

# Beacon

The Department of Sociology,  
Lady Shri Ram College for  
Women

THE NEWSLET- Quote–Unquote

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## Editorial

*"In its function, the power to punish is not essentially different from that of curing or educating."*

— **Michel Foucault**, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prisoner*

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Anthony Gottlieb explains, in *'The Dream of Enlightenment'*, Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, and Hume were amateurs. The first question that prongs my mind is how could amateurs be responsible for the birth of modern philosophy? Second, what is modern philosophy? Third, the second staccato burst of unanimous 'fathoming' was concerned with: the effect of advancement of science on our understanding of ourselves and our ideas of God/god, and the purpose of government and the implications of its existence on religious diversity; in *THE END of HISTORY and the LAST MAN*", Francis Fukuyama establishes that History is directional and this idea is proved factual as the second staccato burst, beginning in circa 1640 did not end on the eve of French Revolution (as Gottlieb claims) rather it is 'continuing' as questions of amateur modern philosophers remain our questions. Another question detonates, how Western is Western philosophy and did the geographical segregation of intellectual thought cease to exist long ago but has managed to survive as an insubstantial tag due to colonial scramble for the planet and the resultant politics surrounding the occident and the orient?

Issue XI is the last publication of Volume V; following the approach of directional-History, the retiring editorial board prods the succeeding members to ruminate on the unsolved questions of modern philosophy with a contemporary solution-based undertone; for instance, associating these questions with practical subjects such as public policy (with the home-ground advantage of philosophical and empirical tonnage in terms of sociological freight) could re-energize the sphere of social sciences..

For progress, questioning is a requisite; the most important question is: what should be questioned?

## ODISHA FAMILIES INVOLVED IN 1817 REVOLT TO BE HONORED BY PM

On his travels to Odisha this week-end for the BJP's national executive, PM Narendra Modi will be honouring the descendants of 16 families associated with a little-known but bloody rebellion against British colonialism, called the *Paika rebellion* of 1817. The rebellion predates the first war of independence in 1857 but did not get similar recognition. The Paika rebellion had been flagged by the Modi government earlier as well, in Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's budget speech this year where he said that "two hundred years ago in 1817, a valiant uprising of soldiers led by Buxi Jagabandhu (Bidyadhar Mohapatra) took place in Khurda of Odisha. We will commemorate the same appropriately."

## ONLY 2 % VOTER TURNOUT IN SRINAGAR BYPOLL

A mere 2% turnout was witnessed in the re-polling held in 38 polling stations under the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, making it the lowest percentage in the state's history, election officials said. The overall percentage in the entire constituency now stood at 7.13%, the officials said. The situation was largely peaceful during Thursday's electoral exercise which was called for by the Election Commission because of large-scale violence last week when balloting was held in the constituency. "Only 709 of the 34,169 voters exercised their franchise across all the 38 polling stations by the time the polling ended at 4 pm," an election official said. No votes were polled in Khansahib assembly segment while only three votes were cast in Budgam segment and 84 in

Chrar-e-Sharief segment, the official said.

## AUSSIE PM MALCOLM TURNBULL VISITS INDIA

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull arrived in New Delhi today on a four-day India visit during which he held talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on ways to boost ties in key areas including defence, security, energy and trade. Australia's pledge on uranium was announced as both countries signed six agreements, including one on countering terrorism. However, ahead of the visit, Australia's High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu had clearly stated that the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) would not be signed during the trip. "Negotiations are underway but the pact will not be signed," Ms Sidhu had said.

## UN REFUSES TO TAKE POSITION ON KHULBHUSHAN YADAV'S DEATH SENTENCE

The United Nations has declined to take a position on the death sentence handed to the "self-confessed" Indian spy Khulbhushan Yadav, earlier this week. "We are not in a position to judge the process ... (and) have a position on this particular case," UN Secretary General's spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said last week. According to the Pakistan government, Yadav had admitted that he had been directing various activities in Karachi and Baluchistan at the behest of RAW since 2013. On the contrary, India maintained that he retired from the Navy in 2002 and has had nothing to do with the Indian government when he was arrested from Baluchistan. Considering India's long history of bitter disagreements with Pakistan, UN's role as an arbitrator and hence its position is very crucial.

