

# OPINION

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divided on Trump's  
immigration  
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COVER STORY

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Narendra Modi tops, Yogi Adityanath enters list**

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The magazine is published and printed by Rajiv Agnihotri for Opinion Express Communications & Entertainment Pvt Ltd, from 2 Ashok Nagar, Lucknow & printed at Kumpu Graphic Press 2 Ashok Nagar, Lucknow

Nikhil Offset

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## Modi, Yogi & beyond – BJP is all set for the second term in 2019

**T**he surprise appointment of Yogi Adityanath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister post party's massive victory in the recently concluded assembly elections indicates that BJP/RSS are in mission mode for General Election 2019. The new UP CM will ensure strict saffron legislation, compliance and governance to consolidate Hindutva forces. The eighty seats are vital to BJP's re-election in the next parliament. PM Narendra Modi is world class leader and he is having no parallel leader to challenge his supremacy in the country. In UP, poor Akhilesh and Rahul were just swept aside-not by polarization, not by Hindu consolidation but simply by Modi's far higher voltage personality.



However the elections in five states have proved that BJP is not unbeatable. Wherever the opposition has a slightly good leadership to answer back BJP with the capacity to consolidate anti BJP vote, BJP can be defeated. Though various states have formidable regional leaders, the nation has absolutely none. As long as Rahul Gandhi is the perceived choice for PM against Modi, irrespective of how much he has improved, he comes absolutely nowhere near Modi. Sonia is getting old and keeping a bit unwell to really run around amassing support. Its absolute Modi wave all the way and that is precisely why UP was given Yogi by RSS forcefully to consolidate this wave in tsunami for the next General Elections.

UP is a matter of extreme pride for Modi-Shah combine so they avoided Bihar like risk in UP. Modi's mega personality and development agenda apart, he made a dig wherein he felt that it was good enough to get a few additional votes through the polarization angle, and he created history. In Yogi they have an equally high voltage man; making him CM of the largest state of India immediately gives him national limelight. Modi-Yogi combine will ensure no opposition and we will possibly see a UP type wipe out at national level, that's the worst thing for democracy. A strong opposition is always a must in any democracy. There is a common saying that absolute power, inevitably corrupts, Indian democracy needs a national leader to stand opposite them for the good of the country.

Politics is a game of lies; one has to pull it off loudly and confidently to make it a serious matter. V.P.Singh did that so effectively against Rajiv Gandhi. AK is the only leader who can generate a nation-wide appeal in propagating lies that can create national level drama. Nitish Kumar despite being a great post-election alliance PM candidate isn't the person who can aggressively take on Modi-Yogi combine nationwide. Mamta Banerjee is a possible alliance PM candidate, despite her ambition and fiery personality she just can't speak Hindi an important factor for national campaigning. That leaves us with depleted Congress. At national level, they are all but wiped out. Rahul just won't be able to match up with Modi. However all their leaders agree with a narrative of complete decimation of Congress party the moment a Gandhi name is not at the top in Congress, that's the DNA of their party? Rajiv, Sonia and even Rahul had been reluctant politicians. Surely, Congress party have groomed several outstanding leaders in the past but all of them carry the physiological terror of high command culture, hence all big names lack self confidence in their own ability to lead the party. Then there is a second option post Vajpayee era, BJP had kept Varun Gandhi reserved as their Gandhi card in case a Gandhi ever gave them a real opposition. Now they find him useless as they have realized to counter a Gandhi you don't need another Gandhi anymore. They have Modis and Yogis. In the current battles of personalities all over the world, Varun being a bit right wing has always an edge - given its potential to generate a lot of votes from the segment that doesn't understand logic. Surely, Congress compulsion "Gandhi" must have to catch the imagination of young India, to ignite social media platform apart from the conventional media to attract new cadre that is missing in the present Congress leadership. It is just thinking out of box solution for terminally ill Congress that needs surgery to walk again. Today it is game, set and match for Narendra Modi in the political battlefield of India.

—Prashant Tewari Editor-in-Chief

April 2017

COVER STORY

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# FLASHPOINTS GALORE

The India-Australia series was a high-voltage clash, but a complete entertainer for cricket fans

India clinched a hard-fought series against Australia 2-1 after winning the fourth and final Test in Dharamsala. Here are the main flashpoints of a tour which will be remembered as much for its controversies as its cricket:

Emotions were running high after Australia won the opening Test in Pune, but visiting skipper Steve Smith set off a storm of controversy in the second game.

Smith looked to his dressing room while deciding whether to review his lbw dismissal in Bangalore, in a moment he described as a "brain fade".

But Indian captain Virat Kohli accused the visitors of routinely abusing the decision review system, stopping just short of calling Smith a cheat.

An ensuing war of words, as both captains stood their ground, required the cricket boards of India and Australia to intervene but even a clear-the-air meeting between the skippers failed to smooth things over.

The rancour worsened in the third Test when Australia's Glenn Maxwell was caught mocking a shoulder injury sustained by Kohli while diving to save a boundary.

Maxwell, after making a similar plunge in the outfield, was seen clutching his shoulder and grinning to his team-mates in a parody that infuriated Indian fans and commentators.

Kohli had the last laugh, grabbing his shoulder in a theatrical fashion after Australian opener David Warner was dismissed for 14 the next day.

The fourth and final Test in Dharamsala saw a fresh controversy as Ravindra Jadeja and Matthew Wade engaged in a slanging match that could have been left on the field -- had India's cricket board not intervened.

The verbal clash was picked up by stump microphones and the board posted the complete exchange on its website and social media channels for all to hear.

Smith later expressed disappointment that the board had "sieved through the archive to find a conversation out on the field" between the two opponents.

Also in the final Test, Smith was caught out by an eagle-eyed cameraman as he called Murali Vijay a cheat for claiming a catch that had clearly hit the grass. Smith, watching the incident from the dressing room, was seen saying "F\*\*\*\*\* cheat!", but he later apologised for letting his emotions get the better of him.

All could have been forgiven and forgotten on the final day, but Kohli remained unhappy despite India's series win. The home captain said he wouldn't think of the Australian players as friends "ever again", a comment which drew a strong reaction from Aussie media. Smith also revealed that he invited the Indian players to share a beer with his team, but was rebuffed as the series ended in acrimony.

**By Opinion Express News Desk**



# ON A HIGH

The ties between India and Israel are booming after the ascendance of Narendra Modi, who has always been considered the West Asian country's best friend in the region



**T**he magnificent political victory of Narendra Modi in national elections of 2014 has provided a new flip to India Israel relationship. It is visible on ground that both countries are closest to each other in the history of their bilateral relationship. Although India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992 and since then the bilateral relationship between the two countries has seen many ups and down at the economic, military, agricultural and political levels. Both countries see themselves as isolated democracies threatened by neighbours that facilitate training, finance and encouragement of terrorism, therefore both countries also view their cooperative relationship as a strategic imperative.

Relations between Jerusalem and New Delhi were not always warm. Although both countries gained their independence from the United Kingdom

within months of each other, they found themselves headed in pointedly different directions for nearly four decades - India as a leader in the Non-Aligned Movement that maintained close relations to the Arab world and the Soviet Union; Israel which linked its future to close ties with the United States and Western Europe.

India's large Muslim population was another major obstacle to building a relationship with Israel, as India feared that close relations with the Jewish State might somehow radicalize its Muslim citizens - numbering more than 100 million - and hurt its relations with the Arab world.

Although India publicly kept a distance from Israel until the late 1980's, there was in fact a great deal of bilateral activities between the two countries in the preceding years. India extended de jure recognition to Israel in 1950 and allowed Israel to maintain a consulate in Mumbai (Bombay) to facilitate the

voluntary immigration of thousands of Indian Jews to Israel. Thousands of Indians have also travelled to Israel for special courses and training in agricultural technology and community development. Israeli supplied weapons aided India in winning the Kargil War against Pakistan in 1999. Israel also provided humanitarian relief to India. Following a devastating earthquake in 2001, Israel sent an IDF emergency response delegation to India for two weeks to provide humanitarian relief and treatment for the victims.

In November 2002, the head of Israel's space research program, Colonel Avi Hareven, and the head of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Dr. K. Kasturirangan, signed an agreement on space cooperation between the two countries.

Since firmly establishing diplomatic ties, both countries have benefited immensely. India has become one of Israel's largest trading partners, many of

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the world's leading high-tech companies in Israel and India are forging joint ventures that are successfully competing in the tough international marketplace. Trade and cooperation between the countries now centers primarily on security-related deals and aid in areas such as agriculture and water desalination. As of July 2013, India-Israel trade had risen to approximately \$6 billion a year, far surpassing the modest \$200 million level it was at in 1992.

In 2006, Israeli and Indian ministers of agriculture signed a long-term cooperation and training deal, which has since been supervised by field experts from Mashav, an international development program of Israel's Foreign Min-

istry. In 2008, the two nations started a \$50 million shared agriculture fund, focusing on dairy, farming technology and micro-irrigation. This constituted the Agriculture Cooperation Agreement. In 2011, India and Israel signed an agreement to foster cooperation on urban water systems, which came after more than a decade of joint research, development and shared investment in the countries' respective water technologies.

In May 2013, Israel announced that it will help India diversify and raise the yield of its fruit and vegetable crops by offering the country advanced technology and know-how. Israel will help set up 28 centers of excellence across India

focussed on specific fruit and vegetable crops. "We congratulate India on being self-sufficient in food. Feeding 1.2 billion people is not an easy task. But with improvement in technology, a lot more can be achieved," Daniel Carmon, head of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, said.

By March 2014, 10 Centres of Excellence operated throughout India offering free training sessions for farmers in efficient agricultural techniques using Israeli technological expertise and know-how. Vertical farming, drip irrigation and soil solarisation are some of what is taught at the centers. The 10 already operating focus on mangoes, pomegranates and citrus fruits and the idea is to expand to flowers, bee keeping and dairying, with 28 centers by 2015.

Israeli Embassy spokesman Ohad Horsandi explained: "The idea is to transfer applied research and technologies to the farmers in various states across India. While Israel has already entered into agreement with seven state governments to set up these centres, the most successful model has been Haryana," in the northern part of the country. The visit was jointly arranged by the governments of India and Israel and managed by the Weitz Center for Development Studies and Israel New-Tech, the national sustainable water and energy program of Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour.

In June 2013, a delegation of 16 high-ranking Indian officials of the water authorities of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Goa and Haryana came to Israel and visited wastewater treatment plants, met with some of Israel's leading environmentalists and agronomists and listened to explanations of some of the newest technologies for water management. "In India, we have a major crisis of water," said Rajeev Jain, an assistant engineer in the water department of Rajasthan. "Our problem is the same that Israel faced. But Israel is an expert at successfully implementing technologies that we aren't able to implement. So we have come here to understand which technologies they use and how they manage these things."

The key to the growing India-Israel ties, however, is in the realm of security and defence. In the early 2000s, the Indian army declared its intention to implement a modernization program to which resources of tens of billions of dollars would be allocated. Since then, defence deals with Israel have grown



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exponentially - today, India is the number one export target of Israel's defence industries.

Israel has sold radar and surveillance systems as well as electronic components for military aircraft and has helped India defence itself through training in counterterrorism methods. In November 2011, India's elite Cobra Commando unit bought more than 1,000 units of the Israeli X-95 assault rifle to use in counterinsurgency operation. Also in 2011, India placed orders for four advanced Israeli Phalcon AWACS planes (airborne warning and control systems) which are capable of detecting hostile aircraft, cruise missiles and other incoming aerial threat far before ground-based radars.

In January 2012, India and Israel stepped up their counter-terrorism coordination strategy in the wake of Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna's visit to the Jewish state. While in Israel, Krishna met with top Israeli government and defence leaders and agreed to

work to boost their counter-terrorism cooperation. The two countries also signed an Extradition Treaty and a pact on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners.

During a July 2014 visit to Tel Aviv, Indian Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur outlined his goals for Indo-Israeli defence cooperation. The Indian government requested an unspecified number of Sword Fish ground radar trackers, precision-guided artillery, unspecified missiles, and two AWACS units (in addition to the four ordered in 2005). Mathur was especially interested in the delivery of long-range anti-missile defence batteries for deployment aboard Indian naval ships. The project was announced in 2005, and originally scheduled for delivery in 2012. Israeli and Indian government officials signed an intelligence-sharing agreement in July 2014, hoping to fight radical Islamic extremism in the region together.

In a historic moment, the first meeting of the Prime Ministers from Israel and India in over a decade occurred

on September 28, 2014. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the two spoke of economic, technological, and agricultural collaboration in the future. Netanyahu expressed his concerns about a nuclear Iran and the spread of radical Islam throughout the Middle East, and the two enjoyed a friendly conversation. The Indian Prime Minister acknowledged that Israel and India have a historic working relationship and stated that India is "the only country where anti-Semitism has never been allowed to come up, where Jews have never suffered and lived as an integral part of our society". The meeting was left on a positive note, with Netanyahu inviting Modi to Israel for a return visit.

In October 2014 India and Israel reached a deal for India to purchase 8,356 Spike anti-tank guided missiles and 321 missile launchers developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd. Rafel was competing against US companies Lockheed Martin and Raytheon for this contract, worth \$519 million.

Israel Aerospace Industries successfully tested a jointly developed Indian-Israeli Barak 8 air and naval defence missile system on November 10, 2014. The missile test was carried out by Israel's Defence Ministry and India's Defence research and Development Organization, and represents the first full successful test of the missile. A top advisor to India's defence minister hailed the test as "an important milestone in the cooperation between India and Israel".

India-Israel cooperation increased dramatically in 2014 since the election of India's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Between Modi's election in May 2014 and November 2014, Israel exported \$662 million worth of Israeli weapons and defence items to India. This export number is greater than the total Israeli exports to India during the previous three years combined.

Israel and India continued their positive relationship into 2015, with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon making the first official visit of an Israeli Defence Minister to India in February. While in India, Ya'alon, along with many other top Israeli defence officials, attended the Aero India arms exhibition in Bangalore. The purpose of Ya'alon's trip was to increase interaction and cooperation between defence industries in Israel and India. Photos surfaced online the following day of Indian Prime



Minister Narendra Modi standing at the Israel Aerospace Industries booth at the exhibition, in a public display of Israel and India's strategic relationship.

