

NATION 5

'NEP WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE
IN MAKING INDIA SELF-RELIANT'

MONEY 6

FACELESS ASSESSMENT TO START
WITH I-T DEPT RESTRUCTURING

SPECIAL 7

WHEN DEATH
IS WORK

HYDERABAD, SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BOLD,
BEAUTIFUL
AND DECISIVE

12

PM announces health IDs to
all, Covid mission roadmap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled an ambitious National Digital Health Mission under which every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services and also announced that the country has made plans for mass-producing COVID-19 vaccine once scientists give a green signal.

In his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime min-

“From today, a major campaign is being launched in which technology will play a big role. The National Digital Health Mission is being launched today. This will bring a new revolution in India's health sector and it will help reduce problems in getting treatment with the help of technology

— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

ister said the health ID will store every individual's medical records and the Mission will herald a new revolution in the health sector.

"From today, a major cam-

paign is being launched in which technology will play a big role. The National Digital Health Mission is being launched today.

SPB continues to
be on life support

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Renowned playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam continues to be on life support and stable, a private hospital treating him said here on Saturday.

The veteran singer's son SP Charan said there is a good response to the use of ventilator and Balasubrahmanyam's lungs are functioning better.

Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, meanwhile, visited the hospital, had a discussion with doctors treating the singer and on his twitter handle, wished Balasubrahmanyam a speedy recovery.

Assistant Director (Medical Services), Dr Anuradha Baskaran, of MGM Healthcare said in a statement: "Thiru SP Balasubrahmanyam who is admitted at MGM Healthcare due to COVID-19 continues to be on life support in the Intensive Care Unit. He remains stable and the doctors are closely monitoring his clinical parameters."



3

RAINS AND FLOODS

KCR keeps officials
on their toes■ Two control rooms in Hyd,
choppers on stand-by

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhhar Rao has given instructions to ensure that the official machinery is on high alert due to the heavy rains and consequent flooding in various parts of the State. Most of the tanks and canals are overflowing due to continual rains in the State. At several places, the floodwater has inundated roads.

Against this backdrop, during a review on Saturday at Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief Minister spoke with the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and the Ministers. He took stock of the situation district-wise and made suggestions. He wanted the setting up of two Control Rooms in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister instructed his cabinet colleagues to stay put in their respective districts, coordinate with the Collectors and police officials on a regular basis.

Considering several tanks were filled to the brim, some of them might breach,



inundating roads and flooding low-lying areas.

As the areas constituting erstwhile Karimnagar and Warangal districts have recorded the highest rainfall and tanks in these districts are full to their capacity, officials should be all the more alert in these two districts.

On the Chief Minister's instructions, officials have kept two helicopters ready. They will be utilised to rescue people stranded during the flood. Along with the helicopter owned by the State, one chopper from the military has also been kept ready for use.

Helicopter landed... The era has come to an end

AS DHONI CALLS IT
QUITS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time World Cup-winning former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni retired from international cricket on Saturday, ending over one year of suspense and also an era during which his often unorthodox leadership and finishing skills became the stuff of legends.

"Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout. from 1929hrs consider me as retired," Dhoni posted on his instagram handle.

The announcement came a day after he joined his Chennai Super kings teammates in Chennai ahead of this year's IPL in the UAE.

The 39-year-old's last outing in India colours was during the lost World Cup semi-final against New Zealand.

One of the best runners between the wickets was run out following a hard-earned 50 in that tense game, shattering Indian hopes and leaving him in a state of disbelief.

The reticent man from Ranchi will, however, go

RAINA TOO RETIRES
FROM INTL CRICKET

CHENNAI: Suresh Raina, one of India's prolific white ball players in the last decade and a half announced his retirement from international cricket, following the footsteps of his favourite captain and mentor Mahendra

Singh Dhoni. Raina's message came minutes after Dhoni told his million of fans "consider me retired" on his Instagram page. "It was nothing but lovely playing with you, @mahid7781. With my heart full of pride, I choose to join you in this journey. Thank you India. Jai Hind," Raina posted on his instagram page.



2

down as one of the finest to have played the game for India, turning up for the country in a whopping 350 ODIs, 90 Tests and 98 T20 Internationals.

The last leg of his career was, however, marred by a drop in form, prompting several critics to question his resolve to continue.

But he nevertheless signs

off as an ODI legend with 10,773 runs, averaging more than 50 despite batting between No.5 and 7 for a major chunk of his career.

2

Dhoni: A lot of it will
always remain untoldKUSHAN SARKAR
■ NEW DELHI

What do they know of Dhoni who only Dhoni knows.

There seems nothing wrong in customising the most epic CLR James line from his seminal work 'Beyond a Boundary'. It fits Mahendra Singh Dhoni to the 'T'.

He could force one to throw the MCC cricket manual in the trash bin with his daredevilry in unorthodox strokeplay.

He could be a role model for all shy and reticent people on how to become an assertive leader. Two world titles meant he didn't do too badly.

And then one fine afternoon, he could stun the world by relinquishing Test captaincy with 10 short of landmark 100 games, a record Indians are so fond of.

And after another five years and seven months, he literally punches one in the gut on a balmy August 15 evening to say, "from 1929 hrs, consider me retired" just like that. Just like that Lieutenant Colonel Dhoni says over and out, adding to the sense of loss and chaos that 2020 has come to symbolise.

A legend in art of chasing, who became a megastar in finite cricket bringing in Sachin Tendulkar's poise and Virat Kohli's aggression in optimum proportions, one can never pinpoint what Dhoni actually was.

He was a bit of everything and still a bit more but no one could actually comprehend what everyone thought they knew Dhoni, but no one knew him.

2

ACB raids yield
Rs 28 lakh more in
Keesara MRO case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After nabbing Keesara tahsildar red-handedly on Friday for demanding and accepting bribe totaling Rs 1.1 crore, sleuths of the Anti-Corruption Bureau swooped down on the residences, offices and other properties of the Tahsildar of Keesara and government offices on Saturday. The officials seized Rs 28 lakh in unaccounted cash and other incriminating documents.

On Friday night, acting on a tip, Telanaga ACB raided a guest house in A S Rao Nagar which purportedly belongs to K. Anji Reddy, a real estate dealer, one of the conspirators, and caught Keesara tahsildar E. Balraju Nagaraju caught red-handedly while he was accepting Rs 1.10 crore cash as bribe from Ch. Srinath, another real estate dealer, in connection with the 19 acres of land at Ramapally village in Keesara mandal.

3

None to beat Revenue
dept in ACB casesL VENKAT RAM REDDY
■ HYDERABAD

Although the TRS government has expressed its resolve to enact a new Revenue Act to weed out corruption from the Revenue department, with Chief Minister K Chandrashekhhar Rao reluctantly dropping his previous proposal to axe the department due to stiff resistance from employees in the wing, hardly a day passes without graft cases coming to light with the tainted money involved breaking records in terms of its sheer proportions.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau's Friday night operation, which saw the MRO of Keesara being caught red-handed demanding and accepting Rs 1.10 crore as bribe at his residence in AS Rao Nagar to settle a land dis-

pute, is an instance of the deeper malaise in the revenue wing. Questions are now being raised, whether, with all the professed commitment and earnestness of the TRS government, the Revenue Department can be tamed with a tough piece of legislation.

Addressing an election campaign meeting in April 2019 in Mahabubnagar district, KCR had announced that he would bring the new Revenue Act by June or July 2019. Four months later, addressing the Independence Day celebrations from the Golconda Fort last year (August 2019), KCR confirmed that the draft of the new Revenue Act would be introduced in the budget session in September 2019. He then reiterated that the proposed Act would eliminate corruption and give no room for laxity.

3

Hyd Zoo names
tiger cub after Col
Santosh Babu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

One of the three cubs born to a Royal Bengal tigress at the Nehru Zoological Park (NZP) here has been named after late Colonel Santosh Babu, the braveheart who laid down his life during a violent clash with the Chinese troops in Ladakh.

N Z P authorities made the announcement to mark the 74th Independence Day celebrations on Saturday.

NZP Curator N Kshitija, who hoisted the national flag, announced that one of the male cubs was named 'Santosh' in honour of the late Army officer.

Rich tributes were paid to Santosh Babu, who hailed from Telangana.

3

Cyberfrauds parking funds
in tax haven nationsDURGA PRASAD SUNKU
■ HYDERABAD

Investigators probing the illegal transnational online gaming racket busted recently by the Hyderabad police found that the conspirators were trying to transfer the ill-gotten money to Cayman Islands, which is deemed to be among the tax haven nations. It is possible that most of the money has already been laundered. This can be ascertained only after thorough investigation.

In a recent survey conducted by the Tax Justice Network, Cayman Islands is ranked first on the 2020 Financial Secrecy Index, based on a secrecy score of 76 and a large global scale weight for the size of its offshore financial services sector, which comprise 4.58 per cent of the world total. It is also considered as a country of 'primary concern' by the US State Department.



Money laundering is the process of concealing the proceeds of criminal activity to disguise their illegal origin. As it enables the criminal to enjoy these profits without jeopardising their source.

by Tax Justice Network, an independent international network, focused on research, analysis and advocacy in the area of international tax and financial regulation, including the role of tax havens.

Money laundering is the process of concealing the proceeds of criminal activity to disguise their illegal origin. As it enables the criminal to enjoy these profits without jeopardising their source.

3

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Shravana & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi: Dwadashi: 01:50 pm
Nakshatram: Ashra: 07:03 am
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 05:03 pm – 06:37 pm
Yamagandam: 12:20 pm – 01:54 pm
Varjyam: 06:53 pm – 08:28 pm
Gulika: 03:28 pm – 05:03 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Anuraktalam: 04:22 am – 05:56 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 am – 12:45 pm

HYDERABAD
WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly cloudy
Temp: 23/22
Humidity: 97%
Sunrise: 05:59 am
Sunset: 06:41 pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated August 15, 2020 5:00 PM



Talks are the only key to resolving TS-AP disputes

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

It is difficult to imagine that just one year ago, Chief Minister of Telangana K. Chandrashekhar Rao and his Andhra counterpart Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy were singing paeans for each other. They had raised hopes of ending the bitterness and opening a new chapter in relations between the two States. This conclusion has turned out to be hasty as Telangana and Andhra are back at their old game of squabbling over their share of river waters and other resources.

An impression gained ground after the bonhomie they displayed in the wake of

KCR's re-election and Jagan's maiden victory in May 2019 that they had decided to bury the past and amicably settle disputes between the two neighbours that share the same language and culture. They had inherited a legacy of disputes ranging from AP's claims of Rs. 70,000 crore towards settlement of fixed assets to intractable differences over sharing Krishna and Godavari waters.

This feeling was reinforced by Jagan's description of KCR as 'a good man'. It was a surreal moment when Chandrashekhar Rao hugged the young Jagan, son of late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who had done everything within his means to thwart creation of Telangana. Jagan too bent backwards to please KCR by handing over all the buildings

Many thought that with KCR and Jagan striking all the right chords, a solution to the vexatious river water disputes was round the corner. But they have escalated matters. Lessons have to be drawn from the past

under AP's control in Hyderabad to Telangana. After the failure of two formal meetings, the leaders have emphatically proved that personal chemistry matters only to a limited extent. Resolving river water disputes requires vision besides consensus among political parties in each State. All these elements are missing. KCR and Jagan are back to their pre-May 2019 positions, warring over water and power. They even skipped the Apex Council meeting convened by the Centre on August 5 as if to avoid a direct encounter.

