



**IN BRIEF**  
**Dalai Lama discharged from Delhi hospital**

**NEW DELHI**  
Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi with a chest infection four days ago, was discharged on Friday, hospital sources said. The 83-year-old, a globally revered figure and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, had come down here from Dharamshala for a check-up on Tuesday.

**Surrender before Ranchi court, ex-Minister told**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Friday directed former Jharkhand Minister Yogendra Sao to surrender before a court in Ranchi by April 15 in cases related to rioting and inciting of violence. The Supreme Court order came on a plea of Mr. Sao seeking clarification and modification of the order on the place of his surrender. PTI

**AgustaWestland: ED says nothing wrong with leak**

**NEW DELHI**  
Within days of seeking enquiry into the alleged leak of the supplementary chargesheet in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case, the Enforcement Directorate told a Delhi court on Friday that there was nothing wrong if the media published or broadcast its contents. PTI

**Ravi Pujari's aides held for shooting at parlour**

**KOCHI**  
Two members of underworld don Ravi Pujari's gang have been arrested in connection with alleged shooting at a beauty parlour run by actor Leena Maria Paul, the police said here on Friday. The duo were identified as Bilal, 25, and Vipin Varghese, 30. The actor had earlier alleged that she had received threat calls demanding ₹25 crore.

# MGP to withdraw support to Goa's BJP-led coalition

Party has a sole member in the Assembly after BJP poached 2 of its 3 MLAs

**PRAKASH KAMAT**  
**PANAJI**

The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) on Friday decided to withdraw its support to Goa's BJP-led coalition government after the regional partner found itself reduced to having a sole member in the State's Assembly in the wake of the BJP poaching two of its three MLAs.

Party president Dipak Dhavlikar told *The Hindu* that the Central Committee of the party had taken a decision to withdraw from the coalition government and that a formal letter would be submitted to Governor Mridula Sinha any time on Friday or Saturday.

Mr. Dhavlikar, who is contesting the bypoll in Shiroda Assembly constituency in



**We are going all out to defeat BJP candidates in the April 23 election to teach the party a lesson for splitting the MGP and sacking senior leader Sudin Dhavlikar unceremoniously from the coalition government**

— DIPAK DHAVLIKAR, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party chief

North Goa, said that the party had already decided to support Congress candidates in both the State's Lok Sabha seats — Francisco Sardinha in South Goa and Girish Chodankar in North Goa — and to back the Congress's Sudhir Kandolkar in the Mapusa byelection.

"The party will decide on who to support against BJP in Mandrem constituency bypoll in next two days," said

Mr. Dhavlikar. "But surely we will support the strongest of the candidates, Congress or otherwise. We are going all out to defeat BJP candidates in the April 23 election to teach the party a lesson for splitting the MGP and sacking senior leader Sudin Dhavlikar unceremoniously from the coalition government," he added.

Last month, two MLAs — Manohar Aijaonkar and Di-

pak Pauskar — split the three-member MGP legislature party and merged their group with the BJP. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also immediately sacked Mr. Dhavlikar from his post as deputy Chief Minister and replaced him with Mr. Ajgaonkar, while inducting Mr. Pauskar as a Minister.

Once the MGP formally submits to the Governor its letter withdrawing support, the strength of the BJP-led coalition would decline to 20 in the 36-member truncated house of 40. The coalition includes 14 BJP MLAs, three members of the Goa Forward Party and three independents. In the Opposition, while Congress has 14 MLAs, the Nationalist Congress Party and MGP have a member each.

## Train to Pakistan



**Festive fervour:** Sikh pilgrims from India cheering at the Attari junction before leaving for Lahore to celebrate the Baisakhi festival at the shrine of Gurudwara Panja Sahib and Nankana Sahib in Pakistan. • AFP

## HC sets aside BJP MLA's win from Dwarka

Ruling based on petition filed by Congress challenging his victory in 2017

**MAHESH LANGA**  
**AHMEDABAD**

In a serious blow to senior BJP legislator Pabubha Manek in Gujarat, the High Court on Friday set aside his election from the Dwarka Assembly seat and ordered a by-election there.

The court was ruling on an election petition filed by Congress leader Meraman-

hai Gorla, who challenged Mr. Manek's victory in the 2017 Assembly poll.

It also rejected Mr. Manek's plea to stay the judgment for four weeks to enable him to move the apex court.

Justice Paresh Upadhyay of the High Court, however, also rejected petitioner Gorla's plea to declare him the

winner. The result of the election was challenged by Mr. Gorla, the Congress candidate against Mr. Manek, on the ground that the proposer of Mr. Manek had not mentioned the name of the constituency on his nomination form, which renders his nomination invalid and void.

