

'India helped world discover true potential of democracy'

By 2047 we will realise dreams of freedom fighters, says Prez in maiden I-Day address

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday asserted that by 2047 the country will realise all the "dreams" visualised by freedom fighters and reach its full potential. She also said that India has helped the world discover the "true potential of democracy".

Delivering her maiden address to the nation on the eve of the country's Independence Day, the President remembered the sacrifices of all the freedom fighters and pointed to the speedy growth of the country which, she said, is gaining new heights globally.

"We Indians proved skeptics wrong. Democracy not only grew roots in this soil but it was also enriched." She also said that India helped the world discover the true potential of democracy.

"India can be credited to have helped the world discover the true potential of democracy," she said in a nationwide televised address.

Murmu, 64, is India's first President to be born after Independence.

The first tribal President of India, Murmu said, "On 15 August 1947, we cut the shackles of Colonial rule. While celebrating the anniversary of that auspicious day, we salute all the freedom fighters. They sacrificed everything so that we can all breathe in a free India."

The President also touched on August 14 being observed as 'Partition Horror

Remembrance Day' saying its purpose was to promote social harmony, human empowerment and unity.

Congratulating the countrymen on the occasion, Murmu said that "in celebrating Independence Day, we celebrate our 'Bharatvata.' "



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the nation on the eve of Independence Day, in New Delhi on Sunday.

"India is full of diversity. But, we all also have something in common. It is this common thread that binds us together and inspires us to walk together with the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'," she said in her speech which was first delivered in Hindi followed by English.

Asserting that India's economy is growing, she said that the country's "economic development is all-inclusive and regional disparities too are reducing."

She also pointed out that when the world has been "battling the economic consequences of the great crisis, India got its act together and is now moving forward."

The President praised the Government and the policy-makers for "beating global trends and helping the economy flourish."

The President said that India launched the biggest vaccination drive in human history with vaccines manufactured in the country itself. "Last month we crossed the 200-crore mark in cumulative vaccine coverage. In combating pandemics, our achievements have been better than those of many developed countries,"

she said.

Mentioning that farmers and labourers deserve credit for the country's robust economy, Murmu said "The country's economic growth has become more inclusive, with narrower disparities. The National Education Policy (NEP) and digital India initiative played a major role here."

"Apart from the economy, we also focus on welfare measures too, such as housing and tap water schemes," she said.

While detailing Government policies and their aim to reduce disparity and encourage equality, Murmu said "keyword for India today is compassion for the down-trodden, the needy and for those on margins," the President further said.

Asserting that the source of the country's new confidence is youngsters, farmers, and women, Murmu said, "Gender inequalities are reducing and women are breaking many glass ceilings. Women have made a mark in the Panchayati Raaj system too. Our daughters made us proud in the recent Common Wealth Games (CWG) as well. They are becoming fighter pilots and space scientists."

The President said the country will realize all the "dreams" seen by freedom fighters for an Independent India, by 2047 and the youth would help fulfill the country's full potential.

"By the year 2047, we will have fully realized the dreams of our freedom fighters. We will have given a concrete shape to the vision of those who, led by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, drafted the Constitution," she said.

She also welcomed the Government's decision to celebrate 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on November 15 every year.

"Our tribal superheroes are not just local or regional icons but they are a source of inspiration for the entire nation," she said. Touching on

the need to protect nature and the environment, she said "We need to preserve our environment and water resources, for future generations. Looking after nature has been a part of our civilization and we should continue that," Murmu said before concluding her address.

The Independence Day celebration comes at a time when India, like most countries, is seen to be coming out of the grim shadows of Covid-

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CM Baghel to make key announcements today

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will hoist the tricolour at the main Independence Day function in Chhattisgarh to be held at the Police Parade Ground on Monday.

An official communication said Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant will unfurl the national flag in Gaurela Pendra Marwahi and Ministers Ravindra Choubey in Durg and Tamradhwaj Sahu in Bemetara.

Ministers Mohammad Akbar will do so in Kawardha, Amarjeet Bhagat in Rajnandgaon, Jaishinh



Agrawal in Korba, Anila Bhedia in Balod, Umesh Patel in Raigarh. Premsai Singh in Surajpur, Kawasi Lakhma in Sukma, Guru Rudra Kumar in Mungeli

An official communication said Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant will unfurl the national flag in Gaurela Pendra Marwahi and Ministers Ravindra Choubey in Durg and Tamradhwaj Sahu in Bemetara

and Shiv Kumar Daharia in Janjgir Champa.

27 C'garh policemen to be honoured today



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

As many as 27 police personnel of Chhattisgarh will be awarded the President's Meritorious and Gallantry medals for bravery and meritorious services on Independence Day, an official statement said on Sunday.

