



ROYAL HARBINGER

Weekly

PAGE 2 : The 14th 'Ghanshyam Binani Children's Bravery Award' announced

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A Rare Honour bestowed on PM Modi as he addressed the Mongolian Parliament

Prime Minister Modi said it is a pride to address the House on Sunday and appreciated Mongolian Parliament's decision saying its a remarkable gesture of honour for India. Prime Minister Modi is the first ever foreign leader addressed Mongolian Parliament. Prime Minister termed Mongolia as the new bright light of democracy in the world.

Terming India-Mongolia's ties as timeless, Prime Minister appreciated Mongolia to have stood in solidarity with India, in the United Nations and elsewhere.

Prime Minister Modi further added that the convergence of Buddhism and democracy provides a path to build an Asia of peace and cooperation, harmony and equality.

India, Mongolia Ink 14 Agreements

India and Mongolia today signed 14 agreements, including an air services agreement and in cyber security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mongolian counterpart Chimed Saikhanbileg inked a new bilateral strategic partnership agreement after their talks at the State Palace. Among the 14 agreements is to set up a cyber security training centre in the Mongolian defence ministry, a MoU in the field of new and renewable energy, and for setting up an India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School in Mongolia.

Both sides inked an air services agreement and on the transfer of sentenced prisoners.

A separate agreement in the field



of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy was also signed.

The agreements were signed in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Mongolian PM Chimed Saikhanbileg.

Mongolia Integral Part of India's Act East Policy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi later addressed a Joint conference with his Mongolian counterpart.

Taking the economic partnership to a new level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to support in expansion of Mongolia's economic capacity and infrastructure.

The Prime Minister added that India attaches high importance to Mongolia's security cooperation and will help in establishing a cyber security centre in Mongolia's defence and security establishment.

Terming Mongolia as an integral part of India's Act East Policy, Prime Minister Modi said both the countries can work together to help advance peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

PM Accorded Warm Welcome at Ulan Bator

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a warm welcome at Ulaanbaatar. Mongolian Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg was also present at the welcome ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in Mongolia on his second leg of three-nation tour after wrapping up his three-day visit to China. This is the first ever visit to Mongolia by any Indian Prime Minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi later hold one on one meeting with his Mongolian counterpart Chimed Saikhanbileg. During

the talks, Prime Minister Modi said that India is privileged to be considered as Mongolia's spiritual neighbour. The Prime Minister's two-day visit is taking place in the backdrop of celebrations of the 25th year of democracy and 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over two high-tech machines for the only cancer hospital at Ulaanbaatar. The indigenous machines have been developed in collaboration with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The high-tech machines for radiotherapy will also promote the Make in India campaign in Mongolia as only 5 companies worldwide can make such machines.

Pm Lays Foundation Stone of it Centre

The Prime Minister also laid foundation stone of IT Centre at Mongolian University of Science and Technology in Ulaanbaatar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his Mongolia visit with cultural events. The Prime Minister visited the historic Gandan Monastery in capital Ulan Bator. Gandan is the largest and mostly significant monastery in Mongolia. The Monastery was Built in the 19th century. During his Monastery visit the Prime minister also met Humba Lama. This is the first ever visit of any Indian Prime Minister to Mongolia. The Prime minister offered prayers at the Monastery. The Prime Minister did a parikrama at the monastery. He also handed over a Bodhi tree sapling to the Hamba Lama.

Udaipur : Suffering from Water Crisis

Minister Gulab Chand Kataria, about the water issue, said that they are troubled by the Water Resources department. The UIT would have given money for the issue, but the department couldn't have provide a proper answer for what it would do with the said money. At the meeting held on Sunday at the District Magistrate, he spoke about how many place had low water pressure, and that tankers will be arranged in the city in places where the problem is great. The water resources department will also be asked to adopt a similar mechanism.

