

MEDIA CENTER IMAC

NEWS & WORLD

NEW DELHI, INDIA

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-11, 2015

www.mediacenterimac.com

INDIA'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Vol.1 No.01

Modi Has 4% Lead Over Nitish-Lalu in Votes

SACHIN SHUKLA, PATNA

The BJP-led alliance has a sizeable four percentage point lead over the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) in the upcoming Bihar state election - a largely bipolar contest - according to an exclusive opinion poll for The Times of India. Interestingly, there is this healthy lead for the challenger despite the survey showing respondents expressing a higher level of satisfaction with the performance of the state government led by Nitish Kumar than with the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.



Russia launches naval bombardment of targets in Syria

BASANT SAINI, WASHINGTON

Russia launched a naval bombardment Wednesday of ISIS targets in Syria, a senior Russian official said, ramping up a newly muscular presence in the Middle East.

Four Russian ships fired 26 missiles into Syria, hitting 11 targets, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin during a televised meeting.

Shoigu said the strikes were launched from the Caspian Sea using precise long-range missiles that flew 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) to their targets.

MEDIA CENTER IMAC

NEWS & WORLD

NEW DELHI, INDIA

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-11, 2015

www.mediacentrimac.com

INDIA'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Vol.1 No.01

INDIAN MAID'S HAND CHOPPED OFF IN SAUDI, GOVT CALLS IT UNACCEPTABLE



The family of a 55-year-old Indian woman, working as a domestic help in Saudi Arabia, has alleged her right hand was chopped off by her employer, with external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Friday describing the assault as “unacceptable”. Kashturi Munirathinam’s hand was allegedly chopped off on the intervening night of September 29-30 when she tried to escape harassment and torture, said her sister S Vijayakumari.

On Friday, Swaraj tweeted the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia was in touch with Munirathinam. “Chopping of hand of Indian lady – We are very much disturbed over the brutal manner in which Indian lady has been treated in Saudi Arabia,” she tweeted. “This is unacceptable. We have taken this up with Saudi authorities.”

SC seeks response from Centre and Delhi on toddlers' plea to ban crackers

Insert
Picture
Here

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Centre, Delhi government and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on three toddlers' petition seeking ban on bursting of crackers this Diwali, saying its fumes would turn the Capital's already critically polluted air poisonous.

A bench of Chief Justice H L Dattu and Justices Arun Mishra and Adarsh Goel sought responses from the governments and CPCB in a week but brushed aside repeated pleas from senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A M Singhvi and K K Venugopal for an interim stay on bursting of crackers.

Manohar Parrikar to discuss women fighter pilots plan

IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha on Thursday said that women will soon be able to fly combat fighter planes . He said this after reviewing the parade and flypast on IAF's 83rd anniversary at Hindon airbase on the outskirts of New Delhi. The IAF's proposal will be discussed at a meeting called by defence minister Manohar Parrikar with the

three Service chiefs next week. Till now, the Indian political leadership and military brass were stridently opposed to deploying women in combat roles, holding the country was not ready to deal with the grim possibility of its women being taken PoWs, tortured or raped in times of conflict.

MEA denies info through RTI on Netaji 'war criminal' query

KOLKATA: The ministry of external affairs has ducked for cover to avoid "lethal" queries on the status of 'war criminal' tag given to Netaji by the Allied Powers in World War II.

In response to an RTI application from Bengaluru-based freelance journalist Choodamani Nagendra, MEA has cited a clause in the RTI Act 2005 to deny information on Netaji. In the RTI application, Nagendra had asked six questions, all of them related to the 'war criminal' tag on Netaji. She wanted to know what efforts the Indian government had taken to remove Bose's name as war criminal from United Nations Organization records

National war memorial: For 68 years, an idea in the works.



NEW DELHI: On Wednesday, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal for the construction of a national war memorial at India Gate. If all goes according to plan, the memorial, along with a war museum, will come up at Princess Park near India Gate in the next five years. The Cabinet clearance is the closest the country has got to getting a national war memorial for its soldiers who have, since Independence, laid their lives while defending its frontiers. It's a long pending proposal, almost as old as Independent India, and an emotive one too. Nobody understands this better than political parties who have used the demand for a war memorial as an election-time leverage, along with the One-Rank One-Pension demand.

Cotton Crop Failure: Punjab protests extended by 2 days, 75 trains cancelled



Farmers protest on the railway tracks at Rampura Phul in Bathinda on Thursday. Gurmeet Singh Rail traffic will continue to be hit as farmers on Thursday decided to extend their rail roko for two more days, while also planning to block roads in a few districts of Punjab. Around 75 trains were cancelled on Thursday, the second day of the farmers' protest, while 24 had to be diverted

J&K: MLA Engineer Rashid's supporters detained during march to Assembly

Supporters of independent MLA Sheikh Abdul Rashid were today detained as he led a march towards Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to protest against the alleged "sabotaging" of the bill against beef ban. Rashid along with his supporters assembled near Exhibition Crossing, near the civil secretariat here, and shouted slogans against the PDP-BJP government.

Gorakhpur forgets Premchand on his 79th death anniversary

Insert
Picture
Here

GORAKHPUR: Gorakhpur forgot one of its most illustrious citizen Munshi Premchand on Thursday. Not a single event was organized in memory of the most famous Hindi writer, who had passed away in Varanasi on October 8, 1936 at the age of 56. In his short life, he had penned over 14 novels and 300 short stories in Hindi and Urdu. Munshi Premchand had a long and vital connection with Gorakhpur and the city formed the centre stage of most of his writings. Encouraged by Mahatma Gandhi's speech at Bale Ka Maidan in the city, he quit government job in 1921 to join the freedom struggle

Metro will come to Nagpur for a price

NAGPUR: Most Nagpurians are excited over the metro rail but this ambitious project will come at a cost to them. Other than 1 per cent increase in stamp duty on property transactions, the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (NMRCL) is also seeking to levy a 10 per cent surcharge on property tax charged by Nagpur Municipal Corporation. It also wants to charge 10 per cent tax on premium of balcony, passage or stairs. Proposals in this regard will be sent to the urban development ministry.