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in June 2015 that they will be embarking on a historic visit to Israel, the Palestinian territories, and Jordan in 2015, making them both the first Indian President, and Prime Minister to visit Israel. In early October 2015, President Mukherjee delivered a speech at the Knesset, and officials from both countries discussed cooperation in science, technology, agriculture, medicine, and economics. During the lead-up to the visit, Indian media speculated that multiple agreements to increase bilateral cooperation would be signed.

In what was hailed as a "huge development for India" by local news agencies, India abstained from a vote at the UNHRC that approved their Gaza Commission of Inquiry report, in July 2015. Forty-one countries voted in favour of adopting the findings of the biased report, and India was one of only five others who abstained. This marked the first time that India had ever voted against Palestinian interests at the UNHRC, signalling a significant shift in India-Israel relations.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

## India's ambassador to Israel, Jaideep Sarkar, encouraged the approximately 85,000 Israeli Jews of Indian descent to tour their country of origin in August 2015, amid warming ties between the nations.

and the Indian state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) began collaborating on a jointly developed surface-to-air missile system for the Indian Army in 2015. Indian officials purchased 321 launchers and 8,356 missiles from the Israeli military in 2015. India uses Israel-made unmanned drones for surveillance and military purposes, and ordered 16 drones during 2015.

India's ambassador to Israel, Jaideep Sarkar, encouraged the approximately 85,000 Israeli Jews of Indian descent to tour their country of origin in August 2015, amid warming ties be-

tween the nations. Sarkar stated that, "We want to tell the world proudly about the rich Jewish life in India with your efforts we are working to preserve the Jewish heritage in India. We hope to have a package tour to Jewish heritage sites in Mumbai and elsewhere by early next year." He also suggested that these Indian-Israeli Jews consider enrolling in higher education courses at Indian universities.

The government of India quietly approved the purchase of 10 armored Heron TP drone vehicles from Israel on September 11, 2015, at a price of \$400 million. These drones will help secure India's borders, and will be operated by members of India's air force. An original proposal for the purchase was presented in 2012, but the program did not receive political backing until 2015.

The Barak 8 long-range surface-to-air missile, developed jointly between India and Israel, was successfully tested on December 30, 2015. The test of the missile system, which cost the Indian government approximately \$1.4 billion, was carried out on the Indian warship INS Kolkata. India again successfully tested the Barak 8 on June 30, 2016. An Indian defence official praised the test, stating "the test launch was a grand success and it met all the targets." The Ba-



Indian Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Robin K. Dowan (L) greets Israeli Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Adm. Ram Rutberg in New Delhi.

rak 8 was developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organization in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries, and can be launched from a ship or from land. Another successful test of the Barak 8 missile was carried out on September 20, 2016, at the Chandipur research and development base in Odisha, on the Bay of Bengal.

During a 3-day visit to Israel in January 2016, Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj stated that the full development of positive Israel-India ties is of "the highest importance," to the government in India.

Indian firm Reliance defence and Israeli firm Rafael Advanced defence Systems signed a cooperative agreement worth an estimated \$10 billion at Defexpo India on March 30, 2016. Per the agreement, Rafael and Reliance will cooperatively produce air-to-air missiles, various missile defence systems, and surveillance balloons for the Indian military. The undertaking is projected to provide employment for 3,000 In-

dians at a facility in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

In the first visit of its kind in 20 years, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin visited India for a week in mid-November 2016. Rivlin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions and meetings pertaining to security cooperation and combatting terrorism, and also discussed the future of Israeli investment in India. While in India, the Israeli President also visited the Taj Mahal and observed Indian water treatment facilities. Indian officials signed contracts worth a combined \$1.4 billion with Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) during Rivlin's visit, on November 16, 2016. The two defence contracts provide for the Indian purchase from Israel of two Phalcon/IL-76 Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), valued at \$1 billion, as well as 10 additional Heron TP UAV drones, valued at \$400 million.

The Indian Navy launched a new, Israeli-developed Integrated under Water Harbour Defence and Surveillance

System (IUHDSS), in February 2017. The system will enhance the security of above and below-water vehicles operated by the Indian Navy in the Mumbai Naval Harbor.

An estimated 50,000 Chinese tourists visited Israel in 2015, rising 43% from the number of Chinese tourists in 2014. The number of tourists from India also increased dramatically, with 40,000 Indian nationals vacationing in Israel in 2015. The efforts are on from Indian side to overtake the Chinese tourist in the years to come to consolidate people to people contact. The major changes are expected on all the front post proposed visit of Indian Prime Minister expected in June 2017. Defence, intelligence sharing, agriculture technology, health care sectors are expected to receive major boost. Surely the developing relations are just a beginning of new era in global geo-political partnership.

**By Prashant Tewari - inputs from Jewish Virtual Library**

# The rise of the yogi: Review of Yogi Adityanath and The Hindu Yuva Vahini

**U**ttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as Uttar Pradesh chief minister at Smriti Upvan, in Lucknow, India, on March 19, 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah and other top BJP leadership was present on the occasion. The massive strength presented by BJP was phenomenal and unprecedented to showcase upsurge of right wing party. There are three prominent reasons for putting Yogi in command of UP namely keep polarising Hindu votes, put strong administer and non-compromising leader and to put development agenda upfront. It was analysed that a strong character can address the depleting law and order situation.

From everything we have heard about Yogi Adityanath's way with votes, it would seem the man has never felt a tinge of electoral insecurity in his 19-year-old political career. But it turns out Uttar Pradesh's new chief minister

had to work his way to "electoral invincibility." Senior journalist Dhirender K Jha's 35-page book, which reads like a meticulous magazine profile, details the lowest point in the five-time MP's electoral journey to show why he may never fear losing an election again.

It was between 1998 when 26-year-old Adityanath, would-be mahant at the Gorakhpur temple, first won the eastern UP Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 26,000 votes, and 1999, when he fought the election again and found his vote margin down to 7339. The plunge in winning margin was especially hurtful because shortly after winning the Gorakhpur seat the first time, Adityanath had launched his first "apolitical" organization, Gau Raksha Manch, to consolidate the Hindu vote. The cow card was apparently not enough to polarize the voters in Gorakhpur. The young MP realized he needed to "develop a wider base among Hindus" to play the power game in UP.

His moment came in 2002. Drawing on the nationwide split between Hindus and Muslims after the riots in Gujarat, Yogi Adityanath decided to hit the ground anew. He began by changing the name of Gau Raksha Manch to Hindu Yuva Vahini and expanded its jurisdiction beyond cows to anything and everything "that could project minorities as the enemies of Hindus", from their meat-eating habits to their appeal among Hindu women. To give this new outfit a structure and mission, its presence was divided into multi-level committees — state, district, block and panchayat — and young and restless Hindu men in villages in and around Gorakhpur recruited in large numbers. Right from the first day, writes Jha, HYV ran a toxic campaign of religious politics, turning the smallest of incidents to sectarian wars. "There were at least six major riots in the region within the first year of HYV's formation" and "at





least 22 major riots in Gorakhpur and the neighbouring districts till 2007.”

The plan paid off pretty soon. In 2004, Adityanath won the Gorakhpur seat by a margin of 142,000 votes; five years later, he claimed victory by 300,000 votes. Gau Raksha Peethadhiswar Parampujya Yogi Adityanath Ji Maharaj, as his disciples call him, has been unstoppable since. As Jha painstakingly outlines the saint-politician’s “political fortune doesn’t depend on the BJP or the RSS but is fuelled by a communal polarization of an extreme kind.”

### So who is Yogi Adityanath?

**1** Yogi Adityanath was elected as the Member of the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 from Gorakhpur constituency. He was the youngest legislator of the Lok Sabha. So far he has been MP from the same constituency five times. In 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, Adityanath won the elections by a margin of 1,42,309 votes.

**2** Adityanath’s predecessor Mahant Avaidyanath was the president of Hindu Maha Sabha. Both of them kept Hindutva agenda at the forefront of their election campaign. His mission in life is to convert other religious groups back to Hinduism. In 2005, more than 5,000 people were converted in the town of Etah in UP. He reportedly said: “I will not stop till I turn UP and India into a Hindu rashtra”.

**3** Adityanath’s original name was Ajay Singh. He changed his name after becoming a ‘sanyasi’. He has got a B.Sc. degree from HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is a very good orator and has the ability to attract eyeballs with his fiery speech. He has been quite vocal in the Parliament and has been raising issues with alacrity. It’s not that he raises issues related to Hindutva only. In fact, he has been equally concerned about issues that have the potential of impacting the lives of the poorer strata of the society.

**4** In Gorakhpur riots of 2007, a Hindu boy was killed after some people opened fire on a Muslim procession that took place on the occasion of Moharam. When the youth succumbed to the injuries, Adityanath vowed to deliver justice to Hindus. He announced a torchlight procession and a “Shraddhanjali Sabha (pay homage)” on a busy road. The District Magistrate had forbidden him to do so, but regardless of his instructions he and his followers set off. For the first time in his life, Adityanath was jailed under Section 151A of the CRPC only to find later that he has also been booked under Sections 146, 147, 279, 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

**5** Yogi Adityanath of the BJP has several criminal cases pending against him. Some of the cases where cognizance has been taken are: 3 charges

related to rioting (IPC Section-147); 1 charge related to Attempt to murder (IPC Section-307); 2 charges related to Rioting, armed with deadly weapon (IPC Section-148); 1 charges related to Act endangering life or personal safety of others (IPC Section-336); 1 charges related to Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object (IPC Section-149); 2 charges related to Trespassing on burial places, etc. (IPC Section-297); 1 charges related to criminal intimidation (IPC Section-506).

**6** Yogi Adityanath is the founder of the Hindu Yuva Vahini. It is a social, cultural and nationalist group of young people. This group is very famous amongst Hindus of east Uttar Pradesh. Hindu Yuva Vahini has many dalit Hindus. After Adityanath’s arrest in 2007 for inciting Gorakhpur riots, his HYV launched retaliations. Two coaches of the Mumbai bound Mumbai-Gorakhpur Godan Express was set ablaze on 30th January, 2007. Aggression is the hallmark of Adityanath. His opponents often charge Adityanath and his Hindu Yuva Vahini of taking law into their hands. The Gorakhpur MP, however, gives diplomatic answer on this question. He says that if the law enforcement agencies fail to do justice to their roles then common man has to think of the alternative ways of getting justice.

**7**In March 2010, Adityanath was one of several BJP MPs who did not adhere to the party whip on the Women's Reservation Bill. Few years ago, a video surfaced in which Adityanath was seen as saying that if one Hindu girl is converted to Islam then they will convert 100 Muslim women to Hinduism. When Rajat Sharma asked this question to Yogi Adityanath in his show 'Aap Ki Adalat', an unapologetic Yogi Adityanath said that nobody has the right to practice forcible conversion. The Gorakhpur MP said that a person has to be answered in the same language that he understands.

**8**Despite his prominence in the party, he has never been on good terms with the BJP. He has had a strained relation with the party for more than a decade. In 2007 UP Elections, BJP and Adityanath were at conflict. He wanted more than 10 seats in Gorakhpur region to go to candidates selected by him, but the party leadership would not agree. Subsequently a compromise agreement was reached by the RSS. He fielded 8 candidates of his choice. RSS's intervention normalized Yogi Adityanath's relationship with BJP during the election season.

**9**Adityanath, during India TV's Churnav Manch conclave in February, said that he will make 'love jihad' an issue in the polls. Gorakhpur MP has been raising this issue for the past four to five years. He said, "I have been raising this issue for the past four to five years. The menace first began in Kerala and has now spread to Western UP". Yogi Adityanath says he is not against Hindu-Muslim marriages provided it's based on mutual trust and there is no element of deceit in that relationship.

**10**The BJP had included him in the party's list of star campaigners for polls. Adityanath raised the law and order situation extensively and made 'love jihad' a major poll issue. The BJP's mega success in the polls has certainly cemented Adityanath's hold in his party.

10 things UP CM Yogi Adityanath did during his first week in office

Just a week of Yogi Adityanath as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, the 44-year-old has hit the ground running, grabbing headlines with a series of decision ranging from banning pan and gutkha at workplaces to cracking down on illegal slaughterhouses.



### Here is a list of things he decided and ordered:

**1) MINISTERIAL INCOMES:** An hour after he took oath on March 19, Adityanath ordered all ministers to declare their income, movable and immovable properties within 15 days. He asked them to submit declarations to the CM secretariat. He also made them take an oath of cleanliness and honesty. He conveyed that his government would have zero tolerance on corruption and law and order.

**2) CLEANLINESS:** Yogi Adityanath administered his ministers an oath of cleanliness and honesty. Also he fixed every Friday as the day when the state staff must tidy up workspaces. He asked them to devote two hours per week to cleanliness. He also asked them to read up BJP's 2017 poll manifesto and begin mulling over how to implement it in their respective departments. Also asked them to make budgetary provisions for it and begin preparing for the first cabinet meet.

**3) PAN BAN:** The next day, he ordered a ban on 'Paan-masala, Gutkha' consumption in government offices, hospitals, schools etc.

**4) MEAT CRACKDOWN:** He ordered a crackdown on illegal slaughter houses and meat shops, and check cow smuggling. Many meat shops were burnt and businesses on strike with supplies drying up. The government has clarified that only illegal abattoirs would be targeted.

**5) ANTI-ROMEO SQUAD:** The CM also called for an end to road-side boozing and asked for the setting up of 'anti-Romeo squads' across the state. When the anti-Romeo action created an outrage with the way police responded, Adityanath on March 25 ordered making of guidelines and said police should not be inhuman while implementing it.

**6) SETTING AGENDA WITH MODI:** On March 21, he went to Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss distribution of portfolios to his ministers. He also informed the PM Modi that MPs were lobbying for transfers, postings of officers. Modi, on March 23, ordered all MPs not to interfere in transfers, postings.

