

‘Partition Day reminds nation of suffering of Indians’

I pay homage to all those who lost their lives during the Partition: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday remembered ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’, saying the day “reminds the nation of the suffering and sacrifices of Indians”.

In tune with the PM, the BJP held peace rallies and programmes across the country to mark the occasion and hit out at the Congress for allowing the Partition. The BJP carried out a silent march led by party president JP Nadda at ‘Jantar Mantar’ in the national Capital to observe ‘Partition Vibhishika Diwas’.

In a tweet, the PM said, “Today, on ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’, I pay homage to all those who lost their lives during the Partition,



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participates in a silent procession on Partition Day, on the eve of Independence Day in Lucknow on Sunday

and applaud the resilience as well as grit of all those who suffered during that tragic period of our history.”

Last year, Modi declared that August 14 would be remembered as ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’ every year to remind the nation of the sufferings and sacrifices of Indians during the Partition in 1947.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid homage to lakhs of people who he said suffered the brunt of the Partition in 1947 on the occasion of ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’.

In a series of tweets, Shah said, “The Partition of the country in 1947 is that inhuman chapter of Indian histo-

ry which can never be forgotten. The violence and hatred of the Partition claimed millions of lives and displaced innumerable people.”

He added that this day will remind the young generation about the torture and pain suffered by people during the Partition and will continue to inspire countrymen to maintain peace and harmony in the nation.

The BJP targeted the Congress without naming it on the day in a video clip and sought to know why the Partition could not be prevented by those who were in charge then.

The BJP’s video featured Cyril John Radcliffe, whose partition map split Punjab

and Bengal almost in half, questioning how a person who had no knowledge of Indian cultural heritage was allowed to divide India in merely weeks.

Significantly, the video which narrated the Partition story had visuals of the first Prime Minister of the country Jawaharlal Nehru appearing frequently as the voice-over continued recounting the horrors of the partition.

“Those who had no knowledge of India’s cultural heritage, civilisation, values, pilgrimages, in just three weeks, they drew the border between people living together for centuries”, the video said.

“Where were those people

Continued on Page 8

the pioneer

wishes its readers a happy INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Press and Offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Monday, August 15, 2022 on account of Independence Day. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Wednesday, August 17, 2022.



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CM inaugurates exhibition depicting partition history

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday attended a silent march that spoke volumes about the tragedy of partition.

Held on the occasion of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on Sunday, the march reminded people of the old wounds that partition and the resultant displacement inflicted on scores of Indians, while the participants paid their tributes silently to the victims, holding the tricolour in their hands.

Besides Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, Jal Shakti and Flood Control Minister Swatantra Dev Singh were among those who attended the march taken out from Lok Bhawan to the GPO in Lucknow. The event also saw participation of family members of partition victims.

The Chief Minister also paid tributes to the people who sacrificed their lives during partition.

The chief minister also inaugurated an exhibition of pictures and documents depict-



The members of families of partition victims also shared their pain with the chief minister, showing to him the things that their ancestors had brought from their homes in Pakistan. Some had items related to the memory of their mother, while others had utensils made in 1926 to show to the chief minister.

At the end of the event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with both the deputy chief ministers paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day last year through a tweet.

Meanwhile, a heartrending exhibition of pictures narrating the tragedy of partition was held by the Department of Information and Culture on the direction of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium in Gorakhpur on Sunday.

Pictures of scores of people sitting despairingly in train bogies, helpless mothers with children, long queues for bread and water in relief camps and refugees walking to unknown destinations brought tears to the visitors' eyes.

6 UP cops honoured

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On Independence Day, 72 policemen of Uttar Pradesh will be honoured with Police Medals for Meritorious Service and six policemen with the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

This year no policeman from UP has been awarded the President's prestigious Gallantry Medal for bravery.

Those awarded Police Medal for Distinguished Services include DIG (CB CID) Vinod Kumar Mishra, DIG (Telecom) Suneel Kumar Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police Paran Nath Pandey, Company Commander of PAC Gorakhpur, Agresh Dubey, Inspector Dharampal Singh and head constable (driver) Birendra Tewari.

Jail officers and employees who have done excellent work will be honoured on the occasion of Independence Day. DG Jail Anand Kumar said that on August 15, 54 officers and employees of uniformed cadre would be awarded Gold and 47 with Silver Commendation Disc. Apart from these, 77 civil dress holders working in jail and 23 officers-employees working in jail headquarters will also be honoured with certificates.

‘Countdown for Nitish’s political exile has begun’

Lucknow (PNS): Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma said the countdown for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's 'political exile' had begun.

He said with Nitish Kumar again opting to join hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Bihar would witness repeat failure of 'chacha-bhatija' experiment like the 'bua-bhatija' partnership in UP in 2019.

Dinesh Sharma was referring to Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's unsuccessful alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

"The countdown for 'rajnitik vanvaas' (political exile) of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has started and it will be completed in the next Lok Sabha elections," the former deputy chief minister said on

Sunday.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had taken oath on Wednesday, a day after the Janata Dal (United) snapped ties with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and joined hands with the RJD, the Congress and some other parties to form the Mahagathbandhan government.

AAP takes out Tiranga Yatra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Aam Aadmi Party took out a Tiranga Yatra in the city on Sunday.

During the Tiranga Yatra, AAP's Uttar Pradesh unit incharge and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh along with workers and leaders of the party took a pledge to make India the number one country in the world.

Singh said the party leaders and workers would fight against inflation and unemployment. He said the tricolour was the pride of the country and the party leaders and workers would keep it intact under any condition.

"We are taking out the Tiranga Yatra to fight against corruption and free the country of corruption. Those spreading hatred will get a befitting reply from the people in the time to come," he said.

Singh thanked the participants for taking part in the programme and congratulated the people on Independence Day. Singh said the state government had registered cases against over 500 AAP workers and leaders last year for taking out Tiranga Yatra in Lucknow, Agra, Noida, Loni and other places. "We will not surrender to the highhandedness and bullying tactics of the government," he said.

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Another JeM militant arrested by ATS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Anti-Terrorists Squad claimed to have made further successes when they arrested a 19-year-old man for allegedly having links with terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed and being in touch with handlers in Pakistan and Afghanistan through social media.

The arrest of Habibul Islam alias Saifullah by the ATS comes close on the heels of the arrest of Mohammad Nadeem (25), an alleged terrorist linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed who was tasked with carrying out a 'fidayeen' attack on suspended Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

Based on the interrogation of Mohammad Nadeem, who was arrested from Saharanpur

on Friday, a field unit of Kanpur has arrested Habibul Islam alias Saifullah (19). Habibul has admitted that he knows Nadeem and both are connected with terror link JeM," the ATS claimed here on Sunday.

"Following Nadeem's interrogation, Saifullah was brought from Fatehpur to Kanpur. He was later arrested. Saifullah admitted that he knew Nadeem and both of them were linked to JeM," the UP ATS said in a statement on Sunday.

Indian and international links of Saifullah are being probed and he has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Additional Director General of Police (ATS) Naveen Arora said here on Sunday.

According to the police,

Saifullah, who was residing in Fatehpur district, is a native of Bihar's Motihari district. "Saifullah is an expert in making virtual IDs and he provided around 50 of those to Nadeem as well as terrorists in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. He was linked to handlers in Pakistan and Afghanistan through various social media platforms like Telegram, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger," the ATS said.

Saifullah is linked to various groups on social media which he used to share 'jihadi videos', the police alleged, adding that he used to send 'jihadi videos to people to motivate them'.

The ATS has also alleged that a Pakistani handler of the JeM had asked Saifullah to come to Pakistan for "jihadi

training" and then 'carry out jihad in India". A mobile phone, a SIM card and a knife have been seized from him, the ATS disclosed.

It may be noted that Mohammad Nadeem, who allegedly has links with Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), was arrested by the ATS from Saharanpur on Friday.

The ATS spokesman said, "Mohammad Nadeem, a resident of Gangoh in Saharanpur district, has been arrested. During interrogation Nadeem revealed that he was planning a 'fidayeen' attack on a government building or police premises."

He was also tasked to eliminate BJP suspended spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

Oppn leaders clueless about political realignment in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh are upbeat over the exit of Bharatiya Janata Party from power in Bihar, the leaders are clueless about political realignment in the state ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The wisdom has dawned on the opposition parties that defeating the BJP in UP, which sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha, is key to oust the saffron party from power at the Centre but they have no clue how to move forward for achieving this goal.

The BJP's ascendancy to power coincided with the dramatic increase in its tally in UP from 10 seats in the 2009 Lok Sabha election to 71 in 2014 and 62 in 2019. The Samajwadi Party, the main opposition party in UP, tried different alliances in the 2017 UP Assembly polls, 2019 Lok Sabha election and 2022 UP Assembly polls, but

all ended in a disaster.

The SP in the 2017 UP Assembly polls allied with the Congress, but the BJP won the election with two-thirds majority. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the SP formed a grand alliance with its arch rival Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal and fought the 2022 assembly polls in alliance with the RLD and some other parties, but failed to dent the BJP's electoral supremacy in the state.

On Tuesday, when Nitish Kumar announced quitting the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and joining hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal to form the government in Bihar, SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav welcomed the decision.

"This is a good beginning today, the day when the slogan of 'Bharat chhodo' (Quit India) was given against the British. If the slogan of 'BJP bhagao' (drive away the BJP) is coming from Bihar, I feel that in other states also, parties will stand up

against the BJP and so will the people," he had said.

But his party has not expressed any intent to work for a similar realignment in its home state. Samajwadi Party's chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the SP was capable of defeating the BJP and it would not enter into an alliance with the BSP led by Mayawati.

"The SP will fight elections on its own," Chaudhary said.

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar said, "If Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati want the welfare of Dalits and Backwards then they will have to come together. If this is not done then BJP will win all 80 seats in UP in the Lok Sabha election."

Rajbhar had allied with the BJP in the 2017 UP Assembly polls and was an ally of the SP in 2022 UP Assembly polls and has since parted company with the Samajwadi Party.

Rahul attacks UP govt over help to Hathras victim

Lucknow (PNS): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party over its "unfulfilled" promises to the family of the Hathras victim, who died after being gang-raped by four men.

The Congress MP said the 'Beti Bachao' slogan was just a "pretence" and the BJP had never hesitated in doing "injustice" to women.

Taking to his official Twitter handle, Rahul Gandhi shared a news article claiming the "Yogi Adityanath is backtracking on his promises made to Hathras rape victim's family".



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Youth arrested from Rajasthan for death threat to CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of crime branch on Sunday arrested a youth, identified as Sarfaraz (22), from Bharatpur district of Rajasthan on the charges of issuing a death threat to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It was the second such incident in the last one year when a threat was issued to Yogi on the emergency WhatsApp

number of UP 112. Last year in May too, a threat was received on the emergency WhatsApp number of UP 112, after which a truck driver, Amarpal Yadav (35), was arrested from Etah. The police had claimed that Amarpal threatened the CM under the influence of liquor.

On August 2 last, the UP 112 emergency services received a threat through

WhatsApp and the accused threatened to blow up the CM. An FIR was registered and thereafter, the crime branch of Lucknow was tasked with conducting a probe into the case even as the STF was also informed. Police said Sarfaraz was arrested late Saturday night and brought to Lucknow from Rajasthan on Sunday. During interrogation, Sarfaraz disclosed that he just

wanted to show his “daredevilry” to his friends by issuing a threat to the CM.

The police further said that they were checking with the Rajasthan counterparts if Sarfaraz had any criminal past. Sources privy to the investigation said the cops were in the guise of marketing executives and nabbed Sarfaraz after luring him with a job offer.

Divisional commissioner flags off tiranga rally

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob flagged off a massive tiranga rally at 1090 crossing on Sunday. It was led by 75 women employees of Lucknow Development

Authority with the tricolor mounted on their bikes. As many as 2,075 other employees followed them.

The rally, which was part of a week-long series of functions to commemorate 75 years of

independence, culminated at Janeshwar Mishra Park.

Later, the divisional commissioner planted saplings near Hanuman Setu, Gomti river-front and Gomti Nagar extension. Over 900 saplings were

planted. The LDA administration was assisted by NCC cadets. A large number of locals also came forward to help the LDA authorities. Jacob also inaugurated a park in Sector 4 and interacted with the locals.

Girl asked to elope thrashed over refusal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth, in cahoots with a friend, befriended a class X girl student and asked her to mix sedatives in the food of her parents, collect ornaments & cash from the house and elope with him for marriage. As the girl refused, the accused thrashed her outside her house in Aliganj and threatened to stab her to death. She raised an alarm after which passersby rushed to her rescue.

Her brother lodged a case against the prime accused, identified as Arbaz of Rampur, and his friend. The girl got a friend request from Arbaz about six months back and she accepted it. Thereafter, they started chatting. In due course of time, Arbaz made amorous advances towards the girl after which she started distancing

from him as she was not interested in the relationship.

Irked over it, Arbaz started calling her friends and told them that they were in a relationship. He also texted her through WhatsApp to express his love. On August 4, Arbaz, along with his friend, reached Lucknow from Rampur and asked the girl to meet them at a place near her house. Arbaz threatened to defame her if she did not meet them.

When the girl reached the place, Arbaz proposed to her but she refused. Arbaz played emotional tricks and asked her to force-feed their parents food laced with sedatives, steal the ornaments & cash and elope with him. As the girl shouted at Arbaz in disbelief, the duo thrashed her. The accused whipped out a knife and threatened to stab her and the girl

raised an alarm. The duo fled the scene as passersby rushed to the rescue of the girl. The Aliganj SHO initially denied but later confirmed that a case was registered in this connection.

MAN KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

A 50-year-old man was killed in a road mishap in Talkatora on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Vijay Pal of Badshah Khera locality in the area. Reports said Vijay Pal was returning after meeting a relative when a speeding bus knocked him down near the tempo stand around 9 pm on Saturday. Vijay was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where he was pronounced ‘brought dead’. Police registered a case on the complaint of the deceased’s son Sooraj.

Meanwhile, the body of a youth, who had jumped into the Indira Canal on Friday, was recovered on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Vimlesh (20) of Dewa in Barabanki. He had jumped into the canal from Baburi Bridge in Barabanki around 5 pm on August 12. His family had lodged a case with the Dewa police and efforts were on to recover the body. On Sunday, the body was found stuck in a regulator in the canal in Juggaur under BBD police station area. Vimlesh’s family reached the scene and identified the body.

In another case, a 35-year-old man was mowed down by a train in Krishna Nagar on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Sanjay Kashyap of Thakurganj. His sister Manju Kashyap identified the body.

Maya slams Cong govt in Raj, demands Prez rule

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, on Sunday slammed the Congress government in Rajasthan for its failure to protect Dalits, tribals and the marginalised over the death of a Dalit student due to thrashing by a teacher. She demanded imposition of the president’s rule in the state.

Reacting sharply to the death of a Dalit student in Rajasthan’s Jalore district on Sunday, BSP chief Mayawati tweeted, “Such casteist painful incidents keep happening in Rajasthan every day. It is clear from this that the Congress-led state government has failed to protect the life and honour of Dalits, tribals, the neglected, and others. Therefore, it is better to sack this government and impose president’s rule there.”

For drinking water, the

teacher of the upper caste beat a student so mercilessly that he died during treatment on Saturday. The condemnation of this heart-wrenching incident is less, she added.

It is noteworthy that 9-year-old Inder Kumar Meghwal, a Dalit child, was allegedly beaten up by a teacher in a private school in Rajasthan for touching a pot of water and the thrashing resulted in the death of the child.

The accused teacher, Chhail Singh (40), has been arrested and booked for murder under the Indian Penal Code and sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Inder Meghwal, a student of a private school in Surana village under Sayla police station of Jalore, was thrashed by the teacher on July 20. He died on Saturday at a hospital in Ahmedabad.