The Centre was alarmed by the flurry of mutual complaints. The trigger was the complaint that the Andhra Government had issued orders on May 5 to divert 10 tmcft of water daily from the Krishna river to Rayalaseema through a lift irrigation project and for expansion of the Pothireddypadu head regulator. Telangana complained that the RIIP would affect several lift irrigation projects besides drinking water supply to Hyderabad and many other districts.

AP's complaints were no less grave. They ranged from



S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

Telangana changing the scope of the Kaleswaram lift irrigation project, taking up five new projects using 15.53 tmcft of water from Krishna, enhancing the capacity of existing projects, and generating power from Srisailem in violation of

the agreement to share the benefit in 50:50 ratio.

The crib list is illustrative. It cannot be comprehensive in a short piece because of the long history of acrimony over division of Krishna water amongst the three regions Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana and with neighbouring Karnataka. The Bachawat Tribunal's award allocating 811 out of 2,060 tmcft failed to satisfy AP and the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal refused to take a relook at allocation with other States.

Tribunal awards have left matters unresolved while the River Management Boards have become toothless wonders or just complaint boxes. Even the Apex Council comprising the two Chief Ministers and chaired by the Union Minister is unable to forge a compromise. Uma Bharati as

Union Minister for Water Resources had convened a meeting between then AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and KCR, but it ended without result.

Many thought that with KCR and Jagan striking all the right chords, a solution to the vexatious river water disputes was round the corner. But they have escalated matters. Lessons have to be drawn from the past. Telugu Ganga, a project steered by N. T. Rama Rao, was severely castigated by YSR and other Congress leaders for carrying 15 tmcft of water to Chennai without fulfilling Rayalaseema's needs. It was extensively discussed within and outside the Assembly and NTR vilified before implementation. So was the construction of the controversial

Pothireddypadu head regulator on the Srisailem project.

Stoutly opposing it, P. Janardhan Reddy, Congress MLA, fought so hard against the Chief Minister of his own party, YSR, that the matter reached the Congress high command. A joke used to do the rounds that Congress president Sonia Gandhi even asked "who is this Pothireddy".

When Gujarat was separated from the bilingual Bombay State, it was not without bitterness and bloodshed. Sixty years later, both States are good neighbours, prosperous, and compete for investment in an atmosphere of cooperative federalism.

Andhra and Telangana would do well to emulate this spirit of healthy competition. They can begin by initiating meaningful dialogues, rather than allowing old disputes to fester. As it is, they are frittering away too much time and energy on building new capitals and Secretariat offices.

'COOL' RECORDS

- India attained the world No. 1 ranking in Test cricket for the first time in 2009
- As captain, Dhoni holds the record for longest unbeaten run in Tests from his debut with 11 (8 wins and 3 draws)
- The wicket-keeper batsman bows out with 10,046 runs from 321 ODIs and 1,487 runs from 93 T20Is.
- Dhoni is the first Indian wicket-keeper to amass more than 4,000 Test runs. He made 4,876 runs in 90 Tests with 6 hundreds and 33 fifties at an average of over 38.
- Dhoni eclipsed Sourav Ganguly's record of most Test wins as captain with 27 to become India's most successful captain in the format
- Dhoni's 148 off 123 balls against Pakistan in only his fifth ODI in Faisalabad in 2004 remains the fastest century scored by an Indian wicket-keeper, and fourth overall
- With 788 dismissals in Test cricket, Dhoni is third on the all-time list behind Mark Boucher (998) and Adam Gilchrist (905)
- But he is head-and-shoulders above of the rest with the most stumpings in international cricket with 178.
- In ODIs, he was the fourth-most successful keeper with 407 dismissals but again leads the stumpings list with 107
- In T20 Internationals, Dhoni leads with 87 dismissals with once again the most stumpings at 33
- The one-day format was where Dhoni established himself as one of the greatest captains with 110 wins in 199 matches, the second most behind Australia's Ricky Ponting (165 wins in 230 matches).
- The 183 not out that Dhoni smashed against Sri Lanka in 2005 is still the highest individual score by a wicket-keeper in ODI cricket
- MS Dhoni is fourth on the list of batsmen with the most sixes in ODIs at 217. No other Indian has cleared the ropes as many times as he did in the format
- On July 14 this year, Dhoni became the fourth Indian after Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid to score 10,000 ODI runs during the 2nd ODI against England at Lord's

His cool temperament has turned several hot encounters in India's favour. Under his captaincy India was crowned World Champions twice in different formats.

— AMITH SHAH



So sorry to hear that #msdhonei retired half an hour ago. A true giant of the game, India's finest wicketkeeper-batsman & a transformative captain, he left a stamp on Indian cricket that defined an era. March on, Dhoni! There will be other peaks to climb.



— SHASHI THAROOR

MSD FINISHES IT IN STYLE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It trembled after the tremor. But the cricket community soon got its act together. It had to, to remember, savour, cherish and exhaust its stock of superlatives of all manner to adorn Mahendra Singh Dhoni after the eternal enigma quietly walked into international sunset. He did so in the MSD way. The two-time World

Cup-winning captain kept everyone guessing about his retirement till the end but when he finally did, it left the cricket world overwhelmed with emotions.

Such was the impact he had had on his teammates like Suresh Raina that the southpaw chose to retire from international cricket on the same day. Batting great Sachin Tendulkar had broken a plethora of records but the elusive World Cup win only came at the fag end of his career and under Dhoni's leadership.

Your contribution to Indian cricket has been immense, @msdhonei. Winning the 2011 World Cup together has been the best moment of my life. Wishing you and your family all the very best for your 2nd innings.



— SACHIN TENDULKAR

Your contribution to Indian cricket has been immense, @msdhonei. Winning the 2011 World Cup together has been the best moment of my life. Wishing you and your family all the very best for your 2nd innings.

Thank you for the magic #Dhoni_



— SMRITI IRANI

Nooooo!!! You've always known the best Thanks for the entertainment



— RANDEEP HOODA

From "India A" to "The India" our journey has been full of question marks, commas, blanks & exclamations. Now as you put a full stop to your chapter, I can tell u from experience that the new phase is as exciting and there's no limit to DRS here!!! Well played @msdhonei @BCCI



— GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Farewell Captain @msdhonei. Best wishes to all your future endeavours



— MOHANLAL

The many highlights of Mahendra Singh Dhoni's glittering career

As Mahendra Singh Dhoni bids adieu to international cricket, here is a look at the career highlights of India's most successful captain, who led the country to two World Cup trophies.

December 2004: Dhoni makes his international debut against Bangladesh in an ODI at Chittagong.

October 2005: Promoted up the order to accelerate scoring, Dhoni smashes an unbeaten 183 off 145 balls, the then record of the highest individual score in ODI cricket in the second innings. Dhoni also wins

Man of the Series award after India's 3-0 triumph in the five-match rubber.

December 2005: Dhoni makes his Test debut against Sri Lanka in Chennai.

September 2007: Dhoni takes over the reins of ODI captaincy from Rahul Dravid.

September 2007: Dhoni equals Adam Gilchrist's international record for most dismissals (6) in an innings in ODIs. Dhoni also becomes captain of the Indian squad for the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa. He leads a young Indian side to victory against Pakistan in the final. He takes the risk of picking an inexperienced pacer Joginder Sharma instead of Harbhajan Singh to bowl the last over that eventually pays off.

August 2008: Dhoni leads India to its first-ever bilateral ODI series



victory in Sri Lanka. **November 2008:** Dhoni makes his debut as full-time Test captain of India during the fourth and final Test against Australia at Nagpur, replaces Anil Kumble who was injured in the third Test. **November 2011:** The Indian Territorial Army confers the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel on Dhoni

#ThankYouMahi trends on Twitter



As soon as the news of Dhoni's retirement spread, #ThankYouMahi started trending on Twitter with hundreds of Twitter users expressing their heartfelt thanks to the legendary cricketer and wished him luck for his future endeavours. MS Dhoni's fans and his Team Indian colleagues, who were left in utter disbelief and shock over his

sudden retirement, posted their messages on the micro-blogging platform using the #ThankYouMahi.

The announcement came a day after he joined his Chennai Super Kings teammates in Chennai ahead of this year's IPL in the UAE. The 39-year-old's last outing in India colours was during the lost World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. One of the best run-

ners between the wickets was run out following a hard-earned 50 in that tense game, shattering Indian hopes and leaving him in a state of disbelief.

The reticent man from Ranchi will, however, go down as one of the finest to have played the game for India, turning up for the country in a whopping 350 ODIs, 90 Tests and 98 T20 Internationals.

As Dhoni calls it quits

Continued from Page 1

In the Test format, Dhoni accumulated 4876 runs at an average of 38.09 and led India to more wins (27) than anyone else before him.

However, runs are not the parameter on which Dhoni's career can be truly judged.

Considered a punter by some and a master strategist by several others, it was Dhoni's captaincy, wondrous reading of match situations and the jaw-dropping hand-speed behind stumps that had the cricket world mesmerised.

A leader even after he gave up the official tag of the leader, Dhoni will be remembered as the nonconformist, who made risks look like well thought-out strategy. Whether it was handing the ball to rookie Joginder



Sharma in the final over of the 2007 World T20 or pushing himself ahead of man-in-form Yuvraj Singh in the 2011 50-over World Cup, Dhoni's instincts rarely failed him.

For the record, India lifted the trophy on both occasions, propelling him to cult status in a country which remains hopelessly in love with all things cricket.

The IPL was also his happy

Raina too...

Continued from Page 1

He is among the few who scored centuries across formats having played 18 Tests, 226 ODIs and 78 T20 Internationals with nearly 8000 international runs. His best moment was a crucial unbeaten knock in a tricky WC quarter-final against Australia in 2011.

hunting ground where he was the revered 'Thala', leading the Chennai Super Kings to three trophies.

The most significant of those titles came last season when the side made its return to the event after a two-year suspension for its official Gurnath Meiyappan's role in the 2013 spot-fixing scandal.

Continued from Page 1

There's a compartment that possibly remains shut. It's for none to see, it's where he probably computes, processes his raw thoughts and emotions while taking a decision.

Retirement may be one such decision, it was his own but he needed to come to terms that the change room is no longer the place where he belongs and it took more than a year since that heart-breaking run out in a lost World Cup semifinal.

Dhoni, despite being a cricket star like no other, was never entirely a cricket story. He was, still is and will always remain a social story.

A reflection of times when India's hinterland started shedding its fears and its inferiority complex while knocking on the doors of an aspirational India.



He wasn't a social reformer by any stretch of imagination but most certainly, hinterland's biggest icon after economic liberalisation.

Yet he was probably more 'khadoos' than any of his contemporaries from Mumbai.

Remember his 70 odd at Lord's in the first Test of a 2007 series. He showed doggedness

and guts with limited technique on his first England tour.

