

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

The drama in Bihar

A divided, weak Opposition outmanoeuvred

THE BJP's team of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah has not just brought Bihar — lost in the 2015 voter verdict — back in the NDA fold but also hijacked the very leader who could have possibly emerged as their main challenger and a united Opposition's unanimous choice in the 2019 contest. Politically it was one of their easiest victories. The two BJP leaders plan in advance, move fast and strike hard, leaving little time for opponents to gather their wits and react. The slow-moving, slow-reacting Congress leadership has once again proved that it is no match to its rivals in the BJP when it comes to political manoeuvring. Failing to bring the two warring coalition partners to the negotiating table to sort out their differences, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul have displayed familiar indecisiveness. They could not convince either Lalu Prasad to shift his son from the post of Deputy Chief Minister or tell Nitish Kumar to back off.

After the latest setback, doubts may rise about their leadership role, their ability to manage a disparate crowd of leaders, bereft of principles and united by the lure of power and by their opposition to Modi. The alternative narrative, stitched half-heartedly for 2019, stands dissipated. A pragmatic Nitish Kumar had the foresight to realise well in time that it was futile to chase the elusive goal of becoming Prime Minister, and that it was wiser to make peace with Modi and settle for the post of Chief Minister.

By hinging his *Mahagathbandan* desertion on a corruption plank, Nitish Kumar has acted cleverly, even though his act is contrary to the spirit of the 2015 Bihar mandate which was clearly against the BJP. It suits the BJP to portray the Bihar drama as something against corruption. Modi has tolerated the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh and Nitish had no objection in forging an alliance with a corruption convict. Nitish's change of heart was not sudden. His party had supported demonetisation and voted for the BJP's presidential candidate. The CBI raids have yielded for the BJP the unexpected results. The "agencies" are the new instrument of political management.

Putting lives in danger

Madras court order on *Vande Mataram* flawed

IN an order reminiscent of the Supreme Court direction in November 2016 on the compulsory singing of the national anthem in cinema houses, a single judge of the Madras High Court has made the recital of *Vande Mataram* mandatory in educational institutions (once a week) and government and private offices (at least once a month) in Tamil Nadu. This assertion of what has been called "popcorn nationalism" comes at a time when society is polarised and violence is perpetrated in the name of patriotism and nationalism. The order is at odds with the liberal values enshrined in the Constitution. It contravenes an important Supreme Court ruling that said singing the national anthem or song was neither a fundamental right nor a fundamental duty.

Justice MV Muralidharan's order is not just flawed, it could put in danger human lives. It could give right-wing elements a handle to attack those who do not sufficiently prove their patriotism. Particularly vulnerable would be members of the Muslim community. After the apex court's order there were incidents of physical assault on those who did not stand up when the national anthem was played in theatres. Given the religious connotations of *Vande Mataram*, Muslims can legitimately claim that Islam does not permit the singing of the national song but neither mobs nor ordinary policemen would understand that. Such forcible spoon-feeding of nationalism does not meet the approval of a majority of Indians who would not like to make a show of their nationalism under duress. Tamil Nadu may not take kindly to this order and how often would the court use the power of the contempt law to seek obedience of its irrational order.

After granting the required relief the Judge held forth on the citizen's duty to respect the national symbols. The petitioner had challenged a test for a teacher's job in which he was denied a mark despite giving a correct answer that *Vande Mataram* was originally written in Bengali. He did not seek any order on compulsory singing of *Vande Mataram*. Judges have enough of backlog to clear; they need not waste time on courting controversies or doing what is not required of them.

Thought for the Day

He who sacrifices his conscience to ambition burns a picture to obtain the ashes. — Proverb

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nitish's masterstroke

Apropos the editorial 'Tantrums of Patna' (July 27), Nitish's move to return to the NDA was expected. He can now have his cake and eat it too. Ending the grand alliance in Bihar was a foregone conclusion when he broke away from the Opposition to support NDA's presidential candidate. The expose on Lalu's land dealings was a God-sent opportunity for Nitish. He kept everyone guessing and has outsmarted even the master maverick Lalu in his own game. Even a highly educated engineer, Nitish Kumar has learned the tricks of a wily politician to stay relevant in politics. But Congress stand to support Lalu proves that the party is not against corruption, but only against the BJP.