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CITYBRIEFS

FLAG HOISTING

Divisional Railway Manager, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow, Monica Agnihotri will address the participants in a national flag hoisting function to be held at the DRM office in Hazratganj on Monday. NER PRO Mahesh Gupta said the DRM would take part in a cultural function at the Entertainment Hall in Badshahnagar and also distribute fruits among the patients at Badshahnagar railway hospital. A 4-day photo exhibition on the theme of horrors of partition would be organised at the different railway stations, including in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Basti and Gonda. The Northern Railway, Lucknow, is also organising a similar function at the railway stations in Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki, etc. The NR is also organising a photo exhibition which was inaugurated in the presence of DRM, NR, SK Sapra on Sunday morning.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

All employees, officers and executives of Canara Bank circle office in Lucknow are organising ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ from August 11 to 15. All branches and offices have been decked up in tricolour. Tricolor selfie points have also been installed at prominent places in Lucknow. The bank has distributed the tricolour among all employees and customers. All the officers and executives marched from Lohia Park to the circle office in Vipin Khand. The event was held under the leadership of GM of Lucknow circle Alok Kumar Agarwal.

PARTITION HORROR

The department of medieval and modern history, Lucknow University, organised a talk on partition of India on Sunday to commemorate the tragedy. The guest speaker was former head of the department of History, Shri MD Shah Mahila College, SNDT University (Mumbai), Prof Ranjana Mishra, who highlighted the causes of partition of India and its ramifications on polity, society, economy and culture of India as well as Pakistan. She also discussed the problems and violence faced by women. The department of social work also organised a symbolic programme on Sunday to commemorate the tragedy of partition under the supervision of head of the department Prof Anoop Kumar Bhartiya. The programme started with a photo exhibition which was inaugurated at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Advance Research Centre. The photos clicked during partition were displayed in the exhibition. A programme was held at Radha Kamal Mukherjee Hall in which Prof Bhartiya addressed the gathering and spoke about the significance of the day.

एनटीपीसी NTPC

75 आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

हर घर तिरंगा

औरैया AURAIYA SAFE PLANT

आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव के उपलक्ष्य में एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड, औरैया की ओर से हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

विद्युत उत्पादन तथा समाज कल्याण कार्यों में पूर्ण भागीदारी के साथ राष्ट्र के प्रति तटस्थता के साथ समर्पित

App for assisting kids with dyslexia and dysgraphia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has developed a novel application for assisting children diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia. The invention named Assistive Application for Children with Dyslexia and Dysgraphia (AACDD) is invented by Prof Braj Bhushan and Prof Shatarupa Thakurta Roy from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur, and Dr Alok Bajpai, a practising psychiatrist from Kanpur. The application comes embedded with a device that helps children learn easily.

Dyslexia and dysgraphia are neurodevelopmental disorders that are characterised by slow and inaccurate word recognition. Developmental dyslexia causes difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition and spelling, whereas dysgraphia refers to the inability to write coherently. No two dyslexic students present the same set of symptoms and hence there are many efforts undertaken by researchers to overcome these challenges. According to Indian Paediatrics data, the incidence of dyslexia in Indian primary school children has been reported to be two-18 per cent, dysgraphia 14 per cent, and dyscalculia 5.5 per cent. India is thought to have approximately 90 million people with varying degrees of learning disabilities and an average class in school has about five students with learning disabilities. Thus, such specially-abled children benefit from additional support that allows them to learn and function independently. This assistive technology developed by IIT Kanpur acts as additional support to children with dyslexia and dysgraphia which caters to the services and devices that enable people with learning disorders to accomplish daily tasks, assist them in communication, education, work or recreation activities and ultimately help them achieve greater independence

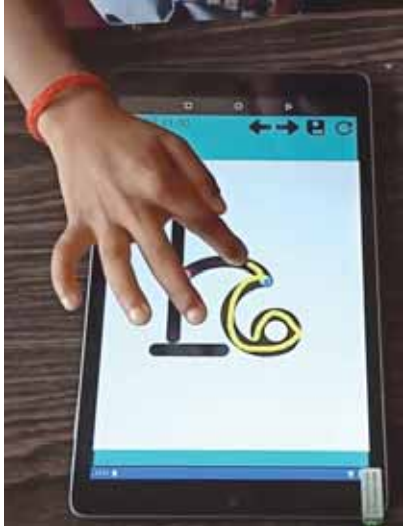


Image of novel application developed by IIT-K to assist children suffering from dyslexia and dysgraphia.

and enhance their quality of life.

Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur said, "Dyslexia and dysgraphia are two common conditions that may hamper a child's growth in the absence of proper support mechanism to guide them. Hence, this new invention from our team of experts has the potential to be a boon for children diagnosed with these conditions. Also, the inclusion of the Hindi language will provide ease of learning to Hindi-speaking users primarily. This invention amplifies IIT Kanpur's relentless work on multidisciplinary MedTech innovations over the years, and I congratulate the entire team for this." The team of experts developed this novel assistive application by acknowledging the need for additional support required by such special children. It provides a training module currently available in the Hindi language for school-going children between classes I to V. The application is

a touchscreen-based interface that involves auditory feedback, putting haptic sensation and motor movement to facilitate the acquisition and reproduction of Hindi letters. Later on it is expected to include other languages as well. The application assists children with a tracing task, where they have to follow a blue and a pink dot to trace Hindi letters. As a child starts tracing from the blue dot to the pink dot, a yellow line accompanies. The moment the child, especially the ones suffering from dysgraphia, deviates from the tracing area, the yellow line disappears and they are told to restart the task. This constitutes the first level of the application. In level II they are taught geometric patterns of Hindi letters in the form of jigsaw puzzles, and are offered reading through auditory feedback. Level III integrates visual, auditory and haptic inputs to write and understand words. In this level, there are 120 Hindi words with increasing level of difficulty.

Since the other technologies presently available use the audio input to bypass the reading problem through text-to-speech, the Assistive Application for Children with Dyslexia and Dysgraphia (AACDD) from IIT Kanpur is unique in terms of integration of audio, visual and haptic inputs, and retraining the brain networks through manipulation of basic geometric patterns of words - like lines, circles etc. This will also help them improve in the domain where normal kids perform rather than solely bypassing it. The application is also unique in addressing the Hindi language which covers more than 40 per cent of the Indian population. The novel assistive application is going to be very helpful for the children diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia. Further for its integration of Hindi it is expected to get good response among Hindi-speaking users/parents from India and abroad.

Prabhat pheri taken out



NSS volunteers of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, taking out prabhat pheri on Sunday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the NSS unit of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, took out a prabhat pheri in Kidwai Nagar area on Sunday. Students called upon people to hoist the tricolour in their houses and

apprised them of the importance of India's independence through slogans and brief address. Programme officer Dr Saba Yunus supervised the event while Dr Namrita Tewari played a key role in making the event a grand success. Prominent NSS volunteers present were Tehrim, Nivedita, Alisha, Priyanka, Shivani, Swati and Tanya.

28-yr-old woman's body found buried in field

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

The body of a 28-year-old woman was found buried in a field in Gorakhpur district on Sunday, police said. Shatrughan Nishad noticed a foul smell emanating in his field in Pipra Miglan village and informed police about it. Police found a woman's body buried in the field, they said. Locals told police that the woman, who was identified as Radhika Nishad, had a dispute with her husband Amit Nishad and had been living with her mother, they said. On a complaint by the woman's mother, Gita Devi, an FIR has been registered against her son-in-law for killing her daughter for dowry, Superintendent of Police, North, Manoj Kumar Awasthi said. The body has been sent for the post-mortem examination. The cause of death will be known only after the report comes, the police said.

NER stations glitter with tricolours



DRM office being glitters with tricolour lights in Varanasi on eve of Independence Day on Sunday.

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various railway stations and other buildings of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) including DRM Office, Lahartara, have been glittered with attractive tricolour lights on the eve of Independence Day here on Sunday under 'Har Ghar Jhanda- Har Station Tiranga' campaign. The aim of the campaign is to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the spirit of patriotism and public participation in the hearts of the people. NER is committed to make the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a success and in this direction, the process of hoisting the national flags was going on at the residences of all the

officers and employees, said the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashrey Pandey, adding that 100 feet high national flags have already been installed at 12 major stations of Varanasi division. Along with this, the national flag has been hoisted prominently at all the stations of Varanasi division. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence Day, the DRM will hoist the flag on Monday at 8.55 am at Mini Railway Stadium, Lahartara and then inspect the parade of Railway Protection Force (RPF), students of Railway School, St John's Ambulance and NER Bharat Scouts and Guides. After this, Pandey will attend the function to be organised in

the Scouts Den located in the auditorium and inspect the scout skills. Besides, Mandal Kala Samiti will present a cultural programme in the function to be organised at Mini Stadium in which singing, drama and other programmes based on patriotism will be presented. On the occasion, the Chairperson of NER Divisional Women's Welfare Organisation Sujata Pandey, members of the committee, all the branch officers and railway employees and their family members will attend the function.

Meanwhile, photo exhibitions based on 'The Horrors of Partition' were organised at Prayagraj Rambagh and Gyanpur Road stations of

Varanasi division. The exhibition was inaugurated today by Ravi Prakash Upadhyay, retired station superintendent at Prayagraj Rambagh station along with retired chief ticket inspector Rajesh Yadav, retired station superintendent of Jhushi station Rakesh Pandey and retired station superintendent of Saidabad station Ravi Shankar Mishra. Such photo exhibitions on the instructions of Railway Board were held at 16 stations of Varanasi Division namely Varanasi City, Prayagraj Rambagh, Gyanpur Road, Aunrihar, Belthara Road, Deoria Sadar, Bhatni, Siwan, Banaras, Chhapra, Mau, Ballia, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Padrauna and Chauri Chaura.

Couple, son killed in accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A couple and their son were killed while two others, including the van driver, seriously injured when their vehicle rammmed into a stationary truck on Kanpur-Etawah highway near Mawaimukta village under Derapur police station of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning.

Madan Singh (53) of Bhandemau village, Mangalpur, Kanpur Dehat, along with wife Rani (50) and son Dinesh (30) had left for Kanpur on a van on Sunday morning to attend some urgent work. The van rammmed into a stationary truck around 10.30 am near Mawaimukta



The damaged van after it rammmed into a stationary truck in Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning.

village on Etawah-Kanpur highway. Due to powerful collision the van got badly damaged and all the passengers got

trapped in it. Local residents rushed to the spot and rescued all the five persons trapped in the van. Meanwhile, Madan Singh, his wife and son succumbed to their injuries. Van driver Kailash and Ram Milan of Banwaripur were injured. Police sent the injured to the district hospital from where due to their serious condition, doctors referred them to Kanpur. After the incident, truck driver escaped with the vehicle.

Circle Officer (CO), Derapur, Vijendra Dubey said on receipt of complaint, FIR would be lodged. After getting the damaged van removed from the road, the traffic was restored, he said.

Two sisters die as wall caves in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two sisters were killed while the younger one was seriously injured when the wall of a school suddenly caved in on them during heavy rains in Akbarpur Kotwali police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning. Local residents with the help of Nagar

Pachayat workers rescued the injured sisters by removing the debris and sent them to a hospital. According to reports, Sonam (22) along with younger sisters Saloni (16) and Varsha, had gone for some work on Sunday morning. When they were returning from there on foot, it started raining heavily. During the rain the dilapidated

boundary wall of the adjacent school suddenly caved in on them. On hearing the noise, local residents rushed to the spot who with the help of Nagar Pachayat workers, rescued the girls by removing the debris and sent them to the district hospital. Saloni and Sonam were declared dead by the doctors while Varsha was seriously injured.

Father Ram Krishna said Sonam was married two years ago only and was a widow. Akbarpur police also reached the spot and took stock of the situation. Sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Bagish Kumar said after talking to the school management financial aid would be extended to the victim family.

MLA flags off mini marathon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

'Run for Country Mini Marathon' was organised by Sampurnanand Sports Stadium (Siga) as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav which was flagged off by MLA (Cantt) Saurabh Srivastava in presence of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma and other senior officers from Shaheed Udyan on Sunday.

The Mini Marathon, after passing through Siga, Rathayatra and Godowlia, culminated at Gate No 1 of Siga Stadium. ADM (Administration), RSO and players of each sports discipline of the stadium, coaches, personnel of NDRE, CRPF, 34th and 36th battalions of PAC personnel and others participated in the event organised on the eve of Independence Day. The DM, along with his son and other senior officers, was himself leading the Mini Marathon carrying the national flag. 'During the run, the people



MLA Saurabh Srivastava flagging off mini marathon from Shahid Udyan in Varanasi on Sunday, Pioneer

were apprised to hoist tricolour at their houses', said the DM. According to the DM, on the occasion of Independence Day on Monday, various programmes will be organised throughout the day. Union Minister Kaushal Kishor will attend a

programme at Shivpur Central Jail while it will also be attended by UP Cabinet Minister Anil Rajbhar. Besides, a Prabhat Pheri will be taken out in the morning. The DM said that attractive tricolour lighting has already been done at the major crossings in the

entire district apart from hoisting of tricolour at the houses under the Har Har Tiranga campaign. Meanwhile, the DM flagged off a bike rally during the ongoing Independence Week from the gate of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University.

Admn issues guidelines for boatmen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The river Ganga is flowing below the warning mark in Varanasi but despite this, the district administration has issued a guidelines for the boatmen to avoid any tragedy after the city witnessed over 100 mm rain late Saturday night and Sunday morning.

As per guidelines issued by the District Magistrate and chairman of District Disaster Management Authority Kaushal Raj Sharma on

Sunday, the boatmen are asked not to ride passenger more than the capacity of boat, not to sail old boat with high speed, follow the standard set to operate boat, not to use small boat, not to allow the passengers to create ruckus or make unnecessary change in boats and not to operate boat in an inebriated state. The guidelines further asked the boatmen to repair the damaged boat before using for the operation, mention the maximum number of

passengers on boats, ensure the availability of life jackets, torches, ropes, filled tubes, etc on board, not to operate boats after sunset, sail the boats along the river in the condition of storm, downpour or high wind, not to take the boats in the mainstream of the river and have the mobile numbers of divers, NDRE (8004931410), disaster expert (9140037137) and administrative officers.

The DM directed Gram Pradhan, Ward Member,

Gram Secretary and Lekhpal of villages located along the river to apprise the boatmen of these guidelines and directed all the SDMs/Tehsildars to endure the publicity and implementation of the guidelines.

It is learnt that the city received over 100 mm rain late Saturday night and on Sunday morning. The Ganga is on Sunday flowing at 63.32 m with 5 cm rise from 63.27 m on Saturday but is still below the warning mark of 70.262.

Competition on patriotic songs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an inter-school competition based on patriotic songs 'Amrit Mahotsav-2022' was organised by Sunbeam College for Women, Bhagvanpur, here on Saturday.

The Chairman of Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions Dr Deepak Madhok, Director Bharti Madhok and principal Vibha Srivastava jointly inaugurated the competition by lighting the ceremonial lamp. About 80 students from 10 colleges of the city participated in the competition and they delighted the audience by presenting patriotic songs in their melodious voices. The team of Faculty of Performing Arts bagged the first position while Sunbeam College, Varuna and the host

college stood second and third respectively. The co-director of the college Pratima Gupta apprised the participants of Amrit Mahotsav. The college administrator Madhulika Singh offered a formal vote of thanks at last.

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Thana Samadhan Diwas organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Thana Samadhan Diwas was organised in all police stations of the district. Holding the meeting at Jigna police station DIG RP Singh assured the aggrieved that justice will be ensured on merit. Total 28 complaints were lodged for disposal in which only one was related to police and 27 to the Revenue department. He directed the official concerned to form teams for disposal and get a feedback from the aggrieved about the cases which had been disposed of earlier. The DIG inspected the police station and directed to keep all records and registers updated and in a proper way. Inspecting the store he directed to keep riot-related equipment in operational condition.

He directed the police personnel to make the premises neat and clean and sanitation of barracks, offices, kitchen, mess, urinal, toilet etc should be taken as a part of the job. During the inspection Lalganj CO Uma Shankar and SO Vijay Kumar Saroj were present.