## HYDROGEN ON SATURN'S MOON HINTS POSSIBILITY OF LIFE

Ice plumes shooting into space from Saturn's ocean-bearing moon Enceladus contain hydrogen from hydrothermal vents, an environment that some scientists believe led to the rise of life on Earth, research published on Thursday showed.

The discovery makes Enceladus the only place beyond Earth where scientists have found direct evidence of a possible energy source for life, according to the findings in the journal *Science*.

Similar conditions, in which hot rocks meet ocean water, may have been the cradle for the appearance of microbial life on Earth more than 4 billion years ago. The discovery was made using NASA's Cassini spacecraft, which in September will end a 13-year mission exploring Saturn and its entourage of 62 known moons.

## US DROPS "MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS" ON AFGHANISTAN

The United States dropped a 21,600-pound GBU-43 bomb, one of the largest non-nuclear devices used in combat, on a suspected Islamic State target in Afghanistan on Thursday. Pentagon spokesman Adam Stump said the bomb was dropped on a cave complex believed to be used by fighters affiliated to ISIS in the Achin district of Nangarhar, close to the border with Pakistan. Described by the U.S. Air Force as its "largest non-nuclear conventional weapon", the 9,840 kg Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB) - infamously dubbed the Mother of All Bombs - is packed with 11 tons of high explosives. MOAB is also envisaged

as a psychological weapon deployed to shock enemy combatants with its power.

#### **ECUADOR TO PARTIALLY RECOUNT PRESIDENTIAL VOTE**

Ecuador's electoral council late Thursday night approved a partial recount of votes in the recent disputed presidential election, in a bid to highlight what it says was a fair process after the losing conservative candidate said there was fraud.

The April 2<sup>nd</sup> election was won by the government's socialist candidate Lenin Moreno in a close contest, rebutting a tide of market-friendly governments that have recently come to power in South America.

The recount of the equivalent of 1.2 million votes, which would account for 12 percent of the total votes cast, will take place on Tuesday in public in the capital Quito. The council has not disclosed what sort of ballots would be recounted.

#### **UN VOTES TO CLOSE HAITI PEACE-KEEPING MISSION**

The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously on Thursday to end its 13-year-long peacekeeping mission in Haiti and replace it with a smaller police, which would be drawn down after two years as the country boosts its own force.

The peacekeeping mission, one of the longest running in the world and known as MINUSTAH, has been dogged by controversies, including the introduction of cholera to the island and sexual abuse claims.

The 15-member Security Council acknowledged the completion of Haiti's presidential election, along with the inauguration of its new president, as a "major milestone towards stabilization" in the Caribbean country. "What we now need is a newly configured mission which is focussed on the rule of law and human rights in Haiti," British U.N.

Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said on his way into the meeting.

## **The Economy**

#### **AIRTEL HAS MOVED THE TELECOM TRIBUNAL AGAINST JIO**

Airtel has moved the telecom tribunal against Jio, in order to prevent the company from providing free services to its customers. The Summer Surprise offer by Reliance Jio, that provides free voice and data for three months at a charge of Rs. 303, has been objected to by Airtel. Airtel is against the continuation of free data provisions under an offer that was meant to end on 31st March. Vodafone, Airtel and Idea have been trying to retain customers by giving additional data benefits to their customers at cheaper prices. Reliance Jio continues to fight the case under violation of telecom tariff and license rules by the trio.

#### **WORLD OIL MARKET NEARING BALANCE: IEA**

Supply and demand are nearing equilibrium in the world oil market, according to the latest monthly report by International Energy Association. Since November the output of oil has been cut by 1.2 million barrels per day by the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries, as well as non-OPEC countries like Russia. This has reduced the global oil supply that had earlier depressed oil prices. On the demand side, many countries including India, Korea and the US have had staggering demands. The earlier estimated demand has been reduced from 1.4 million to 1.3 million barrels per day. This resulted in the equalizing of oil demand and supply.