Insert
Picture
Here

Two CoBRA jawans injured in gun-battle with naxals

RAIPUR: Two CoBRA jawans were on Thursday injured in a fierce gunbattle between security forces and naxals in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district, police said. The skirmish occurred in the restive Tetri forests under Bhejji police station limits when a squad of CRPF's elite battalion-CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) was carrying out an anti-naxal operation in the region, Sukma additional superintendent of police, Santosh Singh, said.

Insert
Picture
Here

Gorakhpur forgets Premchand on his 79th death anniversary

Insert
Picture
Here

GORAKHPUR: Gorakhpur forgot one of its most illustrious citizen Munshi Premchand on Thursday. Not a single event was organized in memory of the most famous Hindi writer, who had passed away in Varanasi on October 8, 1936 at the age of 56. In his short life, he had penned over 14 novels and 300 short stories in Hindi and Urdu. Munshi Premchand had a long and vital connection with Gorakhpur and the city formed the centre stage of most of his writings. Encouraged by Mahatma Gandhi's speech at Bale Ka Maidan in the city, he quit government job in 1921 to join the freedom struggle

Metro will come to Nagpur for a price

NAGPUR: Most Nagpurians are excited over the metro rail but this ambitious project will come at a cost to them. Other than 1 per cent increase in stamp duty on property transactions, the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (NMRCL) is also seeking to levy a 10 per cent surcharge on property tax charged by Nagpur Municipal Corporation. It also wants to charge 10 per cent tax on premium of balcony, passage or stairs. Proposals in this regard will be sent to the urban development ministry.

Insert
Picture
Here

Two CoBRA jawans injured in gun-battle with naxals

RAIPUR: Two CoBRA jawans were on Thursday injured in a fierce gunbattle between security forces and naxals in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district, police said. The skirmish occurred in the restive Tetri forests under Bhejji police station limits when a squad of CRPF's elite battalion-CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) was carrying out an anti-naxal operation in the region, Sukma additional superintendent of police, Santosh Singh, said.

Insert
Picture
Here

Gorakhpur forgets Premchand on his 79th death anniversary

GORAKHPUR: Gorakhpur forgot one of its most illustrious citizen Munshi Premchand on Thursday. Not a single event was organized in memory of the most famous Hindi writer, who had passed away in Varanasi on October 8, 1936 at the age of 56. In his short life, he had penned over 14 novels and 300 short stories in Hindi and Urdu. Munshi Premchand had a long and vital connection with Gorakhpur and the city formed the centre stage of most of his writings. Encouraged by Mahatma Gandhi's speech at Bale Ka Maidan in the city, he quit government job in 1921 to join the freedom struggle

Two CoBRA jawans injured in gun-battle with naxals

RAIPUR: Two CoBRA jawans were on Thursday injured in a fierce gunbattle between security forces and naxals in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district, police said. The skirmish occurred in the restive Tetri forests under Bhejji police station limits when a squad of CRPF's elite battalion-CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) was carrying out an anti-naxal operation in the region, Sukma additional superintendent of police, Santosh Singh, said.



Insert
Picture
Here

Metro will come to Nagpur for a price

NAGPUR: Most Nagpurians are excited over the metro rail but this ambitious project will come at a cost to them. Other than 1 per cent increase in stamp duty on property transactions, the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (NMRCL) is also seeking to levy a 10 per cent surcharge on property tax charged by Nagpur Municipal Corporation. It also wants to charge 10 per cent tax on premium of balcony, passage or stairs. Proposals in this regard will be sent to the urban development ministry.

Security concerns trump diplomacy

New Delhi's decision to highlight the atrocities by Pakistani forces in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and in Balochistan, as reported by this newspaper, is a clear departure from past practice. The difference can be gauged by comparing the strong reactions six years ago to the previous Indian government's acceptance of Balochistan in the Sharm el-Sheikh statement, with how the Ministry of External Affairs now openly accepts in the context of Balochistan that India "is home to persecuted people everywhere". Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Baloch Liberation Organisation — that faces a barrage of charges in Pakistan — has been speaking freely at public meetings in Delhi. Coming as they do a week after India highlighted suppression of protests and atrocities in PoK, these meetings make it clear that the government is on the "front-foot", as officials have indicated, and that it intends to use PoK and Balochistan to counter Pakistan's persistent allegations of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. These allegations have been particularly sharp over the last year, perhaps owing to Islamabad's discomfort over the progress India has made in pushing for a seat in the UN Security Council. It remains to be seen whether New Delhi's new tack will help tone down Pakistan's position on J&K. Or will it only serve to highlight international issues that India has preferred to keep in the bilateral space so far, and to flag Pakistan's outrageous allegations that India is responsible for terrorist acts on its soil? In any case, with this turn of events, India-Pakistan relations, which have remained at a low ebb for decades, are worsening. Diplomacy is the loser.



Insert
Picture
Here

What is perhaps more significant is that the government's new policy indicates the growing space ceded to India's security establishment in the external relations sphere.

By engaging in a "spy-vs-spy" and "tit-for-tat" engagement, and seeking to answer Pakistan's false claims on J&K with a series of counter-allegations, New Delhi has only stooped to the level of the neighbour that it seeks to contain. India's actions have included the handing out of videos, and leaking of details from dossiers of wanted criminals and terrorists under investigation.