

# Supreme Court dismissal of Public Interest Litigation against Pune Police disappointing: Popular Front

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3,

Popular Front of India Chairman E. Abubacker has in a statement expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court judgment that allowed Pune Police to continue their fishy investigation against prominent activists Gautam Navalakha, Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves linking

them with Bhima Koregaon violence under the draconian provisions of UAPA. The majority judgment of the Supreme Court seems to have taken the narrative of Pune Police at face value despite the existence of ample evidence against it and dismissed genuine concerns raised in the Public Interest Litigation filed by Romila Thapar, Devika Jain, Satish Deshpande, Prabhat Patnaik and Maja Daruwalla. It is

quite unfortunate that SC failed to see the systematic attempts being made in the country to quell democratic dissent by those in power by using police and right wing goons. Pune Police had used unconstitutional ways including fabricating evidence and character assassination and manipulation of media against the activists. Yet, strangely, the court rejected the request to move the investigation to

an SIT. It is tantamount to giving impunity to Pune Police. E. Abubacker also questioned the use of UAPA in the case. Laws like UAPA are a blemish in a democratic society. Since its provisions strip the accused of their fundamental rights and gives excess power to police, it is widely misused in the country to suppress dissent. Studies show that majority of the UAPA cases end in acquittals.

# Assam Citizenship Act: JD(U) set to back AGP opposition to Bill BJP supports

Agency  
New Delhi Oct. 3,

The Janata Dal (United) has pledged its support to the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) on the issue of the party's opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which has set the regional party against ruling alliance partner BJP in Assam. Introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2016, the Bill is currently with a Joint Parliamentary Committee. It is likely to be taken up during the Winter Session of Parliament. The Bill envisages crucial changes in Citizenship Act, 1955, making undocumented immigrants — Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs,

Jains and Parsis from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh — who had come to India before December 31, 2014, eligible for grant of citizenship. An eight-member AGP delegation had met Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar in Patna over the weekend and sought the party's support against passage of the Bill. JD(U) secretary-general K C Tyagi, who was present in the meeting, told The Indian Express, "Nitishji told the AGP leaders, 'we are with you.'" If carried through, the Bill would facilitate settlement of Hindu immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and

Bangladesh in Assam and other north-eastern states. "This would lead to a demographic change in the entire region," he said. Tyagi said the JD(U) national executive, at a meeting held here on July 8, had adopted a resolution opposing the Bill by describing it as a clear threat to indigenous languages and culture of Assam. About the BJP and AGP having divergent views on the Bill, Tyagi said, "Yes...but one has to understand that even while we (JD-U) agree with BJP on many issues, we disagree with them on many other matters. We have had independent relations with many parties such as the AGP

and the Akali Dal for decades." The AGP delegation was led by party president and Assam's Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and former CM Prafulla Kumar Mahanta. The team gave Nitish a memorandum which states, "We solicit your kind cooperation both inside and outside Parliament...so that the Bill cannot get through Parliament." The Assam ruling alliance comprises the BJP (with 61 seats), AGP (14) and Bodoland People's Front (12). While the government will not fall even if the AGP pulls out, at a broader level it is felt that the BJP cannot afford losing allies ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections.

# State Bank of India lowers ATM cash withdrawal limit ahead of festive season

Source: The Economic Times  
Mumbai, Oct. 3,

The State Bank of India (SBI) has lowered the ATM cash

withdrawal limit to Rs 20,000 a day, from Rs 40,000. The lower limit will be effective from October 31, in view of spurt in fraudulent transactions at ATMs and to encourage digital and cashless transactions. SBI has directed all its branches to display the message on notice boards. The State Bank of India (SBI) has lowered the ATM cash withdrawal limit to Rs 20,000 a day, from Rs 40,000. According to a report, the lower limit will be effective from October 31, in view of spurt in fraudulent transactions at ATMs and to encourage digital and cashless transactions. A bank communiqué to offices told Economic Times, "In view of the increase in the number of complaints received by banks around fraudulent transactions at ATMs and to encourage digital and cashless transactions, it has been decided to decrease the cash withdrawal limits of debit cards issued or being issued on 'Classic' and 'Maestro' platforms." Skimmers, as reported in multiple cases in the past decade, steal the PIN for debit cards from unsuspecting customers using hidden cameras and electronic devices. The Classic cards constitute a sizeable chunk of SBI's card portfolio. The restriction on cash withdrawals comes weeks before the festival season. Despite the government's digital push and rise in digital transactions, the demand for cash continues to be high and, according to some estimates, it is as high as pre-



demonetisation levels. Asked whether this could cause any inconvenience, SBI managing director PK Gupta said, "Our internal analysis shows most actual withdrawals are of smaller amounts. So, Rs 20,000 should be adequate for most customers. We are trying to see whether smaller withdrawals could minimize frauds." He said customers with a requirement for more can ask for card variants that offer higher withdrawal limits. Such cards are issued to those keeping a higher minimum balance in their bank accounts. According to a person in the payments technology industry, debit card users are most gullible when it comes to card frauds. "Information such as the PIN is not just stolen at ATMs," he said. "In fact, I would say (this also happens at) point of sale terminals in merchant outlets and also by some people carrying mobile card swipe devices. Many debit cards still follow the magnetic stripe

technology and are comparatively more prone to frauds. Only for international debit cards is the transition to chip-based technology taking place." Smaller cities are driving credit card growth of some of the large banks, with cardholders outside the top 10 cities accounting for 40-45% of spending. As per Banking Codes & Standards Board of India (BCSBI) guidelines, at least 30 days' notice has to be given to customers for any change in terms and conditions or charges. SBI has directed all its branches to display the message on notice boards. Meanwhile, people's demand for cash continues to head northwards, despite the frequency of digital transactions going up. A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data in April 2018 revealed that people's demand for cash was 7 percent higher at Rs 18.25 trillion at the end of April compared to Rs 17 trillion at the beginning of November 2016.