With S Sreesanth at the other end, rain came to India's rescue. But then fortune favours the brave.

Just like the World T20 final in Johannesburg, where lack of bowling options turned into a great punt as Haryana Police's

Joginder Sharma earned his wikipedia page with an over no one can forget.

Dhoni came from the industrial town of Ranchi where a rank in IIT JEE or AIEEE or UPSC, more often than not, defined a young mind.

But this man, who arrived with a flowing mane, insanely powerful wrists and a smile that was endearing but gave away nothing, redefined the dynamics.

He didn't display in-your-face aggression but those who have dealt with him knew he would stick to his conviction - right or wrong, the jury is still out.

Backing Virat Kohli, the Test batsman and Rohit Sharma, the opener destined to become a white ball legend, were fabulous foresights. Indian cricket will remain

indebted.

He shared a love-hate relationship with the media. He became inaccessible save for routine press conferences where he could rephrase his answer thousand times but still not give away anything. Dhoni became the least understood.

The conjectures, at times, were unfair and perhaps bordering on demeaning. It made him more defiant with a bit of irreverence for the fourth estate.

After the 2015 World Cup semi-final defeat, his press conference gave a hint of what he thought.

"I always tell Dr Baba (then media manager) that if they (media) are happy with you then you are not doing a good job," he said and all present laughed.

I-Day celebrations, a low-key affair

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 74th Independence Day was a low-key affair in state due to the Covid-19 pandemic as Chief Minister K Chandrashankar Rao hoisted the national flag at his residence in a simple ceremony on Saturday.

KCR paid floral tributes at the portrait of the 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi. TRS Parliamentary Party leader Dr K Keshav Rao, Government's Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Director General of Police Mahender Reddy, among others, participated in the ceremony.

The Chief Minister later paid tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad. This is the first time since the formation of Telangana state in 2014 that Independence Day celebrations were not held at the historic Golconda Fort.

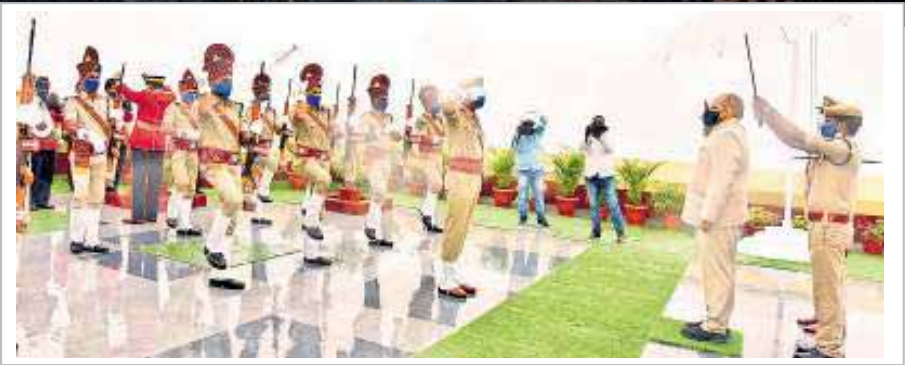
After the formation of Telangana state, KCR had shifted the venue of the Independence Day parade from the Parade Grounds to Golconda Fort to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Telangana. Independence Day celebrations were also organised in the Telangana Assembly premises. Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy hoisted the national flag at a ceremony attended by Legislative Council Chairman G Sukhender Reddy and some top officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said the government was implementing wel-



fare schemes for all sections of people. Celebrations were also held in the Telangana High Court premises. Braving the incessant rain, Chief Justice RS Chauhan hoisted the Tricolour in the presence of some judges of the High Court, senior lawyers and officials.

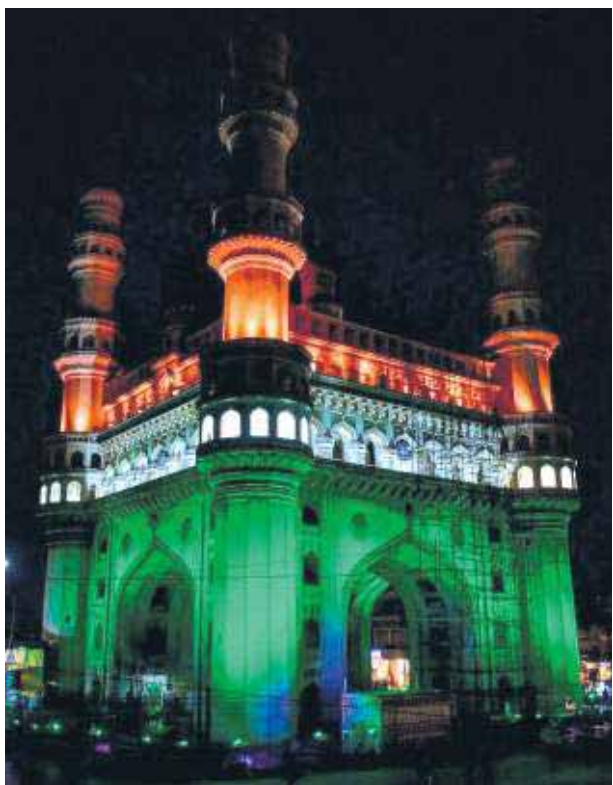
The Chief Justice spoke on how the High Court was conducting its hearings during the ongoing pandemic. He



Cops celebrate with special precautions

As the Covid-19 cases are high in city, the authorities have ensured special measures in lieu of the Coronavirus spread and celebrated Independence Day following pandemic precautions. All the three Police Commissionerates in the State capital celebrated Independence Day at their respective headquarters. Hyderabad Commissioner Anjani Kumar hoisted the national flag at the city police headquarters at Petlaburj. Speaking on the occasion, Anjani Kumar said during the last six months, the Hyderabad City Police had done exemplary work during the Covid-19 pandemic and lived up to the expectations of the public. In Cyberabad, C Anasuya, Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Women and Children Safety wing) hoisted the national flag at the Commissioner's office in the morning. At Rachakonda, Commissioner Mahesh M Bhagwat hoisted the national flag at the Commissionerate building in Neredmet. Sudheer Babu, Additional Commissioner Shilpavali, Additional DCP (Admin) and other officers were present. Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner asked the policemen to help citizens in all legitimate cases and also to help the Covid-19 patients and their families. "The Rachakonda police are actively involved in the fight against Covid-19 by taking up various initiatives and doing humanitarian work also," he said.



Guv performs special puja

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan has unfurled the National Flag at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday, as part of the 74th Independence Day celebrations. The Governor greeted all the officers and staff members at the Raj Bhavan and conveyed happy Independence Day greetings to them. The Governor along with her husband Dr Soundararajan and other family members took part in the celebrations. Earlier, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan performed special puja at the Raj Bhavan temple on the occasion. She personally went to the staff members, standing in their positions as part of the social distancing norms, to greet them and obliged requests for photographs with the staff of different wings at the Raj Bhavan. Governor advisors retired IAS officer APVN Sharma and retired IPS officer AK Mohanty, Secretary to Governor K Surendra Mohan, IAS, Joint Secretaries J Bhavani Shankar and C N Raghu Prasad and other staff members took part in the celebrations.



Hyderabad is emerging as innovation hub: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A growing contract research organization Sai Lifesciences Limited on Saturday announced the commissioning of its new Research and Technology centre in Hyderabad.

The Centre, located in Genome Valley, is spread across 83000 sq ft with several unique features. The new Research & Technology centre is adjoining their current R&D facility in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.

The Centre was inaugurated by Minister for Industries KT Rama Rao in the presence of Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, "It is a matter of pride for us that Hyderabad today is emerging as the innovation hub and serving more than 1000 global innovators in their vision to improve healthcare and Research & Development around the globe."



TSIC FOSTERS INNOVATION CULTURE

Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) continues to foster and build Innovation culture across Telangana. Continuing the success streak of first-of-its-kind 'Intinta Innovator Exhibition' last year, the cell this year along with 33 district administrations has come up with online version of 'Intinta Innovator Exhibition' 2020, considering the pandemic. The online exhibition was launched by IT Minister KT Rama Rao this Independence Day. The campaign received more than 250 entries from all the districts, out of which 65 consciously chosen innovations with strict evaluation parameters made it to the exhibition, which is celebrated as a part of Independence Day celebrations.

Student hangs himself after mother takes away mobile

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 14-year-old student committed suicide reportedly after his mother refrained to give him mobile at his residence on Saturday afternoon under Trimulgherry police station limits.

The victim was identified as Ayush Kumar, a class IX student at Keindriya Vidyalaya. According to the police, Kumar was upset that his mother did not allow him to play games on mobile. On Saturday, he was playing a game on his mother's phone. She scolded him and took the phone from him.

Upset over the same, Kumar locked himself inside a room and hanged himself to death. As he did not open the door for too long, the victim's mother broke opened the door only to found her son hanging. Police booked a case of suspicious death and investigation is underway. Police shifted the body to OGH for autopsy.

1,863 fresh cases take TS tally over 90K-mark

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With 1,863 new Coronavirus cases reported on Saturday in Telangana, the state's total tally rose to 90,259 even as 10 more fatalities pushed the state's death toll to 684, the Health Director said. The state further improved its recovery rate to 73.34 per cent as against the average of 71.16 per cent.

The number of active cases now stands at 23,379, including 16,221 in home or institutional isolation. The case fatality rate stands at 0.75 per cent as against the national average of 1.95 per cent. Officials said that 53.87 per cent of the deceased Covid-19 patients had comorbidities.

A total of 39 testing laboratories and 323 rapid antigen testing centres conducted 21,239 more tests as against the state's target of 5,600.



The tests conducted in the state so far total 7,32,435. Test results of 664 samples were awaited. During the last 24 hours, GHMC registered 394 new cases, up from 356 the previous day. The new cases were reported from all 33 districts. Medchal Malkajgiri and Rangareddy bordering GHMC reported 175 and 131 cases

respectively. Sangareddy, another district which shares borders with the state capital, reported 81 new infections. The figures show that there was a spike in a few districts while the spread slowed down in some other districts. Warangal Urban saw 101 new infections as against 74 the previous day.

Four smugglers held, gold worth Rs 45.6 L seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Hyderabad Customs Department has detected four cases of gold smuggling and booked four persons at RGIA on Friday night. The officials have recovered 837 grams of yellow metal worth Rs 45.6 lakh collectively.

AIU intercepted four passengers who arrived by flight from Riyadh on Friday. The passenger have concealed the gold in their inner pockets. The market value of the gold is valued at Rs 45.6 lakh, said the custom officials.

It may be mentioned here that, on July 30, the officials have seized 3.11 kg of gold from 11 passengers have arrived in the Vande Bharath flight from Dammam to RGIA. They concealed the gold in their inner pockets. The gold worth is estimated to be of Rs 1.66 crore.

Hyd Zoo names...

Continued from Page 1

Tigress Asha had given birth to three male cubs during the lockdown. The two other cubs are named 'Surya' and 'Sankalp'.

The curator said NZP was known as one of the green and best zoos in the world, made possible due to the untiring efforts of its officers and staff.

PM announces health IDs...

