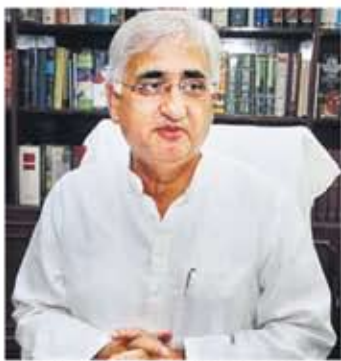


# Salman Khurshid has spoken wisely

SALMAN KHURSHID has rightly pointed out that the Congress party should have a revamp as it is directionless. 'TIME' magazine's observations cannot be without basis or critical analysis. Everyone in the Congress seems to be afraid to blame Sonia Gandhi who is solely and wholly responsible for our nation's plight. Frankly, she is basically a foreigner who apparently has no knowledge of our history, our culture etc. Despite diversity, the Indian nation stood as one force during crisis which is possibly alien to Sonia's understanding. A brilliant man like Manmohan Singh could have led the country much forward but for the 'remote control'. It would be surprising if, before long, Khurshid's comments will snowball as a massive tsunami within the Congress party and awaken all right-thinking Indians. If the Congress party has to once again become a national party in the true sense, the party members have to come together to take bold,



**HIGH TIME:** To become a national party in the true sense, the 'directionless' Congress has to unite and take bold pragmatic decisions.

pragmatic decisions. Mushrooming regional parties are playing havoc with the nation.

— Harischandra Parshuram, Juhu

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WHEN 'TIME' stated that our Prime Minister is an 'Under-achiever' we all got offended.

The office of Prime Minister, who is also Visva-Bharati's chancellor, sought a report from the university authorities and asked for strong action. Also, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights asked the West Bengal government to probe the incident. There was outrage across the nation as news filtered out that Punita Mistri, a 10-year-old Visva-Bharati student, was forced by her hostel warden to drink her own urine - as punishment for bed-wetting. But in Santiniketan - where poet Rabindranath Tagore founded the university Visva Bharati as an abode of peace outside the established education system - the fate of the probe appears uncertain. The police took two days to arrest accused warden Uma Poddar, while the university's own probe appeared to have exonerated her. Poddar's line of defence: making a child drink her own urine was the "traditional cure" for bed-wetting.

— C.K. Ramani, Sion

## Serene Serena excels

FOR well over a decade, the Williams have dominated women's tennis at the all England tennis championships. This year, it was Serena's turn to lift the trophy known as the Venus Rosewater Dish. Serena has the detachment of an assassin when she wants to finish off a match. Giant killing serves, fantastic ground strokes and deft volleying are Serena's strengths. The scoreline of 6/1 5/7 6/2 had Serena's signature on it. The Russian girls have been doing well on the circuit, but have never really been able to scare off the Williams



**BRILLIANT PLAY:** Giant killing serves, fantastic ground strokes and deft volleying are Serena's strengths.

from Wimbledon. Most of the players fall like three-legged chairs when the Williams serve and volley. It's advantage Williams.

— Altaf H Ladiwala, Bandra

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KING of Grass, Roger Federer made all England cry as he beat their heartthrob and pulse Andy Murray to win his 7th record equaling Wimbledon which put him on par with Pete Sampras. He is truly one of the all time greats of tennis and this was Federer's 17th Grand Slam win and this 31-yr-old legend has a few more years of tennis left to add to the tally. Calm and composed, Roger Federer is a big match player who destroys his opponents with pure skill, art and stamina and

Wimbledon truly being his happy hunting ground.

Kudos to Serena Williams for winning the singles event at Wimbledon & proving her supremacy on the grass courts. Leander Paes lost in the mixed doubles finals here but not without a fight and his achievement here was a slap on the faces of Bhupathi and Sania Mirza as they had an ugly spat with him before the Wimbledon.

— S.N. Kabra, Goregaon

## Chidu must introspect

P. CHIDAMBARAM has accused the middle class that they are willing to spend on ice creams and mineral water but are not willing to help the farmers by having price of wheat/rice being increased by Re 1. Chidu should introspect who is responsible for the state of affairs of farmers. Middle class does not eat ice creams everyday. They are forced to buy mineral water as the government has failed to provide clean water to them. Chidu should know that Maharashtra govt spent more than Rs 70,000 crore on irrigation projects but hardly 0.1 per cent of the land has been irrigated. He should also know about foodgrains left to rot instead of being distributed to the poor. In fact, if the money squandered by politicians since independence was used for development of the country, even the poor farmers would be eating ice creams.

— Harischandra Parshuram, Juhu

## 'Ensure fire safety'

WITH reference to Mr Jimmy Fernandes letter titled 'Fire hydrants obsolete' (ADC, July 7), fire hydrants must be made visible and workable to help tackle fire disasters. All commercial and residential buildings must have water

sprinklers in all rooms, water hoses and fire extinguishers in workable condition on all floors and maps on all floors indicating where fire fighting and other important equipment is kept. Besides this, fire fighters must have modern fire fighting equipment and undergo courses in fire fighting to stay updated. We must learn from past disasters about how to avoid them instead of ignoring them. Only then will our city be free and safe from fire disasters and other disasters.