TIRANGA YATRA: A grand Tiranga Yatra was taken out by Home Guards department with the active participation of Rotary Club Mirzapur Gaurav on Saturday. The Yatra started from Shaheed Udyan Narghat. The Yatra passing through main markets culminated at Jila Panchayat where a seminar was conducted. Welcoming the guests president Rotary Club Ravi Katara threw light over sacrifices of our heroes who provided us the opportunity to

become the citizen of independent nation. The seminar was addressed by MLAs Ratnakar Mishra and Rama Shankar Singh Patel and others. The vote of thanks was proposed by District Commandant Home Guards VK Singh appreciated the active support of Rotarians, Rotracts and school children who worked hard for the successful yatra. Prominent among those who participated in it were Sandeep Goyal, Arjun Mehrotra, Shivam Agrawal, Raman Pahwa and Akhilesh Singh.

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT: As many as 22,195 cases were settled in the National Lok Adalat organised by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) at the district court. It was inaugurated

by judge High Court Vipin Chandra Dixit by lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of District Judge Anmol Pal, District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar and Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Kumar Mishra. In 40 family disputes couples agreed to live together.

PROGRAMME: RSS zila sanghchalak Sharad Chandra Upadhyay said it was the need of the hour that we take pledge to get the nation reunited again. These views were expressed by him at a Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas programme organised by RSS at Keshav Dham on Sunday. Nagar pracharak Pawan, Sachchidanand, Lakhani Agrawal, Sooraj, Ganesh Kesarwani, Gunjan and others took part in the programme.

Tricolour a symbol of our pride: Anupriya Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A programme was organised at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) under the joint aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and MGKV under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign here on Sunday. The programme started with the hoisting of the flag by the chief guest and Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel.

Speaking on the occasion, she remembered the contribution of freedom fighters and martyrs. She said that this nectar festival of independence is being celebrated with gaiety all over the country. Government, non-government organisations as well as every Indian are participating in this campaign with full gusto. The tricolour is a symbol of our pride, she added.

She said that the country has made great progress under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "During the nectar of independence, the country exported



Union Minister Anupriya Patel honouring a freedom fighter at MGKV in Varanasi on Sunday.

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more than 400 billion dollars last year and is providing new opportunities to the country's entrepreneurs in the export sector, she added.

In the programme, freedom fighter Sitaram Shastri was honoured along with family members of freedom fighters of late Dhanya Kumar Jain, late Pannalal Pandey, late Prabhunarayan Singh, late Shyam Lal Sharma, late Ram Chandra Narhar Bapat and late Pt Shyamacharan Mishra.

After this, a public participation programme was organised in which more than 500 people participated. GI expert Padmashree Rajinikanth was also honoured.

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Mishra Dayalu was also present as special guest. He underlined that such events are helpful in awakening and increasing the national consciousness.

He remembered the contri-

bution of freedom fighters. Presiding over the programme, Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Tyagi apprised that MGKV was established in 1921 during the non-cooperation movement in the freedom movement and this institution has contributed immensely to the national independence movement. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Anant Swarup was also present in the programme.

Functions galore to recall 'Horrors of Partition'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In response to the call given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, various programmes were organised at different places to recall the 'Horrors of Partition' under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here on Sunday. A silent procession was taken out from Shaheed Udyan (Sigra) which culminated in a meeting in the Jhulelal temple premises at Luxa. Many other committees of Punjabis, Sindhis and Sikhs actively participated in the procession under the aegis of Sindhu Vikas Samiti. The participants were carrying cutouts and posters related to the partition horrors in their hands.

The silent procession was flagged off by District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma. Apart from Chandan Rupani, President of Sindhu Vikas Samiti, Om Kimtani, Dilip Israni, Manoj Lakhmani, Om Dodwani and many others were also present. The bikers of the Traffic Police and children from different schools also took part. The LED vehicle of the Information department was moving along with the procession telecasting various programmes organised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath live.

An exhibition of articles and pictures on the 'Horrors of Partition' was also organised by the Culture department in the Jhulelal Temple. Later, a seminar was also held which was presided over by Chandan Rupani. Eminent litterateur Neerja Madhav, as the keynote speaker, said that the journey from refugee to a man has been



A silent procession being taken out on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in Varanasi on Sunday.

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completed smoothly despite all the ups and downs. ADM (City) Gulab Chand and SDM Gyanprakash said that for the first time, August 14 was being observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day and the purpose of the day is to acquaint the present and future generations with their history and take inspiration from those who sacrificed their life to help the nation move forward with unity in diversity. On the occasion, freedom fighter Tilak Raj Kapoor was honoured. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dilip Tulsiani.

Besides, yet another silent procession was taken out from Malaviya Bhawan in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) which was inaugurated by Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh. It was led by Prof AK Nema, President of Students'

Welfare while attended by NSS Programme Coordinator Dr Bala Lakhendra, Prof Pradyuman Pandey, Dr Krishnanand Singh and Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma. The procession after passing through Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU Main Gate, Women's College crossing, Mira Colony, Students' Welfare President's Office, University Guest House, International Hostel, Laxman Das Guest House, VC Lodge, returned to Malaviya Bhawan where it was converted into a meeting. A two-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to the immortal fighters of Indian independence and to those who lost their lives in violence during the partition.

Meanwhile, the pain of Partition was shown to the people through a picture exhibition

and a documentary film at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath. Inaugurating the photo exhibition, Prof Geshe Nawang Samten, the V-C of the Institute, said that while reminding the young generations about the torture and pain suffered by the people during Partition, there was unity by removing the poison of social division and animosity. Dr Himanshu Pandey, Registrar and many others including Umesh Chandra Singh, Dr Ram Ji Singh, Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Dr Suchita Sharma, Dr Anurag Tripathi, Dr Prashant Kumar Maurya, Dr Sushil Kumar Singh and others visited the exhibition.

This photo exhibition will be open for viewing from till August 17 daily between 10 am and 5 pm.

GM leads Tiranga Padyatra in BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A grand Tiranga Padyatra was taken out in the premises of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here on Sunday which was led by General Manager Anjali Goyal herself. Earlier, she flagged off the padyatra from Surya Sarovar in which a good number of officers, employees and others from BLW took part. They were carrying national flags in their hands and raising slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram and Jai Hind.

A large number of people participated in this Tiranga Padyatra showing the spirit of patriotism. The presence of a good number of children and youths added beauty to it. After passing through Sabzi Mandi, Western Health Centre, Khandwa Gate, Western Colony, BLW Police Outpost, RPF Barracks, the padyatra ended at Golf Course. The officers, employees of all departments of BLW, medical personnel of BLW Hospital, members of staff council, OBC, SC, and ST Association, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, trainees and instructors of Technical Training



GM Anjali Goyal leading Tiranga Padyatra in BLW, Varanasi on Sunday.

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Centre (TTC), artists of BLW Cultural Organisation, volunteers of St John's Ambulance Brigade, Bharat Scouts and Civil Defence, students and teachers of BLW Inter College, Bal Niketan, Kendriya Vidyalaya and St John's School, international players, coaches and members of Shivanshi Fitness Zone took part in the padyatra to pay their homage to the freedom fighters.

Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Amitabh, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Pradeep Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer MK Gupta, Chief Design Engineer (Electric) PP Raju, CDE (Diesel) RR Prasad, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) Anant Sadashiv, Chief Material Manager (Headquarters) SK Mishra, Principal Chief Engineer Hirendra Singh Rana, Principal

Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Senior Deputy General Manager Vijay, TTC Principal Ram Janm Choubey, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer KM Singh, Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr Sunil Kumar, Divisional Medical Officer Dr SK Maurya, Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Singh and Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar were also took part in the padyatra.

Freedom fighters, ex-servicemen honoured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel attended the event under Amrit Mahotsav here on Sunday. She honoured the freedom fighters, ex-servicemen and senior citizens by presenting them 'angavastram' at the Circuit House.

Patel said we all have to understand that this freedom was attained after all the sacrifices. It is also our responsibility to cherish it and take the country to the pinnacle of glory. All workers and office-bearers of Apna Dal (S) were also present. She inspired them to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Gangapar district presi-

dent Bhanupratap Patel, and Yamunapar district president Brijesh Patel were instructed to make door-to-door contact. Tricolour was also distributed to the people who attended the programme. Ram Lakhani Patel, Bara MLA Dr Vachaspati, Jyoti Yadav, Nagendra Singh Patel, KK Singh Patel etc. were present.

On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav a felicitation ceremony was organised at Police Lines UP Minister for Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and Mayor Abhilasha Gupta felicitated 75 meritorious students of police family who had excelled in education, sports

and other competitive examinations. Minister Nandi said India's youths are doing well in all the countries. We have more potential to grow than other countries. The youth of the country created history in the recent Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham.

He also called upon everyone to participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan. Mayor Abhilasha said every child has some talent it needs to be recognised and encouraged. While welcoming SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey threw light on the outline of the programme in detail.

Meanwhile tricolour will be hoisted at total 201 Amrit Sarovars here on Independence Day. In the district 201 Amrit

Sarovars have been made ready and platforms have also been made on their walls. On its platform the tricolour will be hoisted with full pride on the day. The family members of freedom fighters and martyrs will hoist the flag. Along with national anthem, colourful cultural programmes will also be organised.

Although work on about 450 Amrit Sarovars has started in the district, 201 sarovars are almost ready. Tricolour will be hoisted on these sarovars on Monday morning. Preparations have been completed. MNREGA Deputy Commissioner Kapil Kumar said Amrit Sarovars are being developed as picnic points in the village.

Swami Amar Giri receives death threat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Swami Amar Giri has been given a death threat by some unidentified caller after filing an affidavit to withdraw the FIR in the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, former president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad.

According to him, not only pressure is being put on him, but he is also getting threats. After being stripped of the responsibility of the administrator of the Lete Hanuman temple, he said on Saturday that if security is not provided, his condition may be the same as that of Bade Maharaj (Mahant Narendra Giri).

Swami Amar Giri's troubles have started increasing after he filed an affidavit to withdraw the case before the High Court. He is scared that something untoward might happen to him as well. After his removal from the post of administrator of Bade Hanuman temple, his round-the-clock surveillance has been increased. In his place, the arrangement of the big Hanuman temple has now been handed over to Deepak Pujari. Deepak Pujari is now keeping the accounts of receipts of donations and offerings in the Hanuman temple. Along with this, Deepak Pujari is also arranging the items for bhog, puja, aarti etc of the temple.

The new arrangement is being done under the supervi-

sion of Mahant Balveer Giri. The account of the donation box is also being deposited directly in the Baghabhari Math under the new system. As the new administrator, Deepak Pujari is putting the receipts of donors on the register. This was confirmed by Swami Amar Giri. On Saturday, Amar Giri enumerated his difficulties. Swami Amar Giri said his life is in danger. According to Swami Amar Giri, his appointment to the post of administrator of Bade Hanuman temple was done by Bade Maharaj during his lifetime. In his suicide note also, it has been written that the responsibility of the administrator of the temple should be given to him i.e. Amar Giri only. Amar Giri says that in such a situation, he cannot be removed from the post of administrator of the Hanuman temple. The efforts being made to create pressure are wrong.

CASE REGISTERED: Some anti-social elements have uprooted the notice board of property which was attached by Prayagraj Police under the Gangsters Act. Pooramafti police registered a case against nine persons, including jailed block pramukh and notorious cow smuggler Muzaffar. The FIR was filed on the written complainant of constable Yogesh Kumar posted in Bamrauli outpost. Inspector Puramufti

Upendra Pratap Singh said as soon as action under Gangsters Act intensified, Akram, brother of block pramukh and cow smuggler Muzaffar sold a plot to his relative, Mohd Saif of Chafri Nawabganj. The plot at Bamrauli Upahar was also confiscated on August 5, 2022 on the orders of DM. A notice board related to confiscation was also put up on the plot. However, some people uprooted the board and occupied the land. The investigation revealed that there was a conspiracy with jailed Muzaffar. A case has been registered against Muzaffar and his brother Aslam, Anwar alias Bhendu, Azam, Muazzam, Ashraf alias Chhotey, Javed and relative Mohd Saif. Further action will be taken after examining the case.

Meanwhile, the difficulties of Mafia Atique Ahmed will not be reduced. Now preparations are on to destroy the mafia empire completely. Police is now engaged in scouting the illegal properties of Atique in other districts of the state as well as in other states. After tracing these properties they will also be attached under the Gangsters Act. Police are tracing those close to the mafia, who know about these illegal properties.

When the police had arrested the special operatives

of mafia Atiq Ahmed in 2020 information about Atique Ahmed's benami properties had started coming. It was learnt that Atique Ahmed has properties in Prayagraj and other districts, including Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Lucknow, Fatehpur, Kanpur and Sultanpur. Police had got information about mafia's flat in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. When his henchmen used to go to Ahmedabad jail to meet the mafia, they used to stay in the same flat. Whether this flat is in the name of mafia or someone else was not known. The police also asked many of his close relatives about it but failed to get any success. The talk of benami properties has also come to the fore in Mumbai, Delhi and Goa. Now all these benami properties are being traced by the police in a confidential manner. Along with this, the details of his illegal properties in other districts of the state are also being collected.

Ashraf, younger brother of mafia Atiq Ahmed, was questioned by the police after his arrest. If sources are to be believed, he had informed the police about many benami properties. However, he could not reveal anything about the benami properties in whose name.

He was also not able to tell in which district and state where the properties are.

IFFCO a leader in fertiliser industry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, popularly known as IFFCO is the leader in fertiliser industry not only in India but the world. It was founded on November 3, 1967. IFFCO is operating five mega fertiliser complexes all over the country. IFFCO contributes about 32 per cent phosphoric and 21 per cent nitrogenous fertilisers demand in India. Today IFFCO is a multinational company with its global presence in Senegal, Oman, Dubai and Jordan.

Apart from its core fertiliser business IFFCO has diversified into General Insurance, rural mobile telephony, rural e-commerce, SEZ, commodity trading, agrochemicals and agri-input rural retail etc. It has played a great role in helping farmer to maximise their agricultural output and optimum profits. IFFCO has made its products available at the door step of the farmers through its e-commerce venture e-Bazar thus making space in digital



arena.

We at IFFCO work towards serving the cooperatives and farmers and strive towards achieving the goal set by Prime Minister for doubling the farmers' income. IFFCO is also committed to PM's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi" and is dedicated towards strengthening the Cooperative Movement across the country.

On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav 75th year of independence IFFCO has taken a meaningful and strong step towards realising the dreams of self-reliant India of Prime

Minister this year in which IFFCO has newly launched nanotechnology-based products under the leadership of Managing Director Dr US Awasthi which have emerged as promising alternatives to soil nutrients. Nano fertilisers are environment friendly with high nutrient efficiency and their usage will give a huge positive impact on the quality of underground water and will promote significant reduction in global warming. This will also aid in making India self-sufficient in production of fertilisers. Commercial production of nano urea has already started at Kalol unit till date production is 4.0 crores 500 ml bottles (equivalent to 18.0 lakh MT urea) and the similar plants have been proposed to be installed at various locations all over India, including Phulpur.

For application of nano urea solution on plants, regular spraying training is provided to farmers, including spray using drone technology. Phulpur unit has produced around 14.78 lakh MT in the

last financial year 2021-22. Since its inception in 1981 IFFCO's Phulpur unit has produced more than 472 lakh MT of urea fertiliser. In the current financial year 2022-23 annual maintenance work has been successfully carried out and it is hoped that in this year we will be able to achieve new milestones. We are also committed towards environment protection and sustainable growth and apart from maintaining our emissions well within the norms stipulated by various agencies we are maintaining a wide green belt around our premises. Tree plantation is a regular feature at Phulpur unit.

IFFCO Phulpur unit has installed solar power plant with capacity of 1,385 KWp which has substantial impact on reduction in CO2 emission into atmosphere.

Total solar power generation during the period April-July 2022 is 5.75 lakh KWh unit which is equivalent to reduction of 430.0 tonne of CO2 emission.



