

## Mumbai Belongs To All Of India: Chidambaram



New Delhi: (IANS) Slamming the Shiv Sena for its controversial "Mumbai for Marathis" slogan, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said such a "pernicious" thesis has to be rejected and the city belongs to all of India.

"We reject the thesis of Shiv Sena. Mumbai belongs to all of India and all Indians are free to live and work in Mumbai," Chidambaram told reporters.

"As a matter of policy, we reject the theses of the Shiv Sena and the MNS (Maharashtra Navnirman Sena). These are pernicious theses and they have to be rejected," he said.

The home minister said that the Maharashtra government was "competent" to handle the situation in Mumbai after the Shiv Sena Sunday objected to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) view that the city is for all Indians.

"If the government of Maharashtra seeks our advice, we will advise them. But I am sure they are competent to manage the situation," Chidambaram said.

## BJP Surprised Over Padma Award To Sant Singh Chatwal

New Delhi: (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recently expressed "surprise" over the government announcing Padma Bhushan for non-resident Indian hotelier Sant Singh Chatwal despite controversy over some of his financial deals.

BJP spokesman Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said such awards should not be given to people facing controversies. "People have expectations that these awards are given to persons who have worked in the public sphere and are not controversial," he said.

"We had brought controversies faced by him (Chatwal) to the knowledge of the government. They have ignored our suggestion," Naqvi added.

BJP deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gopinath Munde had written a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressing disapproval over the government's move to bestow Padma Bhushan on Chatwal.

Munde told mediapersons later that if a mistake has been made, the government should rectify it.

Chatwal had faced trials in India in connection with an alleged bank fraud. He is considered close to former US president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton.

Speaking to Headlines Today over phone, Chatwal said he felt "very proud" over the United Progressive Alliance government bestowing the high civilian honour on him.

Terming the controversy over the alleged bank fraud as "old stories," Chatwal said he loved India and had worked hard for the country.

## Aamir, Shah Rukh '2 Idiots': Shiv Sena

Mumbai: (IANS) After targeting Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan for his remarks supporting the inclusion of Pakistani cricketers in the IPL, the Shiv Sena dragged in Aamir Khan, calling the duo '2 Idiots'.

"In real life, Aamir and Shah Rukh have been proved as '2 Idiots' as both are making stupid statements supporting the cause of Pakistani cricketers," said a statement in the party's Hindi mouthpiece Dopahar Ka Saamna.

"On the one hand, while SRK is openly displaying his love for Pakistani players, Aamir has even put nationalistic sentiments in his utterances on this issue," said the statement in the tabloid, which hit the stands this afternoon.

"According to Aamir, if any cricketer is good, he would like to have him in his team, it makes no difference to him which country he belongs to," said the statement.

The statement is accompanied by a digitally altered picture of the recent record blockbuster '3

Idiots'. It shows the head of Aamir (the star and promoter of the movie) popping out of a drum and SRK sticking his tongue from another drum - signifying the accompanying heading of '2 Idiots'.

Aamir had said Friday that if he were to select IPL players he would do so only on the basis of their performance and not nationality.

The Shiv Sena Friday hit out at Shah Rukh, who is also the Kolkata Knight Riders co-owner, after he said he would have picked a Pakistani player for IPL matches if his team had a slot.

Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said if the actor was so keen on them, 'he could go play his matches in Lahore, not in India'.

Thane Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde announced that no film of Shah Rukh would be screened in the district.

Both actors have not reacted to the Shiv Sena's tirade.



## Ramakrishnan, Zakaria, Chatwal Amongst NRI Padma Awardees

New Delhi: (IANS) Thirteen foreigners, non-resident Indians (NRIs) and people of Indian origin (PIOs), including Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan,



**Fared Zakaria**

Indian American journalist Fared Zakaria and New York-based hotelier Sant Singh Chatwal, have been given the Padma awards this year for services to India. While Ramakrishnan, who got the Nobel Prize for Chemistry last year, has got the

Padma Vibhushan - the second highest award - for science and engineering, five have got the Padma Bhushan - the third highest award - and the rest the Padma Shri.