The petitioner also submitted that he had raised an

objection against this before the returning officer when the scrutiny of the nomination papers was carried out. However the officer ignored him and approved the defection paper of the ruling party candidate.

After the trial that continued for months, the court had reserved its verdict on February 25.

## Mallya fails to delay \$40 mn Diageo claim

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**LONDON**

Even as he renewed an appeal against his extradition to India, embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya suffered another legal setback on Friday in a separate \$40 million claims case brought by British liquor giant Diageo Plc in the U.K. High Court.

Justice Clare Moulder ruled against the 63-year-old former Kingfisher Airlines boss' application to seek a delay in the full hearing in the case scheduled for May 23, and additionally ordered him to pay legal costs of £34,000.

She was critical of the "unexplained" delays by Mallya in clearing unpaid invoices of his previous solicitors, Greenwoods, which resulted in his new solicitors, Joseph Hage Aaronson (JHA), wanting to seek an unfair adjournment.

"The delay is at best unexplained and arguably of the defendant's [Mallya] own making," Justice Moulder said, concluding that Mallya was "the author" of his "own misfortune".

## SC rejects plea for puja in Ayodhya temples

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition to conduct puja in temples built on the undisputed Ayodhya land. It asked why somebody should always have to "poke" trouble when mediation to usher in peace in the prolonged dispute was on.

The court was hearing an appeal filed against the January 10 order of the Lucknow Bench, which had dismissed the plea seeking its nod to offer prayer in the nine temples there and had also imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the petitioner.

"You will not let this country live in peace... Somebody has to always poke," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, heading a three-judge Bench, told counsel for the petitioner Pandit Amarnath Misra. Advocate V.K. Biju, for Mr. Misra, responded that his client had reached out to several Muslim organisations to build a consensus.

"All the organisations have agreed that they have nothing to do with the undisputed temples situated in the acquired land, and therefore the persons concerned can conduct the pooja in the temples. The petitioner is of the *bona fide* belief that in case he is given an opportunity, he will be able to convince people of different sects to reach a consensus," Mr. Biju argued. But the court refused to entertain the petition. "The petition is dismissed...there is a process of mediation already going on," the Chief Justice said. It also refused to withdraw the order of the Lucknow Bench imposing ₹5 lakh in costs on Mr. Misra. (With PTI inputs)

## Know your medicine

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has asked manufacturers to inform the general public about known symptoms/side effects after the intake of some popular antibiotics



Antibiotics	Known/possible side effects
Cefotaxime	Swelling under the skin due to the accumulation of fluids
Ofloxacin	Rashes/blisters on the skin and mucous membranes
Cefixime	Pain, diarrhoea, nausea and headache
Tranexamic Acid	Nausea, diarrhoea and seizures
Quetiapine	Involuntary leakage of urine
Sulfasalazine	Decreased appetite, headache & nausea
Sodium Valproate	Drowsiness and unsteadiness

## 'Display information on 7 common antibiotics'

CDSCO sends letter to manufacturers

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
**NEW DELHI**

Alerted by the Union Health Ministry's pharmaceutical watchdog, the National Co-ordination Centre of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), on adverse reactions that were being reported from some commonly-used antibiotics, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now asked manufacturers to ensure that this information be made available to the general public.

CDSCO has written to drug manufacturers, to mention in leaflets inserted into drug packets or on promotional literature, information about the adverse reactions of these medicines. All of the seven formulations — antibiotics Cefotaxime, Ofloxacin and Cefixime; Tranexamic Acid, used to control bleeding; antipsychotic drug Quetiapine; anti-rheumatoid drug Sulfasalazine and the anti-epileptic medicine Sodium Valproate — have been instructed to warn patients of the "new" side effects. The letter was sent out by CDSCO on April 9.

Speaking about the decision, Eswara Reddy, the Drug Controller General of India and head of the CDSCO said: "We were alerted to this adverse reaction last year and, after talks with the Ministry and the PvPI, the decision was taken to write to all State authorities to ask manufactures to include this information on the packaging itself. The idea is to ensure that doctors and users are aware of the adverse reactions."

### Additional reaction

"All zonal and sub-zonal officers have been instructed to direct the manufacturers of these formulations to mention the additional reaction in the package insert or promotional literature of the drug," notes the letter sent the State Drug Controllers.

The Union Health Ministry was alerted about the adverse reactions last year in August.

Antibiotic Cefixime is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections and is known to have adverse reactions, including pain, diarrhoea, nausea and headaches.

## Mulayam probe was closed in 2013: CBI

Case related to disproportionate assets

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday made an oral submission in the Supreme Court that a preliminary inquiry against Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav in a case of disproportionate assets was closed in 2013.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said a preliminary inquiry was conducted following a Supreme Court order. But it was "closed" in 2013.