Durg Superintendent of Police Dr Abhishek Pallava, Durg STF Company Commander Dileshwar Kumar Sonwani, Inspectors Alreek Lakra (Surguja), Malik Ram, Sukku Ram Nureti, Balram Usendi (all

three from Narayanpur) and Harishankar Pratap Singh Kanwar (Rajnandgaon), Sub-Inspectors Mahendra Potai and Sukku Ram Nag (both Narayanpur), Ram Avatar Patel and Hazari Lal Maurya (both Dantewada) and five Head Constables including three martyred policemen will be felicitated with the Police Gallantry Medal.

Similarly, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sanjeev Shukla and Inspector Bishnu Prasad Deshmukh (both in PHQ) will get the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Inspector General of

Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P, IGP (Raipur Range) Om Prakash Pal, Officer on Special Duty (Saranggarh-Bilaigarh) Rajesh Kukreja, Durg STF Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Kumar Pandey, Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) 19th Battalion Company Commander Rati Ram Netam, Sub-Inspector Ramnaresh Yadav (Rajnandgaon), Assistant Sub-Inspectors Jitendra Singh (PHQ), Khemraj Jain (Kanker) and Head Constables N. Ramaiyya Rao (PHQ) and Jayant Kumar Paikra (STF, Durg) will be feted with the Police Medal.

Mandloi conferred with Vasundhara Samman



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday lavished praised on litterateur and journalist Leeladhar Mandloi as he honoured him with 'Vasundhara Samman' here.

He was addressing a function to honour Mandloi at his official residence here.

Baghel said: "When I used to study, I used to listen to Mandloiji a lot on the radio. We all used to listen to his programme broadcast from Raipur All India Radio." He has done remarkable work, Baghel said.

Recalling Devi Prasad Choubey, the Chief Minister said he was a pioneer of rural journalism. He did a lot of

work in the field of social reforms. He also stopped the practice of sacrifices at the temple in his village.

He said there should be firmness in thoughts. Disagreement of views has been the tradition of the country. The spirit of respect for dissent is in every particle of the country and that of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. "We all should avoid narcissism," Baghel added.

'Vasundhara Samman' is conferred in the memory of Devi Prasad Choubey. It was the 22nd edition.

The event was organized by Kriti Vasundhara and Shri Chaturbhuj Memorial Foundation, the monthly magazine of the Chhattisgarh government Lok Jagran and the Department of Culture.

'Hamar Tiranga' campaign in schools from August 20

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government is set to conduct a 'Hamar Tiranga' campaign in all government, private and government-aided schools from August 20 to 30 to mark 75 years of independence.

The Secretary of the School Education Department, Dr S Bharathidasan, on Saturday issued detailed guidelines to all Collectors, district education officers and district mission coordinators regarding the campaign, an official statement said on Sunday.

Various programmes will be organized in the schools, it

said.

The aim is to spread the spirit of patriotism and convey the story of martyrs and freedom fighters. It will help to understand the true meaning of freedom in the present context, it added.

The film 'Gandhi' will be screened free for students of Classes XI and XII in nearby theatres or smart classrooms.

Four held for killing man

STAFF REPORTER ■
DURG

Chhattisgarh Police on Sunday arrested four persons for killing a man over old enmity in Durg city. Durg Superintendent of



Police Dr Abhishek Pallava

identified them as Deepesh alias Bhuru, Devendra Thakur, Ramesh Verma and Ganesh Sahu, all from Durg city.

They killed Vinod Nayak (24) of Ganjpara area on Saturday night.

Congress 'Gaurav Yatra' to end at Gandhi Maidan today

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The week-long Azadi Gaurav Yatra of the Congress in Chhattisgarh will end at Gandhi Maidan in Raipur on Monday to mark India's 75th Independence Day.

AICC Chhattisgarh-in-charge P. L. Punia, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and PCC chief Mohan Markam will be present on the occasion.

Gaurav Yatra, which commenced last Tuesday on the occasion of August Kranti Diwas, covered all the 90 assembly constituencies in the state.

Cabinet Ministers and other senior leaders



participated in the march in their respective assembly areas.

Baghel on Sunday took

part in the Yatra at his constituency Patan.

Congress leaders and activists would have covered

a total distance of 6,750 km in six days. The activists in each constituency covered 75 km.

BJP will emerge as voice of people: Sao



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will emerge as the voice of the people, and the Congress government in Chhattisgarh has failed in all sectors, Arun Sao, the new BJP state President and Bilaspur MP, said on Sunday.

