



CityMatters

CUTS International 

Let's Pledge for a Better India



www.google.com



The 'Quit India Movement' was the last in the series of mass movements launched by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. On August 09, 2017, India completed 75 years of 'Quit India Movement'. The day was acknowledged by a unanimous resolution passed in the Upper House of Parliament stating that the countrymen should express their gratitude to the scores of people who dedicated and sacrificed their lives to the freedom movement.

The resolution recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi and has sought to reinvigorate the promise of making India a truly free nation which is characterised by democratic values, non-violence and individual freedom.

The need to such a call has emanated amidst several incidents of violence taking place in the past few months in the country. For instance, when the nation was mourning the tragic death of seven-year-old school boy who was brutally sodomised and murdered in Gurgaon (Haryana), another incident of sexual harassment of a girl student in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) made it to the headlines.

This was followed by protests taking a violent turn in Banaras where students and journalists were injured in a confrontation with the police. All this happened while the memories of riots and mayhem created by the followers of now convicted Godman, Ram Rahim were still fresh.

These incidents do not behove well for a country that prides itself on values of democracy, diversity and secularism. Resort to such a behaviour is against India's ethos and its commitment to communal peace and harmony.

While we need to rein in crime and rampant offences, we also need to reassert our belief in the teachings of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, founder of BHU, who stressed upon inclusivity of faith as a necessary condition for unity of the country. Hence, we need to develop a society which is based on trust and faith rather than mistrust and insecurity.

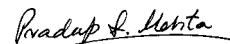
However, there is a ray of hope that if people become rational and objective, social prejudices would disappear. This is enshrined in our constitutional obligation (Fundamental Duties Under Article 51A) to 'develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform'.

Saluting all the great leaders who contributed in the historic movement in 1942, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled that from 1942 to 1947, India had demonstrated collective strength, and in the coming years, there is need to take the country forward with the same collective strength, commitment and hard work.

Therefore, it is high time we started introspecting ourselves as a society and as individuals. Our stakes are too high and only peace and harmony can ensure that they flourish.

Perhaps, on the occasion of 75 years of 'Quit India Movement' – we as citizens too can resolve to free India of the ills and evils that plague our society.

Let us all work towards the India of our dreams.



Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General

INSIDE

- ◆ Fusion of National Anthems
- ◆ Sailing around the World
- ◆ Indians among the Laziest
- ◆ Challenge for Change
- ◆ Dip in Road Mishaps

Caution against Killer Game

An online challenge that allegedly aims players into committing suicide has raised concerns among parents, teachers and doctors. 'The Blue Whale Game' is believed to be a suicidal game wherein



a group of administrators or a certain curator assigns a participant a daily task to complete – for 50 days – the final round of which is making the participant committing suicide.

The recent horror associated with the game is the death of a 14-year old in Mumbai, who apparently jumped off the terrace of his residential building. Psychologists have asked parents to be vigilant about the daily activities of their children. (TH, 05.08.17)

Fusion of National Anthems

A medley of Indian and Pakistani national anthems has become a social media hit, bringing together thousands of people from the two countries who saw the mash-up as a



message of love and peace amidst heightened acrimony between the two nations.

The Peace Anthem features a series of artists from both nations singing the Indian anthem *Jana Gana Mana* and Pakistan's *Pâk Sarzamin*. The video published by the Facebook page – Voice of Ram – raked up 330,000 views, and was shared by more than 9,000 people. (HT, 14.08.17)

Smooth Landing in Heaven

The Moksha (salvation) Airlines and the Swarg (heaven) Airlines – both are promising turbulence-free travel topped with a smooth take off and perfect landing on arrival.

The supposed plane rides are meant only for departed souls and the destination is wherever life takes after the death.

Modelled on an airport, complete with departure and arrival lounges with two replica aircraft in attendance, the *Antim Yatra* (final journey) crematorium in south Gujarat's Bardoli, is like no other in the country. (HT, 18.08.17)

Melbourne Most Liveable

Melbourne is the most liveable city in the world, followed by Austrian capital, Vienna and Canada's Vancouver city in the second and third place respectively, reveals a survey.

According to the Global Liveability Report compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), no Indian city was ranked in the top or bottom ten in the most liveable city ranking.