Continued from Page 1

This will bring a new revolution in India's health sector and it will help reduce problems in getting treatment with the help of technology," he said.

"Every Indian will be given a health ID, which will work as each Indian's health account," Modi said, adding that it would

ease problems faced by citizens in getting healthcare access.

The ID will contain information about medical data, prescriptions and diagnostic reports and summaries of previous discharge from hospitals. The Mission is expected to bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services. Modi said the country has

prepared a roadmap to ensure that a covid vaccine reaches everyone in the shortest possible time. He said three vaccine candidates are in different stages of trials in the country. The prime minister said whenever there is talk of COVID-19, the question that comes to everyone's mind is - when will a vaccine be ready.

Man held with 1050 kg ganja

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) intercepted a goods carriage vehicle at the outskirts of Hyderabad and seized 1050 kilograms of ganja whose market value estimated to be Rs 2.62 crores and arrested a person.

Acting on the basis of specific intelligence, the officials intercepted a goods vehicle which was carrying empty plastic crates, but detailed examination of the cargo area revealed that several bags of ganja were concealed behind the empty plastic crates, said an official.

The contraband and the vehicle were seized and a person was arrested under the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985. A total of 1050 kgs of ganja was found to be concealed in the vehicle.

Cyberfrauds parking funds...

Continued from Page 1

Global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) explains there are three stages in laundering: first stage, called placement - the launderer introduces his illegal profits into the financial system.

Next stage, layering - launderer engages in a series of conversions or movements of the funds to distance them from their source. This is where the Cayman Islands comes into picture by helping the fraudsters to convert the black money. After this, in the third stage -- integration - in which the funds re-enter the legitimate economy by investing in different companies.

Speaking about these type

of malicious online gambling and other games, Prasad Patibandla, Cyber Crime and Digital Intelligence Analyst, said, "The game developers usually create domain with fake address and install them in foreign clouds.

They siphon the money and use digital wallets for mode of transactions for send the money to foreign accounts or they may convert money into crypto currency - bitcoin, ethereum, and litecoin. This black money may be used for criminal activities or invested in the dark net.

Tax haven nations British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, and others are used to converting this black money into white by using the round tripping."

ACB raids yield Rs 28 lakh more...

Continued from Page 1

Further, during the raid on Saturday, ACB officials also found proceedings (order) copies at the Tahsildar's residence. Sleuths also found Rs 8 lakh in cash in the car of the Tahsildar parked outside the guest house.

Investigations revealed that the accused had demanded and accepted bribe to clear certain issues concerning the land measuring 19 acres 39 gunta of survey number 614 and other survey numbers, said ACB officials.

During the raids on the Tahsildar's residence, sleuths also found that documents which ought to be issued from the Collector office were made at the accused's residence. And also Rs 28 lakh in cash was recovered from the Tahsildar office.

None to beat Revenue...

Continued from Page 1

KCR went on record then that archaic and obsolete Revenue Acts had inflicted immense damage to farmers and people. "We have to undo these damage. The government is engaged in preparing a new revenue Act. Let me share good news with you that in the coming Budget session of the Assembly, the new Revenue Act will be introduced," he said.

The state government, he said, believed that that good governance was possible through administrative reforms. Several existing Acts were not sufficient to offer good governance and eliminate corruption. This was the reason why the Government had enacted a New Panchayat Raj Act and a New Municipality Act. "Along with the new Revenue Act that is in the pipeline, I am sure there will be clean, tidy

villages and towns with lots of greenery.

The new Revenue Act is being prepared to offer hassle-free services to people and farmers," he had said.

It is a different matter that, around that time the official circles were concerned that the Survey & Boundaries Act, 1923, the Telangana Area Land Revenue Act 1317 F, the AP Schedule Areas Ryothwari Settlement, and the AP Mahals and Jagir Abolition Act, 1948 (adopted by the Telangana government after bifurcation) needs a relook before finalising the new Revenue Act. Besides, the government is keen on revamping the entire set-up of the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, which would be at the apex of the entire Revenue Department under the new Act.

Whatever it may be, the new Revenue Act process is still in the works.

IN BRIEF



Galwan Martyr's wife takes charge as Deputy Collector

As per the decision of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao, Santoshi, wife of late Colonel Santosh Babu, who martyred in the recent clashes on the Indo-China border, was appointed as Deputy Collector in the Revenue Department. Santoshi has submitted her joining report to the Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, IAS, as Deputy Collector at BRKR Bhavan on Saturday. It may be recalled that Santoshi, wife of Colonel Santosh Babu who was among the 20 Indian soldiers killed in the Galwan Valley clash has been appointed as Deputy Collector. According to Chief Minister's Office, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao handed over the appointment letter to Santoshi at Pragathi Bhavan.

Moderate rainfall in city

The provisional average rainfall recorded under GHMC limits from 8.30 am to 4 pm on Saturday is put at 11.4 mm. The city experienced moderate rainfall on Independence Day. The highest rainfall of 28.8 mm was recorded in Charminar under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) circle-6 (Malakpet). Close on its heel was Asifnagar mandal coming under purview of GHMC circle-12 with a rainfall of 27.3 mm. Bahadurpura, Saroonagar, Serilingampally, Khairatabad, Nampally, Asifnagar mandals received rain fall ranging between 22.5 mm and 20.0 mm. Bandlaguda mandal figured at the other end of the spectrum with the lowest rainfall of 16.5 mm. All the mandals under the GHMC limits and surrounding areas received rainfall between 19.0 mm and 16.5 mm on Saturday.





Modi delivers strong message to China, Pak

Day speech, emphasised on making the country self-reliant and announced several initiatives like national digital health mission and mass production of COVID-19 vaccine once it is approved by scientists. In his seventh consecutive address

"From LoC to LAC, anyone who casts an eye on the sovereignty of the country, the armed forces have responded in the language they understand," Modi said in his 86-minute speech at the ceremony held observing all COVID-19 protocols amid the presence of a large number of dignitaries including foreign diplomats

trally-administered Jammu and Kashmir after the ongoing delimitation exercise is over and stated that a new era of development has begun in the union territory after Article 370 was scrapped a year ago.

Dressed in his customary 'kurta pyjama' and safa, the prime minister used the occasion to put across a stern message to China and Pakistan without naming them, and asserted that India is fighting terrorism and expansionism with determination.

"From LoC (Line of Control) to LAC (Line of

Actual Control), anyone who casts an eye on the sovereignty of the country, the armed forces have responded in the language they understand," Modi said in his 86-minute speech at the ceremony held observing all COVID-19 protocols amid the presence of a large number of dignitaries including foreign diplomats.

His comments came in the midst of India's bitter border row with China along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in

Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details

"The world saw in Ladakh what our brave soldiers, the country can do for this resolve (to maintain our sovereignty). From the Red Fort, I salute all those brave soldiers who have staked their lives for the motherland," Modi added.

On foreign policy issues, Modi said that today neighbours are not only those with whom India shares its geographical boundaries but also those with whom "our hearts meet". He said that India was making all efforts to deepen ties with all countries in the extended neighbourhood.

Making a mention of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ram temple in Ayodhya 10 days back, Modi said the centuries-old issue has been resolved peacefully.

NEP will play important role in making India self-reliant: Modi

Education has a crucial role to play in making India self-reliant and prosperous and the new National Education Policy has been introduced with this objective, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Addressing the nation on India's 74th Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime minister said the NEP seeks to strengthen research and innovation in the country to help it progress in a competitive world. "Education has an important

role to play in making India self-reliant, happy and prosperous. With this objective, we have been able to give the country a new education policy after over three decades," Modi said.

"This will shape the India of the 21st century. We will soon have citizens who shape a new India, ones who are global citizens but know and understand their roots. The new education policy also focuses on research and development to make India a key research and development destination for the world," he said. "The policy lays



special emphasis on the National Research Foundation because innovation is important for the country's progress. Only when we strengthen innovation and research will our country remain competitive and move ahead. The more innovation is strengthened in the country the more progress it will make in a competitive world," he added.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday delivered a strong message to China and Pakistan against challenging India's sovereignty in his Independence

Special campaign to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that a special campaign was being worked out to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities of the country.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's 74th Independence Day, Modi referred to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which was launched in 2019, said the campaign will be with a "holistic approach".

"A special campaign with a holistic approach is also being worked out to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities of the country," he said. The NCAP was launched by the MOEFCC on January 10 last year as a time-bound national-level strategy to address the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.

In its endeavour to implement the NCAP, the Centre had also constituted a steering



committee in April last year which comprises chief secretaries of over 20 states and union territories, including Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, as its members.

A spokesperson from the environment ministry said there was no new programme on air pollution but the Prime Minister was referring to the NCAP launched last year.

All villages to be connected with optical fibre in 1000 days

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that the project to connect India's over six lakh villages with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days. Besides, a high speed internet connectivity via submarine optical fibre cable will be extended to Lakshadweep in this period, he said.

He pointed out that only five dozen panchayats in the country were connected with optical fibre cable by 2014, the year his government came to power for the first time. In the last five years, 1.5 lakh village panchayats have been connected with optical fibre cable, Modi said.

He also announced that a new policy on cyber security will be unveiled shortly, saying the nation's dependence on the cyber world has increased in the changed circumstances, an apparent reference to the upheavals



brought in by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that this has spawned its own dangers to development and economy. He said the country is witnessing expansion of roads and internet at unprecedented and rapid speed, from the peaks of Himalayas to islands in the Indian Ocean. "In the next 1,000 days, all villages in the country will be connected with optical fibre," he said, adding Lakshadweep too would be connected with submarine optical fibre cable within this period.

Modi's speech inspirational, reflects resolve for self-reliant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech as "inspiring", BJP leaders on Saturday said it reflected his resolve to build an all-inclusive and stronger self-reliant India. In his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime minister said the call for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' has captured the imagination of the people and become a "mantra" for everyone.

"A very spirited and inspiring speech by PM Narendra Modi ji on the 74th Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort. PM Modi ji's speech reflects his vision, mission and resolve to

build an all-inclusive and stronger Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said BJP president J P Nadda, who posted a series of tweets.

Echoing similar sentiments, former BJP president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed the speech exemplary and said "it clearly reflects his unwavering commitment and resolve towards a strong and self-reliant India".

"Today, on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address reinforces the resolve of a self-reliant India. There may be challenges in this resolution, but there is the ability to solve all the problems within this country," senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a tweet in Hindi.



DRDO-developed anti-drone system deployed near Red Fort

By 2022, India must be aatmanirbhar in every sense of the word: Vice-Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On this Independence Day, every Indian, especially the youth, must resolve to be at the forefront to fight attempts by forces that try to create dissensions among the people, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday.

In a Facebook post to mark the 74th Independence Day, he said for India to achieve new heights of development and prosperity, every citizen, including people in public life, must perform their duty.

"As we approach the 75th anniversary of Independence, it is time for an objective introspection. At this juncture, we



must ask ourselves what we aspire to achieve as a nation by 2022," Naidu observed.

"By 2022, India must be aatmanirbhar (self-reliant) in every sense of the word. We all must work with renewed vigour and determination to

eradicate poverty, end social and gender discrimination and eliminate corruption," he said.