LJS PANESAR, AMRITSAR

Kovind speech

Reference to 'Diversity key to success: Prez' (July 26), the maiden speech of President Kovind was quite balanced, but his omission of Nehru's name stood out like a sore thumb, more so, as his speech had references to Sangh Parivar's icons. Bracketing Deen Dayal Upadhyay with Mahatma Gandhi was in poor taste. What was Upadhyay's

contribution to India's freedom struggle or the subsequent nation building? He was only an RSS *pracharak*. Kovind mentioned only those Congress stalwarts who have been appropriated by the saffron forces. I hope the President remains neutral even though he has become the first citizen due to the NDA government.

JASWANT SINGH GANDAM, PHAGWARA

Shortfalls in education

'Missing teachers' (July 26) is a sad commentary on the functioning of the Haryana Government in the field of education. Over 20,000 posts of teacher are lying unfilled. There is non-utilisation of funds in the entire year, besides poor infrastructure and work culture. Professional growth of teachers and upgrade of schools without norms are some glaring deficiencies. The government does not seem to be worried about the low rate of learning outcomes. Private schools are flourishing at the cost of government schools. Politicalisation and centralised administration are the primary reasons. The government should draw a time-bound road map in consultation with all stakeholders.

S KUMAR, PANCHKULA

Decoding the Nitish fiasco

Tricks of a convenient conscience

HARISH KHARE

A NEAT coup has been staged in Patna. Brilliantly conceived and cleverly executed. Not with tanks and commandos but with a convenient conscience and gentrified opportunism. Within a space of 24 hours, a chief minister resigns, divests himself of his designated alliance partners, teams up with his declared political rivals and becomes chief minister again after getting sworn in at an unseemly superfast speed by a very obliging Governor. Reads like the script of a second-rate Hindi film from the 1980s. That is Indian politics, *bhai saheb*. An unadulterated power confrontation gets dressed up

STATECRAFT

like a morality play. On the Kargil Divas Day, another kind of victory is notched up. There is something decidedly un-kosher about the turn of events in Patna, yet we are invited to feel good about it, even celebrate the return of the prodigal son.

Perhaps the biggest casualty is the sanctity of a mandate in a free and fair election. Let us make no mistake about the very unnaturalness of the new government. This is the second time that the ruling party at the Centre has opted to get into a political bed with the very formation against which it sought votes from the electorate. First, it was in Jammu and Kashmir, now in Bihar. In Jammu and Kashmir, the very incongruity of the PDP-BJP alliance has severely damaged the legitimacy of the entire Indian democratic project. Every sober analyst concedes that it is the inherent disregard of the popular mandate that has fuelled the fires of defiance in the streets of Srinagar. Complications — bloody and messy — arising out of this suborning of the electoral mandate have made themselves felt beyond the valley.

Now the same disregard of an electoral mandate has been sanctified in the Patna Raj Bhavan. A partisan Governor showed indecent haste in swearing in Nitish Kumar. Indian constitutional democracy has been robbed of its already diminishing shine. Politics has been shown up as a shabby enterprise.

Why was it easy for Nitish Kumar to



SANDEEP JOSHI

walk away from Lalu Prasad and his party? In part, the answer has to be that Lalu has failed to reinvent himself and has remained complacently plugged into the old sense of entitlement. He has obstinately refused to understand that old assumptions and arrangements no longer work. India has changed, and so has Bihar. Those who want to rule over us need to understand that power would not be handed over to them so that they could convert public office into a licence. Instead, the new India demands that the elected rulers do something in return for us: an acknowledgement of rule of law and a demonstration of respect for its institutions of accountability. A mandate no

for other family overlords—the Badals, the Paswans, the Thackerays, the Mayawatis, even the Gandhis. All of them suffer from a flawed approach to public office; that is why when in office Congressmen take to fighting one another like alley cats over spoils of office.

