



PROBE TIMES

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Late Sri Joginder Singh, IPS
Former Director- CBI, Founder - PROBE

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VISION OF PROBE

The PROBE (A Resource Centre for Journalist) is basically a society for protecting and advocating the freedom of speech and expression, standards of journalistic profession and spreading awareness among the general public on current socio-legal issues.

PROBETIMES

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Editorial Desk

AYUSHMAN BHAVA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ambitious healthcare scheme, Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS) this landmark welfare scheme in India. “The healthcare initiatives of the government will have a positive impact on 50 crore Indians,” the prime minister said, announcing the scheme during his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort. The ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme also known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan aims to provide a coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually, benefiting more than 10 crore poor families. Modicare aims to cover over 10 crore vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) and provide health cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. The programme is being called the world’s largest health protection scheme. The health ministry has included 1,354 packages in the scheme under which treatment for coronary bypass, knee replacements and stenting among others would be provided at 15-20 per cent cheaper rates than the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). Hospitals run by the Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) may also be empanelled based on their bed occupancy ratio. As for private hospitals, they will be empanelled online based on defined criteria, which is unavailable at the moment.

It is an entitlement based scheme which aims to target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers’ families, 8.03 crore in rural and 2.33 crore in urban areas, as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data, and will cover around 50 crore people. The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities. There is no cap on family size and age in the scheme, ensuring that nobody is left out. The beneficiary will need to have an Aadhar card to avail the benefits of the scheme. “It is essential to ensure that we free the poor of India from the clutches of poverty due to which they cannot afford health care,” said Modi in his speech adding that technology will play a crucial role in the implementation of the programme. He added that in four to six weeks, testing of these technology tools under the scheme will start.

SILVERI SRISHAILAM 

Editor



UNIVERSITIES NOT MERE DEGREE FACTORIES

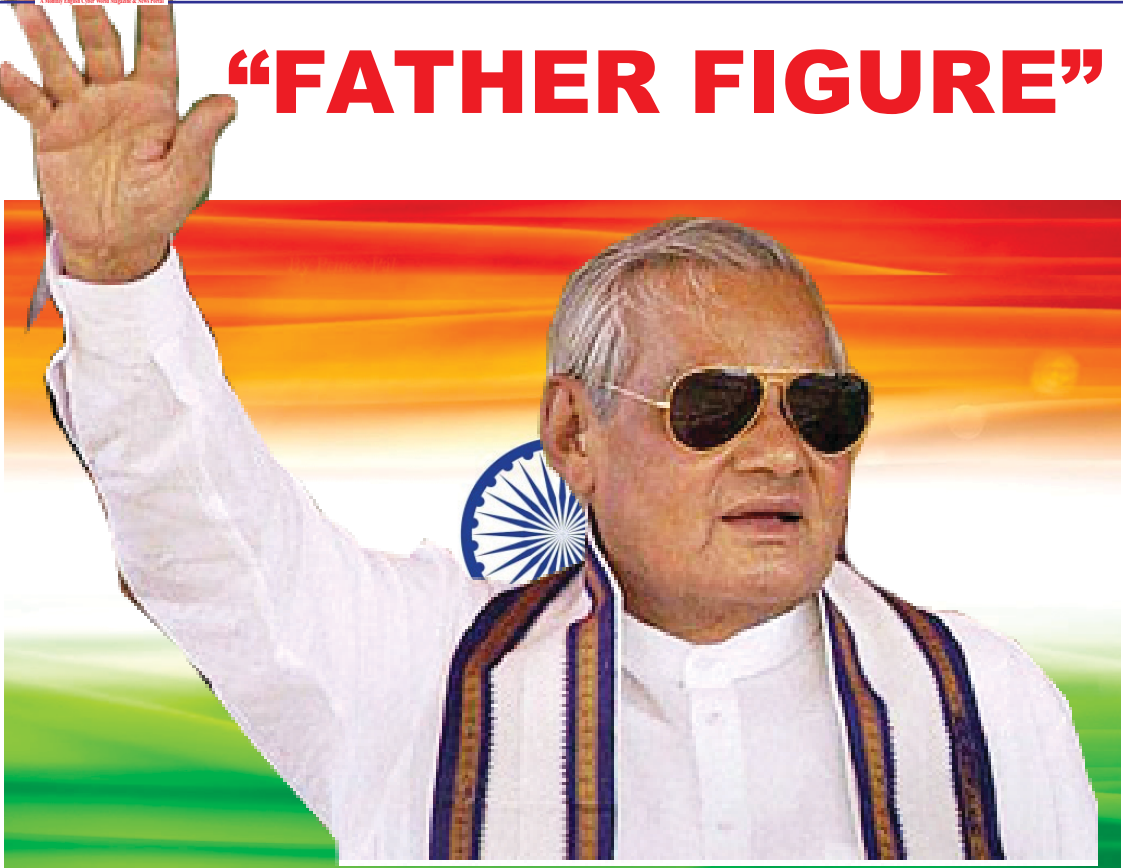
PRESIDENT OF INDIA, RAM NATH KOVIND

PROBE NEWS:- While speaking at the seventh convocation of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, President Ram Nath Kovind said that the best scientific universities and institutions of learning are not just teaching shops or degree factories but increasingly they are sources of innovation and incubators of technology and technology-driven start-ups. “The knowledge ecosystem of public investments in science, academic institutions and universities, research laboratories, commercial applications and private enterprise has an almost magical potential. Its best example is, of course, Silicon Valley in the US. At the core of Silicon Valley are basic science and technology campuses and their talented faculty and students,” he said. The President advised IIT Hyderabad to remain relevant to the fourth industrial revolution that he said will write the script of the 21st century. He said that as a second generation IIT, it should borrow from as well as learn from the models of the past. Kovind was happy to note that IIT Hyderabad had made a start by setting up a network of centres for research and promotion of entrepreneurship. The President said that IIT Hyderabad had been set up in a city and in a metropolitan area where several

elements for knowledge ecosystem already exist. Hyderabad had a long tradition of scientific discovery and application, he added. He noted that in Hyderabad there were as many as 19 research facilities and laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Biotechnology, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Space Research Organisation. The President said that individually, many of these entities were doing excellent work but there was a need for cross pollination. “IIT Hyderabad is not envisaged as just an add-on to this ecosystem. Rather, it needs to be the hub of this ecosystem. It must be the connecting tissue and the catalyst for a greater synergy.” Kovind urged IIT Hyderabad to break out of silos and to encourage others to break out of silos. He said that India will judge the success of IIT Hyderabad by the vitality and the output it can ensure for not just itself but for the entire Hyderabad knowledge ecosystem. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor E.S.L.Narasimhan, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Irrigation Minister Harish Rao and others attended the convocation.



“FATHER FIGURE”



Silveri Srishailam

PROBE NEWS:- Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee death is unpredictable loss to BJP and for shining India. Atal Bihari Vajpayee death is end of ethical, moral and gallantry administration. Mr. Vajpayee was born in the central Indian city of Gwalior on Dec. 25, 1924. His father was a schoolteacher and Hindu scholar. He studied politics and became a

journalist and social worker becoming active in the Quit India Movement, which campaigned to end British rule in the subcontinent. As incumbent prime minister, Nehru had predicted that Vajpayee would occupy his seat “one day”. Before joining politics, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a journalist. He worked for newspapers like Rashtra Dharma of RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay, Panchjanya and other dailies like Veer Arjun and Swadesh. He was the political secretary to Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the BJS founder-president. Mr. Vajpayee known as an avuncular politician, was

COVER STORY



credited with helping bring mainstream acceptance to his Hindu nationalist BJP. Mr. Vajpayee a true statesman, gentleman, great orator, consensus builder, a true democrat all adjectives are small words for him. An impeccable parliamentarian for over five decades, as an external affairs minister and the first non-Congress prime minister to finish a full term, Vajpayee leaves behind a nation considerably richer from his experience and achievements. His long, illustrious political career achieved many milestones. He was a marvel, who so effortlessly stepped across the Lakshmanrekha of party propriety and ideology and yet garnered all-round respectability. The Prime Minister Sri. Narendra Modi who described Vajpayee's death as a "personal loss" and the departure of a "father figure". On the day of the cremation, Modi penned a blog in Vajpayee's memory, outlining his contribution to nation-building and illustrious leadership. "Never before has any prime minister walked 6 kilo-metres like this in a public procession. The security officials had very little time to tweak the security plan, although equipped to handle VIP security all along the way. However, the



prime minister's decision to walk had an element of surprise". The pictures were beamed across India and beyond. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Cabinet colleagues, BJP president Amit Shah, chief ministers of several BJP-ruled states, senior BJP leaders and thousands of party workers were on foot, quietly following the flower-decked gun carriage carrying the mortal remains of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Before the final journey began, Vajpayee's body, wrapped in the tricolour, was taken to the BJP party office where the prime minister, home minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders were present. The BJP official spokesperson said immerse Vajpayee's ashes in 100 rivers across India.

