo Gleneagles and depending on it we will take further action," another senior officer of the Commission said. The baby was transferred to Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals on Saturday last and died there on Wednesday morning. Her family members have alleged that medical negligence



by the hospital was responsible for it. The baby's parents also submitted a copy of their complaint to the state department of health and family welfare and met the director of health services Biswanjan Satpathy. "Our baby was not sick. We had taken her to Apollo Gleneagles for a morning. She was absolutely fine. Apollo Gleneagles and its doctors killed my baby. We want justice. We appeal to the chief minister to look into the matter," Shalu Chakravarty, another mother of the dead baby told newsmen. "They had lodged a complaint at Phoolbag Police Station yesterday against the hospital and the three doctors. I filed medical negligence in treating their baby."