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MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2013

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'I'M NO THREAT TO WIVES, GIRLFRIENDS'
HT CITY | Actor Anushka Sharma says she is not romantically involved with any co-star

BUSINESS OSAMU SUZUKI TO VISIT INDIA
Concern over falling market-share



SLICE OF LIFE ON TELEVISION
From Roadies to Big Boss, reality TV shows never fail to entertain
hindustantimes.com/realitytv

short stories
TRYING TO CLICK PICS, 3 RUN OVER BY TRAIN

GHAZIABAD: Three young men were killed after being run over by a speeding Rajdhani train near Maharajpur railway tracks on Sunday evening. The victims, who had gone on the tracks to click some photographs, failed to get out of the way when the train approached.

Soon, health insurance without medical tests
NEW DELHI: Health insurers are working out plans that will ensure your insurance application is passed almost instantly without medical tests.

Six Naxals killed in police encounter in Gadchiroli
NAGPUR: Six Naxals, including two women cadres, were killed in an encounter in the wee hours of Sunday in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, police said.

India lags behind in patent applications: Pranab
VIDYANAGAR: Noting that India "lagged behind" others in applying for patents, President Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday said there was a need to carry out more research and scientific inventions.

Govt to levy penal interest rate on tax defaulters
NEW DELHI: The government is likely to clamp down on tax defaulters through a string of measures likely to be announced in this year's budget as tax authorities step on the pedal to collect unpaid revenues.

weather today

FORECAST: Clear sky with mist in the morning. Max and min temp will be around 23°C and 8°C

HIGH 22.0°C SUNSET ON MONDAY 5.26 PM
LOW 13.0°C SUNRISE ON TUESDAY 6.36 AM

HOTTEST IN INDIA PUNALUR 35°C
COLDEST IN INDIA DARBUK -29°C

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Assertive in new role, Rahul promises a changed Congress

ROADMAP Makes impact with first speech as V-P; calls for new leadership while reaching out to old guard

Varghese K George
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NEW DELHI: Newly-crowned Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday spoke of his vision for the party, which he said was now his "life", saying there would be changes but none that were hasty or abrupt.

The party needs to change the way it selects candidates and develop new leadership at all levels, he said, but added a word of caution: "We cannot afford abrupt changes. Changes will be done, but gradually and smoothly."

He also stated his resolve to keep the old guard on his side, and learn from their experience. "I am no longer the leader of the youth alone. I belong to everyone equally — the youth and the seniors, the Youth Congress, NSUI and Mahila Congress."

"Changes will be thought-through and with everyone on board... I will not act as a lawyer but as a judge," he said, adding: "The Congress party is now my life."

Rahul's speech lasted 45 minutes, possibly one of his longest, and was a far cry from his faltering first at the All India Congress Committee in 2007, when he spoke about the tricolour being his religion. Not known to be a great orator, his interventions in Parliament, too, have been rare. But this time was different as the 42-year-old combined spontaneity, wit and candour.

The standing ovation at the end wasn't entirely the characteristic sycophancy of Congressmen.

"Seeing the anarchic method of our functioning, our election victories amuse me," he said. "I don't know how we manage to fight elections and win."

The speech covered two topics — governance and party politics.

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An emotional Rahul Gandhi gives Sonia Gandhi a warm hug at the AICC session in Jaipur on Sunday. AJAY AGGARWAL / HT PHOTO

"Seeing the anarchic method of our (Cong) functioning, our election victories amuse me. I don't know how we manage to fight elections and win."

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress vice-president

inside P6 >> Cong says middle class is 'aam' too >>> PM admits to communication failure

At Jaipur, a glimpse of Rahul, the loving son

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JAIPUR: The usually reticent Rahul Gandhi showed a rare expressive side to him at the All India Congress Committee session here Sunday, sharing family stories and connecting with the audience.

He also gave his mother, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, a tight hug before and after his speech.

"Last night, everybody congratulated me. But last night, my mother came to my room and cried. Why? Because she understands that the power so many people seek is actually a poison. She can see it as she is not attached to it. The only antidote to this poison is to not become attached to it. We

should only use it to empower the people," he said.