#### **OPERATION CLEAN MONEY II LAUNCHED**

On 14th April 2017, The Income Tax Department launched the second phase of Operation Clean Money in order to spot black money generation post demonetisation. More than 60,000 individuals including 13,000 high risk persons have been identified by The Central Board of Direct Taxes. Advanced data analytics were employed by the office to identify individuals who were involved in high value property transactions and huge cash deposits. Under the first phase, 17.2 lakh individuals were contacted and questioned on the basis of a difference between their tax profile and cash deposits. This operation is a major step in the larger goal of eliminating black money from the economy and widening the tax base.

#### **SERVICE TAX MAY MOVE UPTO TO 18%**

Services are likely to become slightly more expensive under the Goods and Services Tax as the service industry may levy a tax of 18% in the future. Other sectors like healthcare, education, religious pilgrimage and agriculture that are exempted are likely to remain what they are. The service sector is currently taxed at 14% with an addition of Krishi Kalyan Cess and Swachh Bharat Cess that hikes the tax up to 15%. In the case of goods, the high price slab may undergo higher excise and VAT in the future. The GST is a burden for companies with a physical presence as they have to register for multiple taxes in multiple states,

### GURUGRAM ENJOYS BIHU

The Assamese Association of Gurugram organised Rongali Bihu, a festival that celebrates the harvest season and Assamese New Year on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2017. The theme of the festival was 'O Mor Apunar Desh' which means the love for his own land. Festival goers enjoyed a wide array of Assamese dishes and folk music performances along with dance drama productions. A special dance drama titled after the theme was staged that highlighted the heritage of the state and promoted tourism at the same time. The festival was attended by enthusiastic people from Delhi and NCR.

### STREET PLAY CULTURE GROWS IN DELHI

The National Street Theatre Day was celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Delhi, on the occasion of the birthday of the activist, playwright and poet Safdar Hashmi. Socially and politically relevant theatre was performed throughout the day on the streets of Mandi House by various theatre groups. These theatre groups were of students and professionals alike. Through the street play movement, the India People's Theatre Association aims to bring various issues to the streets, to the awareness of people.

### PATTACHITRA PAINTING WORKSHOP

A hands-on Pattachitra Painting workshop is being held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Sanskriti Museum, New Delhi. Anyone above the age of 12 years is eligible to attend the workshop. It is organised by Ptah, an organization that aims to provide a fresh and new outlook on traditional Andhra arts and crafts. You can register for the workshop here: <https://>

## Sports

### FORMER WOMEN CRICKETERS HONOURED

On Wednesday night former Indian women cricketers Behroze Edulji, Sunita Singh, Vrinda Bhagat, Deepa Kulkarni, Sagita Dabir and Arundhati Ghosh were awarded a cheque of Rs 15 lakh by Mr. Ravi Shastri as a one-time benefit award for stupendous contribution to Indian cricket, on the basis of the number of matches played by them. The felicitation took place at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai right before the Indian Premiere League (IPL) match between Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

### SHARAPOVA LASHES OUT AT ITF

The 29 year old and five time grand slam champion, Maria Sharapova criticised the International Tennis Federation for failing her in the drug test. Sharapova was banned for two years in 2016 for testing positive for melonidonium right before Australian Open. According to her the dosage of drug she was taking was under the prescribed dosage, until it was banned completely. She felt that the federation should have warned her beforehand and talked to her at a personal level as that would have maintained the confidentiality of the issue. Despite the same, she takes responsibility for her failing the test.

### PANKAJ ADVANI WINS ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Pankaj Advani defeats Sourav Kothari 6-3 in a nail-biting final on Friday to win his seventh Asian Billiards Open Championship. Despite Sourav being in the lead, Advani did not lose hope and waited for the right opportunity to

break Kothari after which there was no looking back, as he won all the frames back to back after that. This super comeback by Advani left spectators awestruck as he produced his best when he needed it the most. Though, having swept the group stages against Kothari with 4-0, Advani demonstrated an altogether new level of skill and perfection in the final match.