Rapid Action Force personnel participate in a 'Tiranga Bike Rally' organised as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations in Prayagraj on Sunday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

India survives

India has proved the doomsayers wrong; it has progressed a lot in the last 75 years, but it has to do a lot more

The Narendra Modi Government is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence with massive fanfare, calling it Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Patriotism is in the air—quite literally—as competing with the Prime Minister in the display of tiranga is Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Then there are intellectuals, most of them Left-liberal, who are sullenly watching the march of Modi’s nationalism which they intensely dislike. But if one objectively looks at the three quarters of a century of India as an Independent nation, one has to recognise that, despite all the failings and shortcomings, it has been a successful journey. The very fact that our nation still has the same boundaries and the same Constitution is itself a very comforting fact. When India became Independent, not many people in the world gave much of a chance to it to survive for too long as a democratic republic; and the fears and misgivings were real, not the results of conspiracy theories. It was a poor country, beset with all kinds of problems; it was even struggling to feed its teeming millions—a situation that continued for more than two decades after Independence. From the net per capita availability of food-grains ranging from 127 to 145 kg in 1946, it was 180.3 kg in 2018. Life expectancy was just 31 years, which has now crossed 70 years. The infant mortality and maternal mortality rates were very high, while education levels were very low.



Besides, there were mind-boggling diversity and divisive forces; apart from the eternal bane of caste, there were Hindu-Muslim communal tensions, militant regional/sub-nationalist movements, and other disruptive elements. But India survived in the early years, which was attributed to the towering personality of Jawaharlal Nehru, so people asked ‘who after Nehru.’ He died 58 years ago, the years in which the country faced humungous problems, from the Malthusian prospects in the 1960s to a brush with dictatorship (the Emergency, 1975-77) to militancy in Punjab and jihadist separatism in Kashmir to economic crisis in 1991. But India has not perished, neither as a nation nor as a democratic republic. This is not to say that all is well with our democracy and our republic. Our democracy has been weakened by several insidious mechanisms, the prominent among them being the anti-defection law. The republic has been undermined by all governments by way of introducing illiberal changes in the Constitution itself, beginning with the First Amendment in 1951, which curtailed the Fundamental Rights to Freedom of Expression and Property; the later eventually ceased to be a Fundamental Right, getting reduced to a legal right. Similarly, while a lot of economic development has taken place in the last 75 years, India remains a poor country; with its per capita income around \$2,300, its rank in the world is 144. India has progressed a lot in the last 75 years, but it has to do a lot more.

PICTALK



A 75-ft National Flag being unfurled at the southern tip of India, ahead of Independence Day, in Kanyakumari

PTI

A cowardly attack

Attack on Salman Rushdie opens up the debate on banning books in a democratic society

In a shocking incident, author Salman Rushdie was stabbed 10 times at an event in New York and was seriously injured. The attacker Hadi Matar follows Shia extremists on social media and is an admirer of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC). He has pleaded not guilty. Rushdie's book ‘The Satanic Verses’, published in 1988 was considered by Muslim clerics as disrespectful of Islam and the Prophet Mohammad. The novel led to a fatwa, a religious decree, by Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The threat forced him into hiding for several years. The author is likely to survive but may lose one eye. He was stabbed 10 times at Chautauqua Institution, where Rushdie was about to speak at the event. The suspect rushed onstage and stabbed him before being wrestled to the ground by staff and other people in the audience. Many world leaders condemned the attack and called it vicious and cowardly.



Back home, the Congress is drawing flak for banning the book. Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress Government was quick to ban the book on the pretext of disturbing law and order. Indeed banning a book or for that matter any work of art is tantamount to negating the very premise of democracy, to give everyone space to speak and express himself without any fear. However, certain reasonable restrictions apply. For instance, no sane society would allow books promoting child pornography or violent actions or drug abuse. Being blasphemous is a little different. It is debatable and should be debated within the boundaries of blasphemy. Satanic Verses is not the only book banned in free India. ‘Rama Retold’ or ‘Ramayana’, a spoof of the Ramayana by Aubrey Menen, was banned in 1955. ‘The land of Lingam’ 1937 Arthur Miles is still banned for being critical of Hinduism and phallic worship. ‘Rangila Rasul’, 1924, which dealt with Prophet Mohammad's relationships is banned to date. ‘The Jewel in the Lotus’, 1968 by Allen Edwardes for being oriental erotica The list is long; it even includes ‘The Da Vinci Code’, banned in Nagaland for its uncharitable comments on Jesus, and ‘An Area of Darkness’ by Nobel prize winner VS Naipaul, and even classic DH Lawrence’s Lady Chatterley’s Lovers. The books are frozen thoughts and when they melt in the reader’s mind, they trigger a thought process. Needless to say, it depends upon the maturity of the individual or society if it can handle it. We can judge for ourselves how mature we are. We cannot be selective in banning books. Let there be a debate about it.

Saving India from unruly neighbours

India has two not-so-friendly neighbours in China and Pakistan; though India has moved on, they haven’t

Pakistani rulers suffer from several obsessions; the Olympic torch passing through Srinagar before eventually reaching Chennai is one of many. How unfortunate that so many of their aspiring chess players were denied the opportunity to play on this world platform at the recent Olympiad at Chennai. This was a fleeting whim but now to trade with India is a chronic denial of so many needed items. Why? Presumably to teach India a lesson. Just because India and Pakistan were born simultaneously, in August 1947, Islamabad has taken it for granted that the two countries are comparable if not equal. How presumptuous to believe that a country and its rulers are, more or less, equal to a neighbour seven times larger. What is more remarkable is that India, at least until 2014 when the BJP came to power, also played along with the Pakistani mania of comparability, if not equality. Irritated by this mania, an Indian writer wrote that when a lion treats a rat as an equal, what else do you expect the world to feel? Perhaps take the lion to be a cat! The damage done to India’s image over the years was far greater.

An expert on Strategy: Edward Luttwak years ago innovated the concept of Armed Suation which, if pursued, would make one’s country appear stronger than it was. His favourite example was pre-World War II Italy which was then widely believed to be the most powerful air power in Europe. Foreign affairs become easier to conduct with Armed Suation than without it. The most recent example was that of China which appeared too powerful to be challenged in Taiwan. But when Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives decided to visit Taipei, against Chinese wishes, and did visit, the Chinese government could not do anything to prevent her. But until her airplane landed in Taipei, she attended the required official functions in the city and flew



out, there was tension. India, as brought up by the Nehru government, was the opposite. India and Pakistan were bracketed together.

When war came, as in 1947, 1965, and 1999 with Pakistan, the question on most lips was: who would win? Why should there have been any questions? For a Pakistan chess team to indicate to the world in Chennai that Islamabad does not still accept that Kashmir is an integral part of India is a show of defiance. It is the result of 74 years of inaction or weak action. To offer only one blunder of inaction as an example was the Simla Conference of 1972 between Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Bhutto following the 1971 war. It was settled between the two leaders that the Line Control, that divides Kashmir and its part that Pakistan had gobbled up in 1947/48, would be the international border. There was to be no dispute in Kashmir left after India returned the 93,000 prisoners of war taken in Bangladesh the previous year.

“THE LOGIC OF THIS SITUATION WAS TO THINK. ANY ENEMY WHO WISHES TO CONQUER AND KEEP TERRITORY WOULD NORMALLY LAUNCH HIS ATTACK IN SPRING AND NOT AUTUMN

We promptly returned the prisoners but let the LOC be until Bhutto could consolidate his position in his country. He had become prime minister only after the 1971 war ended. If this is how we run foreign affairs, instead of Armed Suation, India would be known for its Disarmed Suation and be pushed about by any of its neighbours and adversaries; not to say that the current government in Delhi is pursuing such a weak-kneed policy. To this day not a single POW has remained in India. The LOC is as it was.

How our government mishandled the China policy from the beginning until 1962 is well known but there was a way out even after all the mishandling. Our officers knew in the first few days that the Indian forces had not been prepared or equipped to be able to cope with either the enemy or the terrain or the cold weather. Moreover, any additional troops that the Army could send up to the mountains were going to be wearing their flimsy woolen pullovers, thin socks, and no

gloves and many of the soldiers had no better than canvas shoes. How on earth could such ill-equipped troops fight?

The logic of this situation was to think. Any enemy who wishes to conquer and keep territory would normally launch his attack in spring and not autumn. The Chinese invasion commenced on the 20th of October 1962. The opportunity for India was to withdraw to the plains of Assam where the terrain, the weather, and the clothes would be congenial. The Chinese would have had to occupy the Arunachal or NEFA then hillside through the bitter cold. Meanwhile, our Army would have gained time and got more ready and capable for a spring battle in conditions more of our choosing. But we did not do any of this and were slaughtered flat-footed or were caught frostbitten.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sir — What an excellent way to start the 75th platinum jubilee independence year (from 15th August 2022 onwards). Around 1 crore students in Rajasthan set a world record by singing patriotic songs (in the presence of world records officials from London, England) by singing songs such as “Sare jahan se accha...”, “Vande maataram...”, national anthem “Jana gana mana...” for 25 minutes, (at Sawai Mansingh stadium in Rajasthan).

This must be declared the 1st wonder of this excellent world. Because of harmony, inspirational acts, and good words of peace and unity. However, this should be followed by good deeds and good implementation. Congratulations to all the 1 crore participants and the entire India too. Let every nation emulate other nations only in good things. Not just words, but speedy implementation too.

Sahasra Nivriti Vislesha | Secunderabad

IMPACT OF FREEBIES ON THE ECONOMY

Sir — The Supreme Court made it clear that political parties cannot be banned on the pretext that they distribute freebies. Though it maintained that it is a financial strain on the country’s economy.

The BJP and our PM are now talking about Freebies and now say that the freebies are akin to ‘revdi culture’. They have forgotten that BJP has promised 15 lakhs to give freely to every person and afterward they said that it is an election jhumla. The party which tried to fool the public with promises which were not fulfilled is now talking against the freebies. What about BJP boasting that it is giving free ration to 80crores people with their fund, is it not freebies?

The freebies situation has now escalated into a full-fledged political crisis. According to AAP MP Sanjay Singh, the central Government committed bank frauds of around 12,40,000 crores and waived off loans of Rs crores of rupees to corporate friends. He further said that if the government would not waive off

THE BIG BULL IS NO MORE

The demise of an ace stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala often referred to as India’s Warren Buffett is a huge loss to the Indian financial markets. He began investing with Rs 5,000 in 1985 when the Bombay Stock Exchange’s benchmark index Sensex was at 150; it now trades at over 59,000. How the son of a civil servant came to the market in 1985 with almost nothing and turned it into a fortune, while he made a killing by investing in Titan. Going forward, it is the authenticity of his success story that makes it so powerful. Investors lapped up every word he said on markets and the economy. Company management regularly pitched to him in the hope that he invests with them. They know only too well the value of having him as an investor.

While investor appetite has waxed and waned over the years, the Big Bull has always been an incorrigible India optimist. Over the



years, he’s been out there talking about what makes him so bullish—the skillset of its population and its favourable demographics being the two main reasons - more than any time in the past, he believes India’s time has come. While he had plans to give away a large portion of his wealth to charity, the country, too, has lost a wealth creator.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

loans to corporate persons then there would have been no necessity in increasing the GST on essential commodities. Is waiving loans of corporates, not a freebie and Revdi culture?

We have to make a distinction. If offering free education, free healthcare, or free power is a freebie?

These political parties should seek the trust of voters only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled. The Supreme court’s stand on this issue is thus laudable.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

A SALUTE TO MARTYRS

Sir — At his funeral, the pathetic sight of his inconsolable mother and the relatives of our soldier Lakshman killed by the terrorists must have moved the hearts of even strong-willed persons.

It is unfortunate that invariably every day we are losing our valiant soldiers in our army camps in Jammu and Kashmir to terrorist attacks. If we count the number of precious lives of our army men lost right

from the Pulwama massacre to date, the figure will be nothing but alarming.

While abrogating Article 370 to do away with the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and dividing Jammu and Kashmir into three states, the ruling dispensation assured that this move would bring the curtain down on any more terrorist attacks. Alas! The subsequent terrorist attacks that are frequent now and the death of our soldiers regularly have disproved this assurance given by the Government. The government might have taken such a move with good intentions but the results appear unproductive.

One wonders how the government is going to stall the gruesome death of our poor soldiers at the hands of the terrorists. It is time some serious action is initiated by the government to stall the sacrifice of our soldiers at the altar of those hard-core terrorists.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

You keep yourself busy in kite-flying, we will allocate the portfolios and it will be done soon.



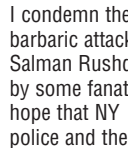
Maharashtra Deputy CM —Devendra Fadnis



The Inflation Reduction Act’s passage through Congress is nothing short of extraordinary. The United States is

taking a historic step towards the clean energy economy we need to meet our climate goals.

Founder Microsoft —Bill Gates

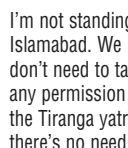


I condemn the barbaric attack on Salman Rushdie by some fanatic. I hope that NY police and the court will take the strongest action possible against the attacker.

Writer —Javed Akhtar



A podium finish at the SeoulEPrix. Well done Team India. What a jubilant way to mark 75 years of Independence of India. Mega job chaps! Cricketer —Virat Kohli



I’m not standing in Islamabad. We don’t need to take any permission for the Tiranga yatra. there’s no need to be scared. BJP leader W Bengal —Suwendu Adhikari

FIRST COLUMN

METHOD OF WORK IS KEY TO ORGANISATIONS

Internal leadership shapes judgement and processes



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Any institution needs a framework of reference to grow. Institutions have their own typologies, like anything else. Institutional typologies can be classified according to their size—large, medium, and small. They can be institutional types by their form of ownership.

They can be proprietary, partnerships, or limited to certain types of people. They can be constituted by people who have invested money in them, and the list can go on.

Besides the types of categories listed in the preceding paragraphs, there can be other types of institutions. The purpose of this text is not to focus on the types of institutions that exist or can exist. The purpose is to highlight how the institutions work. Conventionally this role is performed by a statutory body or a federating body, which decides the method of work. A statutory body determining how institutions work would have a legal status duly enshrined by the process of approval of the statutory body itself, in a legislative system. This legislative system can be an Assembly or a Parliament. Somewhere, a legal framework would come in. The important thing is to understand how it would all work. It is a method of work which will ultimately decide the probity, or indeed, the effectiveness, of the system.



There is a moral dimension also, because in the ultimate analysis, unless it is a private single proprietary ownership, every contributing stream of people who provide money and resources to the organization has a right to know how the institution they have provided money to, is functioning. There is a need to think about corrective measures. There is also a need to ensure that a basic commonsensical fair play is at the root of the institution. It is the system of monitoring which is at the core of organizational and institutional effectiveness. It is here where empirical data on orderly and deviant institutions becomes necessary. So far, it has been the responsibility of the consensus of the social segment where this institution is embedded to determine this. Thus, it is that the general public opinion becomes determinant of ultimate efficacy of the functioning of the institutions. In this the media plays an important role, because it has the responsibility of spreading facts and contributing to a healthy and fair opinion system. Internal leadership of the institution plays a crucial role, because between a flagrant violation of institutional probity and a very rigid form of framework of the institution lies the space for judgment and processes. When it comes to process, there are several indicators of assessing how well or not so well the institution is working. These process issues can be listed, enumerated, and explained. There can be several of them, including size of the institutional bodies, the focus of their sub-objective within the overall objective; how the central figure in that unit is identified, and the list can go on. For purposes of illustration, one could just focus on defining the objectives of the sub-body or indeed, the number of times it meets.

To begin at the top, just the number of times the board of an organization meets is a good example. In streams of organization, say, in education where the statutory systems are not equally rigorously articulated aberration can take place. There have been cases of several educational institutions where the Governing Body neither meets regularly nor for a given span of time. There have been examples in national chains where a newly set up institution in that chain did not meet for as much as nine months. It did not bother anyone particularly. To put it more simply, for the healthy running of institutions, there is a need to establish, observable, actionable, and cognizable method of work.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

India@75: Unshackle political bondages

Indian democracy must become attractive to skilled people such as those who have domain expertise



SUMET BHASIN

Last month, the YSR Congress elected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy as its chief for lifetime. In China, Xi Jinping has such credentials. India is a democracy. China is a one party nation and a totalitarian state. What kind of democracy the YSR Congress fosters is not just the business of Jagan Mohan Reddy, but also of those who have stakes in the Indian democracy.

The president of the Rashtriya Janata Dal has invariably been from within the Lalu Prasad Yadav family. Same is the case with the Samajwadi Party. Similar is the story of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Shiv Sena, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, and some others. On a closer look, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam also fits in the same slot. Even the Congress presents no different story in the last few decades.