Yet, all this neither explains nor excuses Nitish Kumar's elusiveness and his double-crossing of the RJD and the Congress. He would like us to believe that the Congress failed to play the mediatory role in the Bihar "crisis" that was incumbent upon it as the national party. Maybe during these last 18 months of the Bihar *Mahagathbandan*, the Congress has had a measure

The very swiftness of swap of alliance partners in Bihar has shown Indian politicians to be a bunch of unprincipled, unpretty men with shabby calculations and shabbier ethics. India's democratic project stands badly chipped.

longer stops at giving *izzat* or *atm-saman* to "my people".

Perhaps Nitish Kumar felt confident that he could play upon the middle classes' yearning for a lawful society, whereas Lalu and his family and party continue to remain oblivious to the notions of good governance. Law has a habit of catching up with past follies and misdeeds, however keen Lalu and his sons may have been to wipe the slate clean. There is a message in all this

of Nitish Kumar. It was indeed unusual that Nitish Kumar should have travelled to Rahul Gandhi's residence; no one will know what transpired between the two. Possibly Nitish Kumar did not get any hint that he could be the Opposition's prime ministerial face in 2019; and, though he himself has repeatedly avowed that he does not have any national ambitions, sufficient hype was getting manufactured around his potential. Nitish Kumar is an ambitious man; and, there

Memories of another time

MAJ GEN RAJ MEHTA (RETD)

POSTED from the salubrious Defence Services Staff College to a Rashtriya Rifles sector in Doda district as Deputy Commander in 1997, we had just relocated the sector HQ on a rocky ledge overlooking the fast flowing Chenab at Suigwar, just outside the troublesome city. The shift was necessitated in part because our earlier location in the city centre was overlooked by a steep, spreading, bare hill from where terrorists sporadically fired at us by day and night. I wasn't complaining. I had requested for an operational posting and was learning fast.

The shift was a choice between a rock and a hard place...The day I arrived, three terrorists had been shot above Suigwar. A few months and many

encounters later, I was going to meet the SSP on operational work in my two-jeep quick reaction team (QRT), when I was suddenly stopped on the steep, ascending road in this one-street town, reminiscent of Texan wild-western badlands. In seconds, we had surrounded a *phiran*-clad old man with AKs drawn, expecting an encounter or IED. He was crying and distraught. You don't hug such men in Doda...They could have an AK tucked away, making your hug fatal, but much of soldiering is instinctive. I hugged him.

'My son is dying, Sir,' he sobbed against my chest. The civil hospital has no blood. What will I do? I put the man in my jeep and halted at the hospital. 'Test me and the QRT for our blood,' I told the startled doctor. Three soldiers and I had the right blood match and we donated four units.

The old man had, meanwhile, slipped out and returned with two bottles of cold milk 'for us to regain strength'. It is all that he could afford. Men don't cry, of course, but we very nearly erred. I paid for milk for all present, served in chipped, old-fashioned glass bottles that used marbles as stoppers. The old man wiped his tears as he put 'medicine' money inside his threadbare *phiran*. We left feeling warm and satisfied.

On the anti-terror grid, you work 18 hours a day, forgetting yesterday. I did too. Standing one day on the HQ ledge with the Chenab frothing below, a rookie sentry rushed up: 'Two villagers insist on seeing you, Sir...They are carrying a small container,' he said, nervously fingering his AK rifle trigger-guard. Involved with having a coffin read-

ied for one of our soldiers shot in an encounter hours ago, I was grim and brusquely refused, but instinct made me look up. The visitors were waving...Suddenly, memory transported me to the one-street city. We hugged again, a taciturn Colonel, an old man and his young, astonished son. 'I have walked all the way from Dessa, Sir,' said the sobbing old man. 'My wife has sent you a rooster, desi ghee and *rajma*...' Nothing more was needed to be said.

