



A QUINTESSENTIAL  
MAN

P6



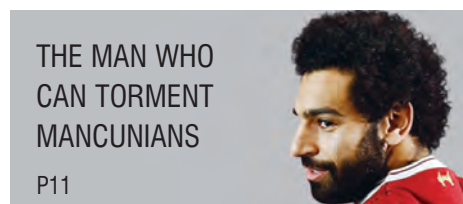
'LAND THE  
BIGGEST TREASURE  
FOR INDIA'

P7



PM PLEDGES FULL  
SUPPORT TO BJP  
GOVT IN TRIPURA

P2



THE MAN WHO  
CAN TORMENT  
MANCUNIAN

P11

SENSEX 33,307.14 -44.43 | NIFTY 10,226.85 -15.80 | ₹ vs \$ 65.17 -3 PAISE | GOLD 29,310.00 -90.00 | SILVER 38,500.00 00.00 | BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 64.20 +0.59

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be 35-22 degree celsius, respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 77% Min. 24%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.5°C (+2) Min: 20.6°C (-1)

SUN RISES

05:50 hrs

SUN SETS

17:44 hrs

MOON RISES

00:29 hrs

MOON SETS

11:43 hrs

First moon quarter on 13 March

## THUMBNAILS



**Mid Shami booked:** Kolkata Police booked Md Shami and four others after his wife Hasin Jahan lodged a complaint of domestic violence and infidelity against the cricketer. The case was registered under sec 307 (attempt to murder), 498-A (subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 376 (punishment for rape).

P13

**Girl student stabbed to death near Chennai college:** A 19-year-old girl student of a private college was stabbed to death by a man in full public view near the institution in Chennai on Friday, police said. M Ashwini, who was studying B.Com, died on the spot as the assailant stabbed her with a knife after a quarrel.

**RBI slaps Rs 5 crore on Airtel Payments Bank for violating KYC norms:** The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Airtel Payments Bank for violating operating guidelines and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. The fine was imposed after the RBI scrutinised the bank's documents.

P8

**Stiff US Import duties:** US President Donald Trump on Friday imposed hefty tariffs on imported steel and aluminium, citing national security concerns and the need to protect American industries from "unfair" business practices, triggering fears of a global trade war. Trump signed two proclamations.

P10

**Banks' gross NPAs:** The gross NPAs of all the banks in the country amounted to Rs 8,40,958 crore in December, led by industry loans followed by services and agriculture sectors, govt said. Gross NPAs or bad loans of scheduled commercial banks as on Dec 31, 2017 due to loans to industry were at Rs 6,09,222 cr.

P8

## Trump agrees to meet Kim to ease nuclear tension



AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, 9 MARCH

US President Donald Trump today said he has agreed to meet North Korea's top leader Kim Jong-Un by May, setting the stage for a historic summit between the two leaders who have repeatedly traded insults amid spiralling tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes. Speaking outside the White House after briefing Trump, South Korean National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong said he had passed on a message that Chairman Kim was "committed to denuclearisation" and had "pledged that North Korea will refrain from any further nuclear or missile tests". The White House said Trump had agreed to the proposed face-to-face meeting. "He will accept the invitation to meet with

Kim Jong-Un at a place and time to be determined," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders.

The announcement came amid months of tension between the two adversaries. If the meeting takes place, it would be the first ever between leaders of the two countries. Trump himself confirmed the meeting in a tweet, adding that US sanctions would remain in place until a denuclearisation deal was achieved.

"Kim Jong-Un talked about denuclearisation with the South Korean Representatives, not just a freeze. Also, no missile testing by North Korea during this period of time. Great progress being made but sanctions will remain until an agreement is reached. Meeting being planned," Trump tweeted. North Korea last year increased the pace of its missile programme.

## Passive euthanasia now legal

SC allows terminally-ill patient or person in persistent vegetative state to execute living will

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 9 MARCH

In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court today recognised that a terminally-ill patient or a person in persistent vegetative state can execute an "advance medical directive" or a "living will" to refuse medical treatment, saying the right to live with dignity also includes "smoothening" the process of dying.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra observed that the failure to legally recognise advance medical directives may amount to "non-facilitation" of the right to smoothen the dying process and the dignity in that process was also a part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The apex court laid down principles relating to the procedure for execution of advance directive or 'living will' and spelt out guidelines and safeguards to give effect to passive euthanasia in both circumstances, that is where there are advance directives and where there are none.

"The directive and guidelines shall remain in force till Parliament brings a legislation in the field," CJ Misra, writing the judgement for himself and Jus-

tice A M Khanwilkar, said. The other three judges of the bench - Justices A K Sikri, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan - penned separate concurring verdicts in the combined judgement running into 538 pages.

Justice Chandrachud, writing a separate 134-page verdict, said that life and death were "inseparable" and it was necessary for the court to recognise that dignity of citizens continues to be safeguarded by the Constitution even when the "life is seemingly lost and questions about our own mortality confront us in the twilight of existence".