Other 10 most liveable cities in the world include: Toronto at the fourth place, followed by Calgary (fifth), Adelaide (sixth), Perth (seventh), Auckland (eighth), Helsinki (ninth) and Hamburg (tenth). (IE, 16.08.17)

Man Donates Liver

Puja Bhatnagar of New Delhi perhaps never imagined that friendship would save her life. After suffering chronic liver disease for 17 years, the 44-year-old woman was told by doctors that only a transplant would save her.

Finding a plea for help on Bhatnagar's Facebook page, patient's friend Gopinath donated a part of his liver to save her life.

Crowd-funding help collect the funds and the transplant was carried out successfully on July 21, 2017 at New Delhi's Max Hospital, Saket. (Tol, 03.08.17)

Diet Drinks Causing Diabetes

Two fizzy drinks a day could double the risk of diabetes – even if they are diet versions – a Swedish study has revealed.

Research by the Karolinska Institute on 2,800 adults found that those who consumed at least two 200 ml of soft drinks daily were 2.4 times likely to



suffer from a form of type 2 diabetes.

Researchers said that the sugary drinks might have induced insulin resistance, triggering the cases of diabetes. The artificial sweeteners in the diet drinks might affect microbes in the gut leading to glucose intolerance.

(HT, 15.08.17)

Identity Crisis

A majority of Indians get to hear about the nation's food safety regulator only when something goes wrong, the man running it has complained. Asked whether he was looking to hire more food inspectors, Food and Safety Standards Authority of India's CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal said he was not sure if many Indians know about the body.

Set up in 2011, the body has moved gradually while setting standards for the food industry. While controversies, such as the 2014 Maggi fiasco provided it some exposure but becoming a household name could take much longer, Agarwal rued. (BS, 25.07.17)

Sailing around the World

Six female officers of the Indian Navy recently began a historic journey that will test their combined endurance and sailing skills. They left aboard the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel *Tarini* on a circumnavigation effort that will see the officers spend more than 200 days at sea.



This is the first time in India's history that an all-woman crew is attempting to circumnavigate the globe. Previous notable attempts to circle the world include Retd. Captain Dilip Dondé's solo circumnavigation and Commander Abhilash Tomy's non-stop circumnavigation of the globe. (IT, 10.09.17)

Heli Taxi Services

Those who have grown to dread the trip to or from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) can now breathe easy.

The journey by road in rush hour traffic, might soon be completely avoidable as Bengaluru is all set to get India's first dedicated helicopter-taxi (heli-taxi) service.



The service, expected to take off in few months will be operated by Thumby Aviation Private Limited. Initially, the services will be between KIA and Electronics City, where a heliport is expected to come up. (TH, 05.08.17)

Giant Galaxy Cluster

A team of Indian astronomers claims to have discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies – with a mass roughly equivalent to that of 20 million billion suns, which they have named Saraswati.

"This is a very high concentration of galaxies in the universe and it is very rare. Few such structures have been observed till now and this is definitely the first from India", said the study's co-author Shishir Sankhyayan of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). The super clusters are said to be the largest coherent structures in the cosmic web.

(Tol, 15.07.17)

'Engineer' without Degree

Ayush Semele, a resident of Prithvipur in Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh) makes a great argument in favour of those who believe that formal education is not the only road to success.

He indigenously develops all electronic items for daily use – from



induction cookers to refrigerators and bladeless fans.

He does not have an engineering degree, and is not even qualified for admission into a regular technical college. And yet, at the age of 19, he is already an 'engineer for the poor' as he donates electronic devices to the poor.

(HT, 20.07.17)

Indians among the Laziest

Drive or walk it? Given a choice most Indians are lazy enough to opt for a car no matter what the distance is. A 46-country study has shown that Indians



are among the laziest countries in the world. India is ranked at 39, with people averaging just 4,297 steps a day.

The findings of a study by Stanford University researchers used step-counters installed in most smartphones to track the walking activity of about 700,000 people in 46 countries around the world. (Tol, 14.07.17)

'Despacito' – Most Streamed Song

Though the song title means 'slowly' in Spanish, the rise of 'Despacito' has been anything but sluggish. Recently, the Universal Music Latin Entertainment label, which brought the reggaeton song by Puerto Rican musicians Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee to the airwaves in January 2017, announced that 'Despacito' had earned the status of most-streamed song of all time.