The vice president said India needs a cultural renaissance and a refreshing flowering of literature and artistic expression in its national languages.

"As the country moves forward with renewed determination and the tremendous energy of 130 crore people to transform and build a 'new India', we are confident of regaining our past glory and becoming an ideal parliamentary democracy," he said.

"On this Independence Day, let us also remember with gratitude the countless men and women whose sacrifices brought us freedom. We must always be grateful to them for their selfless efforts -- the fruits of which are being reaped by us now as citizens of a sovereign and vibrant parliamentary democracy," Naidu said.

Shah unfurls tricolour at home; extends Independence day greetings to countrymen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah extended his greetings to the countrymen on the occasion of Independence Day on Saturday and said the dream of the freedom fighters of an independent, strong and self-sufficient India has been realised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

After unfurling the national flag at his residence here, Shah said on one hand, the Modi government has provided the poor and deprived sections of the society with housing, power and health insurance, while on the other hand, India has emerged as a powerful nation.

"Today we are very proud



that the independent, strong and self-sufficient India our freedom fighters dreamt of, has been realised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said in a tweet.

The home minister said on the occasion of Independence Day, he bows before those

who contributed to the country's freedom with their valour and sacrifice. He also paid respects to those brave men and women, who made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of India's unity, integrity and security.

"On this Independence Day, come, let us pledge to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and contribute to India achieving newer feats by adopting as much 'Make in India' products. Happy Independence Day," he said.

On Friday, Shah was released from a hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for the coronavirus. Currently, he is in home isolation.

Pranab continues to be on ventilator support: Hospital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The condition of former president Pranab Mukherjee remained unchanged on Saturday and he continued to be on ventilator support, doctors attending on him said. They said his vital and clinical parameters are stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists. He was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral Hospital, he was operated upon for the removal of a clot in the brain. He had also tested positive for COVID-19. "The condition of Pranab Mukherjee vital and clinical parameters remain stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.

Nepal PM calls up Modi to greet India on Independence Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli held a telephonic conversation on Saturday during which the two leaders expressed "mutual solidarity" amid efforts being made to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the two countries.

Oli called up the Indian prime minister to greet his government and the people of India on the country's 74th Independence Day, and also offered congratulations on its recent election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, an official statement said.

Modi offered India's continued support to Nepal in its fight against the pandemic and recalled the civilisational and cultural links that the two countries share, it said.

"The leaders expressed mutu-



al solidarity in the context of the efforts being made to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in both countries. Prime minister offered India's continued support to Nepal in this regard," the statement said.

Modi also thanked Oli for telephone call.

The talk between the two leaders comes amid a strain in ties after the Himalayan nation came up with a new political map in May, claiming some territories that belong to India.

Why are people sitting in power scared of naming China, asks Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday asked why those sitting in power are scared of naming China which has entered Indian territory, and said every Congress worker and every Indian is proud of the armed forces.

Talking to reporters after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also said all Indians should ask the government this Independence Day what it was doing to protect the country and push China back.

In his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime minister said India's soldiers had given a fitting reply to those who had challenged the country's sovereignty, from 'LoC to LAC'. Modi, who did not name China, added that the whole country is united in protecting the sovereignty of the country.

"Each and every Congress worker and all 130 crore Indians



are proud of our armed forces and have full faith in them. We salute the armed forces for giving China an apt reply every time there has been an attack. But what about those who are sitting in power. Why are they scared of mentioning China's name?" Surjewala asked.

"At a time when China has entered Indian territory, every Indian needs to ask the government what it is doing to push China back and protect the country. On this Independence Day they should ask this. That is the true sense of democra-

cy," the Congress leader added. He said it is important to question the government on whether it believes in the mandate of the people and if there is freedom to speak freely in the country.

"Does our government believe in democracy? Does our government believe in public opinion. Do we have the freedom to speak, think, to travel, to wear what we like, to earn our livelihood or has that been curbed," Surjewala said.

The foundation of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-

"At a time when China has entered Indian territory, every Indian needs to ask the government what it is doing to push China back and protect the country. On this Independence Day they should ask this. That is the true sense of democracy," the Congress leader added

reliant India), he said, was laid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and our freedom fighters.

"But a government which is selling public sector undertakings, handing over railways and airports to private players and attacking everything from LIC to FCI, will that government be able to keep the freedom of this country safe. It is the duty of the government and every citizen to keep the freedom of the country safe," he added.

Punjab CM says prepared to handle threat from Pak, China

PNS ■ MOHALI

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday called for readiness to combat the border threat from Pakistan and China.

With tensions at the borders continuing, India will have to be prepared to deal with any eventuality, said the CM in his Independence Day address here. Warning of a continued threat from neighbouring countries, Singh said Punjab will always be at the forefront of fighting the enemy at the borders.

While Pakistan continued to resort to firing every day, China, on the other hand, talks about friendship but remains a danger to the nation, said Singh while recalling the recent attack on Indian soldiers by the Chinese forces in Ladakh.

India has always given Pakistan a befitting response,

which is the only way to deal with them, he said, adding that China also needs to be handled with the same iron hand.

On this occasion, the CM also recalled the contributions of the millions of Indians to the freedom struggle and said Punjabis had always been at the forefront of every battle.

The Cellular Jail referred to as 'Kala Pani' (in Andaman and Nicobar Islands) have the names of tens of hundreds of Punjabis etched in immortality, he said according to an official release.

Even though the Independence Day celebrations this year were a low-key affair due to the coronavirus pandemic, this was the time to remember the sacrifices of all those who had made freedom possible, said the CM.

It was also the time to salute the defence forces guarding the nation's borders from the enemy, he added.



When death is work

Their work is anything but ordinary, ensuring that man is sent on his final journey with dignity and respect. But COVID-19 changed all this and while the rest of the world is scared of this virus, these men continue to work for long hours risking themselves. SHALINI SAKSENA catches up with some of the warriors who face death every day



Mohammad Shamim and his co-worker prepare to lower the body at the Jadid Qabrastan Ahle Islam, ITO as family members wearing PPE kits look on; Pappu and Harendra incinerate a COVID-19 body at the electronic crematorium at Nigambodh Ghat, New Delhi

Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Staring at mortality everyday

Fear is a state of mind that can be overcome, say the two staffers Harendra and Pappu at the Nigambodh electric crematorium in New Delhi. For the duo, while the last four months have been tough given the risk they take every day when it comes to handling the bodies of the COVID-19 patients that come to the *ghat* but the dead need a proper send off even if the bags in which they come wrapped in can't be opened as per the Government guidelines.

"How will we do our work if we get scared and fear the virus? We stare at death all the time. Yes, the Coronavirus has put fear in the minds of the people but not in mine. I was a bit apprehensive but then I had to move past that fast. I got rid of it by burning it with the COVID-19 bodies. The dead coming to the ghat needed a proper send-off. How would that have got that if we shirked our work or decided not to do it?" 55-year-old Harendra asks who hails from Balia, in Uttar Pradesh.

He had come to the Capital in 1990 on the behest of his father-in-law with a promise of a job. For many years he worked making calendars with God and Goddess. But the work took toll on his health and decided to work elsewhere. This is when his brother-in-law told him about working at the crematorium.

"I took this job because it was safer. At the calendar making, I was ending up inhaling fumes and it affected my health. I have two sons and had to think about them decided to work elsewhere. That is how I ended up here. I like this job. Yes, some people give us strange looks and think that what we do is weird, but each person on earth has been chosen to do certain kind of work. This is what I have been chosen to do," Harendra says who stays with his family in Rohini and commutes on his bike.

He gets ₹16,000 as salary. "Besides this, sometimes people give us ₹100 or ₹200. But sometimes, there are people who are so poor that they can't afford a proper cremation for their loved one. In

INITIALLY, I WAS SCARED. I HAVE A MOTHER, WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM IF I TEST POSITIVE OR IF THEY DO? BUT NOW, WE HAVE LEARNT TO LIVE WITH THE VIRUS AND THE FEAR. I HAVE DONE THE SAME — PAPPU



Pappu and Harendra

that case, a few of us at the crematorium pitch and do the needful. Just because a person is poor doesn't mean that their dead need to be discarded," Harendra tells you.

For a long time, the duo continued to work without PPE kits. "We protected ourselves with what we had — a mask. There are some days when we end up with no PPEs. But I don't let that scare. I am doing God's work and I believe that He will protect me. Death is the only thing that is certain when we are born. Why should one fear it? We are born, we will all die. That is the truth," Harendra says.

For thirty-nine-year-old Pappu, fear was very real. "I was scared and didn't want to touch the COVID-19 bodies that came initially. The scare was what if I spread the disease to my family. I have a mother, wife and three small children. What will happen to them if I test positive or if they test posi-

tive? But humans are resilient. We have learnt to live with the virus and the fear that comes with it. I have done the same," Pappu says who is paid ₹12,000 as salary.

There is a silver lining that involves his work, he says. Last week he had got to know that his name had been nominated for an honour for this service during the lockdown period. However, he tells you that he has not got any letter stating the same. "It is good enough for me to know at least my name was nominated," he says, who has kept soap and an antiseptic solution at the ghat. I take a bath here before I leave for home. Once I reach home, I take a bath once again," Pappu says.

"Yes, the work that I do is risky, but how many people are honoured for their work by the President himself? I am lucky that I have been chosen for this honour," Pappu says.

'I had to quarantine myself to protect my family'

He used to drive a taxi in the Capital. However, a few years back, he had to take a tough call when his father who used to be the caretaker at the Jadid Qabrastan Ahle Islam in ITO, could no longer carry out his duties due to old age — whether he wanted to step into his father's shoes. Meet Mohammad Shamim, the present caretaker who has till now buried over 550 people in the 50-acres of the graveyard since the outbreak of COVID-19.

His wife was not happy with his decision and did try to persuade him otherwise given that they have four school-going daughters. But Shamim was adamant. "I just felt that this was the right thing to do. We are third generation caretakers. Mere dada karte the, phir mere valid aur ab main. When my father became too old to do the work himself I had a choice. But I felt it was my calling. Not everyone gets the opportunity to ensure that man on his final journey is sent with dignity and respect that he deserves. I like the work that I do. It brings me peace. Every person deserves a send-off; I am just glad that I have been chosen to do so," Shamim says.

He tells you that the *qabrastan* where he works belongs to a private committee and he is paid ₹100 for each body that he helps bury. But for the COVID-19 bodies, he is paid ₹1000 per day. Though the amount is not much, he says but he gets by since there is other work that he does at the graveyard.

While his committee doesn't provide PPE kits, it was much later that some journalists, some hospitals and even actor Vidya Balan after coming to know that Shamim was burying the dead with no PPE kit provided him with the necessary cover. But he tells you that it is not easy to wear the kit from 9 am in the morning till late evening.

"The doctors and staff working in the hospital have better, they work in an air-conditioned environment. My work entails me to be out the whole day in the blazing sun. It is not easy to wear the kit, the two masks, gloves and a face shield and that too with dignity and respect for the dead. I did what I had to do for my family and did my work. I ensured that the grave was dug to specification of three feet. I ensured that the body was lowered according to the specifications; I would then place a stone on the body and then the soil to finally cover the grave properly. Sometimes, there are people who don't want to touch the body and don't know what to do. In that case, I do the work for



Mohammad Shamim

them while the *maulvi* reads the," the 38-year old says.