"Dignity in the process of dying is as much a part of the right to life under Article 21. To deprive an individual of dignity towards the end of life is to deprive the individual of a meaningful existence. Hence, the Constitution protects the legitimate expectation of every person to lead a life of dignity until death occurs," he said. In his 192-page judgement, the CJ noted that in case of a terminally-ill patient or a person in persistent vegetative state (PVS) where there was no hope of recovery, "accelerating the process of death for reducing the period of suffering constitutes a right to live with dignity".



The failure to legally recognise advance medical directives may amount to "non-facilitation" of the right to smoothen the dying process and the dignity in that process was also a part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

SC CONSTITUTION BENCH

Right to life and liberty as envisaged under Article 21 is "meaningless" unless it encompasses within its sphere the individual dignity, the CJ said, adding, "Though the sanctity of life has to be kept on the high pedestal yet in cases of terminally-ill persons or PVS patients where there is no hope for revival, priority shall be given to the advance directive and the right of self-determination."

Justice Sikri, who wrote a 112-page separate verdict, concurred with the directions given by the CJ and hoped that the Legislature would step in at the earliest and enact a comprehensive law on 'living will/advance directive' so that "there is a proper statutory regime to govern various aspects and nuances thereof which also take care of the apprehensions that are expressed against euthanasia." Writing a sep-

arate but concurring 100-page judgement, Justice Bhushan reiterated the conclusion arrived at in a 1996 judgement by a Constitution bench in the Gian Kaur case that the right to die with dignity is a fundamental right. "We declare that an adult human being having mental capacity to take an informed decision has the right to refuse medical treatment, including withdrawal from life-saving devices," Justice Bhushan said, adding that a person of "competent mental faculty" is entitled to execute an advance medical directive in accordance with the safeguards spelt out by the court.

The top court also held that when passive euthanasia as a "situational palliative measure becomes applicable", the best interest of the patient shall override the state interest.

The CJ said though

there was no legal framework in India as regards to the advance medical directive, the apex court was obliged to protect the right of the citizens enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution. "In our considered opinion, advance medical directive would serve as a fruitful means to facilitate the fruition of the sacrosanct right to life with dignity," he said.

"The said directive, we think, will dispel many a doubt at the relevant time of need during the course of treatment of the patient. That apart, it will strengthen the mind of the treating doctors as they will be in a position to ensure, after being satisfied, that they are acting in a lawful manner," the CJ said.

The apex court also laid down guidelines as to who could execute the advance directive and how, what should it contain, how should it be recorded and preserved, when and by whom can it be given effect to, what if permission is refused by the medical board and also in the event of revocation or inapplicability of advance directive.

The court also spelt the guidelines to be followed in cases where there would be no advance directive, saying that such persons cannot be "alienated".

## Pak court orders Musharraf's arrest

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, 9 MARCH

A special Pakistani tribunal has ordered the government to arrest former military ruler Pervez Musharraf and confiscate all his properties as it heard the high treason case against the "proclaimed offender" for imposing emergency rule in the country in 2007.

The 74-year-old former president was indicted in March, 2014 on treason charges for imposing emergency in the country which led to the confinement of a number of superior court judges in their houses and sacking of over 100 judges.

A three-member bench headed by Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Yahya Afridi held its first hearing in the case in eight months.

During the hearing, the interior ministry submitted in the court a report on Musharraf's properties, stating four of the seven



properties are owned by the former president, The Nation reported. Prosecutor Akram Sheikh asked the court to order Musharraf's arrest and his production. Musharraf, who left the country for Dubai in March 2016, was declared a proclaimed absconder by the court in May 2016.

A conviction for high treason carries the death penalty or life imprisonment. The court during yesterday's asked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials what the procedure is to bring back

an absconder from abroad. The officials replied the interior ministry should send them a request after which action could be taken. Afridi then said the court is ordering the arrest of Musharraf and seizure of his properties.

Musharraf's counsel, Akhtar Shah, prayed to the court not to order confiscation of Musharraf's properties until March 21, but Afridi remarked the court procedure cannot be violated. During the hearing, the court sought mutual legal assistance agreement with the UAE in the matter of his arrest from Dubai. The court over also expressed anger over non-receipt of details of his foreign properties even after 10 months.

The court questioned what problem lies with initiation of action in respect of his properties outside the country and why Interpol has not been contacted after issuance of warrants against him.

The court summoned Foreign Office and FIA authorities on the next hearing, besides seeking mutual legal assistance agreement with the UAE.

During the hearing, senior lawyer Farogh Naseem separated himself from Musharraf's legal team. Musharraf ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008.

He is wanted in Pakistan in several criminal cases including in the killing of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's political ambitions have received a boost after a top Pakistani court ordered the election commission to hear his party's case for registration ahead of this year's election.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) yesterday set aside a decision by the EC to reject the application of Jamaat-ud-Dawah's political front Milli Muslim League (MML) for registration as a political party.

## Karti's CBI custody extended

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 9 MARCH

A special court today gave the CBI three more days for custodial interrogation of Karti Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case, while Delhi High Court granted him relief, restraining ED from arresting him in a related money laundering case till March 20.