The Representation of the People's Act has failed to stop some political parties becoming family-owned enterprises. India abolished the practice of Zamindari in 1951. Yet, their political avatars have mushroomed in many states, carving out territories by cashing in on identity politics, to imprison democracy to a few families.

At a time when India celebrates 75 years of Independence, while the world applauds the depth and diversity of democracy, lawmakers must introspect that under their watch the political zamindari has taken a large space, which should have otherwise been with the genuine leaders, who would have come from the political grinding to command leadership of a large base of the population.

That makes it incumbent for radical reforms to be carried out immediately by holding discussions with stakeholders in a time-bound manner to blank out any prospect of any family usurping a political party.

To put this to effect, the RPA Act can be suitably amended to prohibit a person from holding more than two terms of the post of the president of a political party. It should also be ensured that when that person leaves the post, it cannot be held by anyone who has family relations with him for not less than 10 years.

There is no denying the fact that politics in the country has become more caste-centric. This calls for a review of the reserved seats for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, Zila Panchayat and Local Bodies. Why should only a scheduled caste or tribe politician represent a reserved seat, and what stops a general category politician from working for such constituencies who have been disadvantaged for decades.

The Directive Principle of the Constitution and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi call for social amity, and politics is the foremost means of achieving such aims. The aims for Samajik Samrasta (social inclusiveness) make it incumbent to shuffle reserved seats without attaching them to demographic profile, while also not impacting on the number of such seats. This will bring true inclusiveness. This will make the



MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE POLITICAL WORKERS ARE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. STILL, THEY AREN'T SEEN BEGGING ANYWHERE; RATHER THEY MOVE AROUND IN SPORTS VEHICLES

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre.)



candidates from the reserved constituencies win from the general seats, which will boost their political profiles, and also make them take up more meaningful roles in the socio-economic progress of the nation than just being stereotyped as an SC or ST leader.

The reforms should also aim for provisions which will ensure that there is a larger participation of the political workers from the disadvantaged sections of the society in the Indian democracy to genuinely address aspirations of all the sections.

The Election Commission can be mandated to shuffle the reserved seats in each election so that there is a larger pool of leaders available to serve the nation in the true spirit of social democracy.

In this context, reforms should also take a closer look at the participation of women, scheduled caste and tribe leaders in all wings of democracy, and statutorily ensure that anomalies are addressed.

More than 90 per cent of the political workers are not known to have any means of livelihood. Still, they aren't seen begging anywhere, and rather they move around in sports vehicles. This is the story from Gram Panchayat to State capitals and the national capital. People don't pay much attention to their means of income, taking for granted that they must be hailing from well-off family backgrounds.

This brings to the attention the backgrounds of the likes of Akhi-

lesh Yadav or Aditya Thackeray, for there's no public records to show their sources of incomes to justify their lavish lifestyles. They are prominent names of Indian politics, but there would be millions of political workers who never had enough education to find jobs and so they found it convenient to join politics.

This is indeed India's paradox that we aspire for the country to be free from corruption but the life and breath of democracy are ensured by an army of workers who have no known sources of incomes. They may engage in ways which may not be appropriate for their livelihoods, while also incurring necessary expenditure on behalf of their political parties.

This again calls for deep reforms in electoral politics, and we should not be apologetic to admit that we need to pay a respectable salary to a political worker who is working full time. This salary has to be paid by political parties, but they have to be bound under the suitable law, which should be auditable by a government agency, with the oversight to be vested with the Election Commission. That will be the serious attempt to get rid of political corruption, as it will also pave the way for a close monitoring of the assets of the political leaders.

Additionally, the Election Commission must breathe fresh air and admit that there is no rationality in the expenditure ceilings in the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elec-

tions, and also on the grounds of the geography, as well as the size of the constituencies. There must be rationalization of expenditure ceilings, for this again is a ground for massive electoral corruption, as dummy candidates are put up to cover additional expenses of candidates, besides also being the reasons for more vices in the election system in the country.

In the 1990s, the political leaders brainstormed about India of the 21st century. We have been two decades old in the 21st century and our electoral democracy remains rugged and outdated, not rising to the challenges of the new era, where the people are educated, besides being aspirational, along with India aiming to take a prominent position on the high table in the international arena.

Until we shake off the dust that the electoral democracy has gathered over several decades, no genuine gains can go to the deserving people. India at 75 must ensure that anyone with fire in his or her belly to serve the nation can join politics without worrying for his or her livelihood and progress in politics.

Indian democracy must become attractive to skilled people such as those who have domain expertise of law, international relations, economy, social science, arts, informational and technology and so on. India at 75 must also be of skilled and honest politicians, and zero tolerance for the new-age zamindars.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

'JUNGLE RAJ' HAS RETURNED TO BIHAR WITH THE RJD-JD(U) GOVERNMENT ASSUMING POWER IN THE STATE. —BJP SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA



HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM BIHAR DID THEY (BJP) MAKE A MINISTER AT CENTRE? I ASKED FOR FOUR MINISTERS FROM OUR PARTY. THEY DID NOT GIVE. —BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR

Indian pharmaceutical industry poised to take off

Ever since the economic reforms of 1991, the domestic pharma industry has grown by leaps and bounds

The 75th Independence Day holds a lot of significance for the pharmaceutical industry in India. Over the past few decades since India's Independence, the industry has witnessed immense growth and emerged as one of the leading providers of drugs/medicines to countries worldwide.

From being non-existent in the 1970s to supplying crucial drugs to more than 200 countries in the fight against the pandemic, the Indian pharmaceutical industry has shown its prowess in its commitment to better health of people across the globe. With the government's strong push towards an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', several initiatives both at the business and policy levels have been implemented to propel the pharmaceutical industry towards



NIKKHIL K MASURKAR

(The author is CEO, Entod Pharmaceuticals.)

further heights.

Presently, the Indian pharmaceutical industry caters to more than 60 per cent of the global demand for different vaccines as well as ARV drug supplies, 30 per cent of UNICEF's annual supply worldwide and almost 60-80 per cent of UN purchases of medicines come from India.

Additionally, India also contributes nearly 57 per cent of APIs and 69 per cent of FPP (Finished Pharma Products) to the WHO's Pre-Qualified list. Furthermore, about 40 per cent of generics drug requirements in the US are met by India. All this is possible due to various initiatives that were taken to boost the domestic pharmaceutical industry. Here's a look at the significant ones that aided in the strong growth of the industry:

The Patent Act, 1970

This was the first patent act introduced after India became independent. It made the way for process patents and restricted patenting of end-products, which enabled manufacturers to develop alternative processes for proprietary products that were already there in the market.

The Drug Policy, 1978

The introduction of this policy along with the Price Control Order of 1979 turned out to be landmark events for the pharmaceutical industry in India. It not only enabled the setting up of a National Drug Authority but also provided a 'directional push' to the sector. The policy aimed at increasing the local production of bulk drugs, providing leadership to the PSUs,

reducing imports of bulk drugs, encouraging the growth of the local industry and reducing the selling prices of important drugs along with their formulations.

Hatch-Waxman Act 1984

Even though this Act was passed in the US, it helped in the proliferation of generic drugs and assisted a lot in the growth of the Indian generic industry. The Act established the economic and legal foundation for the present-day generic pharmaceutical industry.

The 1991 economic reforms

The Indian government in 1991 launched some major economic reforms and entered the world of globalisation. The economic reforms helped in market liberalisation, linking the Indian

pharmaceutical industry with the world economy. It also ensured the end of the 'License-Raj', which allowed the pharma industry to enjoy more freedom in the market. This created more leverage for domestic players and allowed market competition to produce better products. By liberalising the economy, the government increased business opportunities in the country. As a result, a number of entrepreneurs seized the opportunities and grew their pharma business from a small firm to a big company. Ever since the inception of these reforms, the domestic pharma industry has grown by leaps and bounds and currently exports medicines and drugs worth \$19 billion throughout the world.

Recently, the Cabinet also approved two schemes, namely

the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the scheme on Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks, to promote domestic manufacturing of critical key starting materials/drug intermediates and APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) in India.

The government has plans to develop three mega bulk drug parks in India in partnership with states. A sum of Rs 3,000 crore has been approved for this scheme for the next five years. Under the PLI scheme, financial incentives will be provided to eligible producers of identified 53 critical bulk drugs on their incremental sales over the base year (2019-20) for a period of six years.

The scheme will reduce the country's import dependence for critical KSMs/Drug Intermediates and APIs.

Conclusion

In the recent past, digitisation has also emerged as a key driver for the pharmaceutical industry, helping to deliver top-quality and hyper-personalized customer experiences and also improving business resilience and performance. Without any doubt, digitisation will play an active role in driving agility across the pharmaceutical value chain by bringing the sector closer to patients and doctors.

Most importantly, the pharma industry must work towards further innovation, by manufacturing effective new medicines/ drugs for emerging and unmet healthcare needs. Steps like these will enable the industry to transform into an innovation hub for the future.

BJP gets crucial portfolios in Maha Cabinet expansion

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling BJP walked away with several crucial portfolios like Home, Finance, Housing, Revenue, and Rural Development in the Ministry allocations made belatedly by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday in Maharashtra.

While Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis (BJP) has been vested with plum portfolios like Home, Finance & Planning, Law & Justice, Water Resources, Energy, Housing and Protocol.

Chief Minister Shinde will handle the traditional Urban Development, GAD, IT, PWD (Public Projects), Transport and other departments.

In the portfolio allocations made by the Chief Minister five days after he expanded his Cabinet on August 9 through



the induction of 18 new Ministers, BJP Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil was allocated Revenue, Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry, while Sudhir Mungantiwar was given

Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries. Chandrakant Patil was handed Higher & Technical Education, Textiles and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio. Dr Vijaykumar Gavit was allocated Tribal Development,

while Girish Mahajan was given Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Medical Education, Sports & Youth Welfare. Mangal Prabhat Lodha was allocated Tourism, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Women & Child Development.

Ravindra Chavan was given Public Works (excluding Public Enterprises), Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, while Atul Save got Cooperation, Other Backward & Bahujan Welfare. Suresh Khade was allocated the Labour department.

The portfolio allocation made in the case of the Shinde group is as follows: Gulabrao Patil—Water Supply & Sanitation, Dadaji Bhuse—Ports & Mines and Sanjay Rathod given Food & Drug Administration, Sandipan

Bhumre—Employment Guarantee Scheme and Horticulture, Uday Samant—Industry and Prof. Tanaji Sawant—Public Health & Family Welfare.

While Abdul Sattar from the Shinde camp has been given Agriculture, Deepak Kesarkar was given School Education & Marathi Language and Shambhuraj Desai got State Excise portfolio.

Besides, other Ministries that have not been allocated in the first round of Cabinet expansion will be handled by Shinde. These portfolios are: Information & Public Relations, Marketing, Social Justice and Special Assistance, Relief and Rehabilitation, Disaster Management, Soil and Water Conservation, Environment and Climate Change, Minority and Wakf.

Tragedy of Partition can't be misused to fuel hate: Cong

PM wants to mark August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' to use it as fodder for his political battles: Jairam Ramesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the real intent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' is to use the traumatic events as fodder for his current political battles.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the tragedy of the Partition, cannot be misused to fuel hate and prejudice.

He said the politics of hate will be defeated and the Congress will continue its efforts to unite India while upholding the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"The real intent of the PM to mark August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' is to use the most traumatic historical events as fodder for his current political battles. Lakhs upon lakhs were dislocated and lost their lives. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten or disrespected," Ramesh said in a series of tweets.

"The tragedy of the Partition cannot be misused to



fuel hate and prejudice. The truth is Savarkar originated the two-nation theory and Jinnah perfected it. Sardar Patel wrote, 'I felt that if we did not accept the Partition, India would be split into many bits and would be completely ruined,' he also said.

The Congress leader also asked, "Will the PM also recall today Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jan Sangh, who championed the Partition of Bengal against the wishes of Sarat Chandra Bose, and who sat in free India's first Cabinet while the tragic consequences of the Partition were becoming evi-

dent?" Alleging that the "modern-day Savarkars and Jinnahs" are continuing their efforts to divide the nation, Ramesh said the Indian National Congress will uphold the legacy of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and many others who were untiring in their efforts to unite the nation. "The politics of hate will be defeated," he asserted.

Pakistan was carved out as a separate country after the division of India by the British in 1947. Millions of people were displaced and many lakhs of them lost their lives in the communal violence that followed.

Death cuts short the Big Bull's run at 62

Jhunjhunwala passes away days after launch of his Akasa Air

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Billionaire investor, the 'Big Bull' of the Indian market, and Akasa Air co-founder Rakesh Jhunjhunwala passed away on Sunday, following a cardiac arrest.

He was 62 and is survived by his wife Rekha Jhunjhunwala and daughter Nishtha and two twin sons Aryaman and Aryaveer.

Jhunjhunwala, who was the 36th richest person in the country as per the Forbes' 2021 list and had a net worth of around \$5.8 billion, was brought dead to the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai at 6:45 A.M on Sunday.

His health had deteriorated over the past few weeks, and he was being treated for kidney-related ailments and ischemic heart disease. The hospital certified that cardiac arrest was the cause of his death. Jhunjhunwala, who had lived his life king size, had several vices. He had gone on record way back in 2013, saying: "I don't have good habits. I smoke like a chimney, drink like a fish, eat like a pig. I don't exercise. Yes. My health worries me".

He had recently teamed up with ex-Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube and former IndiGo head Aditya Ghosh to launch Akasa Air, a low-cost airline. The airline took to the skies last week. He was seen in a wheelchair at the launch of Akasa Air. The airline currently has two aircrafts with an additional order for 70 more planes and flies to three cities.

In a statement, Akasa Air mourned Jhunjhunwala's death and said that he cared greatly for the well-being of its employees and customers. "Akasa Air will honour his legacy, values and belief in us by striving to run a great airline," a statement issued by Akasa Air said.

Dubbed as "India's Warren Buffett", Jhunjhunwala was



always bullish about the country's stock market. He had made investments in more than three dozen companies. Among the companies where he had made huge investments were Titan, Star Health & Allied Insurance, Metro Brands, CRISIL Ltd, NCC Limited and Tata Motors.

He was also the Chairman of Hungama Digital Media Entertainment Pvt Ltd and Apteck Ltd. He was on the Board of Directors of several companies, including Provogue India Limited, Nagarjuna Constructions, Tops Security Ltd and Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd. His privately-owned stock trading firm Rare Enterprises derived its name from the first two letters of his name and that of his investor wife Rekha.

Born on July 5, 1960 Jhunjhunwala grew up in Mumbai, where his father was posted as an Income-Tax officer. After graduating from Sydenham College in 1985, he enrolled at the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India. Jhunjhunwala began investing with Rs 5,000 in 1985 when the Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark index Sensex was at 150. At the time of death, his investment had grown to Rs 11,000 crore. As of 2021, his biggest investment was in Titan Company which was worth Rs 7,294.8 crore.

Known for his rich lifestyle, Jhunjhunwala -- in 2013 -- bought six of the 12 units of Ridgeway apartments at Malabar Hill from Standard Chartered bank for Rs 176 crore. Later in 2017 he bought the other six apartments in the building from HSBC bank for

Rs 195 crore. In 2021 he commenced the construction of his new 70,000 square feet 13 storey home after the demolition of the old building.

Jhunjhunwala was investigated for insider trading. Later on SEBI settled the issue after a total payment of Rs 35 crore from Jhunjhunwala and his associates. Jhunjhunwala paid Rs 18.5 crore, while his wife paid Rs 3.2 crore.

Mourning the death of Jhunjhunwala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the legendary investor "leaves behind an indelible contribution to the financial world."

"Shri Rakesh Jhunjhunwala is no more. Investor, bold risk taker, masterly understanding of the stock market, clear in communication - a leader in his own right. Fondly remember several conversations we've had. Had strong belief in India's strength and capabilities. Condolences," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia said he will be remembered for giving India its new airline Akasa Air after more than a decade. Paying a rich tribute to Jhunjhunwala, Industrialist Ratan Tata said that the billionaire investor would always be remembered for "his acute understanding of the stock exchanges of India."