Mr. Vajpayee shocked the world in May 1998 with five underground nuclear tests prompting international sanctions rattling neighbors and setting off an arms race with archrival Pakistan. India first conducted a test in 1974 but had long maintained that its nuclear program was meant for peaceful purposes. The new tests established India as an overt nuclear-weapon state. "We will not use these weapons against anybody. But to defend ourselves, if the need arises, we



will not hesitate,” Mr. Vajpayee said in a speech to his supporters at the time. He was declared our nuclear weapons are meant purely as a deterrent against nuclear adventure by an adversary. A counterpart Pakistan followed with its own nuclear tests prompting fears from analysts who began describing the Indian subcontinent as the world’s likeliest nuclear flash point. Domestically, the tests made Mr. Vajpayee’s government immensely popular and bolstered its image of being tough on national security. Later on Mr. Vajpayee conducted strike on Pakistan illegal trespassers at Kargil events into victory at the polls winning another term in October 1999 general elections. Sri. Vajpayee could be remembered for many things but few on top of the list would be nuclear test at Pokhran, engagement with our hostile neighbor Pakistan, Golden Quadrilaterals and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Kisan credit card. Atal Bihari Vajpayee carried on the spirit of economic reforms introduced by the PV Narsimha Government. Disinvestment in BALCO, Hindustan Zinc, Indian Petrochemicals and VSNL is also worth mentioning. His contributions also include ending the VSNL’s monopoly on international telephony and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan on social front. Today’s politicians would do well to watch Vajpayee’s videos of Parliament debate and learn

how to behave and function. As a Prime Minister, Vajpayee’s biggest gifts were the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the SarvaShikshaAbhiyan, He will also be remembered as a politician who was civil in public discourse. His passing away is a great loss to the nation.

A projection of national sovereignty in international relations Vajpayee’s emergence as an international statesman. This is because in 1977 he made his debut on the international arena by becoming the first Indian Foreign Minister to address the 32nd General Assembly in Hindi. This is also the opportune juncture to note the national priorities and regional concerns of the ruling establishment in India. Back in 1977 Mr Vajpayee was somewhat subdued in conceding that he was a “newcomer to the United Nations”, and that he felt a “special sense of exhilaration in attending this assembly of nations for the first time”. At that point India had a marginal role in a bipolar world and despite a change of regime in the country India’s foreign policy had yet to witness a decisive shift as a result of which non-alignment was still referred by Mr Vajpayee as “a projection of national sovereignty in international relations” and “its essence” was “not neutrality but freedom”. In the past years Mr Vajpayee has clearly shed his hesitation but this is more on



account of India's growing global role than any other factor. Because despite being an important Indian voice in the area of foreign relations, Mr Vajpayee has spent the bigger part of the quarter century waiting for his turn to come again. But having secured that in 1998 he has been more forthright and has not been weighed down by the occasion and the venue. Instead he has comfortably converted the weight of the Indian democracy to his advantage. In all his interactions it is evident that Mr Vajpayee conveys

pronounced since 9/11. The other area in which there has been a significant shift is in the fact that Mr Vajpayee's addresses since he became the Prime Minister are much more Pakistan-centric than the time when he was the Foreign Minister. Though this is understandable given the fact that Islamabad's policy of using terrorism as a state instrument has been chiseled over the past quarter of a century, it also underscores the fact that while in his avatar Mr Vajpayee wanted to be remembered



the impression that it was imperative for the international community to listen carefully to him because his concerns had the backing of more than one billion people dwelling on Planet Earth.

A major shift that has taken place in the past 25 years is in the central thrust of Mr Vajpayee's address at New York. While earlier in 1977 disarmament and a nuclear weapons free world were central to his speeches the core concern since 1998 has been arming states against terrorism and this has become more

as a Foreign Minister who made peace with Islamabad in recent years especially post-Kargil his thrust is to be remembered by history as the man who finally said "enough is enough" in regard to cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. There has also been a dramatic shift in India's foreign policy in the years since Mr Vajpayee's emergence on the international stage. In his first address, the main international concerns of India's first non-Congress foreign minister were



restricted to a few issues out of the NAM charter Apartheid in South Africa autocracy and continuing colonialism in Zimbabwe the unstable situation in Namibia the conflict in Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a comprehensive test ban treaty. The Indian position in 1977 as reflected in Mr Vajpayee's speech on the conflict in West Asia was also in sharp contrast to New Delhi's current position. At that point Mr Vajpayee stated that there could "no recognition of the territories illegally occupied by Israel through the use of force and aggression and they must be vacated." Mr Vajpayee had further added that the "the Arab people of Palestine who have been forcibly evicted from their hearths and homes must be enabled to exercise their inalienable right to return to their land." The question of establishing diplomatic ties with Israel simply did not arise while today Tel Aviv is one of our closest economic defence and political aides. It would be argued that the India with Mr Vajpayee at the helm of affairs is much more pragmatic than the time when Nehruvian hypocrisy ruled the roost. But then does this mean that Mr Vajpayee the foreign minister was also cast in the Nehruvian mould? But then it is not just Indian foreign policy that has changed since Mr Vajpayee took to the podium one October morning in 1977. From being a world dominated by a Cold War where the theatre of

action was national boardrooms last year's world has been dominated by one of the most one-sided of military conflicts in history. Sworn enemies of yesteryears are also now engaged in discussions on how to launch a strike against Mr Saddam Hussein. With non-alignment of little concern India after making some noises of striving for creating an alternate pole in an increasingly unipolar world has



chosen to nose dive its concerns with that of the nation setting the global agenda. The world that Mr Vajpayee would address this week is clearly dramatically different from the one he talked to in 1977. There has also been a major shift in the regional balance from a nation that had undergone a process of dismemberment just a few years ago Pakistan today has a sharper anti-India focus. The tools in use by Islamabad in its campaign to weaken the Indian core have also been sharpened in the past 2 decades. Despite the US-led campaign against Al Qaeda being the dominant issue over the last one year General Pervez Musharraf has



managed to make space for his regime in the international coalition. In such a situation the need for Mr Vajpayee to do a tightrope walk is all the more necessary. It is evident that despite the double speak by both Islamabad and Washington, New Delhi would have to continue exerting pressure to take its moral victory further. In such a situation, questions have naturally risen as to why India did not do an Afghanistan in its neighborhood. Despite the end of the Cold War and a clearer focus of the adversary that the majority in the world faces the situation for India has become more complex. Vajpayee's vision helped in promoting expanded cooperation-USA. : The US reacted to the demise of former Indian prime minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee and said that the bilateral relationship between the two countries will continue to benefit from his vision which helped in the promotion of economic prosperity and security of the region and the world. "He recognised early on that US and India, based on their shared democratic values, could develop a partnership that would contribute to economic prosperity and security of the region and the world," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. He further said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision helped in promoting expanded cooperation. "The American people and I stand with the people of India as we mourn (former) Prime Minister Vajpayee's passing. We hold the people of India in our thoughts and prayer," he said. Pompeo said that Vajpayee

India lost Eminent National Leader- Dalai Lama

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has extended his condolences over the sad demise of India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and said the country has lost an "eminent national leader". "I feel privileged to have known him and am honoured to have counted him as a friend," the Dalai Lama said in a letter he wrote to the poet-politician's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya. "We met regularly during the course of his career and I continued to visit him



at (his) home after he retired. Shri Vajpayee was a truly dedicated politician. With his passing away, India has lost an eminent national leader. His eloquent support of the Tibetan people began in the late 1950s. Since then, he regularly took Indian governments to task in Parliament, prompting them to take a stronger stand on Tibet," the exiled spiritual leader said. He also offered his condolences to Vajpayee's relatives, friends and colleagues.

advocated for India's development while also recalling a line that the former prime minister had said at the US Congress in 2000. "We know that many Indians will reflect on Prime Minister Vajpayee's many contributions that led to India's rise as a global and economic power. He championed tirelessly for his country's development and demonstrated a devotion to improving the lives of every Indian. Standing before the United States Congress in 2000, he famously characterised U.S.-India ties as a 'natural partnership of shared endeavours,'" Pompeo said. Messages have started pouring in from across the world. Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli sent his message of condolence to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that Vajpayee "was a visionary statesman with impeccable integrity and dedication, who will be remembered for his sagacity

and exemplary selfless service to the people of India." Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message to PM Modi said, "Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was our great friend and highly respected in Bangladesh. As a token of recognition for his invaluable contribution to our Liberation War in 1971, Bangladesh government conferred on him the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour. Today is certainly a day of great sadness for all of us in Bangladesh."

Among others were US, UK, Russia, China that also put our condolence messages. UK High Commission in India tweeted, "We are saddened by the passing of former Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We will remember him as one of India's greatest leaders. Shri Vajpayee was much respected in the UK as a statesman par excellence - High Commissioner to India Dominic Asquith."





WATER CONTAMINATION DETECTION

PROBE NEWS :- India's National Center for Compositional Characterization of Materials (NCCCM), Hyderabad based Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) unit has developed visual kits that can detect fluoride, chromium (VI) and iron in water within five minutes. This technology detects chemicals in contaminated water that often cause life threatening ailments such as cancer. The kit will help to ease water scarcity in India. The portable kit that can help in the detection in five minutes is based on the technology developed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The technology for making the Portable Visual Kits for detection of Fluoride, Chromium and Iron have been transferred to six private entrepreneurs for indigenous manufacturing. In all



detection kits reagents kept inside different bottles are to be added and mixed in to the water sample. Within 5 minutes, colour develops in the top layer, the intensity of colour is compared with a colour chart by visual inspection to obtain the concentration range of the contaminant in water. Informing Parliament about the initiative, Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC), PMO, Atomic Energy and Space, said that technology for indigenous manufacturing of these kits has been transferred to six private entrepreneurs and the product is available in the market. In all detection kits developed, reagents kept in different bottles are to be added to the water sample. "Iron Contamination detection kit is at advanced stage of development and very soon will be available to private entrepreneurs,".