Interacting with the media, he said the govern-

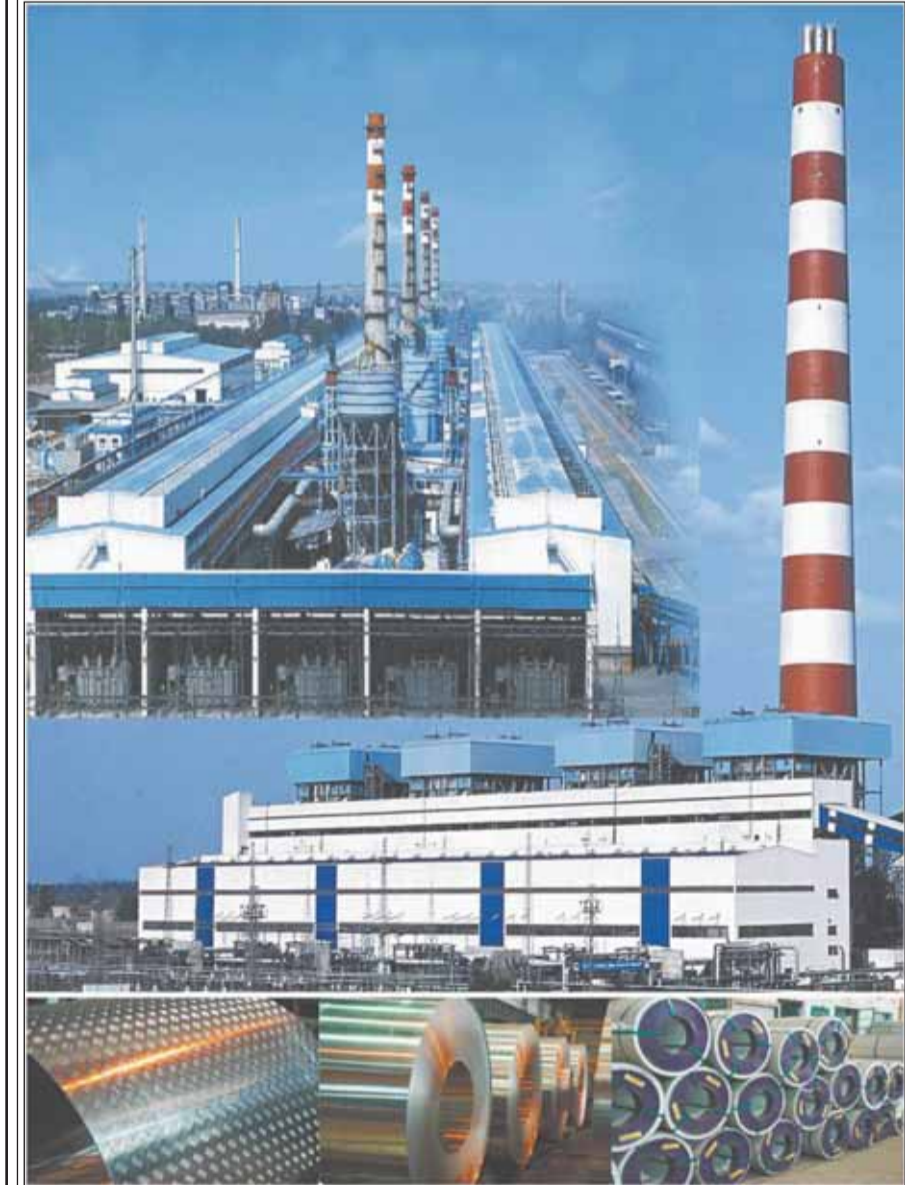
ment had been utilizing the funds allocated by the Central government to implement its own schemes. The flagship schemes of the state are on paper and nothing is seen on the ground, he said.

Sao said the Congress election promises have turned out to be hollow.

BJP workers and party leaders will emerge again as the guiding force by the 2023 elections and bring back the BJP to power in the state, he said.

He said there were many challenges and one by one they would be resolved.

Sao took charge of the state BJP from Vishnudeo Sai on Saturday.



India is celebrating the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', commemorating 75 years of its independence. Conceived as an agent of change in making India self-reliant, by the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO) became the country's iconic aluminium producer.

It is now a subsidiary of Vedanta Aluminium, having contributed to empower the state and country throughout its 58-year journey.

It has established a new benchmark in several parameters such as production, productivity, quality, research and development, customer satisfaction, innovation,

human resource management and community development.

The company operates a 5.70 lakh tonne per annum aluminium smelter in Korba, Chhattisgarh.

Being a leader in value-added aluminium products, its products are used in many long-range missiles made in the country

along with numerous space related equipment. The company has been empowering and supporting its partner communities in achieving greater economic and social well-being. It firmly believes that the socio-economic development of communities is paramount and an integral part of its business operations.

It touches the lives of about 1.5 lakh people annually through focused interventions in education, sustainable livelihoods, women empowerment, health and sanitation, sports and culture, and infrastructure development covering 123 villages.

The company has become one of the few manufacturing companies in India and the first industry in Chhattisgarh to welcome members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQIA+) community. To foster a culture of diversity and inclusivity at the workplace, the induction of transgender employees has been preceded by gender-sensitization workshops for the entire workforce of the company, with respect to their social and psychological challenges, proper code of conduct and ways of working to build a cohesive and encouraging environment for all.