For the COVID-19 bodies, he tells you there is a different protocol altogether. One can't remove the bag in which they come in, nor can one clothe them or wash them before burying. "In such a scenario, we have to ensure that the other rituals are followed to a T," Shamim tells you.

Though, it has been tough going but now that the deaths have reduced, he is thankful to God for his mercy. But he is unhappy with the way the administration has treated him. "We are a private committee. When I was told that I would be getting bodies from Government hospital, I told them I needed extra benefit. But they declined and said it was the Government's decision. The least they could have done was provide us with health insurance. But no, there is nothing for us. Here we are risking our lives; we are warriors too. Has anyone besides a half a dozen people done anything for those who are giving the dead their due? No. But it will not stop me from doing my work. Now, I just pray to God that I never get to see what I have seen in the last four months ever in my life again," Shamim says.

Risky & tough, but work has to be done

While many of us are still staying indoors in order to protect ourselves from the pandemic that has claimed 6.98 lakh lives globally, there are some people who are putting their lives and their families at risk as they ferry COVID-19 patients to hospitals or the dead from the mortuary to the cremation grounds or graveyards. Mohammad Shamim, Harendra and Pappu are not the only ones who are putting their lives at risk.

Abhishek Sharma and his driver partner Anmol Sharma, the two ambulance and hearse drivers have been working for long hours as well.

Abhishek who has been driving the

ambulance for the last two years tells you that unlike those working at the crematoriums and graveyards, who didn't have PPEs to begin with, they had it a bit better and were provided the kits by their employers.

"There was no way that we would have been able to do our job properly and not succumb to the virus if we were not wearing the PPEs. Our employer, Rana Ambulance Services, gives this to us. The only problem is that we have to wear it from the time our duty starts till it ends. Sometimes, we get a breather for an hour or so, and we take it off," Abhishek says.

Like Shamim, he too, has quarantined himself from his family. I have a one-year-old



Deepak and Abhishek Sharma

can't risk my family. Once I am home, I retire into one room, away from my family. I don't want to give up my job even though their risks involved. It gives me a sense of pride that I am doing what others may consider too risky. For this I am willing to pay price — staying away from my baby and my friends keeping their distance due to the nature of my work — is a very small price that I am willing to pay," the 27-year-old who gets ₹15,000 as salary tells you.

His work, he tells you depends on the calls he gets from his employer who has tied-up with various hospitals in Delhi-NCR. "Sometimes, we drive the ambulance, sometimes the hearse. It also, depends on

our duty and shift. Our partners keep changing. Most days it is Anmol, Deepak and me. Sometimes, the duty changes," the Class XII pass out says.

Anmol Sharma, a Class XII pass out as well, came to know about this job from a friend who is also an ambulance driver and liked the job profile and applied for the same. He has now been with the company for a year-and-a-half. While, he has not quarantined himself, he ensures that he takes bath before he meets anyone. He even washes his clothes himself.

"I don't want anyone in my family to wash my clothes. What if I was carrying the virus? I drive COVID-19 positive people and

dead bodies of people with the disease. I like my job and don't want to give it up. But that doesn't mean that I won't protect my family, Sharma says.

Unlike Abhishek, his friends have not given up on him and don't have a problem with the work that he does. "My friends and family are fine with my job. They probably feel and think the way I do. This work brings me a sense of peace and joy. I like doing what I do. Yes, the work is tough and there are risks involved. But somebody has to get it done. Imagine what will happen if we refuse to do what we do? What will the families of the dead or the patients do?," Sharma asks. "This is where I come in," he says.





THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE SAINT AND THE SINNER IS
THAT EVERY SAINT HAS A PAST,
AND EVERY SINNER HAS A FUTURE
— OSCAR WILDE

tarot 8

Hyderabad, August 16, 2020



YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD



MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week your stamina and energy will be good. However, if you do face health challenges, then, follow a naturopathic or a homeopathic approach in your health regime. Childbirth for those who are due is on the cards. On the work front, things may not happen as per your expectations. If you are not happy with your job or are facing problems at work, know that there is a lot that you can do to improve your current environment. For one, try to adopt a positive mindset before making any decision. Others may oppose you, but that should not deter you from moving forward, as you have choices available. It's a loving time for you in your relationship. You and your partner will connect well.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You might face some health challenges. Worrying unnecessarily is not going to help. Even in the face of serious problems, you need to hold your ground. A positive attitude will give you the motivation to do the right thing for your health. If the situation requires you to take medical tests, then go out and get them done from a trusted practitioner. Money is likely to come your way. Some of you may get surprised with an increase in your current pay or getting a promotion. This may be due to all the hard work you have put in, winning over all the challenges faced and accomplishing your goals. It's love for you this week. Positive emotional energy will be created between you and your partner, which will leave you feeling good about yourself and life in general.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

On the health front, the period has negatives in store for you. Those suffering from heart ailments and Blood Pressure may experience a major upheaval in health, which will shake you up. This has the potential to affect you spiritually, mentally and physically. So pay attention to what you are doing for your body. Stay positive and calm about the situation. Stress and anxiety with something relating to work are likely to affect you now. You tend to fear about the outcome of your career in the future. Crisis of employment, finances could be faced by some of you. Stay as adaptable and flexible to deal with it. This may be an emotional time in your relationship. Things are not what they appear to be. Take a break if you need it. Treat your partner as your friend.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will be required to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. You are moving into a phase wherein you need to be patient and alert as you need to juggle between all aspects of your life. Be sure you are taking time out for your healing and relaxation. This is a very promising time for you in your career. Your mental abilities and intelligence is your great strength. You will finally be acknowledged for your efforts by others and be successful in achieving your goals. The success will instil immense confidence in your abilities. Ensure that you don't become arrogant due to this. The great time of love and solidarity is on the cards. Your relationship will strengthen more and some of you are likely to get into a stage of future commitment.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

An increase in your health and vitality is seen. Those dealing with serious illness, a new and improved healing modality will come into your life. You are generous and have concern for others, but don't compromise on the health front. Nourish your body and mind. This is a good time to gather information on nutrition and exercise. Challenges and opposition might be faced this week, especially on the financial front. If you are not keeping track of your finances, and expenditures, it is likely that your budget may cross the limit. This is a time when you will feel that your long-term committed relationship has come a full circle. As a result, there is a sense of closure and fulfilment of what you desired. More love and gratitude will keep your good fortune going.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

On the health front, you need to pay close attention to your emotions. There are chances that you are not at best when dealing with challenges. If you have found out that you have an ailment or are just awaiting test results then, instead of becoming negative get help by talking to someone. There may be information that you don't know about. On the work front, some of you have accomplished a lot of your goals and have attained great material wealth in the process. You may be financially stable at the moment. Some of you may have a hard time at your workplace. This may be due to your inflexible attitude wherein you are resistant to change your way of working. In your relationships, you should be clear about what you want and what your hopes and dreams are.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your health is good this week. You are in a stronger position now and can control what happens around you. Any efforts that you put towards the improvement of your health right now will bear fruit. The only thing that you need to be careful about is to attempt to try alternative ways to treat and deal with health challenges, if any. You need to pull up your sleeves on the career front. Some of you are going to experience a new beginning. Those looking for employment will be hired into a new position, which will test yours. Be on your toes and keep working hard. This can be a period of chaos and uncertainty in terms of a relationship. Believe in making a solid foundation, whether it is love or marital life.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

When it comes to health, patience is the key. The expensive tests and diagnose system that have to undertake may cause a big hole in the pocket. If your health has been out of balance, then you need to act with greater foresight and wisdom. If you are awaiting test results, don't jump to conclusions and panic. Wait it out with courage. On the career front, a raise in your pay or a better position may come to you at this time. Some of you also feel a sense of accomplishment as you have been able to attain your goals after setbacks. You may find that others look up to you for guidance even before you are called upon to head a project or oversee a particular activity. If you are committed, you will move to the next level.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your vitality is quite strong. This is an excellent time to make changes in your fitness plan as you will make more progress than imagined. You need to take care of channelling this energy in the right manner. Acting on an impulse of any sort may create health problems for you. Professionally, you are filled with analytical energies, how you speak your mind and conduct yourself is important at your workplace. You may find yourself in conflict and disagreeing with others. Choose your battles wisely rather than picking upon every disagreement. Don't let any emotional hurt of the past affect your relationship with your beloved. Know that there is a lot of love in your life and you must appreciate it otherwise it will slip away.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You need to keep your balance in every way. Those facing health challenges, know that things will get better. You are in a strong and stable frame of mind, wherein you know what you should do at this time. You may be faced with a dilemma or a situation at your workplace which requires immediate action or decision. It may be of importance and many options are available to you. However, you should analyse all the available information first before you finally come to a conclusion. Emotional as you are, you are filled with forceful energy which some people find abrasive. Beware the impulse to be too forceful. Your mother or a mother-like figure may interfere in your relationship, whether she means to or not.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

If you feel that something is amiss with your body, then you need to pay attention to your concerns. This is not the time to panic and to feel that you can't do anything about it. Trust your intuition and look for other ways for help. Take care of yourself with proper diet, rest and exercise. On the career front, the end of one thing to begin with new is indicated. Things may not be going as per your expectations at this time. Some of you may have faced or are facing challenges with something related to your work. You need to take a breather from the chaos around you because challenges will return as soon as you are ready to face them. This is a phase wherein you have an opportunity to improve your relationship with your partner.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

On the health front, your efforts are likely to bear fruit. You are in a position to control what happens around you. Another plus point is that you can take a long term view of things and look into the future. This will not only help you to improve your present health situation but also lay a strong foundation for it to be robust in the future as well. What you do at your workplace has consequences. You might be faced with a dilemma and a decision to make. Try to behave as reasonable as you can and consider what others want before you make a choice. It is a time of change on the relationship front. If you are committed and are experiencing problems with your partner then have an honest discussion so that each of you can work on changing certain aspects to keep it going.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Change for a better future

The world is subject to continued change. Every moment, energy dynamics of the cosmos keeps varying widely, and with related bearing on life cycle on earth. The callings of every moment, thus, keeps changing. We are witness to continued change in the societal dynamics, confronting us with fresh challenges, also unfolding fresh opportunities. Accordingly, we need to keep pace with the ongoing change — intelligently combat the challenges and try to grab opportunities arising. Otherwise, we may be left behind in the run of time. The irony, however, is that ordinarily, we remain fixated to our dream perceptions, habits and attitudes. So, we try to resist change, carrying assumed fear of its future ramifications.

We also need to be conscious about changing ourselves at individual level. For, we are born with an inherent urge to evolve, expand our vision in order to visualise things in the right perspective. Accordingly, articulate ways and means to work towards a better tomorrow. This, however, would not be forthcoming unless we identify and acknowledge our individualistic limitations — mental and emotional, habits and attitudes — and

address them through fresh educative inputs. Also identify our indwelling potential, hone it and then make the most out of it.