NATIONAL E-COMMERCE REGULATOR

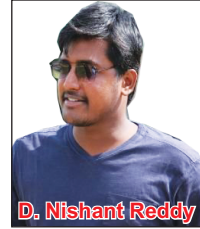
PROBE NEWS :- To regulate e-commerce industry in India, the government is planning to set up a single regulator to look after issues related to the sector. The Draft National Policy Framework on online commerce, which aims to weed out legal fragmentation, has suggested some measures including



data storage, mandating the govt-backed Rupay payments and enhancing participation of small and medium enterprises in e-tail, said Reuters report with a claim to have seen the document. The draft majorly looks to create even playing field for the e-commerce companies, Indian or foreign and to ensure a niche for the MSMEs, women and artisans in the eco-system. It could be a 2-yr sunset period for industry to adjust before localization becomes mandatory; to ease environment for e-commerce enterprises to raise

funds domestically.

A national regulator for e-commerce, mandatory data localization and tax sops for data centres are part of an upcoming legislation governing all aspects of electronic commerce in the country, the draft of a national policy showed. The regulator will ensure consumer protection and compliance with foreign investment caps in e-commerce. The national policy framework in this regard, prepared by a task force headed by commerce secretary Rita Teatota, was discussed on Monday by a think tank, headed by industry minister Suresh Prabhu, set up for the purpose. The draft will be further fine-tuned before it is sent for inter-ministerial consultations. The government has been striving to build consensus on an e-commerce policy to mitigate the policy vacuum on key issues related to the sector as well as to effectively respond to a proposal for multilateral discipline in e-commerce at the World Trade Organization (WTO) as various government departments have contradictory views on the matter. While the draft e-commerce policy has strongly recommended data localization, it has suggested a two-year sunset period for the industry



D. Nishant Reddy



to adjust before localization rules becomes mandatory. It has also suggested direct and indirect tax incentives as well as according infrastructure status to data centres to encourage domestic data storage. The move will help private sector companies comply with the norms laid down by the Srikrishna committee on data localization. The 10-member expert group headed by former Supreme Court judge B.N. Srikrishna, which submitted the draft bill titled The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, to the ministry of information and technology (MeitY) on Friday necessitates companies to store a copy of a user's personal data in the country. "It is a very encouraging move to give some time to the domestic industry to come to terms with the data storage procedures before actually imposing the legislation. However, it is important to carefully examine which companies actually qualify for

this," said Amber Sinha, lawyer and senior programme manager at Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), a Bengaluru-based think tank. Both the draft e-commerce policy and the Srikrishna panel have suggested that the government would have access to data stored in India for national security and public policy objectives subject to rules related to privacy, and consent. To encourage micro, small and medium enterprises, the draft e-commerce policy recommends allowing them to follow inventory-based models for selling locally produced goods through an online platform. Such companies may also be allowed up to 49% foreign investment. Currently, e-commerce platforms are allowed only to follow marketplace model where 100% FDI is allowed. However, the government has so far not permitted any FDI in inventory-based models. In what could worry the e-commerce





companies, the draft policy recommends that the Competition Commission of India consider suitably amending the thresholds so that competition-distorting mergers and acquisitions below the existing threshold also get mandatorily examined by it in case of e-commerce entities. “For such entities,

thresholds based on other variables (such as access to data) which are more relevant in this area, would be considered,” it added. The task force has also recommended that the goods and services tax (GST) procedures for e-commerce be simplified by allowing centralized registration instead of local registration. “The relevant GST provisions would be modified in order to create a level-playing field between online and offline delivery of goods and services for the purpose of GST,” it said. Currently, MSMEs with revenue of less than ¹ 20 lakh a year are not subject to GST if they sell offline whereas they have to pay GST if they sell goods on online platforms.

WhatsApp Rejects Indian Govt's Plea to Soften Encryption

WhatsApp has rejected India's demand for a solution to track the origin of messages on its platform, saying building traceability would undermine end-to-end encryption and affect privacy protection for users. Emphasising that people use its platform for all kinds of "sensitive conversations", the Facebook-owned company said the focus is on educating people about misinformation. The company continues to hold its stance that it cannot trace origin of messages because of end-to-end encryption. When contacted, a WhatsApp spokesperson said, "Building traceability would undermine end-to-end encryption

and the private nature of WhatsApp, creating the potential for serious misuse. WhatsApp will not weaken the privacy protections we provide". He added that people rely on WhatsApp for all kinds of "sensitive conversations", including with their doctors, banks and families. Our focus remains working closer with others in India to educate people about misinformation and help keep people safe. Over the past few months, WhatsApp has drawn flak over the issue in spreading fake news through its platform, that have even incited incidents of mob-lynching in various parts of the country.



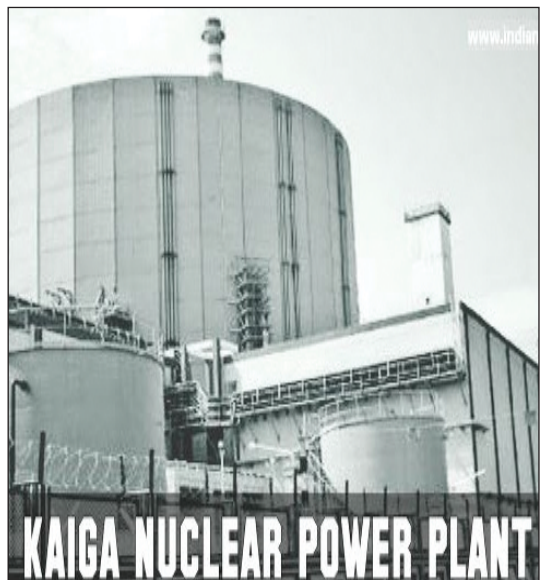
Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant sets new record

PROBE NEWS :- An Indian nuclear industry is moving forward at a brisk pace, Nuclear power generation is a global enterprise more so today than ever before. India's Nuclear power generation is expected to grow perhaps ten times by 2030. The Kaiga Nuclear Power

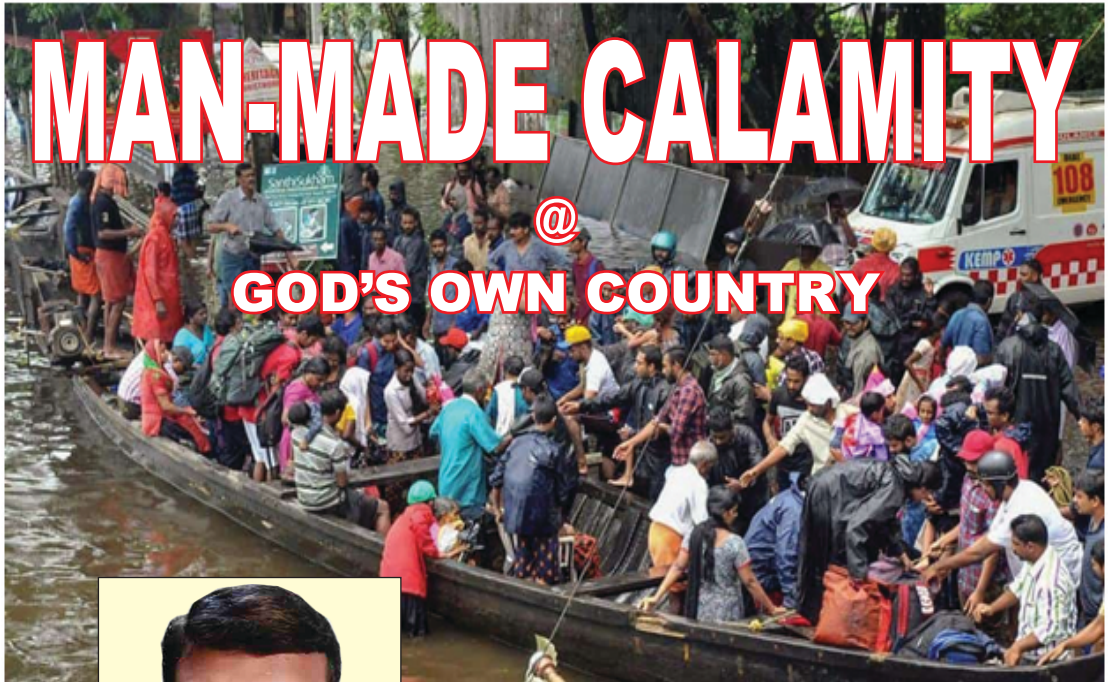


Plant sets new record by continuously operating for 766 days Kaiga Nuclear Generating station (KGS-1) set a new record of continuous operation of 766 days, surpassing the earlier record of 765 days set by Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014. With this achievement, KGS-1 now stands second in the world among the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) and fourth among all nuclear power reactors in terms of continuous operation. The unit has been operating since May 13, 2016. KGS-1 (220 MW) is an indigenous PHWR fuelled by domestic fuel which started

commercial operations on November 2000. It has generated about 2576 crore units of electricity since the start of its commercial operations, including about 402 crore units generated in the present continuous run. India's nuclear power plants have demonstrated continuous operations for long periods exceeding a year 27 times so far, along with KGS-1, four more reactors, RAPS-3 (659 days), KGS-2 (464 days) and KGS-3 (467 days) and MAPS-2 (357 days) are presently operating for long periods. NPCIL presently has 22 reactors with a capacity of 6780 MW in operation and eight reactors with a capacity of 6200 MW under construction. Work has also been initiated on twelve more reactors (9000 MW) accorded administrative approval and financial sanction by Government.