OPINION 6
SAVING INDIA FROM
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FIRE AT COPTIC CHURCH IN CAIRO
KILLS 41, HURTS 14**MONEY 10**
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‘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 Horror 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, 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 suf-



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

PTI

fered 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 history 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 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.

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 Vallabhai 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 63

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.

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 Fadnis (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.

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.

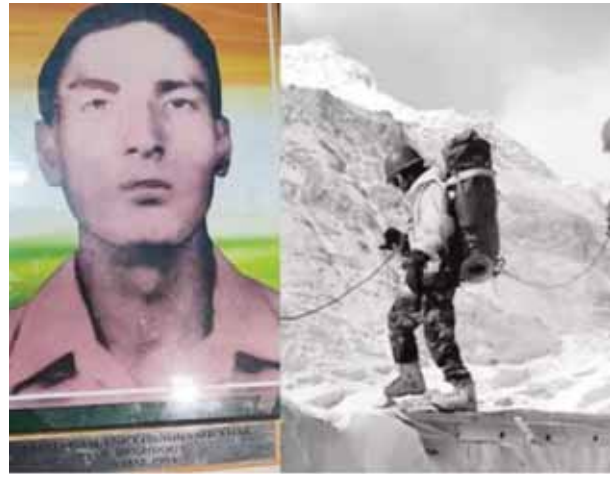
The mishap took place in 1984 shortly after the Indian army was deployed at the Siachen glacier. Shekhar was part of a team asked to capture Point 5965, an important feature that the Pakistanis were eyeing. The 19 Kumaon regiment unit was one of the first

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

the pioneer

wishes its readers a happy
INDEPENDENCE DAY

All the regional offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on 15 August, 2022 and there will be no edition of the newspaper on 16th August. Delhi Pioneer, English, will be available for our readers.



Jamshedpur gripped with patriotic fervour, Banna to unfurl national flag at Gopal Maidan

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR:

Jamshedpur is gripped with patriotic fervour as the country gears up to celebrate its 75th Independence Day. Brisk preparations are underway by various segment of the society to celebrate the Independence Day in a befitting manner.

Like every year, citizens will reiterate their pledge to safeguard the solidarity of the country and pay tributes to the martyrs. A number of public buildings have already been illuminated for the occasion.

The preparations are in progress both at public and private sectors, a week ahead of the occasion. The East Singhbhum administration would organise a grand celebrations at Gopal Maidan.

On this occasion, a march past as well as a colour cultural function would be organised to mark the day. Apart from this, various freedom fighters would also be felicitated in the func-



tion. Health Minister Banna Gupta will unfurl the National Flag.

Tata Steel would also organise a series of events to celebrate the day. The national flag will be hoisted at Tata Steel works on Monday morning.

City-based school colleges and educational institutions would also organise events to pay homage to the leaders, who dedicated their life for the nation.

On the other hand, the markets particularly Sakchi and Bistupur have turned into a sale points of Indian flags, stickers, banners and bunting which have been printed in hundreds



of thousands numbers. The business is in full swing as these items are in great demand by the people.

"Besides the regular increased patrolling and enhanced positioning of cops at all sensitive places the border checkpoints with the neighbouring states have also been strengthened to prevent anti-social elements from sneaking in the

city," said police personnel.

Checks and search operations have been initiated at important places in the city. As a precaution, all incoming vehicles are being subjected to spot checks. A vigil look would be kept on vehicles entering the city on the eve of Independence Day. Additional policemen have been deployed at sensitive areas of city.

In Jamshedpur, the celebrations start with the solemn reminder of the sacrifice of the martyrs. The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every part of the country is represented in occasion, which makes the August 15 the most popular of all the national holidays of India.

The Colourful parades and drills are organised where children from various schools and institutions takes part. Cultural functions are held in different parts to mark the occasion. In true sense Independence Day is the celebration of India's sovereignty and freedom.

NPU holds Tiranga yatra, senior officials attend in Daltonganj

MFAYAZAHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

Nilamber Pitamber University today wrote its own script when its two top officers VC Dr Ram Lakhan Singh and Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Deep Narayan Yadav along with the mayor Aruna Shankar and deputy mayor Mangal Singh walked down the street with huge Tiranga in hands.

The script was impressive and simple and worked as a catalyst for the students and the staff. Such was the zeal and enthusiasm for the Tiranga Yatra that NPU's pro vice chancellor Dr Deep Narayan Yadav said he had not 'imagined' such overwhelming success of the Yatra.

The Tiranga Yatra was from the NPU office to the statue of the great martyr Bhagat Singh. Proctor of the university Dr K C Jha had this mantle of the Yatra on his shoulders.

In the 13 years long history of



NPU VC Dr Ram Lakhan Singh and others leading Tiranga Yatra today in Daltonganj

this university since its inception in 2009 there had come many an occasion here in Palamu when the NPU VC and Pro VC could have rubbed shoulders with the commoners but none took any pains but this 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav the entire crew of the NPU was in streets with its officers and students along with the NCC and NSS volunteers.