Soldiers don't cry publicly. Instead, as the happy duo departed, escorted by 5/11 Gurkha lads, with mule-loads of rations, I turned to salute our brave dead soldier one last time. Salute the old man and son for returning me to the timeless hearts-and-minds ethic of the Army that unforgettable day, overlooking the timeless Chenab.

are disregarding their contribution.

BHOOMIKA ARORA, BATHINDA

End grant system

In 1978, the Punjab Government introduced the 95 per cent grant-in-aid scheme for private educational institutions to promote education. It is time to withdraw the scheme as education has become a profitable sector. There is no need for state help. The scheme has been withdrawn in many states. The government should take over institutions with all assets and staff. And if the management does not agree to it, the staff covered under the scheme should be shifted to government institutions. With this, the state could save crores of rupees, besides improving the staff crunch.

BHAWDEEP SINGH TANGHI, BATHINDA

Fee hike

Who should be blamed for the fee hike by colleges affiliated to the PU? The fee charged by the colleges is 10-20 times more than shown in the prospectus. Since they are affiliated to one university, why do they have a different fee structure? If somehow a person manages to arrange for the fee

for the first year, the huge hike in the preceding year makes it difficult. The university needs to figure it out.

ABHI SHARMA, KALKA

A big loss

The nation has suffered two bereavements in quick succession, of space scientist Udupi Ramachandra Rao and eminent scientist and educationist Prof Yash Pal. Rao and Yash Pal had made huge contributions to science with their studies and researches in space explorations and cosmic rays, respectively. A humble tribute to these legends.

SIMRAN SANGOTRA, RUPNAGAR

Can't forego ethics

Refer to 'Ethics? Why blame the doc, his seat cost him 1 crore-plus' by Vishav Bharti (July 23); ethics cannot commensurate with investment in medical studies. This noble profession believes in treating patients with empathy. It is a personal choice of an individual to choose this profession; nobody coerces him/her to don the doctor's whites. Nurturing the notion that ethics can be mortgaged to compensate for the money

invested in medical education is vicious. Healthcare establishments are getting transformed into commercial factories that mint money at the expense of patients. Core values, soft-skills, empathy and humane touch have been taken over by greed and egocentrism. The government has shut its eyes to it.