KAIGA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT



M. KISHORE
Spl. Correspondent

PROBE NEWS:-Kerala which enjoys the status of being ‘God’s Own Country’ has been devastated by unprecedented floods following torrential rains that also triggered landslides. The situation is getting deteriorated day by day with rains unleashing havoc in the state. The ruinous repercussions of this rainfall on various cities and villages across of Kerala are a bleak reminder to the fact that a regular vigilance is a necessity to tackle the uncertain natural disasters.

Kerala’s surprisingly severe monsoon rains this year is contradictory to the rainfall trend during the past years. The weather department has issued a red alert in 14 districts of the state as it is facing the most perilous floods of the century. Heavy flooding has caused the deaths of at least 500 people in Kerala since June the worst natural disaster to strike the southern Indian state in decades. More than 1m people have been displaced and are recovering in relief camps after 80 dams were overrun by torrential rains. Kerala famed for its pristine palmlined beaches and tea plantations is battered by the monsoon every year but this year’s damage has been particularly severe. While the state has lagged behind on these preventive measures, the rainfall this monsoon



PROBE TIMES Support to Kerala Victims

A Monthly English Cyber World Magazine & News Portal

“It was an unexpected and unimaginable to witness a hard hit cyclone in Gods own country. These devastating floods have put the Nation in grief. More than 500 people have lost their lives, while thousands have lost their families, homes, livelihood and



much more. This has been one of the worst floods in the state of all times. Survival has become a struggle for the victims, as landslides happening at one side, little Urban pockets are waterlogged and homes being flooded. While the water has started receding, the damaged roads, broken communication channels, relent less rains pose a continuous



challenge to the rescue and relief workers and top of all the ambiguity of people thinking about their livelihoods, wherein they mostly depend on agro based industry and Tourism. Responding to the urgent needs of the flood affected families in Kerala, PROBE TIMES Special Correspondent M Kishore along with his friends responded and had being carrying out rescue, relief and Rehabilitation of work. PROBE TIMES sent team plumbers and electricians for rescue operations in two districts namely Wayanad and Khozikode of Kerala.”





season has been exceptionally high. The unprecedented floods and dam water releases also raise the questions about flood forecasting. It is a calamity that has happened after 100 years and no one had predicted this amount of rain. Experts believe that injudicious use of land is responsible for making some regions of the state more prone to floods and landslides. Incursions into catchment areas of rivers that have dried up and mountainous areas have rendered settlements in

Department said. Torrential monsoon rains have disrupted air and train services, people are airlifted by the Indian Navy soldiers during a rescue operation at a flooded area. Rescuers used helicopters and boats to evacuate thousands of stranded people. Roads and houses are engulfed in water. Effected people have been evacuated from villages in low-lying areas and moved to relief camps set up by the government. Let the God only protect all in GOD's own



their vicinity vulnerable to the vagaries of nature. Helicopters and disaster management teams have been battling heavy rains to reach flooded areas in order to evacuate people stranded in homes or on rooftops. The floods have damaged hundreds of kilometres of roads and disrupted train and air services. The airport at Kochi was closed for several days. Kerala has been hit with 37 percent more rainfall than normal since the beginning of this monsoon, the Meteorological

Country. As an Indian we all help as much as far as possible. At least now let the State Govt. wakeup protect the environment. Several government agencies like the Natural Disaster Management Authority, Indian Meteorological Department, the Army, the Navy, Central Water Commission, and the Home Ministry and Defense Ministry have been enrolled to execute one of the massive flood evacuation, rescue, and relief operations in Kerala.

The facilities at the Cochin



International Airport in Kerala have been deferred due to excessive flooding around the airport atleast till 26th August. The flight operations have been shifted to the Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut civil airports. There is a disruption in the train services and the road transport in the state is in shambles as the roads have gone underwater. The public transportation facilities of Kochi Metro and the Southern Railways have also been drastically affected, putting their services to a

residing along the riversides which got flooded with water after the gates of about two dozen dams were opened in the past few weeks. Finding an appropriate land is, of course, a big task in a populated, forested Kerala, but it is a definite need to get ready for the future. Efficient medical facilities are necessary in Kerala to deal with the epidemics during floods. This year's striking disaster stresses on the role of the government as an insurer and a last alternative for an average citizen. Kerala state lacks any



halt in central Kerala due to floods. The authorities of Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) stalled operations as its yards are flooded with water. Their services will only resume once the water recedes from the yards and the systems return to working conditions.

The current situation in Kerala demands resilient planning by the government. A beginning should be made with the relocation of the people away from the risk zones

proper flood forecasting system despite being prone to heavy rains and floods. India's only flood forecasting agency, Central Water Commission (CWC), lacked any information regarding the flood conditions in Kerala. This makes the situation more worse as the locals do not have any scope to prepare for the situation before hand. The CWC has set up flood monitoring sites in the state, but some of them are not functional. When the state of Kerala



was already dealing with a severe flood situation, more than two dozen dams released massive amount of water, worsening the situation even more. Why the water was not

released before? What were the authorities doing before monsoons arrived in India? These questions hovers over everyone's mind when we think of districts like Malappuram, Kannur, Idukki, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Wayanad, and Palakkad in Kerala, which are facing the catastrophic floods and have also witnessed loss of human lives from flash floods and landslips. Several other environmentalists too have pointed fingers at the extensive quarrying, mushrooming of high-rises as part of tourism and illegal forest land acquisition by private parties as major reasons for the

Pressure on land resources could be reason for Kerala floods

PROBE NEWS : The former chairman of ISRO, K Kasturirangan, has attributed the fierce floods in Kerala which has claimed over hundreds of lives and displaced over seven lakh people to pressures on the state's limited land resources. Pressure on Kerala's limited land resources due to the growing population, denudation of the Western Ghats and climate change, could be the reasons behind the floods that have ravaged the state. He noted that the state's population had increased in the last century and it 'has its own pressures on the environment and resources'. "So, together, there has been an impact on the environment. The population has increased, there is more demand on resources, which includes land, agriculture and many other activities," he said. Kasturirangan, who was a member of the now defunct Planning Commission and hails from Kerala, said that heavy rains have, in the past, been 'well managed' by nature, through an exceptionally thick vegetation and 'other kinds of natural endowment that the state has including the backwaters'. However, the size of the backwaters has shrunk to 50-60 per cent of what it was in the 1940s, he said. Kasturirangan said the Western Ghats have denuded at many places 'and agricultural practices have been pursued there. Population pressure has caused this'.





calamity. Kerala is thus also a lesson for the rest of the country to not exploit nature. Hope, some lessons will be learnt at least now.

Deforestation and changing land patterns in Kerala is a contributing factor to floods. The districts of Wayanad and Idukki are counted as the most heavily covered with dense forest. However, the forest cover in these districts has witnessed a steady decline between 2011 and 2017. This made these regions highly susceptible to flash flooding. Some plantations have also been inundated. The state is a major producer of rubber, tea, coffee and spices such as black pepper and cardamom. Kerala recorded more than 37% excess rainfall in just two-and-a-half months, while in the past

that has happened throughout the monsoon season which usually lasts about four months. Such heavy rainfall in a short space of time also triggered landslides that killed many people. Environmentalists say deforestation is responsible for this. Some parts of Kerala have been marooned because wetlands and lakes that acted as natural safeguards against floods have disappeared because of rampant urbanization and construction of infrastructure. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had put the damage at Rs 19,512 crore and asked the Centre for immediate relief of Rs 2,000 crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi after conducting an aerial survey announced a relief package of Rs 500





crore. Meanwhile, the Gulf States of UAE, Oman and Qatar all announced that they would be sending money and aid to Kerala, with many residents of the state living in their countries. United Arab Emirates Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum said his country had a “special responsibility” to help the state as its people had “always been and are still part of our success story”.

VS Vijayan, an environmental scientist and a member of the expert panel on Western Ghats, said, “Kerala is going through a man-made calamity. The impact should have been limited if the Gadgil committee report, aimed at protecting ecologically-fragile mountain ranges, was implemented.” A few of the regions which have borne the brunt of the Kerala flood fury had been declared as ecologically-sensitive zones by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, also known as the Gadgil Committee. The Gadgil Committee was set up by the Centre in 2010 over concerns that human intervention was changing the face of the Western Ghats, the mountain range responsible for breaking down cloud formations and dissipating rainfall. However, another committee was constituted under the leadership of former ISRO director K. Kasturirangan, after all six states in the Ghat objected to the previous committee’s recommendations.

In a kind gesture, inmates of Central Prison in Thiruvananthapuram have prepared over 40,000 chapatis for the people staying in the relief camps across Kerala. DNA reported that an average of 40,000-50,000 chapatis was prepared for flood victims during the peak days last week. Kerala Water Authority and Kerala State Electricity Board were trying to restore water and power supply in vast areas that are without power and water. Commercial flight operations from the naval airport at Kochi commenced today with the first Air India flight from Bengaluru arriving this morning. Kerala is facing the heaviest rains and consequent widespread floods and destruction since 1924, which the state estimates have caused a loss of over Rs 19,500 crore. Jail authorities said that though the workload is too high, around 50 convict prisoners of the chapati unit were working round the clock in different shifts to meet the demand. The neatly-packed chapati and curry were handed over to the district authorities to be distributed to the relief camps.

The death toll stands at 370, from May 29 when Kerala got the first of the monsoon rains, with the bulk of the fatalities being reported. Earlier in the day, Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja had said that the authorities discussed the situation with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and that health and sanitation are at the top priority.