**7) ACID ATTACK CRACKDOWN:** On March 24, Adityanath visited an acid attack survivor. Gave her Rs one lakh aid and ordered the arrest of the culprits.

**8) POT-HOLES:** On March 25, Adityanath set a deadline of June 15 for making all UP roads pot-holes free.

**9) METRO:** The new CM has also announced Metro train projects for Gorakhpur (his Lok Sabha constituency) and Jhansi.

**10) CRACKDOWN ON LAXITY:** During a visit in Gorakhpur, Adityanath said those officers who cannot work 18-20 hours were free to leave. He also said that the state would promote regional dialects

*Inputs from Snigdha Poonam article published in HT & Dr Rahul Misra in Lucknow*

# Narendra Modi tops, Yogi Adityanath enters list

## The Pioneer Most Powerful Indians in 2017

**T**he top three of 2017 remain the same as in 2016 — Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and RSS sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat & BJP president Amit Shah — but with a difference. While Modi remains numero uno, Shah Trades places with Bhagwat. BJP president Amit Shah is closely following the top two contenders. The moving up of Shah, the dramatic electoral successes of the Modi-Shah election machine are helping them pull ahead of not just their opponents and rivals but also their friends. Post Right wing dramatic victory in 2014 General Elections, Look at dramatic turnaround in the power circuit, it, also, to get a sense of how, over the past year, power has changed hands — and how power itself has changed. Take a look at The Pioneer power list of 2017 not just to see who are the most powerful 20 people in this country of a billion plus.

The Gandhis, Sonia and Rahul have suffered huge downgrade in rankings primarily because Congress inability to win popular elections. But there is a settled stolid dullness to their ranking, especially when you contrast it with the blistering trajectory of Yogi Adityanath, a new entrant at No. 8.

All those who are on the list are there because of the individuals that they are and because of the institutions and offices that they represent. But the rise in the list of Chief Justice Khehar, from 41 to 5, and the entry of Dipak Misra at 113, owes more to their institution — the judiciary — at a time when other checks and balances on concentrated executive power are waning. How these individuals act on their institutions, steer their course, will determine their ranking in next year's list.

### Here is the list:

#### ① Narendra Damodardas Modi, 66

Prime Minister of India; (Rank 2016: 1)

**Reason:** He is Prime Minister of India, wining popular elections on regular basis with huge success. The BJP looks unstoppable, forcing the Opposition to continually play catch-up. Every key move the Modi government makes — from surgical strikes to demonetisation — is done in his name. Under him, the Prime Minister's Office wields almost absolute power, inviting awe and criticism in equal measure. His relentless campaigning fuelled the party's sweep in Uttar Pradesh, setting the stage for 2019. His constant communication underlines the power of his politics.

**Why:** Surprise element in governance: Demonetisation. Its economics may have been suspect but its politics was pure gold. He proved his critics wrong and projected the hugely disruptive note ban as a transformational reform that people must support for the greater good. Military surgical strike in POA to flare nationalism has bounded people across the country.

**What Next:** GST, Win state elections, consolidate economy and address employment issue, rising expectations of the young remain his key challenges at home that will also define his place in the world.

**USP:** Physically fit and mentally alert, hard worker, focused and relentless in approach. He out-smart people of his generation by discipline and fitness.



## 2 Mohan Bhagwat, 66

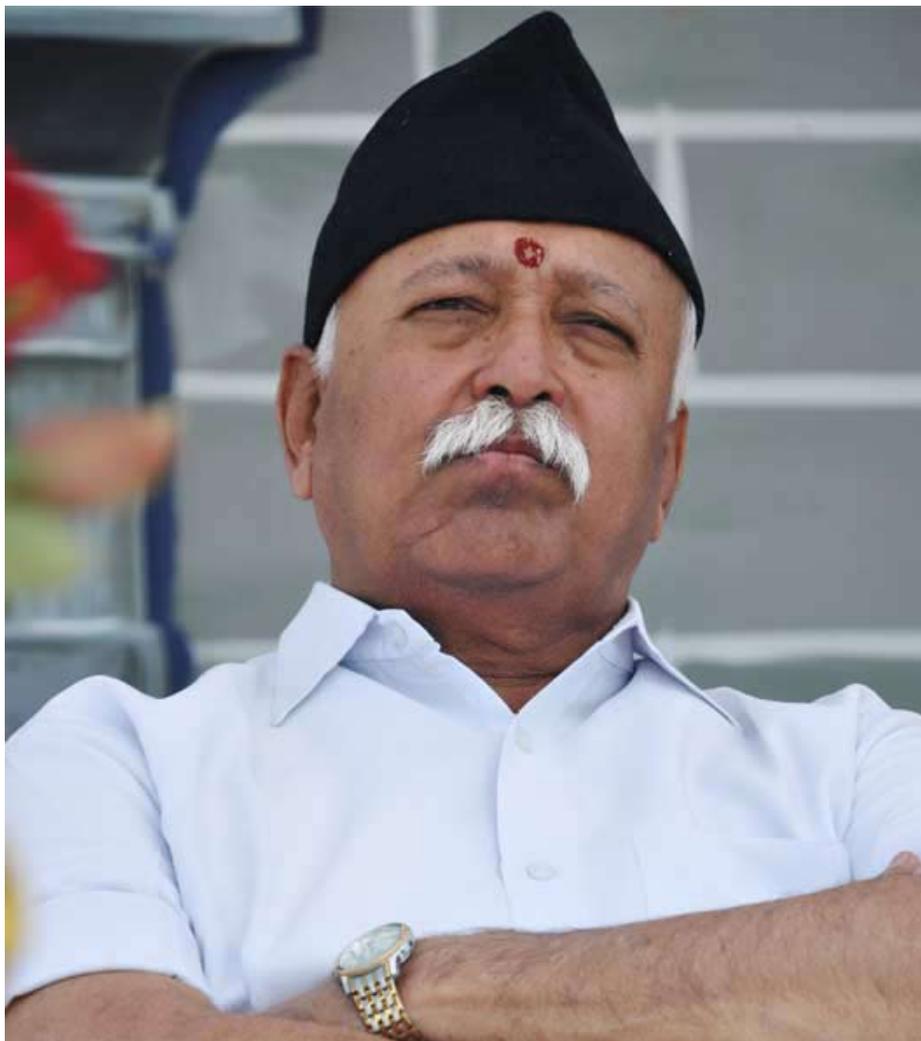
RSS Sarsanghchalak  
(Rank 2016: 2)

**Reason:** Without rocking any boats, like in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee years, he has ensured that the RSS and the BJP government remain in step and in sync. Despite the rebellion in the Goa unit and some swayamsevaks carping over tickets in UP and Uttarakhand, Bhagwat's Sangh has emerged as the perfect foil to the Modi government.

**Why:** His public disagreements are keenly heard. For instance, his disapproval of the draft education policy prompted the Centre to review it.

**What Next:** To push the RSS agenda on triple talaq and empowerment of Dalits and other backward classes, especially in southern states, Expand RSS ideology in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala to realise dream of One India.

**USP:** Open door policy for friends and critics, low key personality



### 3 Amit Shah, 52

BJP President (Rank 2016: 3)

**Reason:** Age @ 52 only, he controls BJP with iron fist. Amit Shah has established himself as the BJP's trump card by winning elections with absolute force. Shah has proved he is the most effective strategist, whether in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra or Manipur. He not only led the party to historic victories in UP and Uttarakhand by stitching together a new social coalition, but also choreographed the BJP takeover of Goa and Manipur.

**Why:** Confidence – his unique break & make policy that was never witnessed in BJP cadre driven party have yielded outstanding results for the party. Shah stuck to his handpicked candidates for Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, including

some who joined the party on the eve of the release of the list and ensured that their inclusion breaks backbone of opponents is the unique political strategy that confirms his authority over elections. Already, he is in operation in Karnataka, Gujarat and Orissa for the battles to come.

**What next:** Elections in Gujarat later this year will be the next challenge. He realises the party's performance here is tied to his prestige as well as that of the PM.

**USP:** He is 24x7 politicians. His commitment and skills in contemporary politics is outstanding, electoral results are testimony to his skill sets.



## 4 Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani, 59

Chairman, Reliance Industries (Rank 2016: 7)

**Reason:** MDA continues to remain the richest Indian with a net worth of Rs 1,75,400 crore (US \$26 billion), according to the Hurun Global Rich List. He is now focusing on his telecom venture, Reliance Jio, which is making aggressive plans in the segment, giving established players such as Airtel a run for their money. RIL is India's largest private player in Gas & Oil sector that offers him a unique position in Indian financial sector. The group's sprawling media ownership is now a role model for other corporates.

**Why:** Boss of RIL is perceived to be vertical power centre since late nineties, He is king of Oil & Gas & Jio has secured over 10 crore customers in less than six months.

**What Next:** With Jio set to charge customers from April, his next move in the intensely competitive telecom sector will be keenly watched.

**USP:** Astute businessman, understand governance better than any contemporary competition.



## 5 J S Khehar, 64

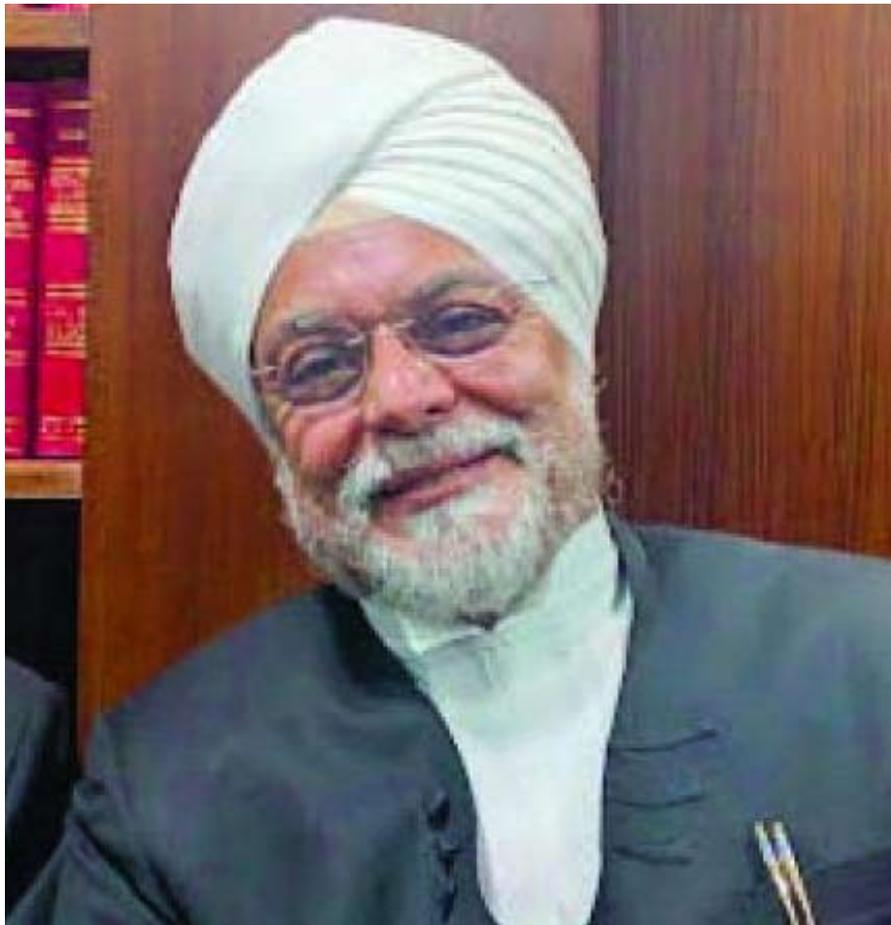
Chief Justice of India  
(Rank 2016: 17)

**Reason:** With the judiciary and the executive locked in a struggle over delay in appointments to the higher judiciary and a new Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the CJI, who heads the collegium that clear the names of judges for high courts and the apex court, plays a key role. Besides, he will hear all important PILs in the Supreme Court.

**Why:** The SC collegium under him has stood its ground, virtually rejecting every contentious clause that the Modi government wanted in the new MoP.

**What Next:** He is expected to head the Constitution bench that will decide the validity of Aadhaar and the contours of the right to privacy.

**USP:** His relations with fellow brother Judges are always subject to speculation.



## 6 Ajit Doval, 72

National Security Advisor  
(Rank 2016: 18)

**Reason:** The post of NSA is traditionally extremely powerful in a right wing set up. Ajit Doval is the most important bureaucrat in the Modi government. He has the Prime Minister's ear on everything, from foreign policy and the challenges of terror to negotiations with the Naga rebels.

**Why:** Following the public announcement of the surgical strikes in PoK last November, he is said to have controlled the flow of information and played a key role in shaping the narrative. Balochistan and POK are his idea to rattle Pakistan.

**What Next:** To quickly gauge the Trump administration and work on common areas so that New Delhi is able to tap into the new Washington.

**USP:** He enjoys full confidence of Prime Minister, command great respect of bureaucracy.

## 7 Arun Jaitley, 64

Union Finance Minister  
(Rank 2016: 4)

**Reason:** Navigated crucial GST bill, the effective No 2 in the Modi cabinet, Jaitley has the task of steering the economy towards higher growth amid a slowdown resulting from demonetisation. With Manohar Parrikar heading to Goa, Jaitley holds additional charge of the crucial defence ministry.

**Why:** After a series of hectic negotiations with states and political parties, Jaitley was able to get the Constitutional amendment related to GST passed by Parliament. A crucial indirect tax reform, consensus on which once seemed impossible, GST is likely to be implemented from July 1.

**What Next:** Improving the country's tax base and ensuring that people stay the course on digital transactions.

**USP:** He is on very friendly terms with entire media and legal fraternity of Delhi.



## 8 Yogi Adityanath, 44

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh  
(Rank 2016: New entry)

**Reason:** For being chief minister of India's most populous state, where the BJP and its allies have come to power with a thumping mandate, winning 325 of 403 seats in the assembly elections. A key Hindutva face of the BJP, he surprised nearly everyone by becoming the party's choice to lead the state government.