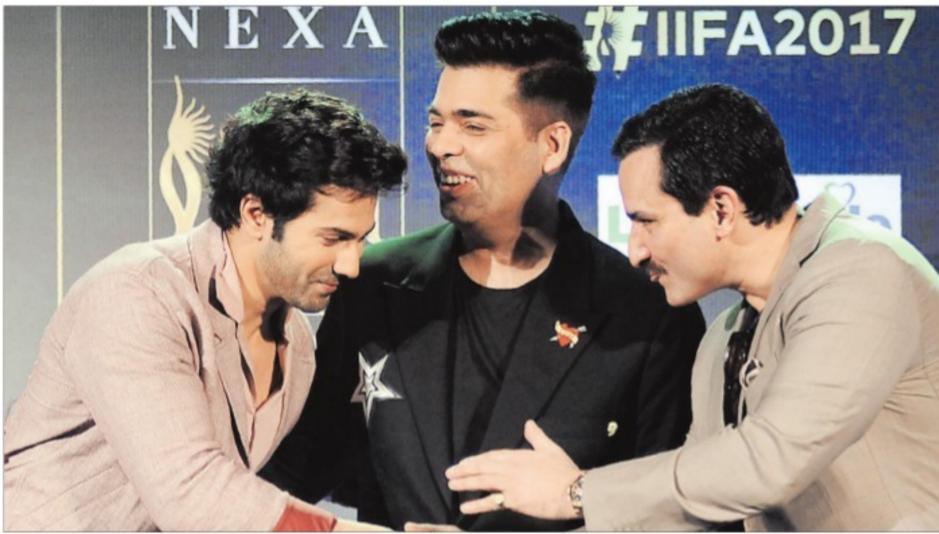
MAJ VARUN NISCHAL (RETD), GURUGRAM

Scholarships at ITIs

Refer to 'No scholarship funds, ITIs shut door on SC students' (July 26); the reasons advanced by the management of private ITIs do not hold water. Inspections are a regular feature as per government guidelines. Accusing the department means that ITIs do not want to fulfil norms and are churning out certificate-holders with no skill acquisition. Due to this, the passouts are unable to get a job, which reflects poorly on admissions. If the managements take a cue from the placement norms of the government and ensures at least 70 per cent placements, there will be no dearth of students. It is the greed of the managements to fleece students without imparting any training which has boomeranged on them.

POONAM KAUSHAL, CHANDIGARH

# No mocking please, we are Indians!



**WHO IS THE JOKE ON?:** A carryover of the show *Koffee with Karan*, Bollywood actors Varun Dhawan (left) and Saif Ali Khan (right) and director-producer Karan Johar took potshots at Kangana Ranaut with "nepotism rocks" during the IIFA event. AFP

**NONIKA SINGH**

Clearly, it's not religion alone that is a holy cow in this country. Thin-skinned men and women of varying complexions and sizes are as easily offended, mostly without provocation. Thankfully, in India, like many other lifestyle choices, laughter is yet not illegal.

**M**UCH as there have been other bans, humour has not (yet) been banned in India. Not that it is deterring the hypersensitive from retaliating against perceived slights by firing off legal notices, police complaints, or both.

Our story starts with this year's recently concluded IIFA, which may not be one of the best-organised award shows. Most heavyweights, except Salman Khan, might have given the show a miss. But never mind the shortcomings, here is a tribe all set to give it an extra shot at fame.

Sure when Saif Ali Khan and Karan Johar took to stage as the star anchors of the much-hyped awards show at New York, no one expected the proceedings to be a dull affair. Karan Johar, his fans know all too well, is unstoppable when it comes to throwing barbs in various directions. To be fair to him, not only are his wisecracks sardonically funny, he is equally supportive when darts are aimed at him. Of course, his spite with the feisty and voluble Kangana Ranaut dates back to his hugely popular show, *Koffee with Karan*, which sparked the nepotism debate. Since then, the duo has been locked in a verbal duel every now and then. Johar decided to mock her during IIFA as well and alongwith with star sons Varun Dhawan and Saif Ali Khan, shouted "nepotism rocks" with heightened glee. Some laughed, others didn't, some called it in bad taste and others dismissed it as just another joke, neither worth a penny nor a thought. Still many took up cudgels on behalf of Kangana and the gutsy gal was not the one to remain mum. But if Kangana put the matter to an end with an open letter to Saif Ali Khan, putting things in perspective, our Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) chief Pahlaj Nihalani is not the one to be hushed up so easily.

He has served a legal notice to the IIFA organisers. Ever since the director of little consequence has been elevated as the Censor Board chief, he has ruffled many feathers, courtesy his rather orthodox stance. In response, he has been called many



**NO PUSHOVER:** Kangana Ranaut is not the one to remain mum. She can give back as good as she gets.

names. Why the epithet "sanskari" has all but stuck to him. Every once in a while, he vents his ire against his detractors and this time he saw red in the seemingly inoffensive usage of the term "watchman". Had he been the true follower of the masters he purports to serve, he would have turned around the analogy to his advantage. But he thought it better, certainly not wiser, to cry foul. His now-public legal notice demands an unqualified apology from the organisers.