STALIN NEW DMK PRESIDENT

PROBE NEWS: After the death of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M Karunanidhi, the wheels are being set in motion for his son MK Stalin's elevation as party president with an emergency executive committee meeting called at the party headquarters in Chennai, according to leaders

making Stalin the president. After that, it will be endorsed in the general council meeting in which a formal announcement can be made," said a senior DMK office-bearer on the condition of anonymity. Apart from Stalin, Karunanidhi's daughter and Rajya Sabha MP MK Kanimozhi may also



familiar with the developments. The official announcement of the emergency meeting was made soon after party general secretary K Anbazhagan met Stalin, who is currently the party's treasurer and working president. "Though the executive committee does not have the power to elect the party president, it can give the nod to

be elevated as either the party's deputy general secretary or treasurer, according to a second DMK leader familiar with the matter. But no decision had been taken about the induction of Karunanidhi's other son MK Azhagiri, who was expelled from the party in 2014 after a turf war between him and Stalin, the leader



added. Stalin's elevation is not a big surprise since Karunanidhi had spoken about Stalin as his successor on a few occasions in the past including during Stalin's birthday celebrations in 2015 and in an interview to Tamil weekly Ananda Vikatan in October 2016.

When contacted, TKS Elangovan, a party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP, said the reason for the executive committee meeting was "only to pass condolence resolutions". He said: "Until the general body election is convened, the president post will be kept vacant." This is the first time in five decades that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam the party president's post has been vacant. Karunanidhi was the first and only president of the party since 1968. Even his mentor and former state chief minister CN Annadurai was designated as a founder of the party and not as its president. "If Stalin is elevated as president, the post of treasurer in the party will fall vacant. Kanimozhi may have that as her first preference," said the second DMK leader. "As per the DMK by-laws, one leader from the OBC (Other Backward Classes) community, two women, and one Dalit should be appointed as deputy general secretaries. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan and Sarguna Pandian were appointed as deputy general secretaries 2014. After the demise of Sarguna Pandian in August 2016,



one reserved post for a woman for deputy general secretary is still vacant. So there is a possibility to appoint Kanimozhi as deputy general secretary," the second leader added. Political analyst Raveendran Duraisamy said the succession is likely to boost the morale of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam cadres ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. "Since 2016 when Karunanidhi turned inactive due to his poor health, Stalin started to take control of various wings of the party. Electing him as the president will not be an issue. Also, Kanimozhi has a sizeable base in the south-east and central Tamil Nadu. To strengthen her political career, she would be also elevated. However, it is up to Stalin to decide about the induction



Judges Appointment Infinite Row



PROBE NEWS :- Justice Indira Benarjee, Vineet Saran and K M Joseph are elevated to Supreme Court. The Government, as usual is in controversy about the appointments, now in respect of inter se seniority if the three judges. Now, the Government claims that Justice Indira Benerjee and Justice Vineet Saran became High Court Judges before Justice Joseph became a High Court Judge. Which Seniority should count between elevation as a Judge of the High Court and elevation as Chief Justice of a State? Apart from convention, the date of elevation as Chief Justice should determine inter se seniority if elevated to Supreme Court. The logic is more than clear. The post of the Chief Justice of a state is a permanent post. Once a person is appointed as CJ, he cannot be posted as a puisne (associate) judge of any High Court again. Consequently, the date of appointment as CJ should decide the inter se seniority if more than one CJ of High Courts is elevated at one time to Supreme Court. How is a CJ of a state chosen? It is not on the basis of All India Seniority of High Court judges. The All India Seniority is partly controlled by State Seniority. If a person is appointed as a judge of a High Court in an Year, another person of another High Court may be



Justice K.G. Shankar

elevated as CJ if there is no representation from the state from which he/she was elevated as a judge of that State High Court; albeit he was elevated later than the other judge. I belong to Andhra Pradesh High Court cadre. I therefore offer a few illustrations from Andhra Pradesh High Court which I know. Justice Bilal Nanking who belonged to Jammu & Kashmir High Court was transferred to A P High Court for security reasons. While he was the senior most puisne judge, Government elevated Justice Anil Dave of Gujarat High Court as Chief Justice of A P High Court. In All India Seniority, Justice Dave was junior to Justice Nazki. A judge senior to Justice Nazki from J & K High Court was working as CJ of a High Court. Consequently, Justice Nazki was not considered for elevation as CJ although he was



senior to Justice Dave in All India Seniority. Justice Nazki got his turn of elevation later by which time Justice Dave was in Supreme Court as a judge. It is clear from this precedent that simple All India Seniority does not decide inter se seniority in Supreme Court. Another example from AP is Justice Ramana. Justice Chandrachud was elevated as judge of Bombay High Court about a couple of years before Justice Ramana was elevated as judge of AP High Court. Still, Justice Ramana was elevated as C J (of Delhi High Court) before Justice Chandrachud was elevated as C J (of Allahabad High Court). This is because once Justice Chelameswar was elevated to Supreme Court, a vacancy arose for the post of C J from AP High Court. Consequently, Justice Ramana became judge of Supreme Court before Justice Chandrachud.

Thus, it is clear that inter se seniority in Supreme Court does not depend on All India Seniority as

judges of High Courts but on the basis of seniority as Chief Justices of States. On the same principle, Justice Chelameswar should have been senior to Justice Deepak Mishra in the Supreme Court; for Justice Chelameswar became a CJ in 2007 while Justice Deepak Mishra became CJ in 2009. It is a fact that Justice Deepak Mishra became a judge of Orissa High Court before Justice Chelameswar became a judge of AP High Court and thus was junior to Justice Deepak Mishra in All India seniority. Indeed, it is history now after the retirement of Justice Chelameswar.

When members of the collegium of Supreme Court questioned the inter se seniority of the three appointments, the immediate answer by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is that nothing could be done at present after the issuance of warrants of appointment. The apprehension about next CJI is precisely this. Someone other than Justice Gogoi may be appointed as CJI on the date of retirement of present CJI Justice Deepak Mishra and that judge would be sworn in the next day. There would be no time to do anything to unsettle the injustice. If a Quo warrento is filed questioning the appointment, taking cue from Justice Deepak Mishra, the new CJI himself will hear the Writ and will dismiss it. Alas!! What the fate of not parties is but the fate of the judges who decide the fate of others is.



SWACHH BHARAT COULD HELP AVERT OVER 3 LAKHS DEATHS: WHO



PROBE NEWS : - World Health Organisation highlighted that all the deaths caused due to diarrheal disease and protein-energy malnutrition can be averted if India maintains safe sanitation scheme. If India remains committed to achieving 100 per cent coverage in terms of safe sanitation services by October 2019, as many as 3,00,000 deaths caused due to diarrheal disease and protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) since the country launched the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014 can be averted, the World Health Organization highlighted. Results

tabulated from a WHO modeling study on the health impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) outline noted that India's accelerated coverage of safe sanitation services and its determination to end open defecation will have a substantial effect on the burden of diarrheal disease and PEM by reducing mortality and accumulative Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) - the sum of the years of life lost due to premature mortality and years lost due to disability or ill-health.

As per calculations, if all



**World Health
Organization**



World Health Organization

sanitation services are used, the initiative could result in over 14 million more years of healthy life in the period measured, with the benefits accruing yearly thereafter. That is especially remarkable, given that before 2014, unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhoea annually, with modelling showing the problem will almost be eliminated when the universal use of safe sanitation facilities is achieved, the WHO observed. The premier health organisation further noted that India's commitment and progress towards the outcomes are reflected in the fact that household sanitation coverage has dramatically increased from an estimated two per cent per year before the initiative to more than 13 per cent annually between 2016 and 2018. The recent allocation of up to Rs 15,000 crore as extra-budgetary resources for the SBM-G during the

present financial year holds-out the potential for further gains, not only for India, but also the WHO South-East Asia Region and the world (globally, diarrheal disease is the second leading cause of under-five mortality, while lack of clean water and sanitation is also a major contributor to malnutrition), it added. The broader health impact of India's commitment to accelerated sanitation coverage, the WHO said, are likely to be significant. This includes improved overall nutritional status and reduced incidence of infectious diseases such as neglected tropical diseases and acute respiratory infections, as well as vector-borne diseases. Moreover, the estimations apply to the health impacts from improvements in sanitation coverage only, meaning it is possible that the broader mission has produced additional health gains through changes in personal hygiene and the consumption of safe drinking water, it added. Acknowledging measures taken in collaboration with the Centre to scale up access to sanitation services and to utilise resources more efficiently to reach those under threat of being excluded, the WHO said India's pursuit of South-East Asia's Flagship Priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals, will oblige countries to ensure access to safe water and sanitation for all, and commended India for the commitment.



PROBE NEWS: - Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is among the nine astronauts named by NASA for its first human spaceflight programme since the retirement of the space shuttle. The astronauts will fly on spacecraft developed by SpaceX and Boeing as part of the US space agency's Commercial Crew programme to send humans to the International Space Station (ISS) on private US spacecraft. Williams has been named for the Boeing programme to the ISS, the first test flight scheduled to take place in the middle of 2019. "For the first time since 2011, we are on the brink of launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said while announcing the names of the astronauts. In 2014, Boeing and SpaceX were awarded a combined \$6.8 billion in contracts from NASA to develop spacecraft capable of flying crews to the space station, The Washington Post reported. NASA on Thursday confirmed a delay in the first piloted flights of Boeing and SpaceX. SpaceX is targeting November 2018

for Crew Dragon's first uncrewed demonstration mission (Demo-1), three months later than the previous schedule released by NASA early this year. The crewed demonstration flight, with two astronauts on board, will follow in April 2019, four months later than previously announced. Boeing's CST-100 Starliner, on the other hand, will likely perform two crucial test flights next year, instead of this year as planned. Each test flight will provide data on the performance of the rockets, spacecraft, ground systems, and operations to ensure the systems are safe to fly astronauts. The crew for Boeing's Crew Flight Test and SpaceX's Demo-2 flights will each include at least a flight commander and pilot aboard to test out the systems. After successful completion of the flight tests with the crew, NASA will review flight data to verify the systems meet the agency's safety and performance certification requirements and are ready to begin regular servicing missions to the space station, the US space agency said.