"He will also be remembered for his joyful personality, his kindness, and his far-sightedness. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family which has to share the burden of this great loss," Ratan Tata added.

'PARTITION DAY REMINDS NATION OF SUFFERING OF INDIANS'

From Page 1

at that time who had the responsibility of fighting against these divisive forces?," the BJP tweeted along with the video.

The party has been organising exhibitions on the issue at various party offices and other places from August 12 to 14.

A six-member committee was set up to ensure the implementation of the idea across the country, which consisted of national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, former Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, Narendra Rana, Anirban Ganguly, Priti Gandhi and Shakti Singh.

The party members also met the families of those who underwent the pain of the Partition in 1947, according to Gautam.

The BJP leaders said efforts would be made to tell the new generation about the "horror of the Partition which was done on the basis of religion."

The pictures of the Partition were also shared by the BJP on social media in the process to let the new generation know about the Partition tragedies.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday inaugurated an exhibition on the theme 'Horrors of Partition' at the Parliament Library Building. Incidentally, this date also marks Pakistan's Independence Day.

IMD predicts light rains at Red Fort on I-Day morning

New Delhi (PTI): The weather office has forecast light rain and strong winds on Monday morning in the area surrounding the Red Fort where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist the national flag to mark the 76th Independence Day.

In a special forecast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the Red Fort area could experience a generally cloudy sky with light rain in the morning hours between 6 AM and 12 noon. "Strong wind occasionally speed reaching 20-30 km per hour likely to prevail during forenoon," the weather forecast said.

The minimum temperature on Monday morning was expected to be in the range of 25-27 degrees Celsius, it said, adding that the mercury could touch 36 degrees Celsius during the day.

The weather office has also forecast generally cloudy sky with light rain over the Red Fort area from Sunday midnight till 6 AM.

The weather office started issuing three-hourly nowcast for the region from Sunday afternoon. Parts of the national capital received light rains on Sunday with Palam reporting 10.8 mm rainfall between 8:30 AM and 6:30 PM followed by Lodhi Road and Ridge (6.4 mm each), Pusa (4.5 mm) and Ayanagar (3.1 mm), the weather office said. The maximum temperature reported in the national capital on Sunday was 34 degrees Celsius, while the mercury settled at 27.1 degrees Celsius in the morning.

J-K govt scraps 'discriminatory' rules

Srinagar (PTI): Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday scrapped the Probationer (Condition of Service, Pay and Allowances) and Fixation Rules, 2020, to bring all employees being appointed on equal-footing in terms of salary and other benefits. The decision was taken by the Administrative Council, which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The Administrative Council approved the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir Probationer (Condition of Service, Pay and Allowances) and Fixation Rules, 2020, notified vide S.O. 192 of 2020 (successor of S.O 202 of 2015); with effect from August 1, 2022, an official spokesman said.

The decision will bring all government employees being appointed in the Union territory on an equal footing with their earlier appointed counterparts who may be occupying the same/comparable posts in the cadre, the spokesman said.

Army Jawan's body buried in Siachen glacier found after thirty eight years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Army has found the mortal remains of one of its soldiers after 38 years in the Siachen glacier. The soldier has been identified as Lance Naik Chandra Shekhar. He was reported missing after an avalanche hit his team on the world's highest battlefield.

A patrol team on Saturday found the remains of Shekhar in an old bunker at the Siachen glacier at a height of more than 16,000 feet. An identification disc around the neck of the skeleton helped the army ascertain his identity.

The soldier served in the 19 Kumaon Regiment and

hailed from Haldwani, Uttarakhand. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Giving details of the recovery, sources also said his elder daughter was eight years old and the younger one only four when the mishap took place. Several retired soldiers of his unit and family members are likely to attend the ceremony when his mortal remains arrive in Haldwani.

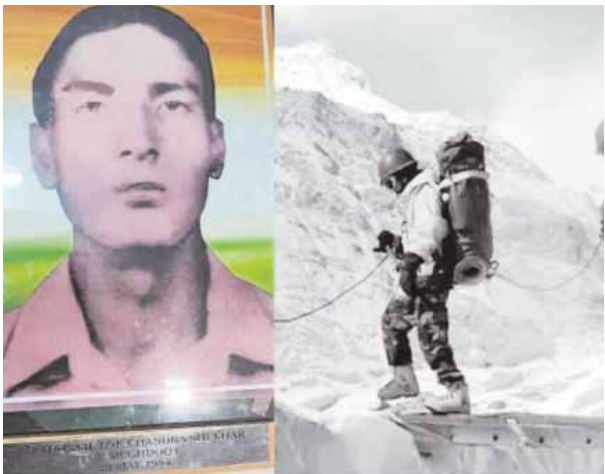
The mishap took place in 1984 shortly after the Indian army was deployed at the Siachen glacier. Shekhar was part of a team asked to capture Point 5965, an important feature that the Pakistanis were eyeing. The 19 Kumaon regiment unit was one of the first

to take part in actions when the Indian army was deployed at the glacier.

Shekhar's unit had halted for the night when an avalanche hit it. Eighteen personnel, including an officer Second Lieutenant P S Pundir, were killed, sources said. While the mortal remains of 14 were found, five were missing.

Shekhar's body was found by a patrol team, they said, adding in summer months the teams fan out at the glacier to locate the missing soldiers.

In the past too, the patrolling teams have found remains of missing soldiers there. Harsh weather and avalanches have taken the lives of nearly 900 Indian soldiers



since Operation Meghdoot, the name given to deployment

at Siachen glacier began in 1984.



Artists pose for pictures near a sand sculpture on the eve of Independence Day, in Pune on Sunday

PTI

JeM affiliate PAFF takes responsibility for attack on Army camp

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The People's Anti-Fascist Force (PAFF), believed to be an affiliate of Pakistani terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), has taken responsibility for the attack on an army camp in Rajouri in Jammu early on Thursday in which four soldiers lost their lives and two terrorists were liquidated in the operation.

The PAFF has issued two separate video messages claiming responsibility for the attack and warned of more such attacks to achieve its objective of internationalizing the Kashmir issue.

In one of the videos, a man with his face blurred warns to escalate attacks against the security forces which he dubbed as "Hindutva Forces". "With Rajouri attack, we began such an operation. We will gradually calibrate to such a level that the international community knows that Kashmir is still a war zone," the man in the video warned.

The outfit further warned that it is determined to not allow India to conduct any G-20 meeting in Kashmir and that it will do anything and everything to stop this.

Besides hard military attacks, the outfit has exhorted the Kashmiri diaspora to raise the issue diplomatically and engage as many foreign governments as possible to highlight the issue.

Four Army jawans were killed in the terrorist attack on an Army camp in the Rajouri district of Jammu early on Thursday, just four days ahead of Independence Day. Both the terrorists involved in the attack were gunned down in the four-hour gunfight that ensued.

Nitish Govt to have panel for coordinating with its allies in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

To prevent any dissatisfaction within its allies in the new Mahagathbandhan Government led by Nitish Kumar, a formula has been worked out for allotting Ministerial berths.

A coordination committee will also be formed to take up issues raised by the alliance partners and ensure that differences do not come into the public domain and are sorted out internally.

Sources said the formula worked upon is one Ministerial berth to a party per every 4 MLAs. This means that the major partner RJD led by Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav will have a greater share with 18 ministers followed by Nitish's JDU with 12 berths.

The Congress will end up with four Minister berths. The Grand Alliance at present comprises seven parties — JD(U), RJD, Congress, CPIML(L), CPI, CPI(M) and

HAM, which together have more than 160 MLAs in the 243-member Assembly.

Congress state in-charge Bhakta Charan Das said the party as of now will get three Ministers, with 2 taking oath on August 16 and others to be inducted in the next exercise. If the above formula worked, then Congress may get an additional berth later.

The Left parties will not join the Government and extend outside support. The Left block has 16 members in the Assembly. The Nitish-led Mahagathbandhan Government will go on for a floor test on August 24.

Das said the Congress MLAs who will become the Ministers are yet to be decided. "We will finalise the names of our legislators who will be part of the Nitish Kumar Cabinet on Monday," he said.

While Nitish is in touch with Tejashwi, JD(U) president Lalan Singh reached Delhi to meet RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav.

Army awarded 1 Kirti Chakra, 8 Shaurya Chakra on occasion of I- Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Army was awarded one Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry medal, besides eight Shaurya Chakra (third highest) on the occasion of Independence Day.

Two of the Shaurya Chakras out of eight were awarded the medal posthumously. All nine medals were given for the gallant actions of the soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Giving details here on Saturday, officials said the Kirti Chakra was awarded to Naik Devendra Pratap Singh. The Shaurya Chakra awardees include MAJOR NITIN DHAANIA, MAJOR AMIT DAHIYA, SENA MEDAL

MAJOR SANDEEP KUMAR, MAJOR ABHISHEK SINGH, HAVILDAR GHANSHYAM and LANCE NAIK RAGH VENDRA SINGH. The posthumous awardees are SEPOY KARN VEER SINGH and GUNNER JASBIR SINGH.

108: J&K Police personnel get maximum medals for gallantry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Independence Day, police personnel from Jammu and Kashmir bagged 108 police medals for gallantry (PMG), the most among States and Union Territories of the total 347 gallantry awards.

The CRPF personnel bagged the maximum number of medals with 109 gallantry awards in serving regions like Jammu and Kashmir and Maoist-affected areas. As many 87 personnel and officers won President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

Various categories of service medals, including for gallant action, have been awarded to 1,082 police personnel from CAPFs and state forces, said the Ministry of Home Affairs in a statement said Sunday.

"Among the majority of the 347 Gallantry Awards, 204 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in Jammu & Kashmir, 80 personnel for their gallant action in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, and 14 personnel for their gallant action in North-East Region.

Among the personnel receiving Gallantry Awards, 109 are from CRPF, 108 are from J&K Police, 19 are from BSF, 42 are from Maharashtra, 15 are from Chhattisgarh, and the remaining from the other States/UTs and CAPFs," said MHA.

Among them, 347 have been awarded police medal for gallantry (PMG), 87 President's police medal for distinguished service, and 648 given police medals for meritorious service.

Out of the 347 gallantry awards, 204 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in Jammu and Kashmir, 80 for displaying bravery in Left Wing Extremism or Naxal violence-affected areas, and 14 personnel for showing bravery in North-East Region, the Union

Home Ministry said. CRPF IGs Padmakar Santu Ranpise, Rajesh Kumar, CISF IG Hem Raj Gupta, SSB IGs Pankaj Kumar Darad, Pradeep Kumar Gupta, BSF IG Bhupendra Kumar Mehta, and DIGs Indraj Singh, Kamaljit Singh Banyal, Binay Kumar Jha were among the 87 persons won the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

Intelligence Bureau's Joint Directors Rajiv Ahir, Sunita Kakran and Balbir Singh also got the President's Medal, Delhi Police's Assistant Commissioners Pancham Chand and Shivaji Chauhan also won the prestigious President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has received the maximum gallantry medals at 109, followed by 108 to the J&K Police, 19 to the Border Security Force (BSF), and six each to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Within the state police forces, 42 gallantry medals have been given to Maharashtra, 15 to Chhattisgarh for the anti-Maoist operations.

Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Jatinder Singh, Faiz Mohd, and Allah Din Khatana of the Jammu and Kashmir Police have been awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry for their counter-terrorism operation on March 23, 2021, in the Shopian district that saw protests from locals.

The terrorist was neutralized in an hours-long complex operation. During the operation, "a huge number of miscreants had gathered from nearby villages and started pelting stones on security forces followed by sloganeering against them," reads the citation.

"These teams displayed utmost tolerance and kept the miscreants at bay. In this process, a few men of the law & order team got minor injuries. After a thorough search, bodies of 04 terrorists of LeT out-



DR. BHUPENDRA KUMAR MEHTA, IG (Med) Shri INDRAJ SINGH, DIG (Now IG) Shri KAMALJIT SINGH BANYAL, DIG (Now IG) Shri BINAY KUMAR JHA, DIG, (Now IG) Inspr (Min) VARGHESE VK

fit and their arms/ammuni-

tion were recovered from the site and the operation was called-off," said the citation.

Twenty Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force personnel have been awarded various service medals, including for bravery, on the occasion of Independence Day.

The decorations include six police gallantry medals, three President's police medals for distinguished service, and 11 police medals for meritorious service, ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said. Sashastra Seema Bal's (SSB) personnel got 20 awards including six medals for President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

Those awarded the bravery medals include Assistant Commandants (ACs) Prabhat Mukul Martin Minz and Amit Kumar, Assistant Sub Inspector Kuldeep Raj, Head Constable Hamesh Kumar and Constables Brahm Chandra and Shakti Kumar. They have been awarded for undertaking two separate operations against Naxals in Chhattisgarh, the spokesperson said.

Seventy BSF personnel have been conferred with Police Medals which includes 19 Police Medals for Gallantry, 05 President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service, and 46 Police Medals for Meritorious Service. "Constable Kishan Kumar Dubey of 119 Bn BSF

made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while defending an FDL in Distt - Kupwara (J&K) on July 9, 2015, during unprovoked firing by Pak troops. For meticulous operational planning, exemplary courage, and operational acumen, Ct Kishan Kumar Dubey has been awarded Police Medal for Gallantry (Posthumously).

"During the intervening night of 7/8th August 2016, troops of 156 Battalion BSF while deployed in FDL Bhuriwala in Jammu Kashmir, noticed the movement of heavily armed militants trying to infiltrate into own side.

Party challenged the militants which further lead to an encounter in which SI Mahendra Yadav, HC Chandra Pal Singh, CT (Cook) BananSaha made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Own party also neutralized one militant and recovered a huge quantity of Arms and Ammunition from the encounter site.

For the meticulous operational planning, exemplary combat audacity, operational acumen, and flawless conduct of operation, SI Mahendra Yadav, HC Chandra Pal Singh, CT (Cook) BananSaha have been awarded Police Medal for Gallantry (Posthumously) and Ct Harikesh Meena awarded with Police Medal for Gallantry," said BSF quoting the citation.



From Delhi to Kashmir — heavy security blanket for I-Day celebrations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has not only been decked in tricolour hues in the lead up to the 76th Independence Day celebrations, but also put under a heavy security blanket, right from Delhi, the epicentre of the mega celebrations, to Jammu and Kashmir. The police machinery across states has been put on vigil to ensure that the celebrations are not hampered in any way.

In Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be addressing the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort, security has been stepped up with Delhi Police deploying more than 10,000 personnel to guard the Mughal-era monument.

From facial recognition system (FRS) cameras installed at the entry point of the Red Fort to multi-layered security cover and deployment of over 400 kite catchers and fliers on rooftops and other sensitive locations in the fort area to counter any threats from sub-conventional aerial platforms - the area is under hawk-eye vigil.

With nearly 7,000 invitees expected to attend the event at the Red Fort, a five-kilometre area around the monument has been marked as "no kite flying zone" till the tricolour is hoisted. Tendra Pathak, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), had said provisions of Section 144 have already been instituted in Delhi.

Anti-drone systems from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and other security agencies have also been installed, police said. In the

financial capital of the country, Mumbai, several law-enforcing units have been deployed to man the streets of the metropolis along with anti-drone systems, an official said.

According to the official, while there was no specific input in view of Independence Day, as a matter of routine, security of vital installations had been increased and officials had been asked to conduct spot visits. "We are conducting anti-sabotage checks. Since Wednesday, operation all out is underway comprising checking of hotels, vehicles and road barricading. Action is being taken against history-sheeters and those external," the official added.

The official also anticipated crowding as the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of Independence.

In Kashmir, where the main function will be held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha presiding over it, drones, snipers and policemen in plain clothes have been deployed for surveillance.

Vehicle checking has been intensified, according to officials, while police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength at many places in the city and elsewhere in the Valley to thwart any attempts by militants to disrupt the celebrations.

Random search of vehicles and frisking of people is also being carried out at several places in the Valley, they said. Sharp shooters have been deployed at all high-rise buildings around the stadium to prevent any untoward incidents.

