

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 withheld. "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 invited to nominate are considered. However, a proposal is not taken as invalid for consideration by the jury merely on the ground of not having emanated 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 until recently. A written work, 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 Krishna Mission was selected for the award in 1998 and in 1999. Baba Amte has also held its meeting in Maharashtra. 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 Trivendra Singh Rawat paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, on his 150th birth anniversary in Dehradun on Tuesday

Hazare puts off proposed hunger strike

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

The 81-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 Ramliha 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, Lakshya and (decreased) 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 remain unresolved. "Today is Gandhi's birth anniversary and January 30 is his death anniversary. In case the issues remain unresolved, I would launch the protest on Gandhi'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 Delhi's Ramliha 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)

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 Monday, Bhagwat said the Rashtriya Swamsevaks 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 doing 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, the RSS chief said. "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 good 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)

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

KOTA (RAJ), OCT 2/- The body of a 24-year-old man was found hanging from a high tension electric pole in a forest area in Kota's Rajodi 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 Rajodi village, was found hanging this morning, said Sukhbeer Singh, the Duty Officer at the RK 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 crime 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 CrP Section 174 (unnatural death) was lodged in this connection and further investigation is in progress. In another incident, the body of an elderly man, who was missing since Monday (October 1), was recovered from a stepwell in neighbouring Bundi.

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 yet to be ascertained how the old man reached the temple and slipped into stepwell, the SHO said. (PTI)

SEVAGRAM (MAHA), OCT 2/- Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other senior party leaders participated in a prayer meeting at Sevagram Ashram here in Maharashtra Tuesday on the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Besides Rahul, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh and Congress

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) with 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 beating up" 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 air their 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

Cong says 'Badshah' drunk with power

the police action, Congress spokesman 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.

Hitting out at the police action against the farmers, Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "We strongly condemn this action and atrocities on farmers. This once

again demonstrates the anti-farmer attitude of the Modi government. "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. It's mostly in BJP ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh," Yadav said.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) also condemned the police action against 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 ji, 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 atrocious acts," he said. He also said that 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)

Rahul, Sonia, Manmohan attend prayer meet at Sevagram Ashram

SEVAGRAM (MAHA), OCT 2/- Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other senior party leaders participated in a prayer meeting at Sevagram Ashram here in Maharashtra Tuesday on the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Besides Rahul, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh and Congress

Working Committee members paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Babu Kuti, residence of the Father of the Nation during his last years. They were accompanied by senior All India Congress Committee (AICC) leaders Ashok Gehlot and Mallikarjun Kharge. Rahul planted a sapling in the ashram next to the tree which his father and former prime

minister late Rajiv Gandhi had planted on this day in 1986. This is the Congress chief's second visit to the ashram. He had earlier planted a sapling here on January 24, 2014. Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel said the party practised the politics of "s a d b h a v n a" (inclusiveness). "Paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi is not new for us. It is the BJP

which is remembering Gandhi and Sardar Patel now," he told reporters. The Congress leadership has converged in the Sevagram village, located around 10 km from Wardha district headquarters, to attend the meeting of the CWC, the highest decision-making body of the party, to be held here after more than 70 years. Holding the CWC meeting in Wardha has a lot of symbolism attached to it. "The preliminary deliberations of Individual Satyagraha were held in Sevagram in 1940. The CWC met in Sevagram and adopted the resolution on Quit India movement on July 14, 1942," a Congress leader said earlier. The Quit India movement was launched in Mumbai on August 8, 1942. (PTI)

KIDS CORNER



WordWheel No. 18

A	S	C	I
?			
I	S	T	

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 17: UMBRELLA

5x5 No. 18

C	U	S		
E	E			
U	I	E		
C	R	T		
T	N	T		

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 17 (Other combinations may be occasionally possible.)

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

Cornered

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

WORD BUILDER No. 18

P	S	N
D	E	C

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS
Good - 7 Excellent - 9 Amazing - 10
SOLUTION 17: ate, are, ear, earl, earn, era, lane, lawn, sea, learn, learn, rail, ran, real, teal