40 LAKHS NOT IN REGISTER CANNOT BE CALLED ILLEGAL



Dalim Phukan

PROBE NEWS : BJP President Amit Shah said the NRC would weed out “ghuspethiye” (infiltrators) in Assam, the Supreme Court-appointed coordinator for the exercise termed such descriptions as “too premature” and said that all the 40,07,707 people left out of the “complete draft” cannot be clubbed under that description, or as illegal migrants, merely on the basis of the register. “No, we can’t say all these 40 lakh are ghuspethiye,” Prateek Hajela, the NRC coordinator, told media at New Delhi in an interview. Hajela was responding to a question on whether those whose names were missing in the final draft could be called infiltrators or illegal migrants. The man at the centre of the NRC exercise said that only a “judicial scrutiny” can establish whether a person can be called an illegal migrant or not. “These people will get another chance to prove their credentials. Then we will come out with a final NRC. The NRC process will be over then. Even after that, whether a person is an illegal migrant or not is something that can

be decided only by judicial scrutiny and that is through a certain set of codes, which has been established in Assam called the Foreigners Tribunal,” said Hajela. Acknowledging that “there could be errors” in finalising the draft NRC, as it is a “manual process”, the coordinator said people will have the opportunity to “object to any entry”. That BJP has maintained silence on the issue despite the fact that names of many Hindu Bengalis, whose antecedents can be traced back to generations in Assam are missing from the draft NRC. Bhattacharya alleged that the BJP's stand on the entire issue of illegal immigrants is contradictory. “On the one it claims to be committed to the process of NRC update and on the other the party wants to pass the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 BJP President Amit Shah used the term ghuspethiye (infiltrator) to refer to all the more than 40 lakh people whose names do not figure in the draft NRC. Where did Shah get the authority to make such a statement?” Bhattacharya wondered. He said that many indigenous people of the state, as well as numerous Hindi speaking, Nepali speaking and Bengali Speaking persons have their names missing from the complete draft of NRC



UNIQUE MISSION

Nation Salutes to Bagicha Singh

PROBE NEWS : The age factor mean nothing to me. I am old enough. To know my limitations and I am young enough to exceed them. An old age is not a factor for achieving the Goals. 83 years old Bagicha Singh is the brand ambassador for social evil free India. Bagicha Singh creating awareness on a different social evils by walking across the nation. Each and every time he will carry one unique message for the total India. He traveled several times for iradication of Tobacco and alcohol and other social evils. For unity and integrity he carried several messages to all parts of India. The inspiration and commitment of Bagicha Singh transformed lakhs of youth for betterment of future India.



On his routine path he is in Hyderabad city of Nizams carrying with noble and moral mission.

There are those who say that humans are inherently selfish and



evolutionarily programmed to make decisions that serve their own interest and ensure their own survival. Yet, evolution doesn't and can't explain why some people



willingly give up on their future, their dreams and their life so that others can live. One such human is Bagicha Singh. At a vulnerable age of 81, when all you care about is a peaceful and dignified exit from the world, Bagicha Singh prefers to serve the nation through his unique walk of hope. Singh has been walking all over India for the past 22 years in a hope to create awareness against corruption, smoking and consumption of alcohol. He has already completed 21 rounds of India and has now undertaken his 22nd expedition. Bagicha Singh is from Panipat and he started his non-stop journey (from Jammu to Kanyakumari) in the year 1993 and

since then has never returned home. As a true testament to the selfless love he has for the country, he carries 2 Indian flags. He has till now covered an unbelievable distance of



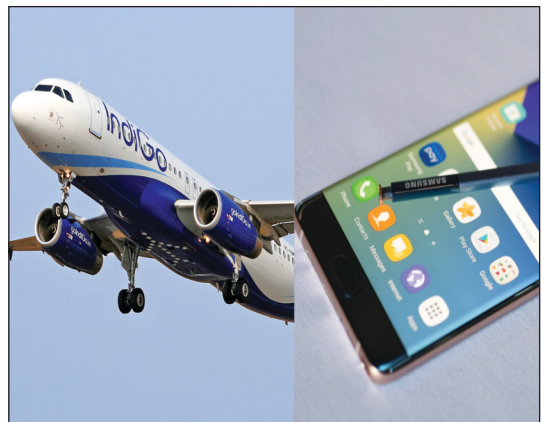
5,60,000 km and acknowledges Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh to be the reason behind his motivation. His journey teaches us that if you wish to see a change in the society, then enter the public sphere with a the goal to serve the public and the determination to stick to that goal no matter what adversities come in the way. His existence is a reason for celebration and inspiration that a man of such conviction and principles is among us. As citizens of this country let's prevent the flame initiated by Singh from being snuffed out. Or to help it burn more brightly. Share about his great story with as many people as you can. He is someone every Indian should be proud of.



PHONE CALLS @ FLIGHT

PROBE NEWS : You may be able to make phone calls, use internet on flights from October. There is still no clarity on the pricing. However, it is anticipated that the cost will far surpass that of normal rates for mobile services. Indian fliers will finally be able to use internet and make phone calls on their flights. The telecom department will allow calls and internet at 30,000 ft from October this year. An official at the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said, “We are in the final stages of inflight connectivity licence norms and the service option will be given to carriers and telecom companies within two months”. That they have followed the telecom regulator’s recommendations to draft the guidelines. Once the department clears the plan, the law ministry’s approval will take another two weeks to sanction. The official said that there have been meetings with telecom operators and airlines with some parties showing interest to offer these services. The official also said that once the licences are rolled out, the carriers and telecom companies can fight it out to pick the service they want to push out. Indian carriers are in favour of providing internet services as it would result in add-on revenues and bring them at par with international flights. There is still

no clarity on the pricing. However, it is anticipated that the cost will far surpass that of normal rates for mobile services as initial investments will be made by the airlines. However, it is not going to be a simple task for Indian carriers. Each aircraft would require an investment of about \$1 million, an executive said. The plane will also have to be grounded for at least 10 days to retrofit the aircraft with the technology. In current circumstances, this revamping may not come across as very welcoming. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had earlier said that Indian and international flights be allowed voice and data services within India’s airspace above an altitude of 9,850 ft. It suggested that inflight service connectivity licences should be provided at Re 1 annually. Except for international flights, the Telecom Commission approved TRAI’s recommendations.





The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018: Child Welfare Legislation

PROBE NEWS : The Parliament on 6 August, 2018 passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018 which ensures stringent punishment for those convicted of raping girls below 12 years of age. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha last month and on 6 August, 2018 it was unanimously passed in Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The bill will now replace the Criminal Law Ordinance, promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 April after the incident of rape and murder case of minor girl in Kathua and in Unnao rape case. The proposed bill has prescribed the punishment for rape of child by categorizing the child into 3 age groups- 12 or below 12 years, 12-16 years and 16 to 18 years. The bill also amends the relevant sections of the IPC, CrPC and POCSO Act.

Amendments to IPC : Minimum



Durgesh Kumar Shukla

LL.M. (Access to Justice)

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



ten years imprisonment for rape: Section 376(1) IPC sought to be amended to increase the minimum punishment for rape of women from imprisonment for seven years to imprisonment for ten years. The punishment may extend up to life imprisonment. Minimum twenty years imprisonment for rape of child below 16 : Sub-section(3) sought to be inserted in Section 376 to make rape of girl below the age of 16 years punishable with minimum twenty years of imprisonment. The punishment may extend up to life imprisonment. Death for rape of girl aged below 12 years: Section 376AB sought to be inserted to make rape of child aged below the age of 12 years punishable with death. Life imprisonment for gang rape of girl below 16 years: Section 376DA sought to be inserted to provide for life imprisonment for those involved in gang rape of girl below under age of 16 years. It is also mentions that life imprisonment shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of





the natural life of the convict. Death for gang-rape of girl aged below 12 years: Section 376DB sought to be inserted to provide for death penalty for gang rape of girl below the age of 12 years. Section 228A IPC sought to be amended to include offences under newly inserted Sec.376(3), 376DA, and 376DB under the bar of disclosure of victim's identity. Section 166A to be IPC amended to provide for the punishment of public servant failing to register a complaint in cases under newly inserted sections. Amendments to Criminal Procedure Code : Speedy Investigation: Investigation of cases to be completed within two months, as per sub-section (1A) sought to be inserted in Section 173, Cr.PC. and the case should be tried in fast track court. Apart from this, only a woman judge will hear the rape case and a woman police

officer will record the statement of rape victims. Appeal : Appeal against a sentence by a trial court must be disposed of within 6 months. No anticipatory bail: Section 438 CrPC sought to be amended to state that no anti-cipatory bail can be granted to persons accused under newly inserted offences. Restrictions on regular bail: Regular bail applications under Section 439 for persons accused under newly inserted offences can be heard only after fifteen days' notice to the public prosecutor. The First Schedule of Cr.P.C is sought to be amended to clarify that the new offences are non-bailable and cognizable, to be tried by Court of Session. Section 42 of the POCSO Act is sought to be amended to clarify that greater amongst the punishments under IPC and POCSO will be applicable for the acts.