Sources said the NPU chose Sunday for taking out the Tiranga

Yatra knowing full well that students would not be around following colleges remaining closed for the day nevertheless the Tiranga Yatra of the university was by far the best ever here in Daltonganj today.

Sources said it would have been far more convenient had the Yatra not got delayed by more than 30 minutes forcing media crew to wait under the shade of the trees there in front of

the premise of the NPU for its start. The VC too felt the delay ought not to have happened.

Planned in a hurry on late Saturday afternoon the Tiranga Yatra on Sunday was like a smash hit as when academicians and students walked in the streets the commoners watched them from across the road and were overwhelmed to see the Yatra.

The VC Dr Ram Lakhan Singh's speech was another highlight. He spoke for 5 minutes but he set the tone for the younger generation as well as for the people of all faith when he said patriotism is not something to be displayed casually. Patriotism lies in heart. It can't be seen on anyone's face.

The VC urged the students and the commoners watching them to display patriotism when you need to frighten your enemy and not just for the sake of showing it. Be a patriot to instil fear in the enemy was his tag line.

Sources said the VC's re-

marks about patriotism have come at the most opportune time when people in India are trying to gauge the level of patriotism by voice and clothes.

The VC started his speech with customary Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Bande Matram slogans. The Yatra was planned for twin purposes on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day. First was the visibility of the NPU in the market. The other was the homage to the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh.

Sources said common sentiments were respected like shoes off when VC and others laid the wreath at the bust size statue of Bhagat Singh.

Mayor Aruna Shankar and deputy mayor Mangal Singh too added to the ceremony of the Tiranga Yatra.

Once the Yatra was over the VC took time off and went to the students, NCC girls and NSS cadres to say thank you all and he was cheered profusely.

DIC BSL leads Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

RAHUL SHARMA ■ BOKARO

'Har Ghar Tiranga' is a campaign under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence. Thus under same episode under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, on August 14, Director-in-Charge of BSL, Amarendu Prakash, personally distributed the tricolour among the people of Bokaro. In the midst of light rain in the morning,



he roamed around Sector 4, City Center and distributed the tricolour to the people. Beside DIC Prakash also appealed everyone to participate with full enthusi-

asm in the Tricolour campaign at Har Ghar and extended Best wishes on 75th anniversary of independence. DIC BSL was accompanied by Executive Director (Personnel and Administration) Sanjay Kumar who said "while this campaign has filled a new energy of patriotism among the countrymen simultaneously many people have got source of earnings. In this campaign today we have distributed thousands of flags purchased from local sellers to help all the sections of society directly or

indirectly". As a whole truly this is great gesture from the senior officers of BSL justifying Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in true sense.

Also CGM Township B.S Popli said "The campaign aims to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to mark commitment to nation-building. This initiative will help in invoking the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of people and will bring awareness about our National Flag. In parallel total of thirty playgrounds are being developed in

Bokaro to promote health and sports wherein this episode, the second Play Ground (Kridangan) being developed in Sector 12E inaugurated today in associations with local residents" Further COC BSL MK Dhan added the campaign is aimed at making the relationship with the national flag a more personal one rather than just keeping it formal or institutional. The idea is to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and promote awareness about the tricolour.

Bokaro dist admn cycle rally

SURESH NIKHARI ■ BERMO

To commemorate the completion of 75 years of independence in Bokaro, "Har Ghar Tiranga programme is being organized to celebrate Independence Day with gaiety all over the country. In the series of this programme, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary, a cycle rally

was organized from the premises of the sub-divisional office and culminated in the Collectorate. The rally was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Choudhary, in which all district level officers participated. Deputy Commissioner Chowdhary said that all the people have been requested to hoist the tricolor in their respective homes from August 13 to 15.



Dalmia Cement Bokaro celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

PNS ■ BOKARO

AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. In the same episode Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi was organised by Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), a branch of Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of Dalmia Bharat Group. Under this programme, on behalf of Dalmia Cement established in Bokaro Rangoli competition, PrabhatPheri, painting competition, speech competition etc. were organised in Middle School Godabali, Govind Secondary School Ba-



lidihi, Middle School Vishunpur, Railway Middle School, Girls High School Tantari, Primary School Kanari, AnganwadiPakhriyatand, AnganwadiBarudih and GA Public School .

Also during the programme sweets and flags were distributed among the children's who participated enthusiastically.

It is noteworthy that in making this program a success, the students

of the respective schools, teachers, village panchayat representatives and hundreds of villagers took part actively. Priyaranjan Unit Head of Dalmia Cement Bokaro said that all of us countrymen should celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country's independence by joining the Tricolour program at every house under 'AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav'.