Over the years, awards functions have acquired a reputation for rubbing many (read the rich and famous) the wrong way. Back in time, it was Sanjay Leela Bhansali and his super flop *Saawariya* that goaded Shah Rukh Khan to take potshots at the otherwise acclaimed director. The result was an extended stalemate between the superstar Khan and the man who directed him in his magnum opus *Devdas*. Indeed, until the master of roasts AIB, an Indian comedy group, entered the arena, jokes targeting individuals were deemed off-colour and were all but off the radar. With the advent of irreverent AIB, jokes suddenly became personal, political and a tad tasteless and vicious too. The storm that AIB whipped up with its knockout punch featuring celebs such as Arjun Kapoor and Ranveer Singh is too well recorded. The nation knows too well what the exple-

tives-laced funride entailed and why it outraged them. Perhaps, India is not ready for the AIB brand of humour, perhaps roast is too alien a concept for our easily irked and holier-than-thou sensibilities. So an intelligent actor like Tannishtha Chatterjee doesn't find it funny when the joke is on her dark complexion, when AIB targets icons such as Sachin Tendulkar and Lata Mangeshkar, viewers give it the thumbs down.

Clearly, it's not religion alone that is a holy cow in this country. Thin-skinned men and women of varying complexions and sizes are as easily offended, mostly without provocation, and take a high moral ground on issues which are but a laughing matter. AIB tried to rake in the trend of trading insults and make a career out of it with limited success. Ranveer and Arjun may not have taken offence but the rest of India sure does. No wonder Arunabh Kumar of *The Viral Fever* says, "India is a funny country without a sense of humour."

But before we lose all hope, tune in to the good-old radio where modern-day RJs such as Naved go around merrily minting fun at the expense of others, mostly ordinary mortals. Most such interactions between RJs and their unsuspecting prey (murgas and bakras or guinea pigs if you will) end up with a hearty laugh...a joke is after all a joke.

Nihalani and his kind need to realise that there is a thin line between to laugh and being laughed at. Or that laughter and jokes have yet not become illegal in India where other lifestyle choices are fast becoming so. Oops, have we said it too soon? With Nihalani intimidating us with, "I know when to make others cry..." who knows laughter might be on its way out too. For in the long list of his ludicrous diktats stands this latest one: a ban on smoking and drinking scenes. But then last heard he might be on his way out too. Long live laughter... only if Nihalani and company would develop a funny bone. Till then humorists in India would end up learning it the hard way that the joke invariably turns out to be on them.

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# When Nitish had first upstaged Lalu

Nitish emerged from Lalu's shadows during his stewardship of the Railways. Nitish's vision impressed the political class but Lalu's exhibitionism meant it largely remained an untold story.

**SANDEEP DIKSHIT**

**N**ITISH Kumar would be drawing quiet satisfaction from having turned the tables on Lalu Yadav, a man who almost always stole the limelight because of his superior intercommunication skills. The careers of both Bihar politicians have run on parallel tracks. If Nitish was decidedly better than Lalu in governing Bihar, it is not known that he was instrumental in creating the ground for Lalu Yadav's spectacular success in running the Railway Ministry during the five years of UPA I.

So overwhelming was the narrative that Lalu and his Officer on Special Duty in the Railway Ministry, Sudhir Kumar, had walked away with all the accolades for turning around the Railways from a creaking debt-burdened institution to an organisation with a future. Sudhir Kumar went on to author a book on the Railways turnaround and Lalu went on to lecture at Harvard and become the subject of a case study at IIMs.

It was on a hot humid afternoon at his official residence in New Delhi that a teary-eyed Nitish Kumar decided to put in his papers after 17 months as the Railway Minister. The reason was an unending series of mind-numbing railway accidents culminating in the tragedy at Gaisal, a one-horse railway station in West Bengal situated among paddy fields and pineapple groves. The death of 250 passengers in a dead-of-the-night head-on collision between two speeding express trains summed up all that was wrong with the Railways: overused tracks, antiquated signalling and communications systems and a careless staff. The Railways had no money in the kitty to finance the modernisation while Nitish's self-serving predecessors — George Fernandes, Janeshwar Mishra, CK Jaffer Sharief and Ram Vilas Paswan — had no inclination to attend to the basics.

Nitish was wiser when he took over as the Railways Minister for the second time in 2001. By then, Mamata Banerjee had further squeezed the Railways to accommodate the aspirations of her electorate in West Bengal. One of the first initiatives Nitish took was to persuade Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to approve a Special Railway Safety Fund. With a corpus of Rs 17,000 crore, Nitish ensured the money went only for track improvement, bridge rehabilitation work, rolling stock replacement, human resource development, improved inspection system and safety work at level-crossings.