The Spanish-language went viral shortly after its release at the beginning of 2017, and an April remix of the song featuring Canadian popstar Justin Bieber helped push 'Despacito' to its current record 4.6 billion streams.

(NEWSge, 19.07.17)

Smartphone Separation Agony

Smartphone addiction, and anxiety caused by being separated from the devices, is getting worse as people are increasingly seeing their devices as an extension of themselves, a study has warned.

'Nomophobia' or smartphone separation anxiety is the feeling of discomfort or anxiety caused by the unavailability of a mobile device that allows virtual communication.

Previous studies have found that separation from smartphones causes increase in heart rate, anxiety, blood pressure, and unpleasant feelings. "As smartphones evoke more personal memories, users extend more of their identity onto their smartphones", researchers said. (DNA, 22.08.17)

Making Guinness World Record

"Manmohan Agrawal, one of the biggest fans of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of Jaipur collects 2 lakh pictures of Modi, displayed them in an exhibition setting a Guinness World Record.

He has been diligently collecting pictures of Modi over the years because he greatly admires him. On Modi's 67th birthday on September 17, 2017, Agrawal displayed his huge collection of Modi's photographs in Jaipur.



His effort was recognised by the Guinness World Record Committee for displaying highest number of pictures of any world leader under one roof.

(oneindia, 18.09.17)

62-year Old Young

Age is just a number for 62-year-old Anand Mahindra, Chairman of automobile major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) tweeted a World Health Organisation (WHO) report that categorised people between 18 and 65 years as young. "I may not be a millennial, but I am still young.....at least according to the WHO", he added indicating that he did not need a WHO certification.

(BS, 28.06.17)

Challenge for Change

Rajasthan has exceeded the national average in removing poverty during last three years. The state government is mulling setting up a platform akin to 'Challenge for Change' to receive suggestions from the public to improve the efficiency of government schemes, said Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

The Chief Minister stressed on the need for reorientation in technical education, especially engineering. She exhorted the youth to come forward with innovative ideas for effective delivery of services to the people.

(TN, 12.08.17)

Eco-friendly Transport

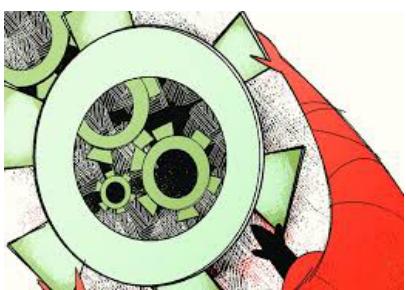
A healthy life and a clean environment for the residents is what the Jaipur Smart Mission Ltd. (JSML) has envisaged under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's project, the Smart City Mission.

To promote eco-friendly and independent mode of transport in Jaipur, the Smart City Mission is all set to introduce a public bicycle sharing (PBS) scheme.

The PBS is an innovative platform comprising a short-term rental scheme in which bicycles can be picked up from any self-serve station and returned to any other bicycle station in the city. (Tol, 12.08.17)

Project Monitoring Cell

Following the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, Ashok Jain's orders, the state Urban Development and Housing Department has issued a circular to its department to constitute a project monitoring cell for identification of bottlenecks in major projects.



After constituting the monitoring cell, the civic bodies departments are directed to provide details of all pending project tasks. Sources said

that all major projects at Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) are facing obstacles due to various reasons.

The cell would later peruse the solutions to expedite the project. Appreciating the move, a senior JDA official said, "Many a times, within one department the bottlenecks are not resolved".

(Tol, 05.09.17)

New Routes to Boost Tourism

In accordance with the budget announcement made by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and requirements received from various districts in Rajasthan, state government in principle has agreed to extend intra-air services on six new routes.

The new routes include: Jaipur-Kota, Delhi-Sawai Madhopur, Delhi-Kishangarh, Delhi-Shri Ganganagar, Jodhpur-Ahmedabad and Jaipur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer.



The sources in the Tourism Department stated that the move will boost tourism in Rajasthan as Sawai Madhopur, where Rathambore National Park is located, will get connected to Delhi. Besides, Ajmer, known for Dargah and Pushkar, have also been proposed to be connected under the proposal. (DNA, 19.07.17)

Innovative Heart Surgery

Heart surgeons performed a rare surgery at multispeciality hospital in Jaipur, saving the life of a 22-year old IT professional. Dr Vikram Goyal, Dr Rajeev Gehlot and Dr Deepak Sangtani of Metro MAS Heart, Jaipur used a minimally invasive surgery (MIS) for aortic valve replacement on the youth.