This mahotsav means elixir of energy of independence, elixir of inspirations of the warriors of the freedom struggle and elixir of new ideas and pledges. Over all the programme was a gala success and the efforts of Dalmia Cement Bokaro truly appreciated by all justifying fully the slogan of "AzadiKa Amrit Mohatsav" in a true sense.

Public handpump used by village powerful persons



PNS ■ HAZARIBAG

Three hand pumps for public of the Sijhuva village of Ichak block of Hazaribag district are used by some powerful persons of the village. The general people are not getting the drinking facilities from the hand pumps.

The villagers have given several application to Block Development Officer to deputy commissioner and water and sanitation department. But no response has given by the departments.

On 14th August the vil-

lager has again given the application to the concern department as well as to district administration. They have given the application with the three hand pumps, in which the powerful person has fixed the pipe to supply only in their residence.

All the residents of Rana tola of the village has requested to the administration to remove the pipe from the departmental hand pumps, so that the general people will get the drinking water on daily basis.

Nod for construction new building of SBMCH

PNS ■ HAZARIBAG

The state government has decided to construct 500 bed hospital at the campus of Seikh Bhikari Medical College and Hospital along with doctors residence. The cost hospital and residence will be 465 crores. The hospital will be equipped with all modern equipment's. Presently the hospital of medical college is running at the campus of Sadar hospital, Hazaribag.

The responsibility of construction has given to Jharkhand State Building Construc-

tion Corporation Limited. The responsibility of construction has given to Shapur and Palamji company by the corporation.

The principal of medical college SK Singh said that this hospital will be of world class. The hospital will be of six floors. The building of the hospital will with facilities of ramp lift and all modern facilities.

The construction work is going on war level. 400 labours are doing the work in the construction. The foundation work of the hospital and residence has been completed. Due to lack

of fund and Covid the construction work was delayed. This is the reason that the construction work has delayed for one year. The medical college was constructed with the 800 crores in the year 2018.

The principal of medical college further said that presently we have equipped the medical college hospital in sadar hospital. He said that after the starting of hospital of medical the all facilities will be the property of sadar hospital. This medical college hospital will prove mile stone in the field of medical facilities.

Get ready to face uncertainties: Tata Steel VP to IIT-ISM students

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD :

"Get ready to face uncertainties as you step into a new world with graduating from here ", said Dr Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice President, Technology and New Materials Business, Tata Steel to graduating students of IIT ISM on the second and concluding day of 41st Convocation of IIT (ISM) here today.

Bhattacharjee was addressing the gathering as chief guest at institute that included the degree recipients besides senior officials of IIT (ISM) including Prof Prem Vrat, Chairman of Board of Governors ; Prof Ra-

jiv Shekhar, Director IIT (ISM) Senate members and others .

"Be passionate, be hungry, be foolish and get ready to face uncertainties as you go into the world with dreams, youthful confidence and perhaps some trepidation of uncertainties, have faith and do not waver from your dream," further explained Dr Bhattacharjee to the students . He so quoted Steve Jobs who had said similar words during a similar occasion.

"If you do not know what your heart is telling you persevere it, a day you would know when your heart agrees", said

Dr Bhattacharjee adding further to remain humble and create opportunities for others.

"Nobody succeeds on his or her own, we always stand on shoulders of giants," said Dr Bhattacharjee. He also gave away 50 Institute Medals to students, including one President's Gold Medal, 41 Gold Medal and Silver Medal to students.

Prof Prem Vrat, Chairman BOG of IIT (ISM), meanwhile also conferred 22 Sponsored Medals and Best PhD Thesis Awards during the occasion.

Rajiv Shekhar Director of Institute, awarded 972 degrees during different sessions.

Enthusiasm rules Cyclothon at Loyola School

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

As part of the platinum jubilee celebration, Loyola School and it's alumni association organised Cyclothon for school children. On the occasion, Civil Surgeon Sahir Pal and BJP leader Kunal Sarangi flagged off the cyclothon.

Separate routes were fixed for senior and junior categories for Cyclothon. The Cyclothon, organised at the Intra-School level, began from the basketball court of the school for the junior category.

From here it went towards the DC-SP residence in CH area



via Beldih signal. Then going towards the school via Kalibari the cyclothon of about 2.6 km and culminated at the junior school gate. Similarly, the cyclothon for the senior category started from the Loyola School

campus itself. After this, travelling a total of 6 kms from Kadma police station via Dhatkidih to TFA and Center Point School and ending at the school gate. A total of 600 students of Loyola School are participated in it.

Social group Tiranga Yatra in Coal Capital

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD :

Social organisations besides political leaders organise Tiranga Yatra to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav here today despite rains that lashed different parts of city.

Hundreds of members associated with Rising Charitable Society(RCS) took out motor cycle rally with tricolours in hands shouting slogans like Vande Matram and Bharat Mata Ki jay. The rally started from Randhir Verma

square and after covering a distance of over 10 kms of town ended at same location . One of the members of the organisation Arvind Sinha - a retired banker - who took part in the rally along with his retired friends said , "Its a life time experience to celebrate the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence of country. We were born in Independent India and this is a small contribution of ours to recall those who fought for independence of country ". Members of other social

organisation Youth Concept requested people to plant a tree to save environment in each household along with hoisting tricolour on this occasion.