The payback was not immediate. First,

there was the headache of selecting the right technology followed by the painful tendering process. But Nitish persevered. One of his path-breaking initiatives concerned signalling. Till then trains were usually detained till the train ahead had crossed the next station. This meant that usually only one train could run between two stations. Nitish not only modernised the system to iron out the probability of glitches and staff carelessness triggering collisions. He also increased the number of signals between stations. This ensured that more trains could be accommodated between stations.

Before Nitish could take advantage of the safety fund, the Shining India slogan let down the NDA and Lalu Prasad took over as the next Railways Minister under the UPA Government. Lalu and his OSD sensed the opportunity that Nitish had opened up: more trains between stations. And the duo set about milking the Railways by overloading and pushing more trains on the same tracks. Lalu gathered accolades but never ever mentioned that it was his ex-colleague of the JP Movement days who had prepared the ground for Lalu's "success".

This over-use of the railway system was bound to slow strains. Train derailments have increased, prompting the Railways to once again think of bringing back Nitish Kumar's cess on railway tickets to fund safety efforts.

Nitish was no saint. He is cut from the same populist cloth as Lalu. Some of his schemes as Railways Minister failed to take off such as the proposal for free food for children under five years on select trains. A few were partially successful such as the Jan Shatabdis: the fare suits the pocket of the common man but the running time is much more than their elite versions.

Lalu bequeathed a wrung-dry Bihar and the Railways to Nitish. The Bihar Chief Minister restored the health of both of them. The Bihar story is widely acknowledged. As railway projects have long gestation periods, Nitish's initiatives flowered during Lalu's tenure. The script is currently being written afresh. Nitish demitted office as the Railways Minister in 2004. Today Suresh Prabhu, another quiet and unassuming Minister in the Nitish mould, is once again implementing a long-term vision to restore the vitality of the Railways. It remains to be seen whether like Nitish, his will be an effort in the shadows.

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**PUTTING SAFETY ON TRACK:** One of the first initiatives that Nitish Kumar took as the Railways Minister was to get a special rail safety fund approved. PTI



Both Lalu and Nitish, activists in the JP movement, have been cut from the same populist cloth. PTI

**ON THIS DAY... 100 YEARS AGO**

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1917

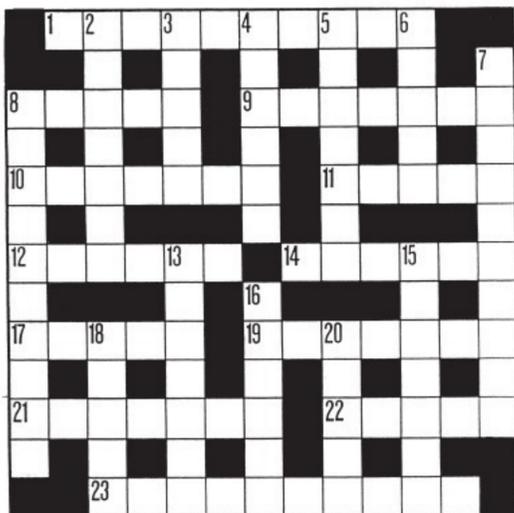
### Encouragement of Libraries and Authors

A sum of Rs. 12,000 including the provincial grant of Rs. 1,500 for vernacular middle school libraries is provided annually for the free distribution among schools of library books and magazines, and during the quinquennium the Committees presented no less than 27,414 volumes including 11,300 given to vernacular middle schools. Among the magazines subscribed for and supplied were the children's magazine *Phool*, the agricultural journal *Kisan*, the scientific journal *Raushni* and the *Makhzan* and among other publications supplied were Pandit Balak Ram Pandya's book *The Great War* of which editions of two thousand copies in Hindi and Urdu were taken over, and Urdu translation of Professor Ramsay Muir's *Britain's Case against Germany*. The committee continues its allotment the Government grant of Rs. 2,500 for the payment of rewards to authors, translators or publishers producing good vernacular literature, but it is to be regretted that the number of books competing does not tend to increase.