— Peter Castellino, Mumbai

## Cheap healthcare needed

THE recent topic for health care taken up by cine star Aamir Khan, the flamboyant yet sincere host in his weekly TV show, 'Satyamev Jayate' that included a call for cheap medical services of doctors and hospitals and cheap cost of medicines required to treat patients is an eye opener to the Centre and State governments respectively. There is huge anomaly in prices of drugs sold by various companies in the Indian market. Drug price control regulations are in force, and maximum prices are fixed and notified by drug authorities for certain category of medicines listed in DPCO. And all manufacturing companies abide by this price structure. Other categories of drugs not covered under Drug price control order, are not price regulated. Government must take regulatory measures for eliminating the price fluctuations for non DPCO listed products, keeping the common consumers interests foremost.

— S. Venkatnarayan, Matunga

## Khushwant on meditation

THIS is with reference to the edit page article 'Can someone explain what this meditation concept is?' (ADC, July 10) by the inimitable Sardar, Khushwant Singh, who had always had a penchant for things 'porn'. One still remembers that he gave full vent to this when he was editing the 'Illustrated Weekly of

India.' Even now he does not deny the fact that his eyes start 'roving' when in a party. It is indeed heartening to note that he wants to know about 'meditation'

— Dr. V. Subramanyan, Thane

## For safety of LPG users

HAVE you heard about the Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder's expiry date? Expired gas cylinders are not safe for use, may cause accidents. In this regard, please be cautious at the time of accepting any LPG cylinder from the gas vendor.

Here's how you can check the expiry date of LPG cylinders.

On one of the three side stems of the cylinder, the expiry date is coded alpha numerically as follows: A or B or C or D and some two digit number following this. Example: D-12.

1. A stands for March (First Quarter),
2. B stands for June (Second Quarter),
3. C stands for September (Third Quarter)
4. D stands for December (Fourth Quarter).

The digits stand for the year till the cylinder is valid. Please return the cylinder to the vendor that you may get that has an expiry date, for they are prone to leakage and may cause hazardous accidents.

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

## Don't criticise blindly

BEFORE criticising the BJP for frequent change of guard at Bengaluru, the Congress spokesman should go through the past record of his own Party in this regard. From January 24, 1966 to third week of March 1977; and from January 1980 to October 31, 1984, when Congress was ruling at the Centre, the number of times the CMs of various States under the Party's rule were changed would easily qualify for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

— Jorhat Singh, Kandivli

## Pragmatic statement

THE political strata straddled across the world consists of Conservatives, Liberals, Republicans, Democrats, Communists, Socialists, Capitalists, et al. But I am flummoxed as to what the archetypal Conservative, Liberal or any of the other species stated above

really is! With the advent of coalition Governments, the politicians are wont to sink their differences at the drop of a hat and change their horses in midstream at the cost of their dogma and paradigm, in the quest and pursuit of power and pelf. Thus the terms like Socialism, Liberalism, Communism, Capitalism etc. have become nebulous concepts. The only "ism" that is prevalent and rampant now is crass and unalloyed Opportunism! This is not pessimism on my part but pragmatism.

— Hemant Hemmady, Virar

## Supporting Ashok Chavan

THIS is with reference to 'Chavan supporters stage walkout' (ADC, July 10). About half the number of MLAs had reportedly expressed their displeasure at the present chief minister not doing anything when three former chief ministers



**UNAUTHORISED PROBE:** The CBI has chargesheeted Ashok Chavan, but the agency was not asked to investigate by the state government.

are facing a lot of trouble in the 'Adarsh' scam with the name of one of them appearing in the CBI charge sheet. They have cited the example of Sharad Pawar who has stood like a rock behind the water resources minister, Sunil Tatkare, whose name also cropped up in the irrigation scam. The CBI has received flak from the Supreme Court recently in the Mayawati Disproportionate Assets case for exceeding its brief without understanding the SC's directive. The state government should have been more alert in handling the case and stopped the investigation agency from proceeding as far as filing a charge sheet if it had not asked it to probe the matter.

— Dr. V. Subramanyan, Thane

# Dr Trevor Miranda - The Angel



To reduce the disparity between the haves and the have-nots, right thinking individuals and corporates should lend a helping hand to Dr Trevor Miranda.

APROPOS 'As you sow so shall you REAP' (ADC, July 9), this article by ADC brings out the superhuman qualities of Dr Trevor Miranda, in respect of how a

person so selflessly reaches out to those souls who remain in the darkest region of the society deprived of any kind of social, economic, moral benefits. These children otherwise mostly would have gone to dogs and would have been a constant burden to the society. By carrying out this initiative Dr Miranda is creating some human species who will give back to the society. I sincerely think that the corporates, the individuals who are philanthropic in nature should come forward and extend their helping hands to continue this initiative unabated to reduce the disparity between the haves and have-nots. This is a serious issue of which Swami Vivekanand has stated a century ago.

— Bikram Banerjee, Mumbai

Readers are requested to e-mail letters to the editor and add their neighbourhood as well. Please mail letters to [afternoonletters@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonletters@gmail.com)