Many a times, we remain unaware of our inlaid potential, and so it remains untapped. A couple of years back a young lad came seeking guidance on his career prospects. He was advised to take up media related work as his strength point was communicative abilities and flair for language. He immediately retorted: "Sir, you have read me wrong. My language skill is not good and I wish to go for a managerial assignment. So, I am trying to get into a business school to acquire the necessary skill set required." I could make out that his preconditioned mind is not able to digest my advice. I then suggested: "Well, it is your prerogative what profession to opt for. But in any discipline, you will need language skill to conduct well. Together with your preparations for next entrance test for admission into a business school, why not work on your language skills also." That got registered in his mind. He immediately joined a media organisation as an intern, with the intent to improve his language skill. Within three months, the young man realised



that he could write well, and soon after got into journalism.

A couple of years back, a gentleman in his early forties came seeking guidance on two issues: "Sir, my domestic atmosphere is not good. Suggest me some *pujas* so that our family life improves. What is my growth potential in the present job?"

In so far as your wish to improve domestic atmosphere is concerned, you need to work upon your attitude, playing spoil sport with you so far. *Pujas* conducted by pundits can't bring about any change. "Is it possible to change my inborn nature?" He asked. "Remember, human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. Your discriminatory ability helps you identify and acknowledge inherent infirmities. Following which, you can make a conscientious choice to bring about the desired change through fresh educative inputs." I responded.

About your career prospect, I see a change coming around 2019-20 under unforeseen circumstances. Better be on the lookout for alternative options available so that you land up in the right place. Otherwise, you may have to leave your job in a state of desperation. He again countered: "I am very comfortable

in my present organisation. My seniors appreciate my work, and I have been growing. Why should I think of moving away from such a comfortable work atmosphere?" "Well, time ahead will prove. The problem with you is your stubbornness and the wish to live on own exclusive terms. But the world doesn't always move to anybody's asking." I responded. No wonder, during the ongoing pandemic, his company became bankrupt, and he is without job. Having thus been proven right, he has again sought guidance.

Let us now look at the man's astrological pointers to his personality trends. Both the luminaries the Sun and Moon are in fixed signs making him stubborn. Mars in the 4th house conjunct Moon makes him irritable, in fact, 'My way or high way' is his attitude. Mercury placed adverse to Neptune holds the key to his insensible judgment. The result is there to see. The man's indwelling potential too is immense. It is still not late to address his inherent infirmities. Following which, his life may turn into a pleasant experience.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Meditative stillness

As is the case with all authentic forms of spiritual self-work, self-introspection is at the heart of meditative stillness

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Delectable FoodScapes

Get familiar with South Africa's indigenous cuisine

I think today women are very scared to celebrate themselves, because then they just get labeled
— Charlize Theron



The COVID-19 pandemic has completely transformed how businesses carry out their day-to-day tasks, writes DINESH SHARMA, as he explains how digital transformation in corporate firms can support the work culture and team collaboration during this period



DIGITAL

BE THE WAY FORWARD

The whole world celebrated 2020 with a bang and everyone had exciting plans for their personal and professional endeavour. Came March 2020, Covid-19 changed life for everyone starting with a sudden complete lockdown forcing everyone stay at home but ensuring that they work from home and deliver the best despite pandemic and challenges of operating from home.

While every business had a “so called” Business Continuity or Disaster Recovery plan in place but Covid-19 lockdown was the father of all. A situation never happened, never thought about in 100 years. Everyone was sitting at home trying to figure out how to maintain sanity of working while at home connecting with colleagues, vendors, suppliers, employees, manager etc.

WHAT IS DIGITISATION

In the current pandemic scenario, it means every business process of an organisation requires immediate conversion to digital mode to stay in business. Say for example, if banking transaction were done through visiting banks, in Covid-19 situation banking transactions needs to be done using net-banking. Or if the business was preparing invoices physically and sending it by courier to clients, during covid lockdown all invoices required to be prepared using digital solution, digital signature and sending it through emails. Take another example, if business meetings with clients, vendors, internal team which were happening physically, come pandemic, physical meetings are no more an option, so use of digital meeting options is only way out.

HOW TO GO ABOUT DIGITISATION

That's an interesting topic. Struggling with lockdown, the CEO gives target to all business heads and CIO to digitise everything. That can be really disastrous. I would also like to caution here that digitisation has to be done in very systematic and gradual way. It is just not possible to digitise everything by approving a financial budget and giving mandate to all functions. Many companies burn their fingers losing lot of money, efforts and drive due to failed digitisation attempts. One must start with non-critical processes, function and implementation also to be done only for one or two division to start with instead of going across. Companies also make the mistake of building software in-house. Now, that's a terrible mistake. Now-a-days there are many good Enterprise Product SaaS companies having products very much in line of specific business need which comes at almost at 5% of cost of building in-house. In addition, Enterprise Product companies are very focussed and come with best practices, innovative solutions, state-of-art technology, seamless product support and feature upgrades which is not possible for in building in-house or making tailor made product. It's important to be very careful while selecting technology partner so one can do a reference check from existing client and ensure security certification (like ISO). It definitely helps in building trust.

While it is always good to subscribe to readily available SaaS solutions in the market, however, just to test the waters, there are free tools available for basic digital solutions which allow users to get a feel of the solution and whether it would really solve the problem. Many a times, a lot of businesses purchase a technology solution or build solutions, however, they end up not using the solution



THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF DIGITISATION HAS TO BE IMBIBED INTO THE DNA OF THE ORGANISATION AND SHOULD BE EMBRACED ACROSS. IF SENIOR MANAGEMENT DOES NOT GET ACCUSTOMED TO DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND EXPECTS THE WHOLE ORGANISATION TO ADOPT DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO PERFORM OFFICE WORK, IT WILL BE HIGHLY INEFFICIENT AND INEFFECTIVE



either due to the choice of wrong partner, not been able to spend enough time in scoping the technology solution or clear intent issue which means resistance to change.

WHY TECHNOLOGY FAILS

Some businesses use technology firms to build customised solutions like Invoicing Solution, CRM Solutions, Contract Management Solution which comes with its own perils like you end up spending 20 times money and ultimately realising the product which got build has taken into consideration an idealistic scenario with advance level of digitisation. Life does not really move that way. It is critical that a strategic initiative group should be formed for digitisation purposes with clear agenda, roadmap and responsibilities fixed. At times it happens that Strategy and Innovation along with CIO decides on one technology for a business function which do not take into account real life situation resulting in complete waste of money spent.

MANAGING STAKEHOLDERS INTERNALLY

Digitisation & Technology deployment in business can not be done by one person. Taking all stakeholders on-board and ensuring the product meets expectation makes a lot of difference. In any business, normally CIO, CFO, Business Head and Strategy & Innovation Head are relevant stakeholders for a high level decision making process. Once the business decides to go for technology solution, the real stakeholders are business users, technology team to ensure that the product is in line with business expectation and it gets installed within the organisation without any major change management. The whole process has to be coordinated and require acceptance from all stakeholder.

Another important thing is digitisation should also be done based on level of readiness. Say for example, if you plan for digitisation of invoicing function, it's ideal and simple to remove print, sign and despatch steps. So you can make invoice as per normal process, use any of digital signing functionality using Digital Signature (Dongle) or Aadhar Sign feature to sign and email the Invoice from your official email ID. This is very basic process but will help the organisation reduce at least five days of time and cost of despatch and invoice printing to zero and improve collection time.

GLOBAL TRENDS

Globally, digitisation and using technology solution has been a way of life. For example, while in India many businesses still do not use technology for invoicing, contract management, CRM and business operations work-flow, in countries like US, UK, Europe and Australia, the level of digitisation has been very high. The reason for this is high cost labour, availability of

skilled labour, value for technology and long term business vision. Globally, businesses go for ready SaaS products for CRM, Contract Management Software, HRM Software and ERP unless the business is fairly big and has complex processes, which require specialised technology solution. Even for those companies, they first start with basic level of technology solution and gradually move to moderate and advance level automation.

COVID PANDEMIC ACCELERATED THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

The COVID-19 pandemic has completely transformed how businesses carry out their day-to-day tasks. Every aspect of business is getting digitised and digital channels have become the sole media of communication for some. Every business was seemingly forced to accelerate itself as the digital strategy was still a part of the corporate world that had the potential to become a primary in the future. Businesses that were already thriving seemed to have seamlessly converted their channels of communication online after a point of time, yet most businesses are still struggling to keep up with the pace. Digital workplace has become the new normal.

This digital transformation in the coronal era caused businesses in almost all industries to leap over several hurdles in a short time. It demanded business owners familiarise themselves with the digital world as quickly as possible and forced them and their employees to learn new skills on an alien medium. This ongoing process has led to several changes in the work culture and team collaboration of businesses.

QUICK DIGITISATION FOR MAXIMUM INSTANT GAINS

It is important for businesses to make sure that the working of the business can continue smoothly. So certain ready solution which are useful for key business function and easy to deploy can work really wonders. For example, board meeting management software having video-conference facility in-built, provide several benefits to the company and help it to flawlessly communicating amongst one another. Using these services could prove useful to companies in these uncertain times and can also allow people to support other upcoming businesses. Same solution can be used to conduct senior management meeting or collaborative meeting with stakeholders from multiple businesses across geographies. These solutions can be customised according to the company's specific needs, which can further improve the efficiency of the business.

Similarly, concerning the issue of physical documents and digital documents, digitising the paperwork is unavoidable. Replacing physical documents has been an issue for a while now,

however, this is the perfect time for companies to shift to electronic documents. Using digital documents also help reduce the spread of covid and ensure a safer working environment.

To improve efficiency in this aspect as well, companies can use solutions such as Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM) as they can be customised to fit the business and can greatly improve the working of the business by alerting the business for any risks in the contract. A CLM software allows an organisation to manage all its contracts on cloud and easily communicate with all its stakeholders in one place. Such software are not only necessary in this coronal era, but can improve productivity and profitability of a business.

Digitisation of businesses has significant positive outcomes for businesses. Digital businesses empower employees through transparency, learning opportunities, and open communication. If the communication channels are well organised and are familiarised with the workforce, it can allow everyone involved in the company to be informed about the decision with just one click.

Unlike the usage of emails as we did pre-corona, a communication channel allow information to be without any disruption. Employees can be anywhere in terms of location but they can collaborate and discuss using meeting tools like Zoom, Microsoft Team or Google Meet. The concept of office is slowly fading away. The cost elements have changed and spending is more into digital assets like software solution for business function, cloud storage, cyber security, data protection insurance cost is being replaced for earlier cost elements such as infrastructure costs, rental, office maintenance cost, travel cost etc.

Usage of the previously mentioned services involving board meeting management can also ensure that all members are kept up to date with the workings of the business. Moreover, to replace the informal interactions that took place in the workplace, workers can virtually talk in the middle of meetings to discuss their achievements and how they have been adjusting to the world after the pandemic. Since they are not in the physical workplace, they can also take breaks to interact with their family, which could ease their mental stress in between meetings.

The whole concept of digitisation has to be imbibed into the DNA of the organisation and should be embraced across. If senior management does not get accustomed to digital platforms and expects the whole organisation to adopt digital platforms to perform office work, it will be highly inefficient and ineffective. If businesses are successfully able to implement these changes and utilise this digital transformation, it can help them improve team collaboration and support the work culture.