The young boy had a very bad aortic root and left ventricular dysfunction. The aortic valve of the was replaced through MIS, which is generally done conventionally through open heart surgery but was performed with MIS with less than three inches of incision on the patient. (HT, 19.07.17)

CM's Grievances Helpline

The state government will soon come up with a helpline to ensure timely redressal of grievances, an official said. The 'CM Helpline 181', planned and developed by the Centre for 'Good Governance' will be launched on August 15, 2017. Around 30,000 employees and officials will be directly linked with the Helpline that will work from 9 am to 11 pm.



"The Helpline will cover grievances related to all departments and government bodies. All the grievances will be resolved in a time-bound manner", said Raje. (HT, 29.07.17)

Noise and Sound Pollution Study

Jaipur's eight ongoing infrastructure projects will go through an 'environmental impact assessment'. The agencies will study the noise and sound pollution produced during the construction of these projects.

These eight projects include the elevated road proposed between LIC Bhawan and Sodala, Dravyawati River Project, Bassi, and other railway over-bridges and railways underpasses.

The JDA is conducting such environmental test on its projects. A device would be installed to record sound and noise pollution along with global positioning system and day-to-day readings will be recorded in the report. (Tol, 22.07.17)

'Swachh Bharat Mission'

In spite of the entire glare around the 'Swachh Bharat Mission', the Rajasthan government and the civic bodies have failed to check open defecations that continue as a menace even in Jaipur.

People living in slums still relieve themselves in the open, while the few community toilets built around the city remain locked or unusable.

Further, people who have built toilets at homes are yet to receive the incentive amount promised by the government. Notwithstanding the tall claims of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC), most of the community toilets in the city are defunct. (Tol, 27.07.17)

Girls' Safety Awareness

Police Commissioner of Jaipur, Sanjay Agarwal stated that in Jaipur Police Commissionerate region from August 04, 2017 to September 15, 2017, teams of lady police patrol unit have done considerable work.



Proper safety measures were taught to girls in almost 100 schools/colleges by Lady Police Patrol Unit. Meanwhile, college and schools girl students were acquainted with female dignity helpline number 1090; WhatsApp female helpline; all women police stations; women's advice and safety centres; and Rajasthan ladies safety app.

School administrations were asked to put proper information on notice board regarding this move.

(CN, 18.09.17)

Restoring Heritage Online

A special policy will be drafted shortly to preserve dilapidated heritage buildings, forts and palaces of Jaipur by inviting the investors for their restoration through online bidding.

A lion safari is also in the offine at the Nahargarh biological park.

Stressing on the need for preservation of heritage buildings and structures, which are in poor conditions, Raje asked the department officials to come up with a special policy to restore these structures.

(DNA, 12.08.17)

Govt's Move Draws Flak

The Rajasthan government will privatise state-run schools, beginning with 300 in next academic session, under its new education scheme. This move that has drawn flak from educationist and the opposition, who allege it would risk the future of students.

Earlier, the policy for 'Public Private Partnership (PPP) in School

Education 2017' was cleared under which the management of state-run secondary/higher secondary schools would be done through PPP in a phased manner.

The private players will have to provide teachers and continue facilities like mid-day meals and free text books to students. (HT, 08.09.17)

Voting Rights for Non-residents

Nearly 35 lakh non-resident Rajasthani people living in various countries across the world can now take part in the electoral process as they would soon be entitled to use their voting right through e-voting.

Recently, Union Cabinet has cleared the way for Non-resident Indians (NRIs) to cast vote through e-voting for the Rajasthani community living in UK, US, Canada and other countries.

However, it is to be seen if they would all be able to use their voting right through e-voting in 2018 assembly elections and in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. (Tol, 04.08.17)

Speeding Labour Reforms

Accelerating its industry-friendly labour law reforms, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Rajasthan has amended the Apprentices Act to improve business environment and make it easier for industry to create more jobs.

The amendment makes it easier for industry to recruit apprentices and is the second round of labour law reforms proposed by the state government within the last 30 days.