Though the beleaguered son of senior Congress leader P Chidambaram got a breather in the money laundering case, special judge Sunil Rana remanded him in CBI custody for three days after the investigative agency claimed it had recovered some incriminating documents and CD from the Chennai office of Advantage Strategic Pvt Ltd., a company linked to Karti. The trial court order came hours after a high court bench of Justices S Muralidhar and I S Mehta granted Karti interim protection from arrest till March 20. The high court asked the



ED to satisfy it on the issue of its powers to arrest an accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on the next date of hearing. The high court order failed to effectively bring any relief to Karti, who has been in CBI custody for the last nine days for questioning since his arrest from Chennai Airport on February 28.

The trial court asked the CBI to produce Karti before it on March 12, and the agency still has the liberty to seek his remand for three more days as the law provides for custodial interrogation of an accused for 15

days for certain offences.

The special judge posted the hearing on Karti's bail plea on March 15. The outcome of Karti's bail plea assumes significance as the high court has said that if he is granted the relief by the special judge, ED will not take any coercive steps against him till March 20, when it will hear the matter. Making it clear that the trial court shall pass orders without getting influenced by the high court's directions today, the bench said certain conditions be imposed on Karti like asking him to appear before the ED, as and when called by the investigating officer, and cooperate in the probe.

He shall also be directed not to leave the country and surrender his passport, it said. Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the trial court that Karti's custodial interrogation by the CBI was needed to confront him with the recovery of fresh incriminating documents.

## Sonia attacks Modi, says nation led by regressive vision

SNS & PTI  
MUMBAI, 9 MARCH

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi today tore into the Modi government alleging that the country is being led by "regressive vision" and asked if India was really a "giant black hole" before May 2014 and marched to progress only after the BJP came to power at the Centre.

Gandhi, 71, also alleged that the country, the society, its freedom are now all under systematic and sustained threat and that there is "rewriting of history, falsifying facts and fanning prejudice and bigotry". In a deeply introspective speech that was followed by a question and answer session, the UPA chairperson spoke on a wide range of topics, including her children, her own shortcomings and the role of democracy in India, the first time she has opened up since relinquishing the party president's post.



Gandhi was addressing the India Today Conclave here. Gandhi's no-holds-barred attack came a day after her son and Congress president Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP alleging there is a general atmosphere of "intimidation" in India where "nasty form of politics" of dividing people are being played to win elections.

During the interactive session, Sonia Gandhi alleged that the Modi government's "lack of accommodative spirit" has led to the present politics of



acrimony in Parliament which has been rocked by disruptions during this entire week. She alleged that there is shocking insensitivity to atrocities on Dalits and women and that the society is being polarised in a bid to win elections. "Our country, our society, our freedom are now all under systematic and sustained threat. There is rewriting of history, falsifying facts and fanning prejudice and bigotry," she said.

"Today we are presented with an alternative and indeed

regressive vision," Gandhi said. "Was India really a giant black hole before May 2014 and start marching to progress only four years ago. Is this not an insult to the intelligence of our people? It is not a matter of taking credit but acknowledging India's strength," said the Lok Sabha member from Rae Bareilly.

She also said callous remarks about changing the Constitution were deliberate attempts to subvert the essence of India's enshrines.

"Provocative statements from the ruling establishments are not random or accidental but a part of a dangerous design. Alternate voices are being silenced. Freedom to think, marry according to one's wishes is under attack. Religious tensions are being fuelled, vigilante mobs and private armies have been let loose," she charged. "Longstanding principles that have stood the country well are being violated.

## 'Chose Manmohan as a better PM candidate than me'

SNS  
MUMBAI, 9 MARCH

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi today said she chose Manmohan Singh as the prime minister in 2004 as she was aware of her limitations and knew that he was a better candidate.

She was speaking at the India Today Conclave here. "I knew my limitations. I knew Manmohan Singh would be a better prime minister than me," Gandhi said. The former Congress president was responding



to a question on why she chose not to become the prime minister even after leading the UPA to power in 2004. Gandhi, who is a MP from Rae Bareilly, also said that she would contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from the same constituency if her

party decides so. "Whatever decision the party takes," she said when asked whether she would contest the polls from Rae Bareilly.

Gandhi, 71, who was Congress president for 19 years, was replaced by her son Rahul last year after internal party elections. The UPA chairperson spoke on a wide range of topics, including her children, her own shortcomings and the role of democracy in India, the first time she has opened up since relinquishing the party president's post.

Parliamentary majority is being interpreted as a licence to stifle debate and bulldoze legislation. Political opponents are being targeted through misuse of investigative agencies," she said. "The Opposition is not

allowed to speak in Parliament. People are angry with Congress for the disruptions in Parliament. But there are serious reasons for it. Parliamentary rules are not followed. There is no accommodative spirit". When asked to compare

## TMC to back Singhvi in RS poll from Bengal



KOLKATA, 9 MARCH

Trinamul Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee today said her party would support Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Congress in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from the state. She said this at the extended core committee meeting of her party at Nazrul Manch.

Announcing the names of four Trinamul candidates for the RS poll at the party's extended core committee meeting here, she said, "Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal also the Congress MP have fought many court cases for us."

SNS