The writer is CEO & Founder, Volody



Forget Chai, it's monsoon

cocktail hours



With Unlock 3.0 gaining momentum, gatherings with friends and socialising in limited numbers is a welcome relief. After months of sheltering, keep spirits high with these refreshing cocktails to top the list of hosts amongst your crew.

Lime Mojito



WHAT YOU NEED:

- 1 Parts Absolut Lime
- Lime Juice
- Simple Syrup
- Soda Water
- 1 Mint Leaf
- 1 Wedge Lime
- Crushed Ice

HOW TO MIX

- Fill a highball glass with crushed ice. Add Absolut Lime, lime juice and simple syrup. Muddle. Top up with soda water.
- Garnish with a mint leaf and a lime wedge.

Jameson Spicy Hot Toddy



WHAT YOU NEED:

- 1 part Jameson Irish Whiskey
- 3 parts water
- 0.25 parts Honey
- 0.5 parts Lemon
- 0.5 parts Sriracha
- Ginger, sliced

HOW TO MIX

- Add water, honey, sriracha, and sliced ginger pieces to a small saucepan and bring to a low simmer and stir to combine. Let simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add Jameson and lemon juice and simmer for an additional 3 minutes. Pour into mugs and add a lemon slice and garnish with a thin ginger slice.

Monkey 47 Gin Julep



WHAT YOU NEED:

- 5 cl Monkey 47 Schwarzwald Dry Gin
- 1 cl simple syrup
- 5 mint leaves

HOW TO MIX

- Muddle all ingredients, shake it with ice cubes and double-strain into a silver mug filled with crushed ice.
- Garnish it with a mint leave.

DELECTABLE FOODSCAPES:

GET FAMILIAR WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S INDIGENOUS CUISINE



Food is invariably a universal connector — however, experiencing and sharing-in the food of a different land is a very personal experience.

As early merchants and travellers navigated the globe, they not only bought back home goods and ideas, but also recipes, spices and edible ingredients, which they then customized and further cultivated.

Interestingly, South Africa's delicious signature dish — the Bunny Chow (also simply known as the 'bunny'), has Indian origins. The dish consists of a hollowed-out loaf of white bread filled with meat or vegetable curry. This dish, though rare in India, is extremely popular with the locals of the Rainbow Nation. In fact, each year in September the 'Bunny Chow

Barometer', which attracts numerous entrants from across the Durban Metro region to compete for the title of top bunny maker, is held in Durban.

Other delicacies include, traditional African food cooked over an open fire or in a three-legged pot (or potjie), morogo (type of wild spinach), chakalaka (a spicy relish served alongside a main course), and the ubiquitous boerewors roll (a variety of spicy sausage).

Vegetarians will find a wide range of appetizing food options such as veg bobotie (a national dish of South Africa, which is a delicious mixture of curried vegetables, spices, fruits and nuts with a creamy golden topping, that add to its complex flavor), pampoenkoekie (light, fluffy and literally melt in your mouth pumpkin fritters) and pap tart (Pap, also known as



mieliepap, is the Afrikaans word for porridge, typically prepared with corn-maize).

Before the coronavirus pandemic resulted in shutting down of borders, South African food trails were hugely popular among visitors. In South Africa, a typical food trail would include a few must-have experiences like wine tasting, Bunny Chow sampling, coffee tasting at a local roaster, walking

tours of food gardens, visits to ethical butcheries, spice shops and quaint chocolate factories.

Since a significant number of Indian travellers are vegetarian, South Africa offers a vegetarian adaption/variation to nearly every local South African dish, whether it is Bunny Chow or the traditional braai — this resonates well with Indian travellers on food trails.

With the rise of halal consciousness, the destination has also increased efforts to make restaurants across the food trail halal friendly. Wine, and wine trails in particular, have also become an enormous part of the South African experience.

We can't wait for borders to open, and for us to have an authentic South African dining experience!



Bold, beautiful and decisive!



Jeevitha and Rajasekhhar on their wedding day in 1991

Her roles in *Thalambralu*, *Ahuthi*, *Ankusham* and other films endeared her to audiences in the Telugu states and made her a household name. Jeevitha Rajasekhhar soon became known for her homely look. But behind the homely appearance is a person with nerves of steel, as the world soon realised. Her involvement with Dr Rajasekhhar was the talk of the town during the 1980s, especially in the Telugu and Tamil film fraternities. In a free-wheeling conversation with **THE PIONEER**, she speaks to **K RAMYA SREE** about her childhood, her dream of becoming a doctor, marriage, movies, parenting, and more...



Star student...

I was a studious child. I was the topper in my school and the head girl as well. I also played cricket and represented my school. I used to participate in everything. I was quite eloquent as well and would give speeches in my school on all occasions. We used to live in a rented house and I and my siblings used to steal mangoes from the tree in my house owner's garden. Whenever I see a mango tree, I always remember those days.

Born in AP, brought up in Chennai...

I was born in Tadepalligudem of West Godavari district. My father, Ramanadham, was a health inspector working with the government of undivided Andhra Pradesh. Because of his work he had to move around different districts, hence, all the four siblings along with my mom, Shakuntala Devi, shifted to Chennai for our education to live with our grandparents. My grandfather used to work with the late NT Rama Rao *garu*, so they lived in Chennai. Later, my father too shifted to Chennai and got into film production and my elder sister too started acting in movies.

I used to feel I'm not beautiful...

I was not passionate about acting in my childhood. I always used to feel that my elder and younger sisters were the good looking ones and that I wasn't beautiful or attractive. I was more into education.

When I was stopped by T Rajendar *garu*...

When I was in Class 8 or 9, filmmaker T Rajendar *garu* saw me while I was walking to my friend's place near Vani Mahal. He stopped me on the road and asked about my whereabouts, interests, and where I lived. He asked me if I was interested in acting. I didn't respond then. The next day when I told this in my school, my teachers got excited and asked me why I didn't say yes. I didn't know how successful a filmmaker T Rajendar *garu* was then. After I finished my +1, I was surprised to see him at my home along with his assistant. He told my parents it would be nice if I act in his upcoming film. My parents left the choice to me. That's how I ended up in films. It was a shocker to me. I never thought I would act.

Meeting Rajasekhhar *garu*...

In one of my Tamil films, Rajasekhhar *garu* was one of the heroes. That's when I first saw him. I heard he was a doctor and that naturally carried a kind of respect towards him. We shot for one day and the next day he disappeared.

Wanted to be a doctor...

I always wanted to be a doctor as a child. I took up BiPC in my 11th standard. Five days into the course, we were taken to the lab for our practicals. We were asked to pin a cockroach for dissection. I ran from the lab and landed in my principal's room and started crying. I told her I couldn't dissect the cockroach and pleaded with her to shift my group. I ended up doing commerce. But as a child, I was very passionate about becoming a doctor. God is great I got married to a doctor.

Signed 10 films before 1st one-hit screens...

There were other reasons for me to choose acting as my full-time career. My father produced a film and we lost a lot of money on it. We were going through a rough patch then. Funding our education too became difficult for my father. I

Three days later, he was replaced by another actor. *Thalambralu* happened right after this film. When I met him on the sets, I asked why he quit the other film. The director and producer of the Tamil film asked Rajasekhhar *garu* how he found me. He said, she is homely and might not suit the character. So the director replaced him instead of me in the film (laughs). Rajasekhhar *garu* and I became good friends during the making of *Thalambralu*, later our friendship grew and we fell in love.

Living with in-laws before marriage...

We had a lot of issues from Rajasekhhar *garu*'s family. His mom didn't approve of our marriage. She agreed to him acting on one condition that he shouldn't get married to an actress. He comes from a well-read family of doctors, lawyers, and engineers at home. Since Rajasekhhar *garu* didn't want to go against his mother, we waited for quite a long time before

moment in my life.

Our relationship was the talk of the town...

Our relationship was quite open. It was a shocker for the entire industry back then as we would roam together and I would accompany Rajasekhhar *garu* on all his trips. During interviews when people asked him if he would marry me, he would say that he would marry somebody his parents approved. That shocked everybody. My mother was a little apprehensive then because of Rajasekhhar's answers. I convinced my mom that even if I don't marry him, we would end up remaining good friends and I have thought over it and taken the decision. Now, when I think about it, I feel I was quite bold.

I believe in friendly parenting...

I am a very friendly mother. I don't believe in strict parenting. We should compare our mindset with our children



Jeevitha and family with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

used to be the last person to pay my fee in the class. To make some money to help my family, I took up acting. Since I was introduced by T Rajendar, I forgot about my acting skills. I was signed by other production houses for 10 other films before his movie was even released.

we tied the knot. He struggled a lot to convince his mother. He even met some other girls as his mother wanted. During such a phase, he met with a major accident during the making of *Magadu*. His parents were out of town then. I stayed with him in the hospital. By the time his parents got back, the surgery was done. Everything changed within this one month and his parents started liking me. They took me to their house directly from the hospital and I started living with my in-laws even before my marriage. At the same time, I lost my father. After staying with his parents for almost a year, we got married in 1991. My marriage remains the most emotional

when you are at their age. Right from education to clothing to food, you have to think about them from their point of view. Unless they experience, they will not learn. Of course there are some things they should not experience. One should build a friendly relationship with one's children to make them understand that some things are wrong and are better avoided. If you build a vacuum where they feel your parents don't understand you, they start hiding stuff from you. I strongly believe we should create a friendly space where they can discuss and share anything and everything with us. I would love to give this advice to all the parents out there.

Debut in Telugu...

After one year or so of my debut in Tamil, I got an offer for *Thalambralu* in Telugu. MS Reddy *garu* and Shyam Prasad *garu* saw my photograph on a magazine cover in Tamil and called me for an audition. MS Reddy *garu* gave me full-page dialogue and asked me if I can read Telugu language. Later, I signed *Thalambralu* and it was a big hit back then. Many films came my way in Telugu after that one after the other. I worked with Rajasekhhar *garu* in *Thalambralu* and also in the next 10 to 15 films. Of these, eight movies ran for over 100 days. Two or three years before my wedding in 1991, I stopped acting.

Returning to Bathula Jatka Bandi...

After a very long time, I put on some makeup again for *Bathuku Jatka Bandi* in Zee Telugu. I did that show for a year and never thought it would gain so much popularity not only in the Telugu states but abroad as well. Even after quitting the show, I got a lot of calls from viewers seeking my counsel. When we went to the US while I was doing the show, I had people telling me to do the show there. Also, I took up this show as a challenge to share with at least a fraction of the people what life is. Of late, trolling has increased for these shows after similar shows started on other channels. It became a big joke then and that's one of the reasons I quit. I read a lot of comments where people call the show fake or we are paying people to sit and share a scripted story. NO! That's not true. Whosoever is passing such comments, through this medium, I request them all to come to the shoot, watch the entire episode to understand that it is real. I'm ready to face any challenge to prove what we are doing is right and there is nothing called fake or a created story.



With daughters Shivani, mother-in-law, Shivatika, and husband Rajasekhhar