**Why:** When he pipped about half-a-dozen aspirants to the post of CM. Long seen as the fringe in the state BJP, he now represents the 'mainstream'.

**What Next:** He faces the daunting task of balancing the demands of his office with those of his restive and aggressive supporters. How he does that will decide how effectively the BJP reaps its electoral harvest in UP. The crackdown on meat and the anti-Romeo squads have dominated headlines but the Yogi story is yet to unfold.

**USP:** Austerity in public life, simple living and high thinking, zero tolerance on corruption

## 9 Sonia Gandhi, 70

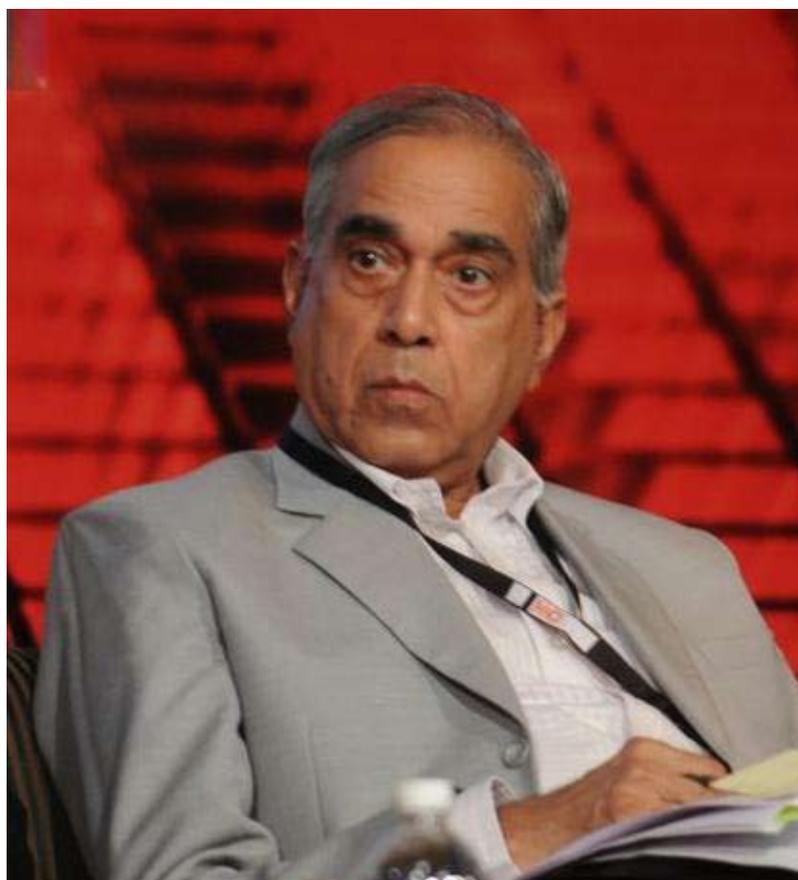
Congress president  
(Rank 2016: 5)

**Reason:** Despite her conscious decision to stay away from the limelight and make way for son Rahul, Sonia Gandhi remains the paramount leader of the Congress. The longest-serving president of the Grand Old Party, she is still the last word and the final arbiter in the party. Her ill health has forced her to curtail her public appearances; she remains most powerful leader in Congress party.

**Why:** Her strategic absence from the Congress Working Committee meeting, in which her loyalist AK Antony broached the topic of Rahul's elevation, was a message loud and clear for Rahul baiters to fall in line and reconcile with the new normal.

**What Next:** With the party battered at the polls, she could step down as president but will remain the figurehead.

**USP:** She inherits Gandhi tag. She opens all official communication from Congress office bearers and administrative staff all by herself.



## 10 Nripendra Misra, 72

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister  
(Rank 2016: 39)

**Reason:** Eyebrows were raised in May 2014 when Modi promulgated an ordinance to appoint the retired UP cadre IAS officer as his principal secretary. However, Misra has proved his worth and remains one of the two most powerful people in the current administration. In all policy matters and cabinet decisions, Misra's inputs play a key role, be it the Jan Dhan scheme, subsidies or the Ujjawala scheme.

**Why:** The PM's pet project on rural housing saw Misra oversee the rural development ministry successfully complete the target of 33 lakh houses for this financial year.

**What Next:** With polls done, he will push for deliveries on key reforms, including disinvestment.

**USP:** Nripendra Misra enjoys confidence of RSS, he is linked to powerful Vivekananda Foundation. Surely, his clean slate during career bureaucrat is a big plus.

## 11 Rajnath Singh, 65

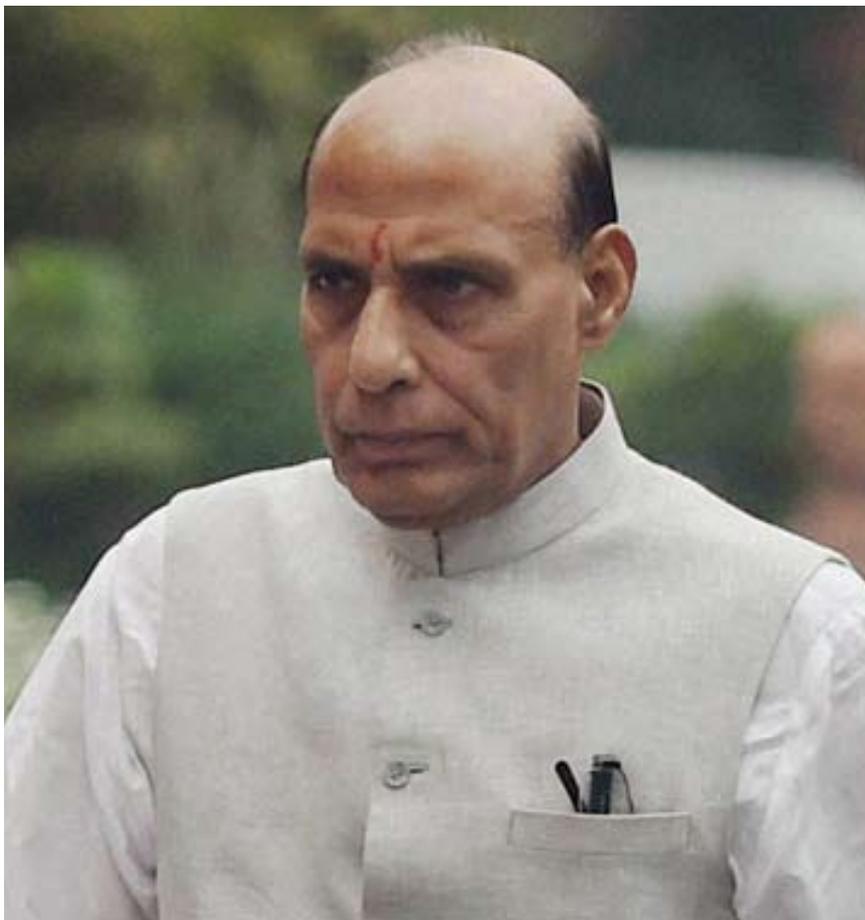
Union Home Minister  
(Rank 2016: 7)

**Reason:** One of the heavyweights of the NDA government, Singh has also been the BJP national president. He has enjoyed key posts in the government, in part because he has the complete backing of the RSS. In UP, Singh conducted 102 election rallies, the maximum by a central minister.

**Why:** Singh was the soft face of the government during the 2016 Kashmir unrest and has been instrumental in pushing back Left Wing Extremism to an all-time low.

**What Next:** With a change of guard in the United States, the next big challenge for the home minister is the upcoming Indo-US homeland security dialogue. Back home, he will have to build a new narrative in Kashmir, along with handling infiltration from across the border.

**USP:** Rajnath Singh's ability to remain friends even with political adversaries is a great advantage, he is a silent performer.



## 12 Nitish Kumar, 66

Chief Minister, Bihar  
(Rank 2016: 12)

**Reason :** He is being the face of Opposition and the nucleus of the anti-BJP camp. He is likely to play a key role in putting up a consensus candidate from the non-BJP camp for the post of President of India.

**Why:** He was the only Opposition leader to back demonetisation, though with a caveat: 'a good idea, but poorly implemented'.

**What Next:** In his third term as chief minister, Nitish is definitely looking national with an eye on the 2019 parliamentary elections.

**USP:** Nitish Kumar is a backward class leader, surely in an era of backward politics, his class can play a dominant role.

## 13 Mamata Banerjee, 62

Chief Minister, West Bengal  
(Rank 2016: 15)

**Reason:** In her second term as chief minister, she remains the most resolute voice critical of PM Modi and the BJP in a country where the opposition space is increasingly shrinking. Banerjee has been most vocal on the debate regarding federalism, repeatedly accusing the BJP-led Centre of attempting to weaken the federal structure and centralise power.

**Why:** After her landslide victory in 2011, which ended the 34-year-old Left Rule in Bengal, Banerjee pulled off an even bigger victory in the 2016 Assembly polls.

**What Next:** Her party will have to contend with the Narada investigations, in addition to the ongoing investigations into chit funds.

**USP:** Mamta Banerjee enjoys confidence of minority community, she is a decent administration and her two successive stings in West Bengal have her credentials beyond doubt.



## 14 Dipak Misra, 63

Supreme Court Judge (Rank 2016: New Entry)

**Reason:** He is set to take over as the Chief Justice of India in August this year and will have a tenure of over a year. With tension between the Centre and Opposition-ruled states, as well as the ruling BJP and Opposition parties, showing no signs of abating, the Supreme Court headed by him could be called upon more frequently to be the final arbiter in Constitutional matters. He will also head the collegium that will have the opportunity to appoint a large number of Supreme Court and high court judges.

**Why:** To install “committed patriotism and nationalism”, he made it mandatory for all cinema halls in India to play the national anthem before a movie begins, with those present in the hall obliged to stand up to show respect.

**What Next:** The Supreme Court bench headed by him is seized of some very important cases, which include reforms in the BCCI, plea seeking a refund for Sahara investors, the Delhi December 16 gang rape-cum-murder, entry of women into Kerala’s Sabarimala temple and the Cauvery water-sharing dispute.

**USP:** Rare combination of legal and linguistic skill set, ability to pronounce radical judgements for the good of the country.

## 15 Subramanian Swamy, 77

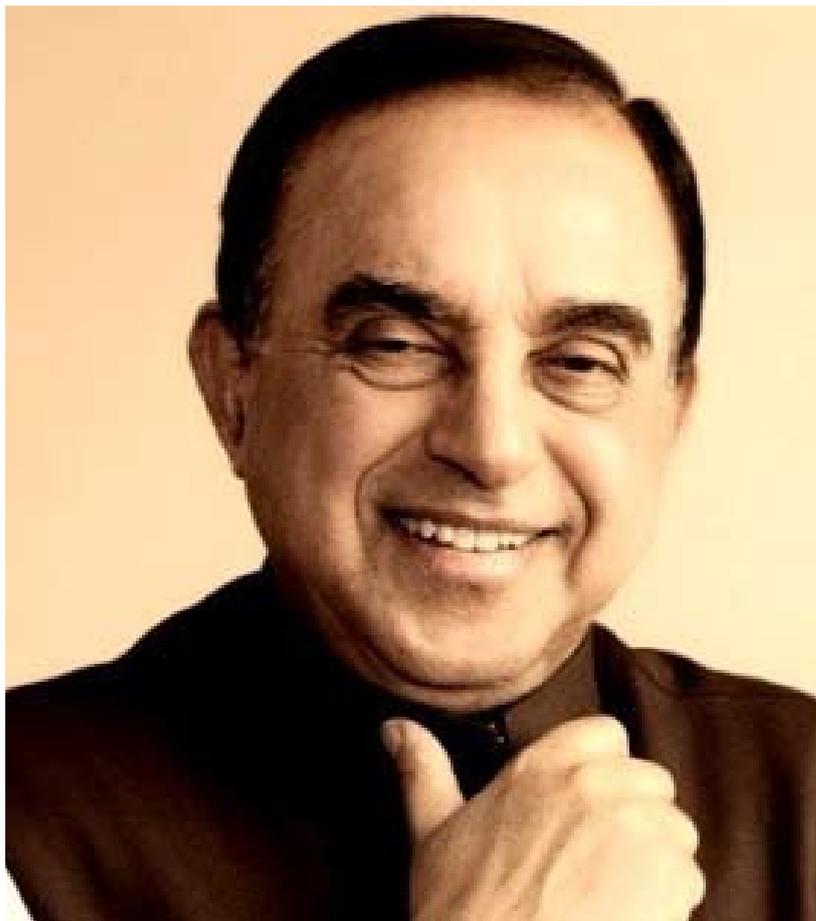
BJP leader (Rank 2016: 36)

**Reason:** There is no telling who the pugnacious BJP leader will choose as the target of his swipes — the Gandhi family, P Chidambaram, Raghuram Rajan, entire corrupt TN political class, or even party colleague Arun Jaitley. After his nomination to the Rajya Sabha, Swamy served a notice for a discussion in the House on the AgustaWestland helicopter deal. Swamy heroics in Supreme Court are legendary. 2G, Coal, Aircel Maxis, Ram Temple are few cases where Swamy have changed the landscape of fight against corruption in the country.

**Why:** Conviction that corruption is the biggest threat to democracy. His Twitter tirade against Jaitley left the party squirming, but he came out unscathed.

**What Next:** With BJP in power in UP, he is actively pursuing the Ram temple matter in the Supreme Court.

**USP:** Swamy is single man army, fighter and crusader against corruption. He is a rare combination of polity with brain.



## 16 Vasundhara Raje, 64

Chief Minister, Rajasthan  
(Rank 2016: 22)

**Reason:** She continues to remain the BJP's most powerful and popular face in Rajasthan. With the Lalit Modi controversy and the mining scam case firmly behind her, Raje has managed to hold her ground in the state despite frequent demands for quota by the Gurbjars and a fractious relationship with the RSS and its affiliates.

**Why:** Raje has managed to quell the rebellion within the party — five-time BJP MLA Ghanshyam Tiwari had publicly urged the central leadership to remove her — and emerge on top.