Those that have got the Padma Bhushan are Newsweek International editor Zakaria for journalism, US-based Prof Tan Chung for literature and education, Chatwal, hotelier and lobbyist, for public affairs and



**Sant Singh Chatwal**

Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj, who is also US-based, for science and engineering. Also in the list is Britain Manvinder Singh Bangal alias Vindi Banga for trade and industry. From the US are Sheldon Pollock for literature and education, Ponisseril Somasundaram for science and engineering and Sudhir M. Parikh, doctor and newspaper publisher, for social work. From Spain is Dr. Rafael Iruzubieta Fernandez for public affairs.

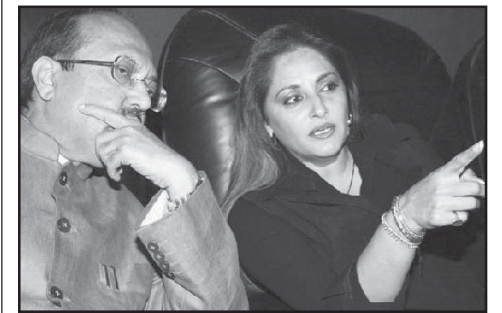
## Andhra Tycoon Dies Of Shock After Abducted Daughter's Murder

Vijayawada: Unable to bear the shock of the gruesome murder of his 10-year-old daughter two days after she was kidnapped, a top Andhra Pradesh businessman died of a cardiac arrest.

Palagani Prabhakara Rao, who was in the liquor, real estate and finance business and was a leader of a backward class organisation, collapsed in Vijayawada after hearing the news of his daughter's killing. Doctors said he had two cardiac arrests and died at a private hospital. "There is huge public anger over the killing of innocent girl. I heard men and women in TV debates asking the government as to why the murderers can't be killed in an encounter," chief minister K Rosaiah said. He said family feud could be the motive, announced that a fast track court be would set



## SP Expels Amar Singh And 'Close Compatriot' Jaya



Lucknow/New Delhi: (IANS) The Samajwadi Party (SP) recently expelled its high profile leaders Amar Singh and Jaya Prada for their anti-party activities. Former general secretary Amar Singh hit back within minutes to describe the expulsion as "a blessing in disguise".

"Amar Singh and Jaya Prada, one Rajya Sabha member and the other Lok Sabha member, have been expelled from the Samajwadi Party for their anti-party activities," newly-appointed SP general secretary Mohan Singh told reporters in Lucknow.

The parliamentary board of the party headed by party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, he said, decided to expel Amar Singh as "well as his close compatriot Jaya Prada from the primary membership of the party".

Amar Singh quickly responded to the latest decision by saying it was "dictatorial".

"I had asked for sick leave from the party after 14 years of work... I wanted to take rest. The party cannot function in a dictatorial and feudal system," Amar Singh told reporters in New Delhi minutes after Mohan Singh announced the decision.

"I have been called mad, shameless and scoundrel. This is what I got in return for 14 years of service," he said, referring to Mohan Singh's earlier remarks against him.

"I will not say anything to Mulayam Singhji. He has blessed me. It is a blessing in disguise. He has liberated me."

Mohan Singh said the party was now seeking legal opinion on how to throw Amar Singh and Jaya Prada out of parliament.

up for speedy trial in the case. "We can't follow the routine process to punish these murders who have put even the devil to shame." The body of Class 4 student

Naga Vaishnavi was found in a boiler of a foundry on the outskirts of Guntur town, about 50 km from Vijayawada. She had been kidnapped in Vijayawada by three unidentified men while she was on her way to school in a car. The car driver was stabbed to death. Rao's 14-year-old son Sai Tejesh, who was in the car too, managed to escape. The attackers fled in the car with Vaishnavi. Police suspect that the abductors murdered the girl before throwing her into an electric boiler used to melt iron scrap to make bolts and nuts. Police could only recover charred remains of the girl.