Mayor Chandrasingh Kothari said that there no fixed timings for water supply. People wait late at night for the water supply. On the other hand, ward 33 councillor Veniram Salvi said that Village Meghwal has not seen water supply for last two months. The inhabitants of Gandhi

Nagar D-Block of ward 6, upset over the water supply, burst clay pots with rage in front of water pump in Fatahsagar on Wednesday. Councillor Mohsin Khan said that the water supply has been disrupted since a week. People have been calling for water tankers. The citizens of Kali Magri Chitrakoot with Aam Admi Party convener Rajesh Chauhan in lead took the water problem to superintending engineer and collector and submitted a memorandum. He also expressed the suffering of people who are forced to drink the water polluted by marble slurry, dumping yard located in Kali Magri. Despite the citizens apprising the issue to the rural legislator Phoolsingh Meena, no action has been taken yet. 33 wards suffering from water crisis and bad roads

In the name of development, crores have been spent in 31 out of 43 wards of munic-

ipal corporation, and yet the roads in the villages are in bad condition. Water crisis in the sultry summers is also a great problem. Villagers go as far as two kilometres to get water from wells. After talks with 43 members of the corporation, it came to light that in 31 wards, some of the wards have unpaved roads and some have broken roads for a long time. The roads have since become accident-prone. Hand pumps remain in poor condition in many panchayats. Wells are the main source of drinking water in most of the wards. Even the district chief Shantilal Meghwal has also stated water crisis in his ward. In General House meeting, issues like potable drinking water, power and roads, mainly in Gram Panchayat, will be discussed. They will seek solution from the concerned authorities. Shantilal Meghwal, Zila Pramukh Udaipur.

Wait for the Postman !

Under the Samajik Suraksha Pension Scheme, about 2 million pensioners of the district are paid through money order. There are a large number of people spend their lives on the pension amount. The plight of these pensioners is that they are left waiting for the postman for 2-3 months. Because of the clutter in post-offices, it becomes difficult for these pensioners to make ends meet. Under the plan, only 96 thousand savings account in the district get the pension. MP Arjun Lal Meena, senior superintendent with the same conditions as writing letters on time

to meet the pensions are getting complaints.

Treasury Office does not delay the pension funds. The department gets a soft file for the lump of money order. From there, sending to different post-offices, and printing takes time. If the return money order is reported then the payment is blocked. Recently, a special drive was conducted and the payments were done. Yet all BPM directed that each pensioner to be paid on time. Concrete action will be taken if found negligent. N.D. Prajapati, senior superintendent, postal department.

Maharana Pratap - Mewar's Greatest Hero

Maharana Pratap was born on May 9th 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan. His father was Maharana Udai Singh II and his mother was Rani Jeevant Kanwar. Maharana Udai Singh II ruled the kingdom of Mewar, with his capital at Chittor. Maharana Pratap was the eldest of twenty-five sons and hence given the title of Crown Prince. He was destined to be the 54th ruler of Mewar, in the line of the Sisodiya Rajputs.

In 1567, when Crown Prince Pratap Singh was only 27, Chittor was surrounded by the Mughal forces of Emperor Akbar. Maharana Udai Singh II decided to leave Chittor and move his family to Gogunda, rather than capitulate to the Mughals. The young Pratap Singh wanted to stay back and fight the Mughals but the elders intervened and convinced him to leave Chittor, oblivious of the fact that this move from Chittor was going to create history for all times to come.

In Gogunda, Maharana Udai Singh II and his nobles set up a temporary government of the kingdom of Mewar. In 1572, the Maharana passed away, leaving the way for Crown Prince Pratap Singh to become the Maharana. However, in his later years, the late Maharana Udai Singh II had fallen under the influence of his favorite queen, Rani Bhattyani, and had willed that her son Jagmal should ascend to the throne. As the late Maharana's body was being taken to the cremation grounds, Pratap Singh, the Crown Prince decided to accompany the dead body of the Maharana. This was a departure from tradition as the Crown Prince did not accompany the body of the departed Maharana but instead prepared to ascend the throne, such that the line of succession remained unbroken. Pratap Singh, in deference to his father's wishes, decided to let his half-brother Jagmal become the next king. However, knowing this to be disastrous for Mewar, the late Maharana's nobles, especially the Chundawat Rajputs, forced Jagmal to leave the throne to Pratap Singh. Unlike Bharat, Jagmal did not willingly give up the throne. He swore revenge and left for Ajmer, to join the armies of Akbar, where he was offered a jagir - the town of Jahazpur - in return for his help. Meanwhile, Crown Prince Pratap Singh became Maha Rana Pratap Singh I, 54th ruler of Mewar in the line of the Sisodiya Rajputs.