### INDIA'S BEST EVER FIFA RANKING IN TWO DECADES

The Indian soccer team achieved its best ever FIFA ranking of 101 in two decades as per the Thursday ranking released by football federation. Previously India's ranking was 132, but a couple of wins have not only pushed their FIFA ranking but have positioned them at sixth position in Asia. According to their coach Stephen Constantine, bringing in young players and creating competition for places in the team has been a fruitful process that has been moving in the right direction. The Indian Football Federation too was also very happy and said it was a total team effort.

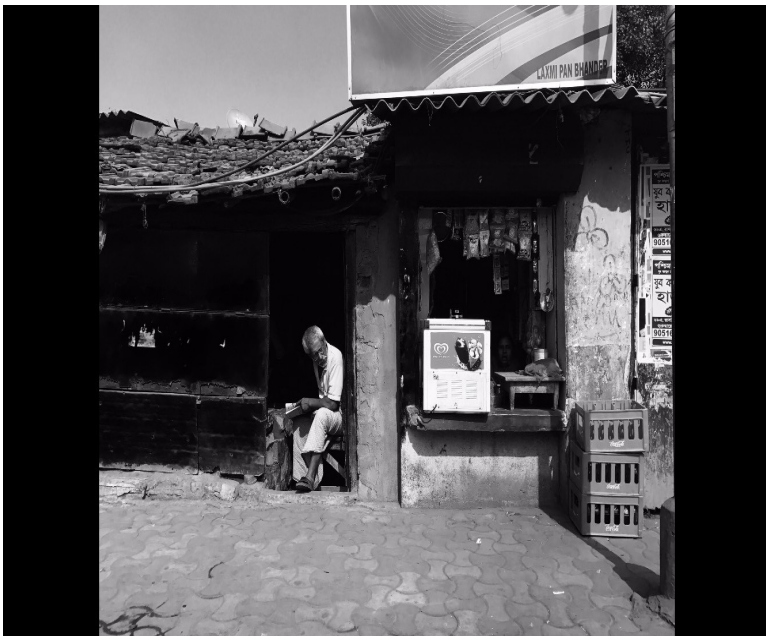
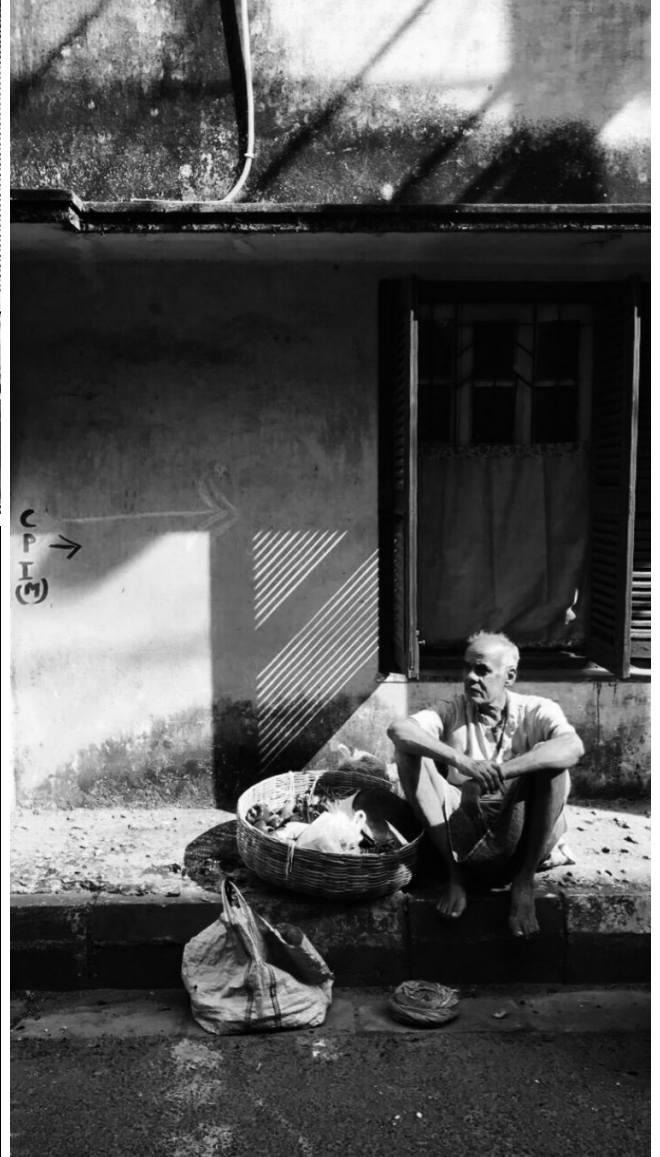