Child Rights - Universal Rights



Bihar shelter home rape case - CBI officer's transfer

PROBE NEWS : The transfer of CBI SP in Patna, JP Mishra, who was heading the investigation in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuses case, prompted Opposition parties to dub it as a "plot to weaken the probe". Mishra, who was shifted out of the case with immediate effect on Tuesday, would be working as SP in DIG office, Patna range. Devendra Singh, who was posted as SP in CBI's anti-corruption unit in Lucknow, would replace Mishra and head the shelter home probe, said sources. The transfer, that officials described as a "routine move by the CBI," came as a surprise to many as it was effected two days before the agency is set to submit to Patna High Court a report on the progress of the probe. Sources said Devendra Singh would now submit the CBI's action taken report to HC on Thursday. Several raids were conducted by the CBI across Bihar ever since the agency took over the

case. Bihar's former social welfare minister Manju Verma and her husband, former MLC Chandeshwar Verma, were also interrogated. Manju Verma resigned on August 8 after her husband's name surfaced in the racket. "It raises questions on the agency's sincerity in investigating the case as it happens just two days before submitting of ATR in the HC. It clearly raises huge suspicion," said Alok Mehta, a former minister and senior leader of the Opposition RJD. "So after Bihar Governor, CM Nitish Kumar also got CBI SP transferred. Tomorrow he would have submitted progress report on Muzaffarpur shelter home mass rape case in the HC. The investigation was reaching to 'Patna Sir' as mentioned in Brajesh Thakur's diary. Chacha wait and watch, who's he?" tweeted Tejashwi Yadav, the Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly, referring to the CM as 'chacha' (uncle).





“HONEY TRAP”

INTELLIGENCE TOOL, NO “LONELY-HEARTS CLUB”



Silveri Srishailam

PROBE NEWS : Madhya Pradesh police rescued a 27-year-old woman who was allegedly abducted from Delhi to work as "honey trap" and carry out sting operations on politicians by taking their compromised videos for black mailing them. This incident created tremor in the Indian politics. As all political parties are getting ready general elections due in about eight months. The fraudsters are preparing more Honey Traps before elections. The term "honey trapping" may be used for practice of creating an affair for the purpose of taking embarrassing pictures for use in blackmail. A "honey trap" is used primarily to collect evidence on some high profile target. This is not where a woman goes up to a man in a bar, flirts outrageously and then they jump into bed. 'Active' honey trapping is more brazen, flirting

outrageously and taking trapper to a place where detectives never reach. Active honey trapping means nothing, except that the person will take what's thrown on a plate and forced at them or that they are basically weak to entrapment ... something we never have, and would never be involved in. An espionage practice that uses romantic sexual trap for an interpersonal, political, revenge or monetary purpose to the detriment of one party involved in the romantic or sexual affair. In espionage terminology, honeypot and honey trap are terms for recruitment involving sexual seduction. Investigators are also often employed by wives, husbands, and other partners usually when an illicit romantic affair is suspected of the "target," or subject of the investigation. As you can see from the general trend of this, a trap is essentially a logical move. It could be forced or unforced. You obtain leverage by using indiscretions of a certain nature. Your object could be anything. You may remember in the movie, Inception, people in certain situations need to be trained and protected. In India, Ambani's kids, movie

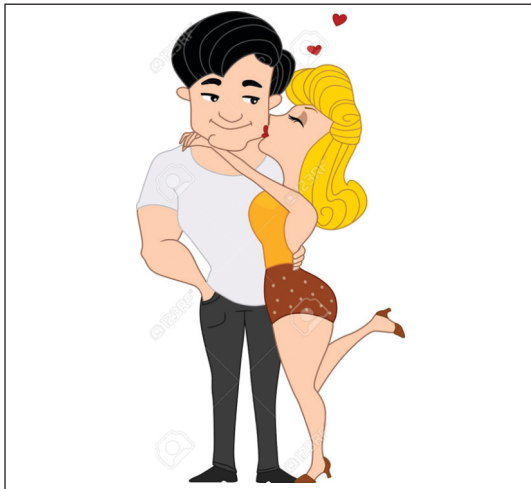




stars, intelligence operatives, armed forces personnel in sensitive position etc are trained. You have a better chance of dealing with a honey trap if you are aware and prepared. The golden rule is always, thou shalt not commit indiscretions. But what's life if not for a few thrills. They will have my ass if I go about writing what was in my brief. But I can show you a few tricks not in their manual. The trap is often laid on the social media sites. WhatsApp is another medium through which these traps are laid. What is even more worrisome is that

'trap' was first used in the world of espionage. There have been several cases of honey traps reported from across the world. Influential officials and politicians have fallen victim to this age old trick and have passed on sensitive information. The famous Delhi honey trap case is creating sparks ever since Gujarat BJP MP KC Patel filed a complaint of extortion with Delhi Police recently. There are strong speculations of other people being involved in the working this gang apparently led by a woman in custody. The gang targets unsuspecting parliamentarians by luring them into compromising situations to later blackmail them with the demands of amount in crores and top-notch jobs in exchange. The woman leading this gang has revealed a few details following her arrest. She moved to Delhi about five years ago to prepare for Rajasthan Public Services Commission and later appeared for UPSC exam with no luck. She claimed to have done BA, MA English, MA Political science and also perused LLB and LLM but she could not even write in English when

asked to. This raised doubts about the woman's educational background. The lady maintains that she was called upon to meet by a parliamentarian. She even said that she received the politician from the airport a few days back, the same day



both the Chinese and Pakistanis have set up their moles in India as well. Once they manage to trap the person, they set up a meeting at a coffee shop

Victims of Honey Trapping
: A honey trap refers to a strategy of using an attractive person to entrap or get information from someone. The term 'honey



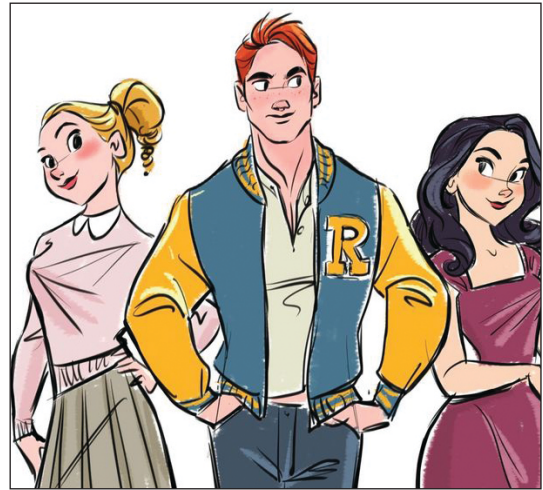
Silveri Srishailam

COVER STORY

she was "raped" by the parliamentarian at North Avenue house and in Ghaziabad. Investigation proves that not only she had CCTV cameras installed at her residence but also she used to carry spy camera all the time. Police have also found some CDs and audio clips from her place.

A total of 25 MPs including Uttarakhand minister Haraksingh Rawat and MP Shadilal Batra have been honey trapped by this group. Have a look at three such controversial incidents where similar honey traps have been used to lure influential officials to get political and confidential information. In the year 2016 there was a gossip around the political leaders that BJP parliamentarian Varun Gandhi was honey trapped by foreign escorts. The rival political parties blamed that Mr. Gandhi leaked crucial information about defense matters to arms manufacturers after being blackmailed with pictures of him with foreign escorts and prostitutes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Office has been told this in a letter. The complaint, dated September 16, is from C Edmonds Allen, a US-based lawyer, who says that Mr Gandhi was used by controversial arms dealer Abhishek Verma to disclose defence details to arms manufacturers looking to get contracts for India. Mr Verma and Mr Allen were business partners before they had an

epic fall-out in 2012. Mr Allen says that as a member of a parliamentary defence committee, Mr Gandhi used his information to "compromise national security". The patidhar leader Hardik Patel was honey trapped by opponent in last assembly elections in Gujarat. Some honey trap videos were viral during the Gujarat Assembly elections. If you are a defence Officer it is pretty easy for a person to single you out because of your haircut, dressing,



and mannerism. So, when you are in pub and you are approached by a girl, you have to use your wits to find out why she is there. Don't brag about forces in the talks and never pass any information of operational importance. Gaurav Kumar was arrested for leaking information to Pakistan ISI about Indian Army camps. Who was honey-trapped by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was arrested from Rohtak for allegedly passing information to Pakistani spy agency about



Indian Army camps he had visited for recruitment work, police said. In 2010, news surfaced of the notorious Russian honey trap which entrapped a naval official, commander Sukhjinder Singh. On 20th January, 2004, after yearlong negotiation between India and Russia, Admiral Gorshkov, a Kiev-class aircraft carrier of the Russian Navy was sold to India. The battleship inducted into the Russian Navy in 1987 was decommissioned after the breakup of soviet Union in 1991. The new government thought the use of this ship was over expensive and later she was bought by India and renamed INS Vikramaditya. The deal was sealed for \$800 million inclusive of the refurbishing and up-gradation. A technical team headed by then captain Sukhjinder Singh was sent to Russia to monitor this in 2005. During this visit, Singh got involved with a Russian woman and was honey trapped subsequently suggesting increasing the refurbishing and up-gradation expanse to \$2.3 billion, almost three times the initially settled. This even led the two countries to have Diplomatic disagreements. "INS Vikramaditya, a second hand aircraft carrier is 60% more expensive than a new one," pointed out CAG. In March 2010, a CD delivered at naval headquarters showed Singh

in compromising conditions with a Russian woman. After a brief inquiry, he was found guilty and dismissed in 2011. In 1981, a newly appointed RAW officer, Unnikrishnan was posted in Sri Lanka. During his time in Colombo, he befriended an American Embassy personnel and they used to hang out together all the time, going places and getting physically involved with prostitutes. The American cleverly waited like a smart agent for the right opportunity to trap Unnikrishnan. Later, when Unni was appointed in Madras for one very important mission of RAW, related to Tamil weapon protest and Indian Army Peace Keeping operation in Sri Lanka. One day, he received a phone call from a woman claiming to be an air hostess of Pan American airways. She tactfully manages to manipulate Unnikrishnan into flying to Bombay by saying that she got his number from an American friend who said she could contact Unni if she ever feels lonely in India. The two soon got intimately involved and even went on for a vacation to Singapore when the girl offered free tickets, only to get Unni captured on camera. Unnikrishnan being honey trapped, leaked many sensitive and secret information to American Intelligence agency, CIA. His betrayal was also considered responsible for





the failure of IPKF mission in Sri Lanka.