# Seminar on 'The Relevance Of Gandhiji's Non-Violence Today' Held At Rajbhavan

DIPR  
Imphal, October 3,

Commemorating the 149<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, a one day seminar was held at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal yesterday. The seminar entitled 'The Relevance of Gandhiji's Non-Violence Today' was organised by Raj Bhavan, Imphal in collaboration with Department of Education (S), Government of Manipur.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of function, Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla said, 149 years ago, the parents of Mahatma Gandhi may not have realised that one day he will become the Father of the Nation and a 'Mahatma', Mahatma Gandhi. She stated that students must have come across the vital role played by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle. Although there were many brave freedom fighters that fought against the British in their own way, Mahatma Gandhi devise a unique way in his fight against the British in a non-violent manner which achieved every success. His Salt Satyagraha was a unique and non violent movement which shook the mighty British Empire. The path taken by Mahatma Gandhi was not an easy path and many a times he and his associates were brutally beaten by the British soldiers but he continued his agitation without retaliating with Himsa (violence). Mahatma Gandhi used his very strong weapon of non-violence and taught us the path of Truth, Peace and Swadeshi. He launched Swadeshi movement across the then India boycotting the foreign made clothes and gave a new vision to the people using cotton weaving with the Charkha, she added.

Recounting her recent participation in khadi movement in Delhi in connection with Birth Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, the Governor stated that the khadi movement is not only symbolic but has its own significance. By getting everyone involved in weaving their own clothes, he united the different section of the society like the tana- bana of khadi. Stating that every thing, every action of Mahatma Gandhi has its significance she said today we breathe in a free India. Everytime we relook and revisit Gandhiji's movement, his teachings, we find a new message each time. She further said that today



there are different kinds of challenges and still have certain menaces within our societies. They are not foreign enemies, but are enemies within ourselves. There are people trying to create differences on the basis of caste, creed, religion and language. Gandhiji brought everybody under one flag, our Tiranga (tricolour flag). He removed the most heinous practice of untouchability and went to live in the Dalit colonies. His contribution towards women is immense as he brought women into the forefront during freedom struggle. In today's India, women have equal right with the men. There are many legislations passed against atrocities against women and children but still we come across atrocities against women and children, so we have to go back to look at Gandhiji's teachings and try to see if Gandhiji was alive today, what he would have taught us to do.

his first address to the nation, spoke on Swachhta, cleanliness, for everyone and those who suffered would have solely appreciated his words. She further added that Swachhta does not confine not only to the environment but also within ourselves, it is in our thinking and how we think about other people. Governor further added that Gandhiji was against poverty. Taking advantage of the interaction and discussion of the seminar, she said, the young minds can also question and put forward their views and say what kind of India they want for them and for their future tradition. She added that from the seminar the students should try to understand and to see how relevant Mahatma Gandhi to the people of the country. Today Mahatma Gandhi stands among the top leaders of the world. We should not only be proud that he was an Indian but also be proud that we are following the path that Mahatma Gandhi has shown to all of us, she said. Dr. N. Nalini Devi, Associate Professor, Department of History, GP Women College, Dr. K. Indrakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, GP Women College, Dr. Homen Thangjam, and students spoke in length at the seminar. Professor S. Mangi, Department of Political Science, Manipur University was the moderator of the seminar. Officials of Department of Education(S), Headmasters, Headmistress and students of different schools took part in the seminar. After the technical session, the film 'Making of the Mahatma' directed Shyam Benegal was also screened.

# Orthopaedic doctors to conduct media OPD clinic

By NJ Thakuria  
Guwahati, Oct. 3,

Two experienced Orthopaedic doctors from Apollo Hospitals will conduct this week's media OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club. Dr Navaladi Shankar and Dr Ram Bathi from the Chennai based hospital will be available for free consultation to media persons from 4.30 to 6.30 pm on 6 October (Saturday) next. Organized under the series of 'Evening with a Doctor' programs for the benefit of press club members along with their close relatives, the camp has been supported by Down Town Hospitals, GNRC Hospitals, Dispur Hospital, Ayursundra Hospital, Wintrobe Hospital, Health City Hospital, Nemicare Hospital, Excelcare Hospital, Sun Valley Hospital, Narayana Hospitals, Swagat Hospital, Barthakur Clinic etc. Journalists of other States, who are eventually in the city may also participate in the camp and take the advantage along with their family members, said a statement issued by the press club adding that there is no registration (or any other) fee.

She added that Gandhiji was against the use of alcohol and other intoxicants. Today people not only drink but drugs are also becoming common, especially among the youths. We need awareness among the youths to the harm it brings to human health as well in the family. The menace of drugs and psychotropic drugs is another menace to the life and health of the people. Expressing her happiness on learning that Manipur has got the Open Defecation Free status, she said that we should be proud of this achievement. She said that as the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in



Staffs of Directorate of Information and Public Relations celebrated the 149<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by conducting a social service at the DIPR Keishampat and Moirangkhom office complex yesterday.