

International Gandhi Peace Prize not awarded since 2014

NEW DELHI, OCT 2/-—As the country celebrates the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Tuesday, the annual International Gandhi Peace Prize, named after Father of the Nation, has not been conferred for the last four years.

An official of the Ministry of Culture, the nodal agency which receives proposals for conferring the award, said nominations were made during the last four years for the coveted award, but an approval has been awaited. "The nominations are there, but it is difficult to say why it has been delayed," official sources said.

As a tribute to the ideals espoused by Gandhi, the Government of India launched the International Gandhi Peace Prize in 1995 on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary. Last time, the

award was conferred in 2014 to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods. The award carries Rs 1 crore (10 million) in cash, convertible in any currency in the world, a plaque and a citation.

The honour is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, creed or gender. A jury consisting of the Prime Minister of India, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India and two other eminent persons decide the awardee each year. The jury considers such proposals as have been received by the office of the Ministry of Culture up to

April 30 of that year for which the award is to be given. Official sources said ordinarily, proposals coming from competent persons, if, however, it is considered that none of the proposals merit recognition, the jury is free to withhold the award for that year.

Only achievements within 10 years immediately preceding the nomination are considered for the award; an older work may, however, be considered if its significance has not become apparent in the written work, and to be eligible for consideration, should have been published. The

first recipient of the award was Julius K Nyerere, former President of Tanzania in 1995, and in the next year A T Ariyaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka was conferred with the award. In 1997, Gerhard Fischer of Germany received the award.

Rama Krishan Mission was selected for the award in 1998 and in 1999. Baba Amte has also received the prestigious award. The award was jointly given in 2000 to Nelson Mandela and Grameen Bank of Bangladesh.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu won the award in 2005. After a gap of eight years in 2013, Chandni Prasad Bhatt, noted environmentalist associated with Chipko Movement, received the award. (PTI)



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Triendra Singh Rawat paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, on his 150th birth anniversary in Dehradun on Tuesday

REVISED SEVA SUCHNAYAIN

All the sailings are subject to weather conditions

HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
• MV Dering will sail for Havelock on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 0600 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Havelock.
• MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Neil Island on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV North Passage will sail for Neil Island on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Havelock.

BARATANG
• MV Chouldari will sail for Baratang on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 0530 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair at 1500 Hrs from Baratang.
• MV Chouldari will sail for Havelock on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 0900 Hrs from Baratang Jetty and will sail for Baratang at 1130 Hrs from Havelock

RANGAT
• MV Rani Changa will sail for Rangat via Neil, Havelock, Strait Island and Long Island on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 0615 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0615 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

HUT BAY
• MV Coral Queen will sail for Hut Bay on 03.10.2018 (Wed) at 2100 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0900 Hrs from Hut Bay.

**04.10.2018 (THURSDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND**
• MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
• MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Neil Island on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Neil Island on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Havelock on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Havelock.
• MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

BARATANG
• MV Chouldari will sail for Baratang on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0530 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair at 1500 Hrs from Baratang.
• MV Chouldari will sail for Havelock on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0900 Hrs from Baratang Jetty and will sail for Baratang at 1130 Hrs from Havelock

HUT BAY
• MV Sentinel will sail for Hut Bay on 04.10.2018 (Thu) at 0615 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Hut Bay. Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels scheduled on 02nd, 03rd & 4th Oct 2018 will be issued to the general public on 01.10.2018 (Mon) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Counters & CSC.

**05.10.2018 (FRIDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND**
• MV Dering will sail for Havelock on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0600 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Havelock. The above sailing is purely subject to fair weather conditions.
• MV Rani Changa will sail for Neil Island on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV North Passage will sail for Neil Island on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.
• MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Havelock.

BARATANG
• MV Chouldari will sail for Baratang on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0530 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair at 1500 Hrs from Baratang.
• MV Chouldari will sail for Havelock on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0900 Hrs from Baratang Jetty and will sail for Baratang at 1130 Hrs from Havelock

RANGAT
• MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Rangat via Havelock and Long Island on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1300 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

HUT BAY
• MV Coral Queen will sail for Hut Bay on 05.10.2018 (Fri) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2200 Hrs.