**What Next:** With polls to the state Assembly due next year, all eyes will be on whether she manages to repeat her 2013 performance in the face of anti-incumbency.

**USP:** Raje is the daughter of Rajmata Scindia, the founder of modern BJP. Besides being International Women's Day, it is also her birthday.

## 17 Sushma Swaraj, 65

External Affairs minister  
(Rank 2016: 10)

**Reason:** Despite her ill-health, she has retained her position as one of the topmost Cabinet ministers in the Modi government. Though she has not travelled over the last year, barring a few occasions, her inputs are considered key to Modi's foreign policy.

**Why:** Although recovering from a kidney transplant, she has been alert and active on Twitter. She responds to requests from Indians in distress overseas.

**What Next:** Her comeback to active official duty in the coming months will be tested by the health factor.

**USP:** She enjoys great working relations with Advani and Sonia Gandhi. She is an ardent Krishna devotee, whose images can be seen all over her house.



## 18 Shivraj Singh Chouhan, 58

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh  
(Rank 2016: 23)

**Reason:** Has spent more time in the chief minister's office than any politician in the history of the state, which was once a Congress stronghold. The BJP has won two assembly elections projecting him as the CM. Has even busted the myth that the CM on whose watch the Simhashta Kumbh is held always loses the seat.

**Why:** Having ridden the Vyapam scam, there appears to be no challenger to the chief minister as of now.

**What Next:** With the assembly elections more than a year away in Madhya Pradesh, there are rumours about his elevation to Delhi as a Union minister.

**USP:** Work horse, his simplicity and hard work has driven him to tremendous heights in BJP. Chouhan is extremely religious and he loves to take a dip in the Narmada.

## 19 Nitin Gadkari, 59

Union Minister, Road Transport and Highways  
(Rank 2016: 20)

**Reason:** He continues to be one of the top performers in the council of ministers with the reputation of being a doer. Modi is said to openly praise him in ministerial and secretary-level meetings. Some in the party say Modi uses Gadkari's proximity to the RSS leadership to bring Nagpur on board on certain issues. Given the government's infrastructure push, he is in charge of a key ministry.

**Why:** With the BJP eight short of the magic figure of 21 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly, it was Gadkari who worked the phones overtime and got MLAs to side with the party, completely outsmarting the Congress.

**What Next:** After the success in Goa, his stock in the party has gone up.

**USP:** Proximity to RSS is his single biggest strength. Nitin Gadkari understands business well so to run the ministry in corporate style has proved an asset in his performance.



## 20 Amarinder Singh, 75

Chief Minister, Punjab  
(New entry)

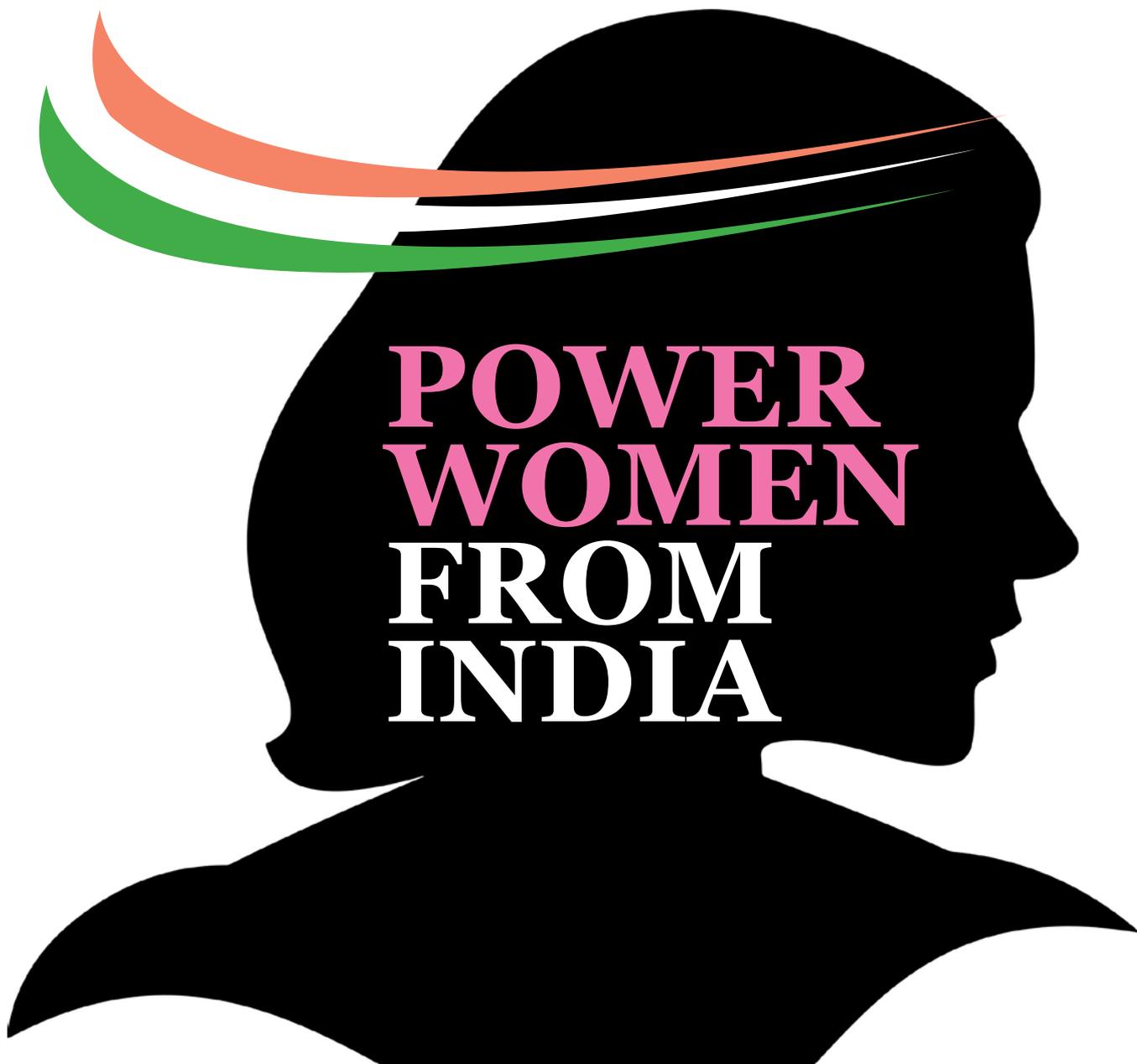
**Reason:** A scion of the Patiala royal family, Amarinder led the Congress to its only decisive victory in the Assembly elections held this year. Is still one of the mass leaders in the Congress even as his party loses ground across the country?

**Why:** Got his way in the party after threatening to leave and form his own outfit. It led to the ousting of Partap Singh Bajwa, a Rahul appointee, from the PCC chief post.

**What Next:** From tackling the drug menace to the farm crisis, the new chief minister has several challenges in his second stint at the helm in the border state.

**USP:** A rare breed of Congress leader who has survived Congress Mukh Bharat mission of Modi Shah Duo, surely it is remarkable achievement.

*(Inputs from The Pioneer)*



# POWER WOMEN FROM INDIA

## **Four Indian women billionaires in the Forbes list**

2017 Forbes ranking of the richest billionaires has 101 Indians making it to the list. The Indian ranking is led by Mukesh Ambani at a net worth of \$23.2 billion followed by Lakshmi Mittal with a net worth of \$16.4 billion.

### **But what's new about Forbes ranking this time?**

The 101 list of Indian richest people, features four women billionaires we hardly ever hear about. These are women who are heading the biggest industries in the country and are at a crucial position:

## Savitri Devi Jindal: #303

**Her real time net worth is \$5.8 billion as of 21st March, 2017**



She is the mother of former Congress MP Naveen Jindal. Savitri Jindal is the richest women in India, serving as the non-executive chairperson of Jindal Steel & Power Limited. The matriarch has seen the shares of the company fall and rise as soon she came to control things. She was a minister in Haryana government and a member of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) from Hisar constituency.

## Smita Crishna-Godrej: #814

**Her real time net worth is \$2.6 billion as of 21st March, 2017.**



Smita Crishna-Godrej is industrialist Jamshyd Godrej's sister and is married to Vijay Crishna, a director on the board of Godrej Industries Limited. She has one-fifth stake in the family assets. She was in the news recently for having bought a heritage bungalow in south Mumbai in 2014 that once belonged to Homi Bhabha, India's atomic energy pioneer.

## Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: #973

**Her real time net worth is \$2.3 billion as of 21st March, 2017.**

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw carries the baton of being India's richest self-made woman. Her listed company Biocon has more than doubled in the past year. The company is Asia's largest insulin producer and aims to capture a 10% share of the global market. Mazumdar Shaw is the recipient of Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest civilian honour, for her outstanding contribution to bioscience.



## Leena Gandhi Tewari: #1030

**Her real time net worth is \$2.1 billion as of 21st March, 2017.**

Leena Gandhi Tewari is the chairperson of USV Limited and one of the richest women in India. USV Limited is a leading pharmaceutical firm with leadership in diabetes and cardiovascular fields in India. Currently a \$385 million revenue company, USV was started by her late father as a joint venture with Revlon in 1961.



BY OECEL News Service

# BRAZIL, INDIAN-EMERGING TRADE PARTNERS

**Carlyta Mohini (Maria)**

**B**etween the 16th -18th centuries, Brazil and Goa, both outposts of the Portuguese imperialist outreach, had bilateral exchanges, which found reflection in the flora and fauna, food and dress as well as folk traditions of Brazil. The interesting similarities between folk traditions of 'Boi Bumba' in the north of Brazil and the 'Poikam Kudharai' of South India draw attention to the strong under currents of cultural and popular exchanges that have taken place in the centuries by-gone.

Both are large developing countries, stable, secular, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, large democracies as well as trillion-dollar economies, hence although the two countries are divided by geography and distance, they share common democratic values and developmental aspirations.

Considering the frequent Bilateral

Interactions between India and Brazil in the recent years, India-Brazil bilateral relations are in a state of clearly discernible upswing.

The Prestigious Awards - Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 2006 and Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2010 conferred on President Lula of Brazil confers the shared vision of India and Brazil on a common ideology .

The constructive exchange of VVIPs, Ministerial and official-level visits in recent years clearly define the strengthening of bilateral relationship in various fields and forging of close cooperation and coordination in the multilateral arena, be in IBSA, BRICS, G-4, BASIC, G-20 summits and the recent BRICS Summit in Goa, India 2016 .

On an evolving bilateral order to name a many important few , the visits from India since Vice President S. Radhakrishnan (1954), Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi (1968), Prime Minister Narasimha Rao (1992 - for Earth Summit), President K.R. Narayanan (1998), ,President Pratibha Patil (2008) and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh (June 2012-for Rio+20 summit)., Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs (Feb 2008), Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister from India (Nov 2008) ,Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests (to attend the BASIC Ministerial ), Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for State for Commerce and Industry (September 2010, April 2011), Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution )and other dignitaries and the honourable visits from Brazil to India since Celso Amorim, Foreign Minister of Brazil (April, July 2007 and September 2009) and as Defence Minister in February 2012, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Mr. Miguel Jorge (March and October



2008) and Minister of Defence Nelson Jobin (March 2010), Foreign Minister Mr. Antonio Patriota visited India for IBSA Ministerial and Brazil-India JCM in December 2011 and VVIP visits of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1996), President Lula (2004, 2007 & 2008), President Dilma Rousseff in March 2012 to attend the 4th BRICS Summit and bilateral Trade Summit and President Temer in BRICS Summit on 2016, culminated in signing of the important Bilateral Agreements, MOUs, Extradition Treaty, Cooperation in Tourism, Space, S&T, Air Services, Oil and Natural Gas, Audio-Visual Co-production, Academic Exchanges, Infrastructure, Hunger and Poverty, Civil Defence and Humanitarian Assistance, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Plant Health Protection, Human Settlements, Biotechnology, Technical Cooperation, Education, Metrology and Gender Equity.

On a sufficing visionary notes on the economic and commercial relations between the two countries and its bilateral trade crossing US \$ 10 Billion in 2012 mark, states a historical note which includes - India's imports: US\$ 5,577 billion on Crude oil, copper sulphates, soya oil, Raw sugar, denatured alcohol, other minerals of copper and its concentrates, asbestos, valves, motor pumps, airplanes, wheat, precious and semi-precious stones and India's exports: US\$ 5,043 billion on Diesel oil, coke of coal, lignite or peat, equipments related to wind energy, engineering and electrical equipment, cotton and polyester yarns, naphtha, pigments, medicines and chemicals. Brazil is the most important trading partner of India in the entire LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) region. India and Brazil bilateral trade has increased substantially in the last two decades. However, the most impressive change is taking place now as the trade is becoming more diversified both geographically as well as qualitatively. In 2011 about two third of our bilateral trade of US\$ 9.2 billion was oil products, whereas in 2012 this proportion has become less than half in our bilateral trade of US\$ 10.6 billion.

India and Brazil have formed a bilateral Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) for periodic consultations. India signed a framework agreement with MERCOSUR in June 2003. The India Mercosur PTA entered into force on 1st June 2009 under which 450 items from each side will have duty reductions of 10% to 100%. Efforts are underway to



Counsel General of Brazil in Mumbai – Ms Rosimar Suzano in Mumbai office

broaden and deepen the India-Mercosur PTA and to link it, under IBSA to SACU as well.

There is an ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the trade and investment, oil and gas, automobiles, IT, Pharmaceutical, engineering goods, bio-fuels, agriculture and allied areas (the bulk of Brazilian cattle livestock is of Indian origin and Brazil still imports fresh embryos from India to rejuvenate its cattle breed), agro-food sectors which could further be enhanced via S&T and infrastructure and India Brazil Chamber of Commerce.

India has also welcomed many Brazilian students under ITEC programme for training in communications, management and defence.