## *Lives and livelihood*





*Silence of the Streets, কলকাতা (Kolkata)*



## “THE END” OF HISTORY OF BANGLADESH

“Pakistani Razakar ei muhurtey Bangla Charo (Collaborators of Pakistan, leave Bangladesh right now)”

It is well known that certain areas of the Indian subcontinent are left outside the public discourse. Not only is there an attempt to suppress its importance, there is a proactive attempt towards erasing it from public imagination. Partition and the wounds inflicted by it are still fresh in the minds of many. Partition tore apart families, human beings and nations. Yet the predominant discourse around Partition focuses on the North Western part of India. The Partition carried out in East India, the formation of East Pakistan and the subsequent War of Liberation is never discussed or spoken about. The ignorance about the atrocities carries out in Bangladesh in 1947 and in 1971 is so high that it is disrespect to 3 million people who were cleansed in that genocide.

West Pakistan attempted to colonize East Pakistan with its brutal military force and to subvert its distinct culture and language. It annulled the 1970 elections and arrested popular leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Liberation War was sparked by the launch of Operation Searchlight by the Pakistani Army which systematically attacked intellectuals, nationalists and religious minorities. Almost 4% of the Bangladeshi population was wiped out, 10 million people were displaced and over 2 million women were brutally raped. ‘Mujib’s Sena’ fought tooth and nail to attain independence in December 1971. However, it couldn’t savour its independence for long. On August 15, 1975, members of the Bangladesh army and disgruntled Awami League colleagues staged a coup and assassi-

nated Sheikh Mujibur and his family (only his daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, who were visiting West Germany, escaped). The military dictators not only tried to rule Bangladesh with an iron hand but also set it upon the path of extremist Islamism as against its liberal Left history.

“Amra shobai Mujib Sena” (We are from Mujib’s army)

“Amra shobai Mujib Sena”: This chant fill the air, at Dhaka University, brings back memories of the *Muktijuddho*. However, it isn’t 1971 but 2017. Yet the wounds of Bangladesh remain fresh. Dhaka University saw one of the worst attacks by the Pakistani *Razakars* (soldiers backed by Islamist groups); Professors and Students were brutally murdered. It wasn’t just a murder of human beings but also of intellectual liberalism. The War of Liberation not only brought Independence but a freedom to self determination by the people of Bangladesh. The protests at Dhaka University, earlier this year, follow a similar line of thought; it is a call for *Direct Action* against the extremist Islamist terrorist groups like the *Neo- Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh* which was responsible for the three day shooting in Sylhet. It was also accused of the *Islamic State* backed Holey Artisan Bakery attack where 22 people were killed. Some link the rise of anti-secular forces in the country to the *Bangladeshi Nationalist Party* (BNP) and the *Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami*.

Bangladesh’s intolerance is seeing an unprecedented growth; the series of attacks on secular bloggers, writers, homosexuals, Hindu minorities and *Santhals* proves that the politically backed extremist groups are gaining currency. Since 2016 over 10 Hindu temples have been destroyed, houses have been set on fire and people have fled fearing for their lives. In 2016, thousands constituting Hindu minorities fled from their homes in

East Bangladesh after temples were demolished and set on fire. Apart from assaults on minorities, since 1975 there has been an attempt to erase the trajectory of the Liberation War from the minds of people. The war was considered the greatest moment reinforcing national identity of many natives of Bangladesh but now it has been reduced to a mere historical event for the younger generation. Efforts are being made by families of *Muktijuddhos* (fighters of Mujib’s army) and others to create museums in order to preserve the past. Remembrance is the only way to help the country recover from a state of political turmoil which began after the assassination of 1975 and has worsened with a series of counter-coups and assassinations; in tandem, the social and political history of Bangladesh is being re-written by Islamist terrorist groups, comparable to the 1966 cultural revolution in China, and the role of the *Islamic State* suggests a wave similar to the “*domino theory*” (this is a matter deserving a distinct contemplative space and, hopefully, will be included in one of the future publications of Beacon). Teaching the younger generation the importance of secularism and the true meaning of justice will lead to a peaceful Bangladesh, maybe, in the near future. Civil unrest is rising around Dhaka- against the present strain of intolerance and the “attempted” re-construction of social and nationalist history.