The year was 1572. Pratap Singh had just become the Maharana of Mewar and he had

not been back in Chittor since 1567. His old fort and his home beckoned to him. The pain of his father's death, and the fact that his father had not been able to see Chittor again, troubled the young Maharana deeply. But he was not the only one troubled at this time. Akbar had control of Chittor but not the kingdom of Mewar. So long as the people of Mewar swore by their Maharana, Akbar could not realize his ambition of being the Jahanpanah of Hindustan. He had sent several emissaries to Mewar to get Rana Pratap to agree to sign a treaty but the letter was only willing to sign a peace treaty whereby the sovereignty of Mewar would be intact. In the course of the year 1573, Akbar sent six diplomatic missions to Mewar to get Rana Pratap to agree to the former's suzerainty but Rana Pratap turned down each one of them. The last of these missions was headed by Raja Man Singh, the brother-in-law of Akbar himself. Maharana Pratap, angered that his fellow Rajput was aligned with someone who had forced the submission of all Rajputs, refused to sup with Raja Man Singh. The lines were completely drawn now - Akbar understood that Maharana Pratap would never submit and he would have to use his troops against Mewar.

With the failure of efforts to negotiate a peace treaty in 1573, Akbar blockaded Mewar from the rest of the world and alienated Mewar's traditional allies, some of whom were Maharana Pratap's own kith and kin. Akbar then tried to turn the people of the all-important Chittor district against their king so they would not help Pratap. He appointed Kunwar Sagar Singh, a younger brother of Pratap, to rule the conquered territory. However, Sagar, regretting his own treachery, soon returned from Chittor, and committed suicide with a dagger in the Mughal Court. Shakti Singh, Pratap's younger brother now with the Mughal army, is said to have fled the Mughal court temporarily and warned his brother of Akbar's actions.

In preparation for the inevitable war with the Mughals, Maharana Pratap altered his administration. He moved his capital to Kumbhalgarh, where he was born. He commanded his subjects to leave for the Aravali mountains and leave behind nothing for the approaching enemy - the war would be fought in a mountain terrain which the Mewar army was used to but not the Mughals. It is a testament to the young king's respect amongst his subjects that



they obeyed him and left for the mountains. The Bhils of the Aravals were completely behind him. The army of Mewar now raided Mughal trade caravans going from Delhi to Surat. A section of his army guarded the all important Haldighati Pass, the only way to get into Udaipur from the North. Maharana Pratap himself undertook several penances, not because his finances forced him to do so, but because he wished to remind himself, and all his subjects, why they were undertaking this pain - to win back their freedom, their right to exist as they wished. He foresaw that he would eat from leaf-plates, would sleep on the floor and would not shave. In his self-inflicted state of penury, the Maharana lived in mud-huts made from mud and bamboo.

In 1576, the famous battle of Haldighati was fought with 20,000 Rajputs against a Mughal army of 80,000 men commanded by Raja Man Singh. The battle was fierce though indecisive, to the Mughal army's astonishment. Maharana Pratap's army was not defeated but Maharana Pratap was surrounded by Mughal soldiers. It is said that at this point, his estranged brother, Shakti Singh, appeared and saved the Rana's life. Another casualty of this war was Maharana Pratap's famous, and loyal, horse Chetak, who

gave up his life trying to save his Maharana.