On the Cultural arena, The Brazil-

ian interests in India are vast. Recently, The Brazilian Consulate in Mumbai organised a Brazilian Latin festival in Mumbai under the guidance of our versatile Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, Ms Rosimar Suzano to portray the Cultural metamorphosis of Brazilian music as a Yogic fervour, performing arts and philosophy. On an extended note, a similar thread was woven too by Ms Suzano and the Ambassador to Brazil in India Mr Nunes on the 194th Anniversary of Brazilian National Day in Mumbai on 7th September 2016, emphasising on Sports and its bilateral connections with India during the curtain raiser of the Rio Olympics in Brazil 2016, where the Indian Contingent had a considerably large sports persons. Few of them from Maharashtra were



specialty felicitated on the National Day of Brazil in association with Nena Records and Productions and Mr Manish Tewari of ITV Networks (India News and News X TV Channels), India.

Nena Records and Productions, India and Brazil encompassed daily large segments in covering the numerous organizations, teaching Yoga all over Brazil in Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Maharshi Yogi and Bhakti Vedanta Foundation along with the wide coverage of sports segments of Brazilian and Indian athletes in Rio Olympics 2016 as special added episodes on Rio Olympics 2016.

Mahatma Gandhi is highly regarded in Brazil and the government and NGOs are trying to circulate the philosophy of non-violence among students, youth and even police. Statues of Mahatma Gandhi have been installed in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Londrina. The Brazilian cultural troupe had given splendid performances in India in 2008 and a large group of Indian artists gave several popular performances in several Brazilian cities in May-June 2011 in association with ICCR ( Indian Council of Cultural Research – Ministry of Tourism – Government of India )

The airing of the 'Telenovela' and the popular Indian TV series ' Caminho Das Indias '(Paths to India) by the influential O Globo Television made a great impact in enhancing the consciousness

of India in the Brazilian public mind and greatly contributed to the warmth and friendliness in the common masses of Brazil.

The Indian Association in Sao Paulo along with the Indian community of PIOs /NRIs numbering 2000 in Brazil mainly comprising of professionals and businessmen, scientists/researchers in agriculture, physics regularly conduct bilateral events to further the bond between the two countries. A majority of them lives in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus. The Indian Consulate General in Sao Paulo, the industrial and commercial hub of Brazil, was opened in 1996. The Brazilian Embassy has been functional in India since 1949 and has Consulate General in Mumbai.

The Recent breakthrough on the 8th BRICS Summit 2016 marks a major step forward to the spirit of the Goa Declaration. The outcomes of the meetings of BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers held on June 9 last year in Geneva and on September 27-28, 2016 in New Delhi, India and Brazil today initiated the text of the Social Security Agreement in Brasilia. The text establishes the rights and obligations of nationals of both countries and provides for equal treatment of the nationals of both countries and unrestricted payment of pensions even in the case of residence in the other contracting state (benefits export principle).

The SSA between India and Brazil once brought into force by early 2018,after completion of the ratification process in the respective countries will favourably impact the profitability and competitive position of Indian and Brazilian companies with foreign operations in either country by reducing their cost of doing business abroad. The SSA will also help promote more investment flows between the two countries. The Indian delegation was led by K. Nagaraj Naidu; Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the Brazilian delegation was led by Mr. Benedito A. Brunca, Secretary (Social Security Policies), Ministry of Finance, Government of Brazil.

After holding wide-ranging talks in The BRICS Summit in Goa with Brazilian President Michel Temer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India deeply appreciated Brazil's support to its actions in combating terror, noting both countries will work for early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism (CCIT) by the UN. In the talks, Temer supported New Delhi's bid for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and conveyed to Modi that Brazil will work with other member countries of the elite bloc to facilitate India's entry into it.

Modi said he has sought greater market access and investment opportu-

nities for Indian products and companies in Brazil and was “thankful” for Temer’s “positive consideration”. Talking about Brazil’s priority to reviving the domestic economy, Modi said India can be a valuable partner in it. He welcomed Brazilian companies to come and invest in India and to forge long-term commercial partnerships. The two leaders also met a group of CEOs of top companies from both countries to explore ways to deepen economic engagement to progress in opening new areas of cooperation on drug regulation, agricultural research and cyber security issues. President Temer and PM Modi also agreed to intensify and strengthen their coordination in important international fora and resolved to work closely at the United Nations, the G-20, G-4, WTO, BRICS and IBSA

On the the visit of the Brazilian delegation to Mumbai on Oct 2016 on a mission to explore new vistas for trade, commerce and investment, spear-headed Ms. Rosimar da Silva Suzano, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai at the International Business Round Table organized by World Trade Centre Mumbai, All India Association of Industries, ApexBrasil and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Brazil at the World Trade Centre Mumbai, confined that, “Brazil’s trade with India has immense scope for expansion which currently accounts for 1.21% of India’s total trade. The total trade between India and Brazil is at USD 6.69 billion in 2015-16. The market opportunities exist in the areas of food and drinks (coffee, tea, fruits, cocoa, and confectionary products), home and building (woods), machinery and equipment (vehicles and auto parts), mineral products and chemicals. Brazil has recently launched a new infrastructure Program, ‘Crescer’ (meaning ‘grow’) which will focus on concession, privatization and public-private partnerships, Brazil and India should rather look for complementarities and synergies between their respective markets and mind-sets in order to increase and upgrade their business potential. For more business to take place there should be more people to people exchanges. I am a strong believer of people-to-people relations to cement long-term and sustainable partnerships as under the ‘Make in India’ initiative, India is undergoing a series of reforms that are in the process of enhancing the competitiveness of the country.

Ms. Lara Gurgel, representing Apex-Brasil, said, “India and Brazil share a

special relationship and tremendous opportunities lie between them especially in natural resources besides agriculture, food processing, oil & gas, mining, textile, spinning and with the successful conclusion of the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa, member countries should work towards the success of BRICS. Both Ms Suzano and Ms Gurgel appreciated the growth at a rate of 7.6 percent which is possible first and foremost by providing concession in freight costs.. They also emphasised on the technology segment which India requires and can be fulfilled through collaborative efforts with Brazil.

Adding further on the bilateral tie ups of India and Brazil, Rosimar Da Silva Suzano, Consul General of Brazil (Mumbai) stated that, “The BRICS, gave powerful impetus to the identification and development of specific bilateral and joint projects in strategic sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, science and technology and paved sustainable and inclusive solutions to the global problems”,

Ms. Suzano while addressing a seminar on ‘BRICS-Challenges and Opportunities’ organised jointly by Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University in collaboration with International Centre, Goa, emphasised, “that a stronger BRICS equals a more equitable world order as no country can by itself respond to today’s challenges, by pooling capabilities, resources and ideas over shared concerns BRICS is giving the world its contribution, at the same time ensuring its members a fair stake in the decision making process. She also recalled that 2008 global financial crisis confirmed the realisation among the emerging economies that they should have a voice in the decision-making mechanisms put in place at the Bretton Woods Conference in the aftermath of the II World War that no longer met the demands of a globalised world economy. She advocated more reforms in global financial institutions and more investment in infrastructure in BRICS and emerging economies. With the New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS will have funds to finance infrastructure projects at the BRICS countries or in other emerging third world countries”

Describing Brazil as a proactive member of the BRICS, Ms. Suzano said, ‘Brazil saw BRICS as a window of opportunities not to be missed, and went on to recall that since inception, her country saw BRICS as an ideal space for dialogue, and consensus, identifi-

cation of convergences and expansion of contacts and cooperation in specific sectors amongst its members. She said to handle issues of the global agenda the vision that is BRICS shall be open to constructively cooperate and engage with third countries as well as international and regional organizations. She also lauded the role of initiatives such as cultural exchanges, civil society dialogue and parliamentary meetings as having potential to generate new ideas of global governance and come up with inclusive solutions.

“BRICS offered a forum for deliberation and collective position taking a space to create a positive agenda and search for common ground within the international scene, an arena for intra-cooperation in a gamut of subjects and sectors .Being an ardent supporter of multilateralism, she added ,”Brazil believes in the partnerships in different groupings”. The consul general said BRICS should have a collective response towards inter-state wars, climate change and natural disaster. She admitted that BRICS has helped Brazil improve its bilateral trade to a great extent.

“At a time when the bilateral trade was mere 500 million dollars in 2005, it reached 11.5 billion dollars in 2014, despite the country’s economy being in doldrums,” she added.

To conclude on all the visionary and strong developments on Trade , Business , Economic and Cultural elevations, positive developments and ongoing growth between India and Brazil the Visa issues need to be informed too to further the Indo Brazilian ties which states that under a bilateral agreement, diplomatic and official passport holders are exempted from visa for a stay of maximum of 90 days. And although there are no direct flights between India and Brazil, convenient connections are however available via Europe (London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam), the US (New York and Chicago) and via Dubai. A Point to be pondered for an easy ‘Air Viability’ for the Business and Corporate sectors of both Brazil and India for a smooth direct travel radar.

*(The writer is a leading Indo Brazilian Columnist on International Diplomatic issues and Politics, World Trade /Tourism/Heritage/ Music and Global Fusion Vocalist (ICCR) / Songwriter)*



# The Fishy NGO business

CAG questions irregular tax exemptions to Tata Trusts and its Rs 3,000-crore investments



**A** detailed audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India of some major trusts run by business houses and sports bodies has allegedly revealed misuse of income tax exemptions granted to them. Among them are at least two Tata trusts and a number of state cricket associations. The audit report, one of the first to be signed by the new CAG, S K Sharma, is to be tabled in Parliament. In the meantime, the CAG has written to the finance ministry, which has advised the income-tax department to initiate action.

In the report, 'Exemptions to Charitable Trusts and Institutions', the CAG has said that some of the trusts have invested, or transferred to other trusts, large surpluses instead of spending the money for charitable purposes. According to the CAG, Jamsetji Tata Trust and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust together invested over Rs 3,000 crore in 'prohibitive modes', meaning investments that cannot be accepted as charitable in nature. In the wake of the CAG audit, the government has initiated steps to re-

cover over Rs 1,000 crore from the two trusts. All the Tata trusts together hold 66% in Tata Sons, the holding company of the \$100 billion salt-to-software-to-steel conglomerate.

The CAG's audit covered over 80,000 of the six lakh-odd registered trusts in India. A source close to the development said the two Tata trusts were the most prominent among them. The finance ministry has admitted to the CAG that the administration of Section

13(1)(d) of the Income Tax Act, which provides tax exemption to trusts, was flawed. Another 20 major trusts have illegally enjoyed IT exemption, the audit report said, but no details are as yet available. The section specifies that if a charitable trust has invested in ineligible securities, its income will not be tax exempt. In other words, the charitable trust will lose its tax exemption status. The audit also reports that four state cricket associations-Maharashtra, Sau-

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rashtra, Baroda and Kerala- have engaged in commercial activities, linked mostly to telecast rights, and received “irregular exemptions”. The CAG has said that the illegal acts of the state boards have resulted in revenue loss of over Rs 38 crores.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Friday pulled up the income tax department (ITD) for allowing irregular tax exemption to two Tata Group trusts, involving tax implication of a little over Rs 1,000 crore. “ITD allowed irregular exemptions to Jamshetji Tata Trust and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, who invested Rs 3,139 crore in prohibited modes arising from accumulation of capital gains which involved tax effect of Rs 1,066.95 crore,” said the CAG report tabled in Parliament.

The CAG has given notice to 14 Trust cases involving tax liability of Rs 1,090 crore, wherein accumulation arising from capital gains was either not invested in the specified mode or computed incorrectly. Moreover, the CAG added, in some cases “they were not fully utilised... Proceeds for acquiring capital assets. The ITD allowed exemption irregularly in these assessments completed after scrutiny”.

Referring to a particular case, the auditor said Jamshetji Tata Trust and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust earned Rs 1,905 crore and Rs 1,234 crore on account of capital gains during assessment years 2008-09 and 2009-10, respectively and “invested the same in prohibited mode of investment which is in contravention to the provisions of section 13 (1) (d) of the Income Tax Act (dealing with investment).”

The assessing officer should have brought the investment aggregating Rs 3,139 crore to tax at maximum marginal rate under the Income Tax Act, CAG said adding, “it resulted in short levy of tax of Rs 1,066.95 crore”.

The report said the finance ministry had accepted the audit observation and initiated remedial action. The CAG, it said feels the ministry should ensure such mistakes do not recur. It also suggested the ministry to “evolve an effective monitoring system to make assessing officers responsible to check investments in authorised modes in all cases”.

#### **TATA’S RESPONSE:**

In response to a detailed questionnaire from TOI, AN Singh, managing trustee of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (of which the Jamsetji Tata Trust is an affiliate), said: “We are not aware of the recent



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audit of the CAG of India referred to by you. However, we confirm that a tax demand has been raised by the income-tax department against the trust in relation to the subject matter of your query. The department has stayed the recovery of demand against an interim tax payment made by the Trust, pending appellate proceedings. An appeal has been filed with the commissioner of I-T since there is a difference in opinion between the I-T department and the Trust on the legal interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Act. The proceedings are currently on-going.

It may also be mentioned here that the trust is governed by the provisions of the Bombay Public Trusts Act and had accordingly sought and obtained the prior approval of the Charity Commissioner as required by the Act before making the subject investment which was made to avail of an optimised and

stable yield. In the opinion of the trust, there is no loss of revenue to the exchequer resulting from the said investment.”

The Supreme Court directed the government to audit nearly 30 lakh NGOs which received public funds but consistently failed to explain how they spent the money. It ordered that any NGO found to have cooked its books or indulged in misappropriation should be subject to immediate criminal prosecution. Besides, the government should initiate civil recovery proceedings against such rogue organisations.

Though public funds to the tune of thousands of crores are spent on NGOs and voluntary organisations annually, the CBI submitted that only about three lakh of about 32 lakh NGOs file their balance sheets with the government.

**—J Gopikrishnan with inputs from Press Trust of India**

# Triple identity gave me unique Advantage, says Lord Gadhia

Kapil Dudakia

**L**ord Gadhia is a British Citizen of Indian origin, born in Uganda and raised in the UK. His family came to Britain during the expulsion of 50,000+ Asians from Uganda in 1972. He was educated at Cambridge University and also the London Business School.