### The Confidential Circular of March Last.

IN the course of a leading article exposing some of the Bishop of Bombay's misstatements and misrepresentations the *Bombay Chronicle* meets the point of that eminent personage "that it does not lie with the Government of India to give constitutional changes to India" by asking—"Why then was the confidential circular of March last issued? Why have attempts been made to introduce 'constitutional changes' which if not resisted or revoked are calculated to reverse all the constitutional advance that India has made during the last fifty years?" These are very pertinent questions which, if answered, would go to show whether the Government of India does not possess power and influence to give a direction to reforms other than progressive.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**



**ACROSS**

- 1 Of good character (10)
- 8 West African country (5)
- 9 Italian painter, d.1520 (7)
- 10 Thin, irregular flow (7)
- 11 Wireless (5)
- 12 Small reconnaissance force (6)
- 14 Trouble persistently (6)
- 17 White heron (5)

**DOWN**

- 2 Keyboard musician (7)
- 3 Rough road (5)
- 4 Anxiety (6)
- 5 Put at risk (7)

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

**Across**  
 1 Floppy, 4 Prompt, 9 Conquer, 10 Venom, 11 Lapse, 12 Sunrise, 13 Smithereens, 18 By night, 20 Vodka, 22 Erase, 23 Villain, 24 Treaty, 25 Upward.

**Down**  
 1 Facile, 2 Own up, 3 Prudent, 5 Riven, 6 Mansion, 7 Temper, 8 Prospective, 14 Mundane, 15 Envelop, 16 Absent, 17 Banned, 19 Guest, 21 Drama.

**SU DO KU**

V. EASY

7	5	8				4
	1	9	4	7	5	
	3		5			2
	7	3	8		6	9
		1		4		
8	9	4	2		1	
9			6		4	
	8	2	5	9	3	
6				7	9	5

**Yesterday's solution**

7	3	6	2	1	5	4	8	9
8	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	2
1	2	9	8	4	7	3	6	5
3	6	8	5	2	4	9	1	7
2	7	1	3	9	6	8	5	4
5	9	4	7	8	1	2	3	6
6	1	7	4	3	2	5	9	8
4	8	3	6	5	9	7	2	1
9	5	2	1	7	8	6	4	3

**CALENDAR**

**July 28, 2017, Friday**  
 ■ Vikrami Samvat 2074  
 ■ Shaka Samvat 1939  
 ■ Shravan Shaka 6  
 ■ Shravan Parvishte 13  
 ■ Hijari 1438  
 ■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 5, up to 6.39 am  
 ■ Shiva Yog up to 2.29 pm  
 ■ Hast Nakshatra up to 9.40 am  
 ■ Moon in Virgo sign  
 ■ Shriklrik Jayanti

**FORECAST**

<b>SUNSET:</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>19:20 HRS</b>		
<b>SUNRISE:</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>05:39 HRS</b>		
<b>CITY</b>	<b>MAX</b>	<b>MIN</b>		
Chandigarh	31	25		
New Delhi	34	28		
<b>PUNJAB</b>				
Amritsar	32	27		
Bathinda	34	26		
Jalandhar	32	26		
Ludhiana	31	25		
Patiala	32	26		
<b>HARYANA</b>				
Ambala	31	25	18	
Bhiwani	34	26		
Hisar	34	26		
Karnal	30	25		
Sirsa	33	27		
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>				
Dharamsala	28	19		
Manali	24	13		
Nahan	30	21		
Shimla	22	17		
Solan	27	19		
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>				
Jammu	32	23		
Leh	31	20		
Srinagar	29	20		
<b>UTTARAKHAND</b>				
Dehradun	30	23		
Mussoorie	24	15		
Nainital	24	16		

TEMPERATURE IN °C