A Joint secretary level officer of Raw, Ravi Nayar has always been taken up for a man of easy virtue. He used to spend his weekends with a woman, name Mrs. Rao at his bungalow, on his official posting at Chennai station. P.K Hormis Tharakaan, who was the RAW chief then, even asked for the inspection



but without success. Nayar was sent to a sensitive post in Colombo. In the late 90's, Ravi was again under radar for the fund misuse. AK Varma, the RAW chief then, maintained in his file that this man is under suspicion and should be taken into account for a lie detector test. Nayar again was untouched with the inquiry and was soon posted in Hong Kong. Around 2004-2005, Ravi's wife called up Delhi office of RAW and informed that his husband has been involved with a Chinese woman. Following the incident, Nayar was immediately asked to get back to India by then

RAW chief, CD Sahay and was never posted abroad under Sahay. Nayar managed to get posted in Colombo after the retirement of Sahay in 2005. He rekindled his involvement with the same Chinese woman who turned out to be an agent of Chinese Intelligence agency and was tricking Nayar for the Intelligence information. Ravi Nayar was honey trapped, dismissed and later sent back to India from Colombo in October 2007.

International spy traps : The broadest honey trap in intelligence history was probably the creation of the notorious East German spymaster, Markus Wolf. In the early 1950s, Wolf recognized that, with marriageable German men killed in large numbers during World War II and more and more German women turning to careers, the higher echelons of German government, commerce, and industry were now stocked with lonely single women, ripe in his mind for the temptations of a honey trap. Wolf set up a special department of the STASI, the East Germany security service, and staffed it with his most handsome, intelligent officers. He called them "Romeo spies." Their assignment was to infiltrate West Germany, seek out powerful, unmarried women, romance them, and ferret out important secrets. This report on Chinese corporate espionage tactics is only the most recent installment in a long and sordid history of spies



and sex. Spymasters of all sorts have trained their spies to use the amorous arts to obtain secret information. The trade name for this type of spying is the "honey trap." And it turns out that both men and women are equally adept at setting one and equally vulnerable to tumbling in. Spies use sex, intelligence, and the thrill of a secret life as bait. Cleverness, training, character, and patriotism are often no defense against a well-set honey trap. And as in real life, no planning can take into account that a romance begun in deceit might actually turn into a genuine, passionate affair. In fact, when an East German honey trap was exposed in 1997, the women involved refused to believe she had been deceived, even when presented with the evidence. "No, that's not true," she insisted, "He really loved me." British Military Intelligence MI5 is worried about Honey trapping and have cautioned hundreds of British banks, businesses, and financial institutions. In a document titled "The Threat from Chinese Espionage," the famed British security service described a wide-ranging Chinese effort to blackmail Western business people over sexual relationships. The document, as the London Times reported, explicitly warns that Chinese intelligence services are trying to cultivate "long-term relationships" and have been known to "exploit vulnerabilities such as sexual relationships to

pressurize individuals to co-operate with them." In 1986, Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli technician who had worked in Israel's Dimona nuclear facility, went to the British newspapers with his claim that Israel had developed atomic bombs. His statement was starkly at odds with Israel's official policy of nuclear ambiguity and he had photos to prove it. The period of negotiation among the newspapers was tense, and at one point the London Sunday Times was keeping Vanunu hidden in a secret location in suburban London, while it attempted to verify his story. But Vanunu got restless. He announced to his minders at the paper that he had met a young woman while visiting tourist attractions in London and that they were planning a romantic weekend in Rome. The newspaper felt it had no right to prevent Vanunu from leaving. It was a huge mistake: Soon after arriving in Rome with his lady friend, Vanunu was seized by Mossad agents, forcibly drugged, and smuggled out of Italy by ship to Israel, where he was eventually put on trial for treason. Vanunu served 18 years in jail, 11 years of it in solitary confinement. Released in 2004, he is still confined to Israel under tight restrictions, which include not being allowed to meet foreigners or talk about his experiences. Britain never held any inquiry into the affair. The woman who set the honey trap was a Mossad officer, Cheryl Ben Tov, code-named



"Cindy." Born in Orlando, Fla., she was married to an officer of the Israeli security service. After the operation, she was given a new identity to prevent reprisals, and eventually she left Israel to return to the United States. But her role in the Vanunu affair was vital. Yevgeny Ivanov was a Soviet attaché in London in the early 1960s. He was a handsome, personable officer and a popular figure on the British diplomatic and social scene, a frequent guest at parties given by society osteopath Stephen Ward. Ward was famous for inviting the pick of London's beautiful young women to his gatherings. One of them was Christine Keeler, a scatterbrained '60s "good-time girl" who supposedly became Ivanov's mistress. Unfortunately for everyone involved, Keeler was the lover of the married British MP and Secretary of State for War John Profumo, who was then working on plans with the United States to station missiles in Germany. In 1963, Profumo's affair with Keeler was exposed in the press. Britain's famed scandal sheets also blew up the Soviet honey trap angle, for which there was no evidence. Profumo was forced to resign for lying about the affair to the House of Commons. His wife forgave him, but his career was ruined. Ivanov was recalled to Moscow, where he lived out his days pouring ridicule on the whole story: "It is ludicrous to think that Christine Keeler could have

said to John Profumo in bed one night, 'Oh, by the way, darling, when are the cruise missiles going to arrive in Germany?'" He was probably right, when media get hold of a potential honey trap, the truth is easily lost.

Don'ts and more don'ts : Remember nothing in life comes for free, nothing is easy. Same goes for girls you meet in your life. There can be two intentions, first you want a partner for life or you want a temporary partner for getting laid. The most important rule in the professional life remains never tell anyone about job information. Don't share information, you never know intentions of people. You can easily get to know if a person is interested in talking to you or in knowing statistics and data about defence. Do

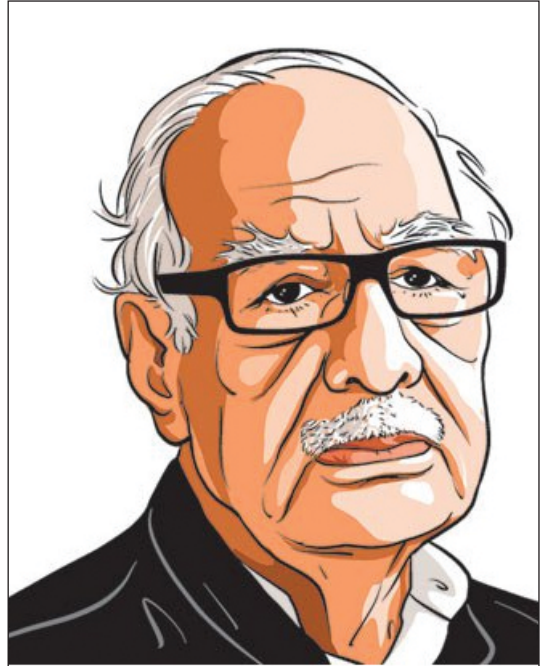


not accept request of a person you don't know on Facebook. Never put any pictures in uniform on social media. Never Geo-Tag on social media. Never put anything related to service on social media. Even if you are accepting somebody's request, cross verify her profile. It may not be sufficient though.



KULDEEP NAYAR PASSED AWAY

PROBE NEWS :- Veteran journalist Kuldeep Nayar passed away, he was 95 years old. Born in Sialkot of Pakistan on 14 August 1923, Nayar started his career in Urdu journalism and worked in The Statesman as editor. Nayar breathed his last at the Escorts Hospital New Delhi. He was arrested during the Emergency imposed by ex-prime minister Indira Gandhi. Nayar, a veteran journalist, has been High commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. He has penned many books and been a human right activist. In 1997, he was nominated as a Member of the Rajya Sabha. Offering condolences, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Nayar an “intellectual giant” and recalled his work, backed by frank and fearless views. “Kuldip Nayar was an intellectual giant of our times. Frank and fearless in his views, his work spanned across many decades. His strong stand against the Emergency, public service and commitment to a better India will always be remembered. Saddened by his demise. My condolences,” he tweeted. Nayar was the author of 15 books including ‘Beyond the Lines’, ‘India after Nehru’ and ‘Emergency Retold’. Nayar had also served as a member of India’s delegation to the UN in



1996. He was an advocate for peace between India and Pakistan, leading candle vigils near the Amritsar border on the Independence days of Pakistan and India every year since 2000. Nayar also worked to free Indian prisoners in Pakistan and Pakistani prisoners in India who completed their sentences but had not been released, according to a 2012 report by Pakistani-based publication The News International. Nayar had also criticized the Pakistan government for refusing to apologies to Bangladesh for the atrocities its army had committed in the 1971 Liberation War.