Man's body found hanging in Kota forest, suicide suspected

KOTA (Raj), OCT 2/-—The body of a 24-year-old man was on Tuesday found hanging from a high tension electric pole in the forest area in Kota's Rojodi village, police said. On the basis of preliminary investigation, police suspect it to be a case of suicide. However, no suicide note was recovered from the possession of the man. The body of Rakesh Gujar, a resident of Rojodi village, was found hanging this morning, said Subhakar Singh, the Duty Officer at the R K Puram police station in Kota. The man had left home Monday evening after a brawl with his wife but did not return home. Singh said, adding the passersby spotted the body the next morning and informed the police. "The reason behind the extreme step by the youth is yet to be ascertained," he said, adding the body was handed over to the family members after postmortem. A case under Section 174 (unnatural death) was lodged in this connection and further investigation is on. In another incident, the body of an elderly man, who was missing since Monday (October 1), was recovered from a stepwell in neighbouring Bundl.

The body of 65-year-old Onkar Lal Goud, a resident of Hindoli town of Bundi district, was recovered this noon from a stepwell at a Lord Shiv temple in the town. Goud's family members had filed a missing report in Hindoli police station, Hindoli police station SHO Laxman Singh said. It is not yet ascertained how the old man reached the temple and slipped into stepwell, the SHO said. (PTI)

Oppn slams Govt over police action against farmers

NEW DELHI, OCT 2/-—Opposition parties on Tuesday put the blame on the Modi government for what they described as "brutal police action" against thousands of farmers marching towards the national capital, with the Congress alleging that the "Badshah of Delhi" Sultanate was drunk with power.

The parties accused the central government of being 'anti-farmer' and demanded allowing the protesters to enter Delhi to peacefully air their grievances, even as the government went into a huddle to mull over ways to convince the farmers to call off their protest.

Farmers stayed put on the Delhi-UP border in Ghaziabad and other places, where they were stopped by the police including with the use of water cannons and tear gas shells. Some reports suggested use of lathi-charge as well. The protest call has been given by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) over demands ranging from farm loan waiver to cut in fuel prices. The farmers, riding tractors and trolleys, broke barricades of the UP Police and then started proceeding towards the barricades put up by the Delhi Police.

Tear gas was also used to disperse the crowd, officials said. Reacting to the development, Congress president Gandhi Tuesday accused the BJP for "brutal beatings" of farmers at the Delhi border on the International Day of Non-Violence and said that they cannot even air their grievances in the national capital. "On International Day of Non-Violence, the BJP's two-year Gandhi Jayanti celebrations began

with the brutal beating of farmers peacefully coming to Delhi. Now, the farmers cannot even air the grievances coming to the capital!" he tweeted in Hindi.

The Congress Working Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party which held its meeting in Maharashtra, also adopted a resolution strongly condemning the police action against the farmers. Condemning the police action, Congress spokesman

Cong says 'Badshah' drunk with power

Randeep Singh Surjewala said if the Centre can write off huge debt of a few industrialists why it could not waive the loans of farmers.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he alleged that "arrogance has gone to his head". "Instead of hearing them out, farmers are brutalised and beaten up. The Badshah in the Delhi Sultanate is drunk with power," the Congress leader alleged.

The BJP for "brutal police action" against the farmers, Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "We strongly condemn this action against the farmers."

Modi government has backtracked on all its promises made to farmers. This anger and protest is not bothering the Modi government," he said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav also extended his party's support to the protesting farmers and alleged the farm community has been hit hard by the rising fuel prices, as well as due to the decisions like the GST rollout and demonetisation. "The farmers have come out in support of their various demands... If we look at things, in the past over four years, almost 50,000 farmers have committed suicide, mostly in BJP-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh," Yadav said.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) also condemned the agitating farmers. "The farmers who were on a peaceful march towards the national capital under the banner of BKU raising their genuine demands including waiver of loans were stopped by police at the border and beaten up on a day when the nation is celebrating the birth anniversary of the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi," the party said in a statement.