The amendment will now be brought before the state assembly and once approved, would be sent to the President of India for his approval. (Mint, 21.09.17)

Firm to Review Phase-II of DPR

The Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (JMRC) has finally appointed a firm to review the



detailed project report (DPR) of Jaipur Metro phase-II proposed between Ambabari and Sitapura area.

French firm EGIS Rail SA in joint venture with EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt. Ltd. and Feedback India Pvt. Ltd. will review the DPR of 24-km-long corridor. It will also update the alignment, technology and various other aspects in the existing DPR. The firm will recommend latest technology to bring the cost down. (Tol, 05.09.17)

Dip in Road Mishaps

There is a dip in number of deaths in the road accidents and mishaps in Rajasthan. This was revealed by a recent report, which



has a comparative analysis of figures of road accidents, deaths and injuries that took place in 2016 and 2015 accidents in India.

However, Rajasthan is at the fifth position in the country in terms of number of deaths that took place in the year 2016, while it is at the eighth position in terms of the number of road accidents during this period. (Tol, 07.09.17)

Leasing Space for Shops

After leasing space for advertisements, the JMRC has now mooted a proposal to lease out space at all nine Metro stations to open retail shops and mega stores. The JMRC is expecting to earn ₹9 crore per annum after leasing 52 big and small spaces for retail outlets.

"We have fixed lease rates at between ₹700 and ₹2,500 per sq. m for space to set up retail shops. JMRC is hoping to earn ₹72 lakh per month from this move", said JMRC Director, Corporate Affairs, Rajesh Kumar Agarwal. (Tol, 12.09.17)

Making Rajasthan More Liveable Abode for All



“The government of Rajasthan is focussing on an all-round development of the State. Apart from the Smart Cities Mission, we are closely monitoring the growth of our all 29 AMRUT cities”, states Shrichand Kriplani, Minister for Urban Development and Housing and Local Self Government, government of Rajasthan

It has been a great month for the state of Rajasthan as the Central government has inaugurated projects worth ₹15,000 crore, how do you view this development?

This is certainly a great time for the people of Rajasthan as these infrastructure projects have been inaugurated in the state. Infrastructure is the most necessary component for the development. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje, Rajasthan is actually witnessing the growth.

I believe these projects will play a vital role in boosting the sustainable economic growth in the state. These national highways projects, as mentioned by Raje, will be gateways to progress.

Smart Cities Mission is the most talked about initiative of the government of India, how do you perceive this initiative?

The government of Rajasthan has been making every possible effort to ensure effective implementation of Smart City projects. In all the four cities i.e. Ajmer, Udaipur, Jaipur and Kota, most of the projects have already been implemented.

The government is not leaving any stone unturned to make the cities of Rajasthan safer, cleaner, affordable and liveable. We are committed to implement many initiatives with complete success ratio in all the four cities. These include: e-governance project, LED-based street light project, efforts to make urban areas Open Defecation-Free (ODF), installation of CCTVs in cities, Air Quality Monitoring Systems, rejuvenation of Rajasthan School of Arts, smart classrooms, smart toilets etc.

What are the plans to develop other cities, especially where the sewage and water supply management need to be focussed a lot?

The government of Rajasthan is focussing on an all-round development of the state. Apart from the Smart Cities Mission, we are closely monitoring the growth of our all 29 Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) cities.

Under AMRUT, Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (RUDSICO), has given an order for executing a sewerage project, which will have treatment facilities.

This project will witness construction of more than 350 km of sewerage network with eight sewage treatment plants of a total capacity of over 24 million litre on everyday basis. These plants will use Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) technology. Sewage treatment and water supply are the prime focus areas for Rajasthan government and we are going to spend huge amount to improve the infrastructure and services.

How the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing is gearing up to materialise the projects?

We are committed to ensure all-round development of our cities, following a systematic and scientific approach. We are working to make our cities liveable. Moreover, we are also contributing to the development of Rajasthan through our various departments including JMRC, JDA, Rajasthan Housing Board & Town Planning, Urban Improvement Trusts (UITs) and other development authorities.

Edited excerpts of an exclusive interview of Shrichand Kriplani with Kartik Sharma and Harshal Y Desai associated with Elets News Network. This was posted on September 08, 2017

Sources: BS: Business Standard; CN: Criticism News; DNA: Daily News and Analysis; HT: Hindustan Times; IE: The Indian Express; IT: India Today; TH: The Hindu; TN: Trending Now; Tol: The Times of India