I-Day occasion to remember freedom fighters, builders of modern India: V-P Dhankhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Independence Day is an occasion to remember the valiant freedom fighters whose courage and sacrifice brought us freedom and the builders of modern India, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday.

As India celebrates "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", it is time to recall and retell the inspiring stories of the great revolutionaries and freedom fighters to encourage the younger generation to imbibe the virtues of patriotism, sacrifice and service, he said.

In his message on the eve of 76th Independence Day, the vice president said as we celebrate the immense progress made over the last 75 years, "let us not forget how hard-won our freedom is."

"Independence Day is an occasion to remember and pay tribute to those valiant freedom fighters whose courage and sacrifice brought us freedom from the oppressive colonial



rule," he said. Dhankhar said this day is also an occasion to pay our gratitude to the builders of modern India whose hard work and dedication laid the foundation of a sovereign, stable and strong republic.

"Today, India is a country brimming with potential, surging ahead on the path of all round development... On this Independence Day, let us renew our pledge to uphold the civilisational ethos of 'Bharat' and constitutional values and rededicate ourselves to further gallop towards building an inclusive, progressive and prosperous India," he said.

Seven decades after Partition, 94-yr-old woman recalls carnage, rebuilding life from scratch

PTI ■ AMBALA

There was bloodshed everywhere... Every other person on the train was mourning the loss of a loved one," says 94-year-old Kailash Rani, recalling the day she and her family were forced to flee their home in Pakistan's Rawalpindi during Partition.

"Some of our close relatives accompanying us were killed in cold blood by some youths," Rani said here on Sunday. The independence of India from British colonial rule in 1947 coincided with Partition that triggered widespread communal violence and resulted in an insurmountable refugee crisis.

Rani said her husband, Suraj Prakash, a businessman, faced communal violence and mindless hate before the family decided to leave Rawalpindi for somewhere safe.

"We were well settled and our family was very prosperous living in a posh colony there. Suddenly, riots erupted and we were forced to leave," the nonagenarian said. She said the situation was so bad at that time that they could not take any valuables with them.

"We buried all our gold ornaments in the corner of our house hoping to collect them after a few years once the situation would return to normal." Unfortunately, we have not been able to visit our ancestral house in 75 years. We don't even know if our house in Rawalpindi still exists," she said.

Rani said she and her family managed to reach the railway station and boarded a train headed to India. "There was chaos, fear and looting on the train. The train was overloaded with refugees. Thank God we reached Ambala safely," she said.

Like millions of others who were displaced during Partition, Rani and her family members had to rebuild their lives from scratch.

Initially, they lived in tents along with other families at Baldev Nagar Camp in Ambala city. "Later, we were shifted to mud houses.

Nadda takes part in silent procession to mark Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday participated in a silent procession here in remembrance of India's Partition in 1947 and the tragedy associated with it.

The procession from Jantar Mantar to Connaught Place also saw the participation of Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Anurag Thakur, BJP vice president Vijayanti Panda, the party's Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta and ex-Union minister Harsh Vardhan, among others.

Holding the national flag, the participants marched silently to mark the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, paying homage to people who died during Partition. Pakistan was carved out as a Muslim country after the division of



India by the British colonial rule in 1947. Millions of people were displaced and lakhs of them lost their lives in the communal violence that followed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced last year that August 14 will be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people. India will celebrate its Independence Day on Monday.



School children participate in a Har Ghar Tiranga campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in New Delhi on Sunday

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

More US lawmakers visiting Taiwan twelve days after Pelosi trip



AP ■ TAIPEI

A delegation of American lawmakers is visiting Taiwan just 12 days after a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that angered China. The five-member delegation, led by Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, will meet senior leaders to discuss US-Taiwan relations, regional security, trade, investment and other issues, the American Institute in Taiwan said. The institute represents the U.S. Government, which does not have official ties with Taiwan. China, which claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory, responded to Pelosi's Aug. 2 visit by sending missiles, war-

ships and warplanes into the seas and skies around Taiwan for several days afterward. The Chinese government objects to Taiwan having any official contact with foreign governments, particularly with a high-ranking congressional leader like Pelosi. A Taiwanese broadcaster showed video of a U.S. Government plane landing about 7 p.m. Sunday at Songshan Airport in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital. While it wasn't confirmed who was on board, the American Institute issued a brief statement soon after announcing the delegation would be in Taiwan on Sunday and Monday as part of a trip to Asia.

The other members of the delegation are Republican Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a delegate from American Samoa, and Democratic House members John Garamendi and Alan Lowenthal from California and Don Beyer from Virginia. Chinese warplanes have been crossing the midpoint of the Taiwan Strait on a daily basis even after the conclusion of the military exercises, with at least 10 doing so on Sunday, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said. The 10 fighter jets were among 22 Chinese military aircraft and six naval ships detected in the area around Taiwan by 5 pm On Sunday, the ministry said on its Twitter account.

Officials: Fire at Coptic church in Cairo kills 41, injures 14

AP ■ CAIRO

A fire ripped through a packed church during morning services in Egypt's capital on Sunday, killing at least 41 worshippers and injuring 14. The church quickly filled with thick black smoke, and witnesses said several trapped congregants jumped from upper floors to escape. "Suffocation, suffocation, all of them dead," said a distraught witness, who only gave a partial name, Abu Bishop. The cause of the blaze in the Abu Sefein church in the working-class neighbourhood of Imbaba was not immediately known. An initial investigation pointed to an electrical short-circuit, according to a police statement. Footage from the scene circulated online showed burned furniture, including wooden tables and chairs. Firefighters were seen putting out the blaze while others carried victims to ambulances. Families waited for word on relatives who were inside the church.

Witnesses said there were many children inside the building when the fire broke out. "There are children we didn't know how to get to them," said Abu Bishop. "And we don't know whose son this is, or whose daughter that is. Is this possible?" The country's health minister blamed the smoke and a stampede as people attempted to flee the fire for causing the fatalities. It was one of the worst fire tragedies in Egypt in recent years. Witness Emad Hanna said the church includes two places used as a daycare for children, and that a church worker managed to get many children out. "We went upstairs and found people dead. And we started to see from outside that the smoke was getting bigger, and people want to jump from the upper floor. ... We found the children." Egypt's Coptic Church and the country's health ministry reported the casualty toll. The church said the fire broke out while



a service was underway. The church is located in a narrow street in one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Cairo. Fifteen firefighting vehicles were dispatched to the scene to put out the flames while ambulances ferried casualties to nearby hospitals, officials said. President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi spoke by phone with the Coptic Christian Pope Tawadros II to offer his condolences, the president's office said. Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, Al-Azhar's Grand Imam, also offered his condolences to the head of the Coptic church. "I am closely following the developments of the tragic accident," el-Sissi wrote on Facebook. "I directed all concerned state agencies and institutions to take all necessary measures, and immediately to deal with this accident and its effects." Health Minister Khaled Abdel-Ghafar said in a statement that two of the injured were discharged from a hospital while 12 others were still being treated. The Interior Ministry said it received a report on the fire at 9 a.m. Local time, and

that they found that the blaze broke out in an air conditioner in the building's second floor. The ministry, which oversees police and firefighters, blamed an electrical short-circuit for the fire, which produced huge amounts of smoke. Meanwhile, the country's chief prosecutor, Hamada el-Sawy, ordered an investigation and a team of prosecutors were dispatched to the church. Later on Sunday, emergency services said they managed to put out the blaze and the prime minister and other senior government officials arrived to inspect the site. Egypt's Christians account for some 10% of the nation's more than 103 million people and have long complained of discrimination by the nation's Muslim majority. Sunday's blaze was one of the worst fire tragedies in recent years in Egypt, where safety standards and fire regulations are poorly enforced. In March last year, a fire at a garment factory near Cairo killed at least 20 people and injured 24 more.



Despite public resentment, no progress in Iraq political deadlock

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Weeks after followers of an influential cleric stormed parliament, Iraq's political crisis shows no signs of abating, despite rising public anger over a debilitating gridlock that has further weakened the country's caretaker government and its ability to provide basic services. Iraq's two rival Shiite political camps remain locked in a zero-sum competition, and the lone voice potentially able to end the rift - the revered Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani - has been conspicuously silent. For now, hundreds of supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr, a firebrand Shiite cleric, are still camped outside the legislative building in Baghdad, ready to escalate if their demands are not met. Al-Sadr has called for early elections, the dissolution of parliament and constitutional amendments. He has given the judiciary an end-of-the-week deadline to dissolve the legislature. His Shiite rivals in the Iran-backed camp have conditions of their own. They accused him of violating the constitution, prompting counter-protests that have spurred fears of bloodshed.

Gunman wounds 8 in late-night Jerusalem shooting



AP ■ JERUSALEM

A gunman opened fire at a busy near Jerusalem's Old City early Sunday, wounding eight Israelis in a suspected Palestinian attack that came a week after violence flared up between Israel and militants in Gaza, police and medics said. Two of the victims were in serious condition, including a pregnant woman with abdominal injuries and a man with gunshot wounds to the head and neck, according to Israeli hospitals treating them. The shooting happened as the bus waited in a parking lot near the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray. Israeli police said forces were dispatched to the scene to investigate. Israeli security forces also pushed into the nearby Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan pursuing the suspected attacker. Later on Sunday, police said the suspected attacker turned himself in. Police did not immediately disclose details about the suspected attacker's identity. The attack in Jerusalem followed a tense week between

Israel and Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Last weekend, Israeli aircraft unleashed an offensive in the Gaza Strip targeting the militant group Islamic Jihad and setting off three days of fierce cross-border fighting. Islamic Jihad fired hundreds of rockets during the flare-up to avenge the airstrikes, which killed two of its commanders and other militants. Israel said the attack was meant to thwart threats from the group to respond to the arrest of one of its officials in the occupied West Bank. Forty-nine Palestinians, including 17 children and 14 militants, were killed, and several hundred were injured in the fighting, which ended with an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire. No Israeli was killed or seriously injured. The Islamic militant group Hamas, which controls Gaza, stayed on the sidelines. A day after the cease-fire halted the worst round of Gaza fighting in more than a year, Israeli troops killed three Palestinian militants and wounded dozens in a shootout that erupted during an arrest raid in the West Bank city of Nabulus.

Rushdie off ventilator and able to talk

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Salman Rushdie has been taken off a ventilator and was able to talk, a day after the Mumbai-born author was stabbed, in what US authorities said was a "targeted, unprovoked, preplanned" attack. Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident identified as Hadi Matar, a US national of Lebanese origin, on stage on Friday while he was being introduced at a literary event of the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York. "@SalmanRushdie off ventilator and talking! Continued prayers from all @chq," Chautauqua Institution president Michael Hill said in a tweet on Saturday night. Rushdie's agent, Andrew Wylie, also confirmed the news to the US media. Rushdie, 75, was put on a ventilator after he was stabbed by Matar. Earlier on Saturday, Matar pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder and assault at a brief court appearance

where he was denied bail. Matar was charged with attempted murder and assault in the stabbing of Rushdie and he pleaded not guilty. He made his appearance in court, wearing a black-and-white striped jumpsuit and handcuffed. Chautauqua County District Attorney Jason Schmidt provided the details of Rushdie's injuries in court during Matar's arraignment Saturday afternoon. The author's injuries include three stab wounds to the right side of the front of his neck, four stab wounds to his stomach, a puncture wound to his right eye and chest, and a laceration on his right thigh, according to the county prosecutor. "This was a targeted, unprovoked, preplanned attack on Mr Rushdie," Schmidt alleged. Matar faces up to 32 years if convicted of both charges, Schmidt said. The attack on Rushdie drew shock and condemnation from world leaders and literary stalwarts. US President Joe Biden said in a statement on Saturday that he and First Lady Jill Biden



were "shocked and saddened" to learn of the "vicious" attack on the author. "Salman Rushdie -- with his insight into humanity, with his unmatched sense for story, with his refusal to be intimidated or silenced -- stands for essential, universal ideals. Truth. Courage. Resilience. The ability to share ideas without fear. These are the building blocks of any free and open society. And today, we reaffirm our com-

mitment to those deeply American values in solidarity with Rushdie and all those who stand for freedom of expression," Biden said. "We, together with all Americans and people around the world, are praying for his health and recovery. I am grateful to the first responders and the brave individuals who jumped into action to render aid to Rushdie and subdue the attacker," he added.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he is "appalled" to learn about the attack on Rushdie. "The Secretary-General was appalled to learn of the attack on renowned novelist Salman Rushdie," a statement issued on Friday by his spokesperson said. "In no case is violence a response to words spoken or written by others in their exercise of the freedoms of opinion

and expression," Guterres said, conveying his wishes for Rushdie's early recovery. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell "strongly" condemned the attack on Saturday night. "International rejection of such criminal actions, which violate fundamental rights and freedoms, is the only path towards a better and more peaceful world", Borrell tweeted. Rushdie lived in hiding and under police protection for years after late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini put out a fatwa in 1989 calling for his death in retribution for his book The Satanic Verses. A report in The New York Times said according to prosecutors, Rushdie was stabbed roughly 10 times in the premeditated attack. "In court, prosecutors said that the attack on the author was premeditated and targeted," the report said, adding that Matar travelled by bus to the "intellectual retreat in western New York and purchased a pass that allowed him to attend" the talk "Rushdie was to give on Friday morning".

Rushdie attack should be wake-up call to sanction Iran, says Sunak

PTI ■ LONDON

The brutal attack on noted author Salman Rushdie should be a wake-up call for the West to impose tougher sanctions against Iran and proscribe the country's elite military unit as a terrorist organisation, British prime minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday. The former Chancellor told "The Daily Telegraph" that attempts to revive the Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of



Action (JCPOA), may be futile and therefore it was important to assess action against Iran's

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). He spoke as the suspect in the attack on Rushdie, Hadi Matar, was on Saturday charged with attempted murder and assault and remanded without bail. Preliminary investigations suggest his sympathies with the Shia extremism and IRGC. "The situation in Iran is extremely serious and in standing up to [Vladimir] Putin we can't take our eye off the ball elsewhere," Sunak told the newspaper.

Truss in commanding lead over Sunak in UK PM race

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK prime ministerial race frontrunner, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, continues to hold on to a commanding 22-point lead over former Chancellor Rishi Sunak in the Conservative Party leadership contest, according to a new survey of Tory members on Sunday. In an Opinion poll for "The Observer" newspaper of 570 Conservative members with a vote in the election, Truss is on 61 per cent and the British Indian former minister is on 39 per cent. With under three weeks to go before the September 2 deadline for postal and online votes to be cast by the membership to elect a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Sunak seems to have closed the gap only slightly in recent days. "From the moment we knew the final two candidates, it has been clear that Truss has had all the momentum, and our latest poll sets out just how large her lead among the party members has become," Chris Curtis of Opinion told the newspaper. "With many members having already returned their ballot papers, it is now very unlikely Truss won't become Prime Minister in September. It's clear that Sunak's biggest problem is



trust. While some members respect his economic arguments, this hasn't been enough to overcome the view among members that he isn't honest or trustworthy enough for the top job, particularly after he called for Johnson to go," he said. Opinion's detailed questioning also uncovers a striking lack of enthusiasm for either candidate when members are asked whether they would prefer one of them to Johnson to run the party and country. When offered the choice of Johnson still being in No. 10 Downing Street, or Truss taking over, around 63 per cent of Tory members polled said they would prefer Johnson to be still in charge against 22 per cent who wanted Truss. On the other side, 68 per cent said they would prefer to still have Johnson than see him replaced by Sunak, who was preferred by just 19 per

cent. The poll also found that almost three in 10 of the Tory electorate (29 per cent) had already voted. Some 47 per cent said they would definitely be voting for the candidate they had opted for. Just 19 per cent said they had yet to make up their mind. Opinion said that while these findings meant it may still be possible for Sunak to pull off a "stunning comeback" to enter 10 Downing Street, but to do so he would have to win over almost all the undecideds and convert a sizeable chunk of those not fully behind Truss. The Foreign Secretary's support is particularly strong among older Conservative members, while Sunak's is far higher among younger ones. For Sunak the most cited reason was that he would be better at managing the economy (22 per cent), while 10 per cent said they regarded him as the most competent or intelligent. A main reason mentioned by people who backed Truss was dislike of Sunak (14 per cent). The same proportion (14 per cent) said the Cabinet minister was more honest and trustworthy, while 10 per cent chose the fact that she had remained loyal to Johnson and not called on him to resign.