The court granted the CBI's request for four weeks to file a written response. Mr. Yadav has filed an affidavit, stating that the case is "politically motivated" and is timed to coincide with the Lok Sabha election.

On March 23, the court asked the CBI to enquire into the case status. The hearing was based on a plea from Vishwanath Chaturvedi for a direction to the CBI to submit its investigation report. In his response, Mr. Yadav said there had never been



Mulayam Singh Yadav

any positive direction from the court to the CBI to register a regular case against him and his sons Akhilesh Yadav and Prateek Yadav. The order was only for a *prima facie* inquiry. "The CBI was left to take independent action."

Mr. Yadav said the Income Tax Department had placed its reports on his assets before the court, and there was nothing adverse in the reports.

Mr. Chaturvedi alleged the CBI had "utterly" failed to bring out the status of the case or whether a final report was filed before a magistrate or the Supreme Court on the basis of the verdicts in March 2007 and December 2012.

## Something serious on in Bengal: SC

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**NEW DELHI**

Something "very, very serious" seems to be going on in West Bengal, the Supreme Court said on Friday as it agreed to hear a plea alleging harassment of custom officials at the Kolkata airport for checking the luggage of a Trinamool Congress leader's wife.

The court asked the West Bengal government to file its reply within four weeks.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna said: "Someone has drawn our attention to something very, very serious. We don't know whose claim is *bona fide* but we would like to go into the root of the matter."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Customs Department, told the Bench that the plea pertains to the incident of March 15-16 when customs officials were obstructed from carrying out their duty.

Senior advocate Abhisek Manu Singhvi is representing the West Bengal government in the case.

## Tripura Minister protests attack on doctor

Physicians employed by government stopped work for six hours

**SYED SAJJAD ALI**  
**AGARTALA**

Hours after Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb on Friday promised stringent action against those who assaulted a doctor and left him seriously wounded, Health Minister Sudip Roy Barman surrendered his security escort to express solidarity with the medical fraternity.

Meanwhile, organisations representing private and government doctors called for an agitation against repeated incidents of assault and threats. Physicians in government health facilities

ceased work for six hours and doctors shut their private clinics for a week to protest the attacks.

**Critically wounded**  
In Thursday's incident, Dr. Dipankar Debnath, a doctor at the IGM Hospital here was critically wounded.

He has been admitted to the Trauma Centre in GBP Hospital.

In an earlier incident a senior doctor inside a government hospital at Sabroom in south Tripura was assaulted.

The Chief Minister, who called a press conference at



Sudip Roy Barman

his residence, informed that five persons had been arrested and stiff IPC sections added in the case of assault on Dr. Debnath.

He said security camps would be set up in major hospitals in the city and appealed to the doctors to withdraw their protest as they "might hinder service to patients."

The Health Minister, who had been critical over "lack of security" in health facilities and "inadequate action against perpetrators", wrote a two-page letter to the Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb to express his reservations.

Mr. Barman informed the Chief Minister of his decision to surrender his security escort.

## We will not let T.N. be ruled from Nagpur, says Rahul

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**KRISHNAGIRI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thinks that just because he controls the AIADMK, he can control the people of Tamil Nadu. But he does not realise that no one can define the history, culture and expression of Tamils but the Tamils themselves. That is the reason the DMK and the Congress are opposing Mr. Modi together, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said at an election rally here on Friday.

Mr. Gandhi said India is a country of different ideas,



**For autonomy:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, centre, with DMK president M.K. Stalin in Salem. • E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

histories, expressions, and languages. Both the Congress and the DMK believe in freedom, justice and securi-

ty and that was the reason, they will not let Tamil Nadu to be ruled from Nagpur. "Tamil Nadu will be ruled

from Tamil Nadu and Stalin [DMK leader M.K. Stalin] is going to be the Chief Minister," he said.

The textile hub of Tiruppur and the silk hub of Kancheepuram were destroyed by Mr. Modi through demonetisation and the GST. "Modi snatched your money through demonetisation and Gabbar Singh Tax. Weavers were forced to pay a tax on yarn."

**'NYAY will spur growth'**  
Explaining his party's minimum income guarantee proposal of ₹72,000 per annum

(₹6,000 per month/₹3.6 lakh in 5 years) under the proposed NYAY for the poorest of households, Mr. Gandhi said the guaranteed minimum basic income would be credited to the poorest households (to be identified) every month directly into their bank accounts.

This will trickle down to the market in the form of spending and spur the economy, he said.

"This will create jobs in the factories; Tiruppur and Kancheepuram will come alive again," the Congress president added.