Extracting from Francis Fukuyama’s “*THE END of HISTORY and the LAST MAN*”, **History** is directional i.e. it has no resting place; history is always *continuing*. Fukuyama understands History as a single evolutionary process; borrowing, from G.W.F. Hegel and Karl Marx, the posited argument of “end of history”, Fukuyama explains that as a result of historical “progress” a form of society would be achieved



that felt satisfied of its most fundamental longings and “there would be no further progress in the development of underlying principles and institutions, because all of the really big questions would be settled”. We need to foresee where “the end” of history of Bangladesh is headed; this thought of prediction is a harbinger of the question “WHY SHOULD WE LEARN HISTORY?” answered in a book titled “A HISTORY OF AFRICA” (1960) written by W.E.F. Ward. Ward suggests that history must be viewed as reactions of individuals to events or circumstances and we must study the reactions as facts that could help us choose among alternative courses of actions, in terms of consequences of past reactions when faced with situations similar to the ones extant.

***Bhoy korima guli Boma, Amra shobai  
Mujib Sena  
(We don't dear bombs or bullets; we  
are all Mujib's army)***

## Avant-Garde

**ANARKALI ARRAHWALI**  
**Director- Avinash Das**

The setting of the film is Arrah- a small city of Bihar and revolves around the protagonist Anarkali (Swara Bhaskar) who is a nautch girl. She wears lurid maquillage, garish gaghra-cholis and performs on stage to provocative dance numbers set to double entendre songs. The film traces the experiences of Anarkali after one such live performance when the Vice Chancellor of a university (Sanjay Misra) steps up on the stage in an inebriated state and molests her in front of everyone, and continues forcing himself upon her despite her objections. After he does not stop, she slaps him in front of everyone and vows to take revenge. This shocks everyone because being a nautch girl she is assumed to be readily “available.”

The VC is very influential and has a hold over the police; thus the police does not register Anarkali’s complaint and instead force her to “sort out” matters personally with him. The VC thinks that paying her for subsequent sexual favours will solve the problem. When she refuses, everyone, including her close confidante Rangeela (Pankaj Tripathi), can not understand why she does not give in to the VC’s wishes. The police, guided by the VC do their best to ruin Anarkali’s life and finally she has to run away with her friend Anwar (Ishtiyak Khan) to Delhi.

This is the story of a working woman in a conservative city pursuing a profession in which she is glaringly in the public eye. Despite protests and judgemental glances from people in Arrah she continues working unapologetically. Through the character

of Anarkali the film foregrounds the pertinent issue of consent and further highlights that it is not contingent on any other factor- the social class, clothes, “character” or profession of a woman. When she says no, then she means no.

Pink, a film released last year, also pivoting around the issue of consent, has Amitabh Bachchan constantly looking out for three girls of his neighbourhood and then consequently saving them by fighting their case. Unlike Pink, this film ends on a note when Anarkali herself exposes the VC and reclaims her profession, reputation and space, and necessitates an investigation into her case of molestation. Anarkali in the end says to the VC that “be it a whore, less than a whore, or even your wife, you cannot touch her without her consent”.

We can see the hard work Swara Bhaskar has put into understanding her role, whether it is the dialect, the body language or the dance. Despite the glaringly explicit lyrics and movements, her performance as Anarkali entails a professionalism where she comes across not purely as an object of desire but as a powerful woman in control of her sexuality and fighting for her rights.. The film gives recognition to a marginalized voice and makes even the audience extend their definition of consent and empathize with a woman who they may not otherwise morally approve of.



**100 feared  
dead in Syria  
gas attack**

**chemical  
weapons used in  
Syria attack**

**military action  
in Syria**

**Horror Of Gas Attack  
man lost 22 members  
of his family in the attack**



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