Dhanbad MLA Raj Sinha organises a OX-cart rally to commemorate the occasion .Similarly Nirsra MLA Aparna Sengupta organised rally at Nirsra Sahid vedi .

On Saturday Baghmara MLA Chullu .Abto had organised motorcycle rally that started from Baghmara and ended in Dhanbad after covering 45kms.

Speech contest at Gyan Jyoti College

AVINASH ANJAN ■ HAZARIBAG

Speech competition was organized under Amrit Mahotsav on the auspicious occasion of 75 years of independence at Gyan Jyoti College. The main theme of the speech competition was national integration and freedom of the individual. On this occasion all the teachers and students including, Director Vinay Kumar expressed their views. The speech competition started with the national anthem. In the beginning of the speech competition, it was said that the national spirit which was developed in the people during the days of independence, some shortcomings are being seen in it in 75 years, which is a major challenge to India's independence and national integration.

Director Vinay Kumar said that our National flag is the identity of the nation and the nationality of the people and it reminds us of the sacrifices made in the freedom struggle. Every Indian should hoist the



flag in their homes to commemorate 75 years of independence. Students of the college gave speeches about national integration and independence and shared the thoughts of Martyr Mangal Pandey, Rani of Jhansi, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru among the people. At the same time, everyone took a pledge that the National flag would not be allowed to be insulted. We will uphold the independence and unity of the country.

Vice Principal Alok Kumar

Pandey, Controller of Examinations Ranjan Kumar, Teacher Dayanan Kumar Yadav, Umesh Thakur, Deependra Kumar, Neelima Kujur, Vinay Kumar, Samhita Kumari, Sujit Kumar among those who expressed their views on this occasion. Mantta Gupta, Manoj Kumar, Rama Kumari and other members made commendable contribution in making this program a success. The students who presented the best speech in the speech competition will be awarded on the occasion of Independence Day.

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.



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. Dendrapa 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

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.

ICMR receives 31 bids to develop Monkeypox vax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has received 31 bids from manufacturers showing interest in developing vaccines against the monkeypox virus after the medical body floated the Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of vaccine and diagnostic kits.

According to the source, of the total 31 bids, eight companies have submitted the EOI for the vaccine development while 23 firms showed interest towards the development of kits. The ICMR had invited the EOI last month after its lab

National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune isolated the monkeypox virus strain. However, no company has been awarded the tender yet and it is currently under evaluation, the source added. The manufacturers would develop the vaccine through a public-private partnership.

The EOI was invited by experienced vaccine manufacturers and in-vitro diagnostic (IVD) kit manufacturers for joint collaboration in developing vaccine candidates against monkeypox. The last date for submission of EOI was August 10. "ICMR-NIV Pune has successfully isolated and cultured the Monkeypox virus strain

from the samples of infected Indian patients. Genomic sequence of the Indian strains has 99.85% match with the West African strain circulating globally," said the official.

There are two known types (clades) of monkeypox virus — one that originated in Central Africa and one that originated in West Africa. The current world outbreak (2022) is caused by the less severe West African clade. As per the EOI, the ICMR reserves all the Intellectual Property Rights and Commercialisation Rights on the Monkeypox virus isolates and its method/protocols for purification, propagation and characterization.

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.

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 Goel 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.

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) DSPR (Min) VARGHESE VK

fit and their arms/ammunition 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 Kuldip 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.

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.

India well-equipped to handle challenges: Union Min on Colombo allowing Chinese ship to dock

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday asserted that India is well equipped to handle any kind of challenges that may arise in the wake of Sri Lanka allowing a high-tech Chinese 'research' ship to dock in its waters.

His statement comes a day after the island nation said that it has allowed a Chinese military ship to anchor at the Hambantota port from August 16 till 22 for "replenishment purposes," amidst India's concerns over the presence of the vessel in the neighbourhood.

"We are well equipped and well prepared to handle any kind of situation effectively under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

That is clear," Sonowal said. The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways was responding to a question from reporters here. To another query regarding Indian cargo ships depending on Colombo port, which acts as a transshipment hub in the Eastern

coast, he said, "The Ministry is very much committed to developing a transshipment hub on the Indian coasts. We have declared it earlier also." Chennai Port Trust Chairman Sunil Paliwal intervened to say, India

already responded strongly on the issue relating to the Chinese ship and cautioned that "security situation of a country should not be discussed like this."

On the development of infrastructure at Ports across the country, the Union Minister said, "We have already started to develop our infrastructure in Paradip, Vishakapatnam and also in Chennai Port. We are also planning to develop infrastructure in Tuticorin port..."