He spoke of his late grandmother and father. "As a little boy, I loved badminton because it gave me balance in a complicated world. I was taught by two policemen who protected my grandmother. They were my friends. Then, one day, they killed my grandmother and took away the balance in my life."

Rahul also recalled his late father Rajiv Gandhi's speech after Indira Gandhi's assassination, saying it held out a ray of hope that later transformed India. "Without hope, you cannot achieve anything. You can have plans, you can have ideas, but unless you have hope you cannot change anything."

Shinde's Hindu terror remark upsets BJP

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JAIPUR / NEW DELHI: Within an hour of accusing the RSS and BJP of promoting Hindu terrorism, home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde was on Sunday forced to tone down the charge after a sharp reaction from the opposition party.

"Training camps of both the BJP and the RSS are promoting Hindu terrorism. Whether it is Samjhauta blast or Mecca Masjid blast or Malegaon blast, they plant bombs and blame it on the minorities," he said on

the last day of the Congress Chintan Shivir (brain-storming session) in Jaipur.

"It is saffron terrorism that I have talked about. It is the same thing and nothing new. It has come in the media several times," Shinde later clarified when the BJP leaders condemned his statement.

"Saffron is the antonym of terrorism. Saffron is the symbol of our traditions, culture, renunciation and sacrifices," BJP leader Sushma Swaraj said, demanding an apology from the home minister.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Quiet swearing-in for Barack Obama, big bash today

Yashwant Raj and Agencies
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WASHINGTON / NEW DELHI: US President Barack Obama formally began his second term as the world's most powerful political leader by taking oath on Sunday morning at a private ceremony attended only by family and close friends. Obama's first term ended at noon on Sunday.

"I did it," Obama said turning to his daughters Sasha and Malia after reciting the 35-word oath of office administered by US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. The President took the oath with a hand on a family Bible held by the first lady Michele Obama.

Vice-president Joe Biden and his family were there too. Biden took his oath at a separate ceremony earlier on Sunday at his residence, the Naval Observatory. A public ceremony is scheduled for Monday. The fact that



Obama at a war memorial on Sunday. AFP PHOTO

Obama's inauguration is taking place on Martin Luther King Day on January 21 is symbolic.

Obama has been working on speech drafts since early December, studying previous second-term inaugural addresses and consulting US historians. Reason: Follow-on speeches by US presidents are often duds. "Let us continue" is never as dramatic as, "Let us begin," says presidential historian Jeff Shesol.

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INDIAN STUDENTS JOIN THE PARTY, P7

TOUGH NEW LAW FOR JUVENILES IN THE WORKS

Moushumi Das Gupta
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NEW DELHI: The Centre is planning a comprehensive new law for juveniles, which will ensure tougher punishment for delinquents involved in heinous crimes such as rape.

The move is significant as one of the Delhi gangrape accused, considered the most brutal of the six, is a juvenile and may escape harsh punishment.

The new law is likely to ensure a juvenile rapist does not get away easily, and can be kept in rehabilitation for longer than his term if he needs repairs. Currently, a juvenile, if convicted, spends a maximum of three years in a juvenile home, after which he is released.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
A JUVENILE CONVICT NOW SPENDS 'MAX 3 YEARS' IN A REMAND HOME

Notification out, Gadkari set to get 2nd term on Jan 23

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NEW DELHI: Nitin Gadkari looks set to get second consecutive term as the BJP president on January 23, virtually putting to rest speculation about him leading the party into the 2014 Lok Sabha polls in the face of charges of business irregularities.

The nominations for the post will be filed and scrutinised the same day and Gadkari is expected to be declared the chief by afternoon. He will hold the post for three years.

Issued Sunday, the notification says the announcement will be made the same day unless there is a contest — something that has never happened as the party has always insisted on consensus for the top post.

Some within the party are reading the notification as a sign that BJP patriarch LK Advani, who has been opposed to second term for Gadkari, may now be reconciled — or at least



Gadkari: RSS-backed

resigned — to the re-election. Advani pushed for Sushma Swaraj as a possible alternative to Gadkari, but Swaraj, already the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, made it clear she wasn't inclined.