Mexico President to bypass Congress to keep army in streets

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Mexico's president has begun exploring plans to sidestep congress to hand formal control of the National Guard to the army, a move that could extend the military's control over policing in a country with high levels of violence. That has raised concerns because President Andrés Manuel López Obrador won approval for creating the force in 2019 by pledging in the constitution that it would be under nominal civilian control and that the army would be off the streets by 2024. Neither the National Guard nor the military have been able to lower the insecurity in the country, however. This past week, drug cartels staged



widespread arson and shooting attacks, terrifying civilians in three main north-west cities in a bold challenge to the state. Still, López Obrador wants to keep soldiers involved in policing, and remove civilian control over the National Guard, whose officers and commanders are mostly soldiers, with military training and pay grades. But the president no longer has the

votes in congress to amend the constitution and has suggested he may try to do it as a regulatory change with a simple majority in congress or by an executive order and see if the courts will uphold that. López Obrador warned Friday against politicising the issue, saying the military is needed to fight Mexico's violent drug cartels. But then he immediately politicised it himself. "A constitutional reform would be ideal, but we have to look for ways, because they (the opposition) instead of helping us, are blocking us, there is an intent to prevent us from doing anything," López Obrador said. The two main opposition parties also had a different positions when they were

in power. They supported the army in public safety roles during their respective administrations beginning in 2006 and 2012. When López Obrador was running for president, he called for taking the army off the streets. But being in power — and seeing homicides running at their highest sustained levels ever — apparently changed his mind. He has relied heavily on the military not just for crime-fighting. He sees the army and navy as heroic, patriotic and less corruptible, and has entrusted them with building major infrastructure projects, running airports and trains, stopping migrants and overseeing customs.

Nikhat gifts PM Modi boxing gloves, Hima gives traditional gamocha



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian athletes expressed their elation at being honoured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their superlative showing at Birmingham Commonwealth Games with Nikhat Zareen gifting him her boxing gloves and sprinter Hima Das giving the traditional Assamese gamocha.

Modi, on Saturday, hosted the Indian contingent at his residence to felicitate the players.

The Indian athletes produced a

sensational show in Birmingham, claiming 61 medals, including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

"Honoured to gift the boxing gloves signed by all the pugilists to our honourable Prime Minister @narendramodiji sir. Thank you for this amazing opportunity. A great day spent with my fellow athletes who have made the country proud," Nikhat tweeted. The star boxer, world championship gold medallist, won the yellow metal in her weight category at the Games.

Hima wrote on her Twitter handle, "Elated to receive blessings from our honourable Prime Minister - Shri @narendramodiji Ji, by virtue of Commonwealth Games 2022. Fortunate to have presented him with our traditional gamcha, wrapped with immense gratitude from all of Assam." Champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won the gold medal without breaking a sweat, a year after her historic silver at the Tokyo Olympics, thanked the PM for his words of encouragement.



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- CAAQMS,CEMS systems installed for Ambient, Stack & Effluents Monitoring.
- Brick Plant manufactures ash bricks of good quality & bricks available for Sale.



Neymar nets 2 as PSG beat Montpellier

AP ■ PARIS

Neymar and Paris Saint-Germain's high-powered attack put on another impressive display in a 5-2 win over Montpellier in the French league as Kylian Mbappe opened his account but missed a penalty in his return from a groin injury.

Neymar scored twice on Saturday to take his tally to three goals in two league games for the defending champion on a night when Lionel Messi was held scoreless. The Brazil striker was also PSG's best player in preseason friendlies as he looks to find his peak form for the World Cup in Qatar, which starts in November.

PSG also netted five goals in its league opener and Montpellier opted for a low defensive block to deny space for the hosts. But the pressure was too much for center back Falaye Sacko, who diverted Mbappe's off-target shot into his own net in the 39th minute.

Sacko then handled the ball in the 42nd when Lionel Messi juggled the ball on a dribbling run. Neymar wrongfooted Jonas Omlin to convert the subsequent penalty for a 2-0 lead.

PSG capitalized on another blunder to add a third goal in the 51st. Mbappe blocked Omlin's pass and found Achraf Hakimi, whose deflected cross was headed home by Neymar.

Far from his best level, Mbappe still found the net with a flick from a corner in the 69th.

(Mbappe) is a competitor, he wants to be good, and he wants to be good quickly," PSG coach Christophe Galtier told



Canal Plus.

"He needs a bit of time to be 100 percent fit. He will make even more difference when he will be 100 percent fit."

In his PSG debut, Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches rounded off the scoring with a first-time effort in the 88th.

Omlin pulled off some outstanding saves to frustrate PSG for more than 30 minutes. The Swiss goalkeeper saved a penalty from Mbappe in the 23rd after Jordan Ferri had handled the ball. He then turned around the post a curling free kick from Messi in the 26th.

Montpellier scored with a close-range

effort from Wahbi Khazri in the 58th and a half-volley from Enzo Tchato in stoppage time.

Earlier, Rennes' defensive issues were exposed as it squandered the lead to draw 1-1 with 10-man Monaco.

In a clash between two contenders for European spots, Monaco forward Breel Embolo pounced on a heavy touch from goalkeeper Dogan Alemdar to equalize with a sliding effort in the 73rd.

Rennes striker Gaetan Laborde opened the scoring by converting a rebound in the 59th.

Monaco was down to 10 men in the 15th when midfielder Youssouf Fofana was red-carded for a stamp on Martin Terrier's ankle. "We are extremely disappointed," Laborde said.

"When you play with 11 men against 10 almost the entire game, you must come away with three points. It was tense in the dressing room."

Despite its numerical superiority, Rennes looked shaky at the back.

Embolo proved a magnet for fouls and Joe Rodon and Arthur Theate were booked for holding the forward in the 21st and the 23rd, respectively.

Steve Mandanda also received a yellow card in the 31st for catching Embolo in the face while attempting to punch the ball away.

The Rennes goalkeeper made amends by stopping the subsequent penalty taken by Axel Disasi before denying Krepin Diatta in the 36th.

However, Mandanda picked up a knock and was replaced by Alemdar at halftime.

A Rajasthan Royals owner slapped me three or four times, says Ross Taylor in his autobiography

IAN S ■ HAMILTON

Former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor has said in his autobiography that he was "slapped" by one of the owners of the Rajasthan Royals franchise three or four times during the 2011 IPL season.

In his new autobiography titled 'Ross Taylor: Black & White', Taylor revealed the incident took place following a 48-run defeat for Rajasthan Royals against Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) in Mohali.

"The chase was 195, I was lbw for a duck and we didn't get

close. Afterwards, the team, support staff and management were in the bar on the top floor of the hotel. Liz Hurley was there with Warnie (Shane Warne). One of the Royals owners said to me, 'Ross, we didn't pay you a million dollars to get a duck' and slapped me across the face three or four times. "He was laughing and they weren't hard slaps but I'm not sure that it was entirely play-acting. Under the circumstances I wasn't going to make an issue of it, but I couldn't imagine it happening in many professional sporting environments," wrote Taylor in his

book, of which an extract was published on stuff.co.nz.

There has been no comment yet from Rajasthan Royals on Taylor's revelations. After spending the first three seasons of the IPL at Royal Challengers Bangalore, Taylor was acquired by Rajasthan Royals for USD 1 million at the player auction ahead of the 2011 season.

In the book, Taylor wrote that he wished he had stayed with Bangalore as he spent just one season with Rajasthan before moving to Delhi Daredevils (now Capitals) in 2012 season and subsequently,

Pune Warriors India.

"While it was amazing to go for a million dollars, in the long run I would've been better off if RCB had got me for USD 950,000. If they had, it would have been my fourth year with them. While the IPL is pretty unsentimental, there is loyalty towards long-serving players and I probably would have had a longer IPL career as a one-franchise player. On the other hand, if I'd stayed at RCB, I wouldn't have played with greats such as Virender Sehwag, Shane Warne, Mahela Jayawardene and Yuvraj Singh."

New-look Barcelona held 0-0 by Rayo in Lewandowski's debut

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona mortgaged its financial future to give Xavi Hernández the talent he wanted.

But Rayo Vallecano showed Xavi he still has work to do to forge a winning team after his new-look Barcelona was held to a 0-0 draw on Saturday in their Spanish league opener.

The modest club from Madrid frustrated Robert Lewandowski and his fellow Barcelona newcomers by defending well and producing the most dangerous scoring threats.

As the minutes ticked by, the energy drained from the 81,000-strong Camp Nou crowd that had turned out to cheer the team that was only made possible by the controversial decision by club president Joan Laporta to sell off television rights and other assets in exchange for some much needed cash.

The biggest applause Lewandowski heard from the crowd was to show their appreciation for his hustle on defense late in the match with Barcelona stymied in attack.

The closest the former Bayern Munich star went to scoring was a header flicked well over the bar in the first half.

Fittingly, given its poor finish to the match, Barcelona ended with 10 men after Sergio Busquets got a second booking in stoppage time when he swung his arm into the face of Rayo substitute Radamel Falcao.

Busquets' explosion will rule him out of Barcelona's visit

to Real Sociedad.

Falcao then had what looked to be a winner waived away for offside as Rayo went close to claiming a third straight win over Barcelona after it stunned the Catalan club twice last season.

"It is too bad because we wanted to show our fans that we are on the right path," Xavi said. "We had generated a lot of expectations, but this is just the beginning. Today is disappointing for every Barcelona supporter, but we have to keep our faith in this way of playing as being the right one to win titles."

Lewandowski, winger Raphinha and defender Andreas Christensen, who also joined Barcelona this summer, all made Xavi's starting 11.



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आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव



नागरिकों से अपील

सर्वत्र अपने राज्य की प्रजापति को, शांति, सुशासन, शांति से हमें लक्ष्य है हमें पर आपसे ये प्रार्थना है, शांति से अपने हृदय में कई बार धुने, राज्यपाल वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् को न भूलें, मासिक का प्रयोग करें



11- सभी का विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें एक साथ मिलना चाहिए

12- शांति का विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें एक साथ मिलना चाहिए

13- शांति का विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें एक साथ मिलना चाहिए

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18- शांति का विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें एक साथ मिलना चाहिए



मीनू सिंह
अधिकांश अधिकारी



धीरेन्द्र कुमार आर्य
समस्त सभासदगण



चेयरमैन



नगर पालिका परिषद गुरुहायगंज



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



NAZARETH HOSPITAL



नाज़रेथ अस्पताल परिवार (प्रयागराज)

की ओर से स्वतन्त्रता दिवस
(आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव)

के शुभ अवसर पर

आप सभी नगरवासियों को शुभकामनायें। निदेशक



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आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव



आइये अपना कर्तव्य निभाएं



15th
AUGUST



हर घर तिरंगा लहराएं



स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनायें



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With Rahul back as opener, Gill might have to come in at No.3

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ODI series against Zimbabwe will be KL Rahul's dress rehearsal before the Asia Cup and hence he is all set to replace Shubman Gill at the top-of the order alongside Shikhar Dhawan for the upcoming games.

With T20 World Cup being paramount and Gill not exactly in the scheme of things as far as shortest format is concerned, he might be handed a number 3 slot in order to ensure that his captain gets enough game-time before the continental championship in the UAE, starting August 27.

This provided all three are fit and available for all the

games in the series.

While there will be no Rahul Dravid heading the team of support staff for the short three-match series, starting August 18 in Harare, NCA head VVS Laxman is almost certain to follow the blue-print set by the head coach.

Rahul's comeback also creates problems for young Gill, who has had a stellar 50-over series in the West Indies, where he scored 64, 43 and 98 not out in three games to win the 'Player of the Series' award.

So will Rahul allow Gill to continue his good form at the top of the order or perch himself out there at the onset with one eye on the Asia Cup?

"I think Shubman is being



groomed in the right way by the Indian team management. While he has done exceedingly well in the Caribbean ODIs, what I can gauge from this team's philosophy is prepare players for multiple slots. Hence I feel for this particular series, Shubman might have to come in at No. 3," former national selector and Test opener Devang

Gandhi gave his viewpoint on the issue.

Agreed Deep Dasgupta, another former India player and now a commentator.

"I agree it is difficult after you have had such a good series. But currently, the aim would be to prepare Rahul for the Asia Cup T20's opening slot. He needs to get a lot of batting time and that's a priority. I think it will be a short-term arrangement as Shubman I feel is being groomed as an opener for the ODI World Cup," Dasgupta, currently commenting in 'The Hundred', said. In the 50-over set-up since the home series against England in 2021, Rahul was being seen as a middle-order anchor rather

than an opener but once he was the skipper in the ODI series in South Africa, he had promoted himself as an opener.

But the last ODI that he played was against West Indies in Ahmedabad, where with both Rohit Sharma and Dhawan present, Rahul was back in the middle-order. So won't it be unfair to Gill if he isn't opening the innings? Gandhi feels otherwise.

"Look, No.3 is a proper top-order slot. He might have to come in as early as second ball of the innings and that is as good as opening the batting. Also my hunch is that once Rahul has enough game time under his belt, he will again bat middle-order with Gill being prepared for 2023 event," Gandhi said.

'One thing that stands out is how Rohit backs players who aren't performing'

NEW DELHI: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel pointed out that captain Rohit Sharma backing his players to the hilt even when they are not performing has been a stand-out for him. Parthiv cited the example of the Indian team sticking with pacer Avesh Khan in the 4-1 T20I series triumph over the West Indies despite not-so-impressive performances in first three matches.

"I have played under Rohit Sharma's captaincy at Mumbai Indians and the one thing that stands out is how he backs players who aren't performing. He is vocal about them even in public and in press conferences, as we saw with the case of Avesh Khan. Rohit backed him even

after four failures and he delivered with a Man-of-the-Match performance (in the fourth T20I)," said Parthiv on his YouTube channel.

Parthiv further delved into Rohit's leadership skills and was in awe of his ability to take instinctive decisions on the field, which he believes has been the reason behind achieving success in the IPL and for India as a leader.

"Rohit believes in taking instinctive decisions on the ground rather than pre-meditating them. When a crunch situation arises, he takes a call according to the situation and it is one of the main reasons why he has won five IPL trophies with Mumbai Indians.

India is not going to be easy; we need to be on top of our game: Ryan Burl

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The last 30 days have been eventful for the Zimbabwe men's cricket team. Defeating Papua New Guinea by 27 runs in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup Qualifiers at home saw them book their place in the mega event for the sixth time. But most importantly, the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia will mark Zimbabwe's first appearance in a mega event since 2016.

That's not all. The Chevrons, as they are called, defeated Bangladesh 2-1 to win their first-ever bilateral T20I series over a higher-ranked side. Subsequently, they clinched the ODI series against them 2-1, cheered on by a full house of home supporters.

Left-handed middle-order batter Ryan Burl was one of the main architects in Zimbabwe's T20I series win over Bangladesh at Harare.

From 76/6, Burl slammed 34 runs off Nasum Ahmed in the 15th over, equalling the record for the second-most runs hit in an over in T20I cricket. He eventually made 54 and shared a crucial stand of 79 with Luke Jongwe to set the base for a memorable Zimbabwe victory.

Burl, who had missed the 2016 series against India due to a tear in his ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) in the left knee, is excited about the prospect of playing against the KL Rahul-led side.

He spoke to IANS about the upcoming ODI series against India, influence of head coach Dave Houghton on Zimbabwe's turnaround and what qualifying for the T20 World Cup means for the side.

On being asked how he looks at upcoming ODI series against India after T20 World Cup qualification, and winning the T20I and ODI series against Bangladesh, the batsman said, "We would like to try and win the series. How we do that, I don't mind that as long as we get the wins. But it's India and one of the best teams in the world. They are not going to put up an easy fight; it's going to be difficult. Hopefully, with our home ground advantage, we can try and pull out a cat out of the hat and put out something special."

76वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

एनटीपीसी टांडा सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन: 1760 MW (4x110 MW+2x660 MW)