After this war, Akbar tried several times to take over Mewar, failing each time. Maharana Pratap himself was keeping up his quest for taking Chittor back. However, the relentless attacks of the Mughal army had left his army weaker, and he barely had enough money to keep it going. It is said that at this time, one of his ministers, Bhama Shah, came and offered him all this wealth - a sum enabling Maharana Pratap to support an army of 25,000 for 12 years. It is said that before this generous gift from Bhama Shah, Maharana Pratap, anguished at the state of his subjects, was beginning to lose his spirit in fighting Akbar.

In one incident that caused him extreme pain, his children's meal - bread made from grass - was stolen by a dog. It is said that this cut into Maharana Pratap's heart deeply. He began to have doubts about his resolute refusal to submit to the Mughals. Perhaps in one of these moments of self doubt - something each and every human being goes through - Maharana Pratap wrote to Akbar demanding "a mitigation of his hardship". Overjoyed at this indication of his valiant foe's submission, Akbar commanded public rejoicing, and showed the letter to a literate Rajput at his Court, Prince Prithiraj. He was the younger brother of Rai Singh, the ruler of Bikaner, a State established some eighty years earlier by the Rathores of Marwar. He had been compelled to serve Akbar because of his kingdom's submission to the Mughals. An award-winning poet, Prithiraj was also a gallant warrior and a longtime admirer of the brave Maharana Pratap Singh. He was astonished and grieved by Maharana Pratap's decision, and told Akbar the note was the forgery of some foe to defame the Mewar king. "I know him well," he explained, "and he would never submit to your terms." He requested and obtained Akbar's permission to send a letter to Pratap, ostensibly to ascertain the fact of his submission, but really with a view to prevent it. He composed the couplets that have become famous in the annals of patriotism:

The hopes of the Hindu rest on the Hindu; yet the Rana forsakes them. But for Pratap, all would be placed on the same level by Akbar; for our chiefs have lost their valour and our females their honour. Akbar is the broker in the market of our race: he has purchased all but the son of Udai (Singh II of Mewar); he is beyond

his price. What true Rajput would part with honour for nine days (nauroza); yet how many have bartered it away? Will Chittor come to this market ...? Though Patta (an affectionate name for Pratap Singh) has squandered away wealth (on warfare), yet he has preserved this treasure. Despair has driven man to this market, to witness their dishonour: from such infamy the descendant of Hamir (Hamir Singh) alone has been preserved. The world asks, from where does the concealed aid of Pratap emanate? None but the soul of manliness and his sword ... The broker in the market of men (Akbar) will one day be surpassed; he cannot live forever. Then will our race come to Pratap, for the seed of the Rajput to sow in our desolate lands. To him all look for its preservation, that its purity may again become resplendent.

The now-famous letter led to Pratap reversing his decision and not submitting to the Mughals, as was his initial but reluctant intention. After 1587, Akbar relinquished his obsessive pursuit of Maharana Pratap and took his battles into Punjab and India's Northwest Frontier. Thus for the last ten years of his life, Maharana Pratap ruled in relative peace and eventually freed most of Mewar, including Udaipur and Kumbhalgarh, but not Chittor. Bhagwat Singh Mewar: "Maharana Pratap Singh (was) called the light and life of the Hindu community. There were times when he and his family and children ate bread made of grass." Maharana Pratap became a patron of the Arts. During his reign Padmavat Charita and the poems of Dursa Ahada were written. Palaces at Ubheshwar, Kamal Nath and Chavand bear testimony to his love of architecture. These buildings, built in the dense hilly forest have walls adorned with military-style architecture. But Pratap's broken spirit overpowered him in the twilight of his years. His last moments were an appropriate commentary on his life, when he swore his successor, Crown Prince Amar Singh to eternal conflict against the foes of his country's independence. Maharana Pratap was never able to win back Chittor but he never gave up fighting to win it back.

In January 1597, Rana Pratap Singh I, Mewar's greatest hero, was seriously injured in a hunting accident. He left his body at Chavand, aged 56, on January 29, 1597. He died fighting for his nation, for his people, and most importantly for his honor.