The Left-affiliated All India Kisan Sabha also condemned the police "brutality" on protesting farmers and slammed the government over the issue.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that preventing a protest march of farmers from entering

the national capital was "wrong" and pitched for allowing them entry into the city. "Why are the farmers being stopped from entering Delhi. It is wrong. Delhi belongs to all. They should be given entry in Delhi. We support their demands," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event held at the Delhi assembly to mark Gandhi Jayanti. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav said that by discarding the Swaminathan committee report, the Modi government has stabbed the farmers in the back. "Modi, though farmers, unlike capitalists, cannot fill your pockets,"

but at least don't get them beaten up. If you would have seen poverty, you would not have committed so many atrocities on farmers," he tweeted in Hindi. The Delhi Police had on Monday imposed prohibitory orders in east and northeast Delhi, anticipating law and order problems as thousands of BKU members were marching from Haridwar to reach the national capital. Seeking to convince the farmers to move back from their protest, the government announced that a committee of chief ministers will look into their demands, but the protesters stayed put saying they were not "satisfied" with the assurance.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh held discussions with Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh and a few others to discuss the farmers' issue, after which Union Minister of State for Agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat met the protesters to assure them that their demands will be looked into. (PTI)

Oppn can't oppose Ram temple: Bhagwat

HARIDWAR, OCT 2/-—RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said even opposition parties cannot openly oppose a Ram temple in Ayodhya as the deity is revered by the country's majority.

At a function held at Patanjali Yogpeeth on Tuesday, Bhagwat said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party are committed to constructing a Ram temple in Ayodhya but certain things take time. He said it's important who occupies the seat of power and a government making a good job should remain in office.

Every government has its limitations and has to perform within those constraints. However, saints and seers are beyond such limitations and they should work for the uplift of religion, country and society. "Even opposition parties cannot openly oppose a Ram temple in Ayodhya as they are aware the deity is revered by a majority of Indians. But certain things take time," Bhagwat said. "Every government has its limitations but a government doing a good job should remain in power. It is important who occupies the seat of power," he said.

Ramdev said sadhus will succeed where ministers and the rich often fail. "The ministers and the rich must realise that saints and seers are more capable than them, that they can succeed where they often fail," the yoga guru said. (PTI)

Hazare puts off proposed hunger strike

RALEGAN SIDDHI (MAHA), OCT 2/-—Social activist Anna Hazare Tuesday put off his proposed hunger strike over demands including appointment of Lokpal, saying the government had taken certain steps that had shown a "ray of hope".

The 74-year-old anti-corruption crusader, however, warned that he would launch the protest on January 30, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, if the government failed to fulfil his demands.

Hazare had earlier said he would launch his agitation here in Maharashtra from Tuesday, marking the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, alleging that the government had not kept its word of taking "positive steps" as regards his demands after his protest at the Ramliya Maidan in New Delhi in March.

Maharashtra Minister Girish Mahajan, who

reached out to Hazare on behalf of the Centre and the state government, said the government had discussed in detail the demands raised by the activist and fulfilled the key points, as he urged the latter to call off the protest. "Some things seem to be on the plus side. The government has taken some steps towards (appointment of) Lokpal, Lokayukta and (declared) one-and-a-half times rates for farmers' produce... we see a ray of hope. Hence, I have decided to put off the protest (for now)," Hazare told reporters here.

He said though there was a "ray of hope", certain issues he had flagged remained unresolved. "Today is Gandhiji's birth anniversary and January 30 is his death anniversary. In case the issues remain unresolved, I would launch the protest on Gandhiji's death anniversary... and it would be a nationwide protest," Hazare said.

Besides the appointments of Lokpal and Lokayukta, Hazare has been demanding constitutional status for the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). He has also pitched for turning the CACP into an autonomous body.

Hazare has been demanding a fair price for the dairy farmers and implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. After his protest at the Ramliya Maidan in March, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had acted as an emissary of the Centre and said the NDA government had taken "positive

decisions" in response to the activist's demands.

The Swaminathan Commission was formed in 2004 to identify the problems of the farmers across the country and suggest solutions to those. It submitted five reports between December 2004 and October 2006, suggesting various steps to improve the agrarian situation.

Hazare, the face of the Lokpal movement, went on a 12-day hunger strike earlier in 2011. He had later launched a fast, which had garnered a huge support across the country. The then UPA government had later passed the Lokpal bill. (PTI)

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