There is little chance of Gadkari facing a challenger. Any other nomination will be read as defiance of the RSS, the party's ideological parent.

"Will any leader want to raise the banner of revolt against the RSS with a year to go for the Lok Sabha polls? Politically, it's next to impossible," said a party leader.

THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF GADKARI FACING A CHALLENGER. ANY OTHER NOMINATION WILL BE READ AS DEFIANCE OF THE RSS, THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL PARENT

Sources close to Rajnath Singh, the third name that came up in the mix, said he was not in contention.

Some party leaders privately share Advani's concern that the BJP may be pushed on the backfoot if it goes with corruption as the poll plank but none seem ready to take the Sangh head on.

The RSS has held that accusations of irregularities against Gadkari's Purti group exist only in the media and no competent authority has indicted him.

>>KALYAN COMEBACK, P9

LALU'S CALL TO OUST NITISH GOVT

HT Correspondent
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PATNA: RJD president Lalu Prasad said his party would fulfil its historical responsibility of unifying secular forces and keeping the communal forces at bay.

The RJD supremo also announced that the RJD would hold a Parivartan rally at the Gandhi Maidan on April 7 with a call to people to unseat the NDA government in Bihar.

Prasad was coronated as party's national president for the 8th consecutive term at party's national council meeting on Sunday.

>>SEE PAGE 2

mustread

BIG CAT TALES

106 Tiger population in Kaziranga National Park in 2012	24/100 sq km Tiger density, down from 32 in 2010 due to inclusion of larger area	200 sq km Area for proposed tiger reserve adjoining Kaziranga
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N-E tribals pick up guns against tiger reserve
A tribal community in central Assam's Karbi Anglong district has floated a militant outfit to oppose the creation of the reserve. The outfit has taken shape among Rengmas, a Naga tribe, which says the pro-tiger project will deprive them of development.

British spies do a Bond with their girlfriends

Press Trust of India
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LONDON: James Bond's promiscuity could have caused lasting damage to Bond girls, a high court judge in the UK has said, while ruling over a compensation case brought by women who unwittingly had relationships with police spies.

Considering the case of a group of environmental activists who claim they were tricked into forming relationships with covert officers, justice Tugendhat cited Bond as the best known fictional example of an intelligence services member who used relationships with women for his own professional ends.

"Since he was writing a light entertainment, Ian Fleming did not dwell on the extent to which his hero used deception, still less upon the psychological harm he might have done to the women concerned," the judge said.

"But fictional accounts - and there are others — lend credence to the view that the intelligence and police services have for many years deployed both men and women officers to form personal relationships of an intimate sexual nature, whether or not they were physical relationships, in order to obtain information or access," he said.

JUSTICE TUGENDHAT CITED BOND AS AN EXAMPLE OF A SPY WHO USED WOMEN TO FURTHER HIS PROFESSIONAL ENDS

Some of the claimants say they had relationships with Mark Kennedy, the undercover police officer who spent seven years spying on environmental activists posing as a long-haired dropout climber called Mark "Flash" Stone.

The group argue their human right to respect for their private lives was breached.



ABHIMANYU

Living on the edge in Bihar

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KATHAR: I never got to meet Guru Bhuian, a Dalit. He died three days before I reached his village. All I knew about him was that he was old, didn't have any family, was suffering from an unknown infection, and died because of it. The people who looked after him in his last days, took him to a doctor, tried getting his old age pension and BPL benefits, and in the end, some money for



Jaitun Khatun is a widow, but she doesn't get any pension or subsidised ration. She has no land, yet she has not been classified as 'BPL'. VIBHORE VARDHAN / HT PHOTO

his cremation. They failed, so he was buried instead of being cremated. I was in Mohanpur vil-

lage, just 12km from Katihar town (Bihar), to visit people who were going to Delhi to participate in a protest to remind the government of its promise to enact a National Food Security Act. This experience brought home to me some stark truths about the importance of social support to them as well as the harsh realities of the manner in which India's social support system is implemented in rural India.

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