He is an investment banker and has worked with major banks like Barings, ABN AMRO and Barclays before joining Blackstone as a Senior Managing Director, and is an expert on BRIC economies. In April 2016, Lord Gadhia was appointed by HM Treasury to

the Board of UK Government Investments (UKGI), which brings together UKFI and all the other assets owned by the UK Government under one umbrella holding company becoming the

## KONVERSATIONS WITH KAPIL

Government's centre of excellence in corporate finance and corporate governance. Following are the excerpts from an interaction with Lord Gadhia

### What is your current position?

I now have, what is euphemistically called, a "plural" career. I thought this would give me greater flexibility and a better work-life balance, but I

am busier now than ever, particularly given my recent appointment to the House of Lords.

On the private side, I am a Director of BGL Group, which owns comparethemarket.com. I also advise Intas Pharmaceuticals, a global generic pharmaceutical company headquartered in India which has just made the largest investment by an Indian company in UK, post-Brexit, of over £600 million.

**You have had an extraordinary journey from your birth country to your home now in the UK. Can you tell us a bit about your**





**toughest challenges, your proudest achievements and of course, your incredible success as a businessman, and now also within the political arena?**

It has been quite a journey from a village in Gujarat to the suburbs of London via the hills of Kampala. Having a triple identity - Indian origin, born in Uganda and raised in Britain might seem challenging for many but I see it as a unique advantage. The beauty of wearing “three hats” - either separately or all at the same time - is that you don’t feel confined to any one culture and you can transcend them all.

As a young banker, I lived through the collapse of Barings in 1995. It was a “Black Swan” moment for all of us

As a young banker, I lived through the collapse of Barings in 1995. It was a “Black Swan” moment for all of us working at Barings and, indeed, the City fraternity more widely. We eventually came through this difficultly but the whole episode taught me to “expect the unexpected” and this has helped me develop a sense of perspective about similar events.

working at Barings and, indeed, the City fraternity more widely. We eventually came through this difficultly but the whole episode taught me to “expect the unexpected” and this has

helped me develop a sense of perspective about similar events.

**Who/What inspires you?**

I am most inspired by people who



It is no exaggeration to say that the next decade for Britain will be dominated by Brexit and therefore the bilateral relationship with India will be framed in this context. It is a defining moment in British history as we grapple with these new realities. We stand at a crossroads for the UK and its future relationship with the rest of the world. In this context, I hope that India will view us as: “a friend in need is a friend indeed” and recognise both the necessities and opportunities opened up by our departure from the European Union.

have been successful and yet retained their authenticity. Whether it’s an investor like Warren Buffet in US, an entrepreneur like Sir James Dyson in UK or a politician like PM Narendra Modi in India. They all have a gift for articulating a powerful vision and at the same time they also demonstrably “walk the talk”.

**Who has been the biggest influence in your career to date?**

It is difficult to point to a single individual but I would say that the quality of experience which I gained working at Barings in the corporate finance team during the 1990s has been an

enduring influence through my subsequent career. I had the best training possible and worked with some outstanding individuals who have gone onto excel in different roles.

**If you were Prime Minister, what one policy would you like to implement?**

Our new Prime Minister, Theresa May, speaks of making Britain a great meritocracy, a place where advantage is based on merit not privilege; where it’s your talent and hard work that matter, not where you were born, who your parents are or what your accent sounds like. This is music to my ears.

British Indians were promised during the EU referendum that being outside the EU would enable more talented people, including Indian students and professionals to come to the UK. I believe this promise needs to be honoured.

**The Prime Minister considers you as a leading expert on UK Indian Diaspora relations, can you share with us your thoughts on the special bonds between the two nations and how this will develop over the coming decades?**

It is no exaggeration to say that the next decade for Britain will be dominated by Brexit and therefore the bilateral relationship with India will be framed in this context. It is a defining moment in British history as we grapple with these new realities. We stand at a crossroads for the UK and its future relationship with the rest of the world. In this context, I hope that India will view us as: “a friend in need is a friend indeed” and recognise both the necessities and opportunities opened up by our departure from the European Union.

We also need to constantly work on the relationship and can’t be complacent. A respected Indian businessman described the UK-India relationship to me as being like a long married couple. We are so familiar with each other that it is easy to take each other for granted and sometimes we need to find a new spark to revive the relationship. I hope some of us can encourage those new sparks.

**Your faith is very important to you; can you tell us how it has helped you in your life?**

Being anchored in a set of timeless values provides you with a sense of perspective and balance. I believe that both Dharma (right conduct) and Karma (you reap what you sow) are also good ways to approach other aspects of your life - be they personal or business relationships.

As a result, you shouldn’t seek to be “somebody” but achieve “something”. If you do your duty, then everything else will fall into place. In the political world this philosophy is sometimes considered as naïve. But we need to change that mindset and encourage more people to get on with doing the right thing.

**Twitter: @kdudakia  
(Courtesy: The Pioneer)**

# 10 Income Tax Rules That Will Change From April 2017

**T**he Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Finance Bill, completing the budgetary exercise for 2017-18. Since the Finance Bill is a Money Bill, it needs only to be cleared by the Lok Sabha. Starting from April 1, 2017, some income tax laws will change. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced a number of income tax changes in Budget 2017. In addition, some amendments were also introduced in the Finance Bill that was passed by the Lok Sabha. Here are some of the changes that income tax payers should note:

**1** The tax rate on income between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh will get halved to 5 per cent from 10 per cent. However, rebate under Section 87A gets reduced from Rs 5,000 to Rs. 2,500. And no rebate will be applicable for taxpayers having income above Rs 3.5 lakh. This means tax savings of up to Rs 7,700 for those with a taxable income between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 5 lakh. And for persons with taxable income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 50 lakh, tax savings of Rs. 12,900.

**2** A 10 per cent surcharge will be applicable for individuals having income ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore (existing surcharge of 15 per cent will remain the same for individuals having income above Rs 1 crore.)

**3** A simple one-page form will be introduced for filing tax return for individuals having a taxable income up to Rs 5 lakh other than business income.

**4** No deduction will be allowed for investment in Rajiv Gandhi Equity Saving Scheme from Assessment Year 2018-19. This tax-saving scheme, announced in the Union





Budget for financial year 2012-13, was designed exclusively for the first-time individual investors in the securities market with gross total income below a certain limit.

**5** Income tax officials can reopen tax cases for up to 10 years if search operations reveal undisclosed income and assets of over Rs 50 lakh. Currently, tax officers can go back up to six years to scrutinise the books of accounts of assessee. Taxpayers who do not file their returns on time will have to shell out a penalty of up to Rs 10,000 from Assessment Year 2018-19. However, if the total income of the person does not exceed Rs 5 lakh, the fee payable under this section shall not exceed Rs 1,000.

**6** The holding period of a property for qualifying as long-term gains will be reduced to two years, from three years. This will help save tax if a property is sold within two years of buying. The profit from the transaction will be treated as short-term capital gains and will be taxed according to the slab

rate applicable to him/her.

**7** The government has cut down tax benefits borrowers enjoyed on properties let out on rent. As per current tax laws, for properties rented out, a borrower could deduct the entire interest paid on home loan after adjusting for the rental income. On the other hand, borrowers of self-occupied properties get a deduction of Rs 2 lakh on interest repayment on home loan. But on rented properties, the borrower can only claim a deduction of up to Rs 2 lakh per year after adjusting for the rental income. And the amount above Rs 2 lakh can be carried forward for eight assessment years. Since the interest component of home loan repaid in initial years is higher, experts say that the borrower may not be able to fully adjust the interest paid as deduction even in subsequent years.

**8** Individuals will be required to deduct a 5 per cent TDS (tax deducted at source) for rental payments above Rs 50,000 per month. Tax

experts say that the move will ensure that persons who get a large rental income come into the tax net. It will be effective from June 1, 2017.

**9** Partial withdrawals from National Pension System (NPS) will not attract tax. According to the proposed changes, NPS subscribers can withdraw 25 per cent of their contribution to the corpus for emergencies before retirement. Remember that withdrawal of 40 per cent of the corpus is tax-free on retirement.

**10** Aadhaar number will be a must while applying for PAN as well as filing of income tax returns from July 1. To curb black money, the limit on cash transactions has been set at Rs 2 lakh. The Finance Bill had originally proposed the cap at Rs 3 lakh. If a person receives any sum in contravention of the tax law, he/she will be liable to pay, by way of penalty, a sum equal to the amount.

*(Inputs from Dhruv Dua  
Chartered Accountant)*

# Engineering a fraud

**A** Dubai-based NRI businessman, C.C. Thampi, has been booked by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a case of alleged wrongful approval for an engineering college in Thrissur in Kerala by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in 2009. The agency had recently served a show-cause notice for alleged foreign exchange violation involving ₹288 crore.

The ED has booked Mr. Thampi on the basis of an FIR lodged by the CBI on December 28, 2009, an official said. The CBI had earlier closed the case claiming lack of evidence in prosecuting the accused persons. However, it recently got approval from the court to reinvestigate the allegations and conducted searches last month.

Those named as accused are Mr. Thampi, chairman and managing trustee of the Thrissur-based Cheruvathur Foundation, and Manju Singh, the then AICTE's Regional Director. According to official records, Mr. Thampi had submitted a proposal to the AICTE on December 27, 2008, for establishing Thejus Engineering College in Thrissur.

By AICTE norms, any society or

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Trust proposing to start a new engineering college had to own not less than 10 acres of land if the institution was in a remote place. Infrastructure, including a building with instructional

area and facilities for administrative, residential and other amenities, had to be set up.

It is alleged that the engineering college did not meet the criteria. However, on receipt of the proposal, the then AICTE Regional Director "dishonestly" forwarded it to the head office without verifying the particulars.

"The AICTE headquarters issued a letter of intent on March 17, 2009, to the Foundation, which, on May 13 the same year, informed the officials about its preparedness for the visit of an Expert Committee to the college," said an official. Ms. Singh was part of the committee that visited the college on June 15, 2009. The same day, it submitted a "false report" certifying the documents and infrastructure, claiming that their physical verification had been done. Based on the report, the AICTE issued a letter of approval for the institution. "After getting the letter, the Foundation got students enrolled and allegedly received wrongful gain in the form of capitation fee," the official said.

**(Vishnu Sharma Advocate  
Supreme Court)**



# Hindu-Americans divided on Trump's immigration policy

**T**he Hindu-American community is divided on US President Donald Trump's new executive orders on immigration with some calling it "fundamentally illegal," while others asking for including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the list of nations whose citizens have been denied entry in the US. The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) expressed concern over the practical and legal implications of the executive order affecting immigration policy and its detrimental impact on refugees and legal immigrants.

"Implementing any sort of religious preference for admittance would be fundamentally unconstitutional and any permanent blanket ban based on national-origin would be illegal," HAF executive director Suhag Shukla said. HAF senior director Samir Kalra, however, conceded that the wording of the executive order does not express a preference for adherents of one particular religion. "President Trump's statements immediately after signing the executive order, in which he emphasised that Christian refugees would carry priority, does elicit serious concerns," he said.

An executive order last week suspending the arrival of all refugees for at least 120 days, Syrian refugees indefinitely, and barring citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days, fulfilling one of his central campaign promises. On the other hand, the Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC), which had campaigned for Trump during the general elections announced its full support to the executive orders signed by Trump.

"We applaud the Trump administration for taking this decisive move to protect our citizens from Islamic terror," said Shalabh Kumar, RHC chairman. "A firm stance against terror is one of the pillars of our organisation and one of the central tenets of the Trump campaign, and we fully support our Commander-in-Chief taking the necessary steps to protect our country," he said.

*(Courtesy: Indian Express)*



# Trump to donate his annual Presidential salary to charity

Donald Trump will donate his annual presidential salary of \$400,000 to charity by year's end, spokesman Sean Spicer said --and he even wants the media he often criticizes to help him choose a worthwhile cause.

"The president's intention is to donate his salary at the end of the year," Spicer told reporters on Monday at his daily briefing. "He made a pledge to the American people."

"He kindly asked that you all help determine where that goes," he continued -- a rather unusual statement from a White House that has made hostile confrontation with the media a near-daily

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occurrence. "The way that we can avoid scrutiny is to let the press corps determine where it should go," Spicer said with a hint of irony, perhaps in reference to past media scrutiny of Trump's donations and the management of his family foundation.

Several times during his presidential campaign, the billionaire businessman said he did not plan to take a salary, save one dollar, the legal minimum.

*(Divyansh Bajpai from USA Bureau)*



# Green ride with smart scooter

Ather Energy's electric scooter set to give its rivals a run for their money

**B**engaluru-based Ather Energy has been teasing the S340 -- billed as India's first smart electric scooter -- for a while now and many have been waiting for a chance for a test ride. The startup's first smart electric scooter was unveiled at the Web Summit Surge conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

In a previous interaction with Gadgets 360, Ather Energy founder co-founder Tarun Mehta spoke about some of the design philosophies behind the scooter, as well as some of the challenges the company faced in cutting down on its cost and weight, and in extending the battery lifecycle.

While a test ride wasn't on the cards at the company's headquarters recently, Mehta did share details of the dates for pre-orders, as well as a timeline for production and launch cities for the S340, detailing plans of its software features, such as personalised profiles, riding modes like sport and economy, and onboard navigation.

Billed as a smart scooter, the S340 has GSM and Bluetooth connectivity. The startup has made a decision to move from Android to Linux for the dashboard operating system. While we weren't shown the dashboard, a spokesperson later confirmed that it would use Google Maps for navigation through the web browser.

"It doesn't really change much for developers, because the apps are still HTML 5 apps. Internally things haven't changed dramatically," Mehta explains. Users will be able to track the vehicle using their smartphones, remotely control and monitor the vehicle, enable fast charging by using a slider on its app. "You could cre-



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ate custom riding profiles from your mobile phone itself, so that when the vehicle starts, on your profile, those settings will already be pre-saved. So you can specify, what kind of acceleration response, top speed you want, and then save them on your profile, and then go to the vehicle, and select your profile again, those are the exact settings you will find.”

Apart from vehicle location tracking, a lot of work has gone into providing vehicle analytics to the rider, on the dashboard and on its app. Users will be able to extrapolate their average driving speed. Mehta says that the team working on the data analytics

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**“There’s this one guy who’s basically like a racer - he does the testing most of the time. If you see his throttle response, it’s either 100 or zero,” says Mehta.**

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love building their own profiles on the prototype, to gauge their energy efficiency.

“There’s this one guy who’s basi-

cally like a racer - he does the testing most of the time. If you see his throttle response, it’s either 100 or zero,” says Mehta. “He always does the fastest laps, but his energy consumption is nearly 80 percent more than another another guy who rides very sensibly, but takes 15 percent lesser time.” Vehicle analytics can read skid patches, and help inform the user if they are an unsafe rider who takes sharp turns, Mehta says, adding that good riding behaviour would not influence just the battery lifecycle, but other components as well. “It’s a long term thing, but the sheer power of what data can do for you is sort of hitting everybody



in this team now, it's gamifying the experience," he says.

Mehta also says that the S340 will have remote diagnostics enabled, with sensor data from at least four of its components (battery, motor, charger and the vehicle control unit) so they can inform the rider when a replacement is due. "Electric drive trains already have most of those sensors and data logging happening inherently," he says. "You just need to start tapping into it, and pile up software and intelligence on top of it, to come up with outcomes like this. As we get more and more data from the vehicles, our understanding and insights on this is only going to get far deeper."

In our last interaction, Ather Energy had quoted a range of 50 to 100 kilometres on a single charge. Provid-

it," says Mehta.

"If I were to take a guess, probably 1500 to 2000 recharge cycles," he says, adding that the company takes battery safety very seriously. "The battery pack, encased in an aluminium block that's completely sealed, and waterproof, and functions three metres under water," he says.

The S340 will be available for trials and pre-orders in about two and a half months, at experience centres owned and operated by the company. "By the end of the year is when we'll start shipping. We're already in February, and March starts soon," says Mehta. "A few months from now is when we start the preorders and the test trials, and five to six months from there is when we start shipping."

The S340 will first be available

product that we're putting out is aimed at working in these 20 different cities, it will be tested in a lot of those locations, we will follow up with sales and support in those areas before we reach those places."

Weighing in at 85 kilograms, the S340 smart scooter has been designed in-house, and every component (with the exception of the motor) is custom designed by Ather Energy, including the rim and the side-stand. These components needed to be redesigned to be as lightweight as possible.

"The rims specifically for lightness. The chassis for the most part is aluminium," Mehta explains. "The philosophy behind that is that lightweight is important, any extra material that you ramp on is wastage. We redesigned the side-stand, because we did not like any in the market - ours is flush with the body, it merges very well with the overall body, went with our design language."

The startup has taken up a plant for assembly in Whitefield, Bengaluru, to keep production as close as possible to the design centre, and ensure that anything that needs sorting can be handled by the design team in a few hours. While the manufacturing of its components are being outsourced, the scooter is completely assembled, built and tested in Bengaluru. The battery pack is also completely assembled and built by the startup. "Right now we are building it up for 50 units per day capacity, we'll probably start ramping this sometime next year as we start planning for the next stage," Mehta says.

Ather Energy isn't too concerned about competition from other automotive manufacturers, and instead welcomes more players to drive an ecosystem of electric vehicles, which would only improve a case for installing charging infrastructure for them.

"Though there have been concepts from TVS, Hero, and Mahindra, I don't see anything in the immediate horizon. Nothing that seems to have gone into production. I guess we should start seeing something realistic by 2017 end, and mid 2018 maybe," Mehta says. "What we're trying to build is something that we genuinely believe that the mass market can adopt. Anybody who buys a petrol scooter, or any kind of two-wheeler, these specs will make the most amount of sense for them."

**(Ms Lakshmi Devi – Bangalore Bureau)**

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The batteries used onboard the S340 have are specced at a thousand recharge cycles approximately, following which it will lose 20-30 percent of its original capacity, Mehta says, adding that users with short commutes will be able to extend its lifecycle. "The way lithium-ion batteries work is that if you do partial discharges, your battery lifecycle actually becomes more. It's hard to guess, how many cycles a hyper-efficient rider can extract out of it," says Mehta.

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ing an update on its range, Mehta says that the S340 would probably end up covering 65 kilometres in the city on a full charge. With an additional rider on the back, the range would drop by approximately 15 to 20 percent. "If you ride carefully, more like 70-75 kilometres, though 65 is more realistic, even assuming you ride at good speeds and acceleration, with the assumption that the dashboard and headlights are on," he says.

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in three cities - Bengaluru, Pune and Chennai. The company will have service centres and experience centres operating in these three cities, Mehta says, where people can come and take a test ride.

"We just want to make sure that wherever we are, we can do good servicing," he explains. He adds that the service centres would be the kind of place where users can walk in and speak to engineers to understand the technology going into the vehicle. "The connectivity, dashboard, how the analytics will work out, the speed and acceleration, how do you change the settings in software, apart from taking a test ride," he says.

By the end of 2017 and end 2018 the startup plans to expand in phases, from 10 to 50 cities, after testing the vehicle in these locations. "Over the next three years, we will be in several more cities," Mehta says. "The next

# Catering to your dream

Interior Designer Mrs. Garima Agarwal's MN Design Company in Lucknow brings all design solutions for you

**A** qualified interior designer Mrs. Garima Agarwal, who has been conducting her interior designing profession past seven years at MNDC, recently inaugurated the studio of her own enterprise named as MN Design Company at Mahanagar Lucknow.

Being the CEO of MN Design Co., Mrs. Garima Agarwal specializes in both contemporary and traditional designing. She looks forward to the development of her organization with the motto being 'You Dream, We Create'.

MN Design Co. offers services namely, Commercial Interiors, Customized Luxury where furnitures are customized as per space and choice of the client, Spa & Resorts, Walkthrough Rendering Service, 3D interior and exterior visualization and Sourcing of Furniture, Accessories and Artwork from India and abroad.

MNDC has its association with some famous Indian and International brands like D Décor, Kaanchi, Warwick, Fanzcraft, SC Herrajes, Viefe, Titus, Menage & Confort and many more, hence providing customers an international level of designs.

Garima Agarwal has many credits to add to MNDC's name and fame. One of her interior project included the renovation of Samajvadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji's abode. She is a part of MSME (Medium Small Scale Industries) and being an important part of the same, she participates in the campaign of sending many deserving artisans in foreign lands like Frankfurt for showcasing their craftsmanship and later employing the qualified artisans. Awadh Shilp Gram recently conceptualized and organized by Mrs. Garima's husband Mr. Nitin Agarwal, Minister of State in MSME and Export promotion had a keen participation of Mrs. Agarwal in teaching artisans about crafts and helping them in bringing their creativity forward. She has been a mentor ever since the conception of the above.

**(From Opinion  
Express News Desk)**



# IGNIS: A GAME CHANGER FOR MARUTI

Pranav Divakar

**F**ew cars have been awaited for with such anticipation as the Maruti Suzuki Ignis. Although nearly every single car ever sold by this manufacturer has met with success, the company left no stone unturned in its mission to ensure that the Ignis would go on to become a huge hit in the Indian vehicle market. The marketing and promotions for the Ignis before its launch was extensive and aggressive as well, with the launch itself being accompanied by an EDM concert performed by famed artist Axwell. And from the way things are going, it would seem as though things are working in their favour.

For starters, the Ignis looks very funky and futuristic. The target audience for this car are youngsters, mainly millennials, and the Ignis seems to be tailor-made for a young age bracket. Details such as the contemporary headlight clusters with integrated LED daytime running lamps and the Suzuki progressive triad (a set of three diagonal gashes on the C-pillar and on the centre console inside the car) and sporty alloy wheels give the car a very modern and up-to-date appearance. Moreover, the Ignis does not serve as a replacement for any car, which is something Maruti is very keen to point out. Instead, they maintain that it is an entirely new vehicle from the ground up.

The Ignis is also extremely well built. The quality of materials used is far better than pretty much any other vehicle in its segment; and it feels upmarket as well, thanks to the excellent fit and finish. You do not come across any shared components from the Maruti parts bin inside the Ignis either. For an added level of personalisation that no other rival can offer, Maruti Suzuki will provide Ignis buyers with lots of different op-



tions and combinations to choose from, including roof wraps, interior accents, tailgate spoiler, and much more.

Best of all, prospective Ignis customers have a lot of flexibility as this hatchback comes in both petrol/diesel and manual/automatic options. As we mentioned earlier, the Ignis has the youthful customer in its crosshairs; and to appeal more to them, Maruti Suzuki has enabled the car to be booked even via a smartphone app.

It is not every day that you come across a car launch with such pomp

and circumstance and with so much of a buzz surrounding it. As a result, this vehicle is nearly causing the Nexa dealership chain to burst at the seams with interested customers swarming in and has already received in excess of 10,000 bookings in the short duration it has been on sale. Prices for the car range between INR 4.59-7.80 lakhs (ex-showroom) and we feel that if you are in the lookout for a new car at this price point, you would be hard pressed to get a better package than the new Ignis.



# ON FAST TRACK TO STARDOM



## OE Entertainment Desk

**F**rom an engineer to assisting a cult director like Ram Gopal Verma, it has been a brisk journey for Nithya. She is a 23-year-old qualified Industrial engineer from RV College of Engineering with 2 years of experience in the IT world worked for Cognizant(Bangalore). She was born in Kerala and after she turned four, her family moved to Bangalore. She is currently working as an assistant director with Ram Gopal Varma for Sarkar 3.

Since childhood, her dream was to become an actress and she has been getting a lot of offers from Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam industry but she is waiting for the right script to target the audience who always believe in the right story and cast.

“While working with Cognizant, I got connected with Director Puri Jagannadh who introduced me to RGV who I always admired since a kid for his breathtaking movies like Shiva, Rangeela, Bhoot, Phoonk, Sarkar and Raktha Charitra,” says Nithya. “After talking to me for a few hours about my Horror scripts which I had written since my engineering days RGV was impressed with scripts and my

passion for films and advised me to first learn the art of film making which would help me understand the technical and casting aspects of film making and of-

fered me the role of an assistant director for Sarkar 3 and I moved to Mumbai,” she adds.

“I have always consider RGV, Puri



Jagannadh and Thriekoti Peta as my mentors since the day one of me entering the film world. They always supported me to go ahead with my passion. Not to forget i always had my dad and mom who supported my passion for films and always wanted to see me succeed in films, My dad would sit with me during the weekends to discuss my script and also helped me with new ideas to add to my script, Recently i had lost my father in a road accident after which i had a lot of hurdles in my life and i am slowly trying to overcome them with my confidence to be a successful director in future and someday want to make my dad proud,” Nithya avers.

Puri Jagannadh recently launched the first look of “Never Invite” which is a horror flick. Along with scripting and directing, Nithya also plays the lead role. “Never Invite” will be released in April and jointly produced by USA based production house Earth Kraft Films . The film is being released in four languages Tamil, Telugu, Kannada & Malayalam.

Apart from the short film, she is working on a feature film with a horror script which is a multilingual to be made in all regional languages with a complete new set of talented technicians and casting for feature film and the story is based on true incident that happened in Rajasthan. “For now, I can just say that the story is all about a doll and some ugly incidents that took place in Rajasthan. I have recently tied up with a Hollywood production house in USA for a feature film and will be travelling to California to get involved with the Horror script and will be working with Kathy smith on the casting part, We plan to cast few familiar faces from Hollywood and plan to shoot the film in Spain and London. Right now I signed up a International album for Bollywood as a the main lead and music is by the famous music director Sunny Viswanath from Kerala and the song is sung by a well known and eminent singer from Bollywood,” she says.

Apart from direction, she will be producing three short films in all regional languages. This is basically to give life to all the upcoming directors, actors and other technicians. The selection process will be run through a lot of famous names from the film industry and the best script will be chosen and given a chance for direction and acting.

***(Opinion Express Entertainment Desk – Inputs from Diwakar Shetty )***



# News coloured by financial fraud

Last week Sree Iyer flew from Silicon Valley to London to launch his book “NDTV Frauds” at the Nehru Centre in the heart of Mayfair. Iyer is a systems engineer/ninja and the inventor of the only un-hacked Secure Solid State Storage Solution so far, he is also the founder of a cloud based on-line media company that concentrates on the politics, business and culture of India giving factual insights to global Indians.

The accumulation of his articles on the frauds, tax violations and money laundering committed by India’s premier TV channel NDTV and its promoters have been the inspiration to show how media organizations can violate laws in connivance with crony capitalists, pliable law firms and politicians to amass personal fortunes. Iyer exposes how the “Lutyens club”, along with government functionaries and politicians, perpetuated a false narrative of unethi-

cal journalism under the guise of press freedom and India’s gullible news hungry readership fell for it.

The book follows the chronological development of NDTV by Prannoy and Radhika Roy from 1998 until the confessions in mid-2016 of NDTV’s CEO K V L Narayan Rao, who admitted to floating a shell company in Netherlands and receiving \$150million. All the details of family nepotism and how bureaucrats, relatives of top police and military officials became journalists at NDTV evidence the beginnings of the corrupt practices that led to personal gain (so much for socialism).

This is a tale of cheating, hatermonogering, rule bending, muzzling tax officers, bullying and back stabbing, all unravelled by detailing the fraudulent trades and shareholding patterns designed to hoodwink investors, tax authorities, SEBI and MIB until the Enforcement Directorate caught up with

the perpetrators.

**At the launch Iyer asked three questions:**

1. Why did Star Network give \$20million to NDTV?
2. Why did General Electric- who at the time owned NBC Universal, which was running NBC and Universal Studios - invest \$150million in shell companies with zero employees, zero revenue and zero assets?
4. How is it that NDTV is still surviving at \$70 per share on BSE and NSE?

The book has the answers and it involves a sordid cocktail of familiar names - It is a travesty that for years the news channel that the world took for granted as reporting honest Indian news has been exposed as churning out a warped and toxic travesty of the truth.

*(Inputs by – J Gopikrishnan, Senior Journalist )*





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