Sonowal said his Ministry has planned to set up a new fishing harbour in Paradip Port, Vishakapatnam and also Chennai Port "within a short span of time".

"We have already sanctioned Rs 99 crore to Chennai (Port Trust) for the fishing harbour", he said.



Schoolchildren participate in a Har Ghar Tiranga campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in New Delhi 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



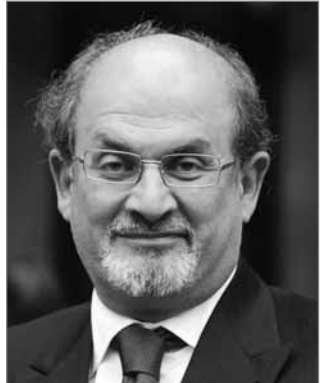
A 75-ft National Flag being unfurled at the southern tip of India, ahead of Independence Day, in Kanyakumari

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



PRAFULL GORADIA

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 Suatation 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 Suatation 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 Suatation, India would be known for its Disarmed Suatation 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 jumla. 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

SOUNDBITE

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



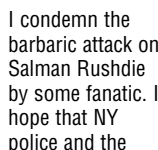
Maharashtra Deputy CM
—Devendra Fadnis



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 SeoulEPIF. 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



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.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

'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 pharma 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.

SHELLING KILLS 1 IN UKRAINE; RUSSIA SEEKS N-PLANT SECURITY ASSURANCE



AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces on Sunday fired rockets on the Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine, killing at least one person, and a Russian diplomat called on Ukraine to offer security assurances so that international inspectors could visit a nuclear power station that has come under fire.

The Mykolaiv region is just to the

north of the Russian-occupied city of Kherson, which Ukrainian forces have vowed to retake.

The Ukrainian emergency service said one person was killed in shelling early Sunday of the Mykolaiv region settlement of Berezhneuvate.

As fighting steps up in southern Ukraine as Russia's war closes in on six months, concern has grown sharply about the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power

plant, which is held by Russian forces and has been hit by sporadic shelling. Both Ukraine and Russia blame each other for the shelling, which officials say has damaged monitoring equipment and could lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

The Zaporizhzhia facility is Europe's largest nuclear power plant.

Russia's envoy to international organizations based in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, called on Ukraine to stop

attacking the plant in order to allow an inspection mission from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is important that the Ukrainians stop their shelling of the station and provide security guarantees to members of the mission. An international team cannot be sent to work under continuous artillery shelling," he was quoted as saying Sunday by Russian state news agency Tass.

In Ukraine, rebuilding starts with neighbours' help

AP ■ NOVOSELIVKA (UKRAINE)

As battles raged around Kyiv, one Russian advance was stopped in front of Maria Metla's home. Artillery gutted most of the house, while the rest was pulverized by tank fire.

Metla, 66, is now counting on her neighbours to have somewhere to live this winter.

Crews of volunteers turn up on most mornings to prize away anything that can be reused, setting up neat piles of bricks, destroyed kitchen appliances for scrap metal, and chunks of insulation panels.

The salvaged material is reused to help rebuild homes destroyed along the perimeter of Russia's failed attempt during the initial stages of the war to surround and capture Ukraine's capital.

The village of Novoselivka, 140 km (nearly 90 miles) north of Kyiv, was a scene of intense fighting during the 36-day attack on the capital. Metal doors are buckled by bullet holes from heavy machine-gun fire and houses like Metla's were smashed by ground and aerial bombardment.

"We dragged what we could to the basement. Five bombs, one, two, three, four, five, exploded in the field behind us," Metla said while standing in what used to be the living room of her destroyed home. She keeps a burned exercise bike and a religious icon of St Nicholas as reminders of life before the war.

Ukraine's authorities said last month that the country had suffered more than \$100 billion, equivalent to two-thirds of its 2020 gross domestic product, in infrastructure damage alone



but estimate that the reconstruction effort could cost more than seven times that amount.

Officials are appealing to Western countries to tap frozen Russian assets on top of what they are willing to donate to help pay for the bill.

Container homes from Poland are being set up near Novoselivka, a village filled with orchards, sunflower patches, and back gardens with chickens, outside the historic northern city of Chernihiv. But the scale of the damage has prompted scores of local initiatives.

"In many other countries, if your home is destroyed, you might put up a For Sale sign and move to another town. It's not like that here," said Andriy Galyuga, a local volunteer organizer. "People are very attached to where they are from and they don't want to leave."

Galyuga's organisation, Bomozhemo, is in contact with similar initiatives that have sprung up all around the Ukrainian capital.

At one smashed home, Galyuga bounds up a broken stairwell to direct a 25-member

crew of volunteers loading salvaged cinder blocks onto a slide and determinedly prying off construction material with pickaxes and crowbars.

Children and retired women help the effort watched by the worried home owner, Zhanna Dynaeva, who makes food for the workers, many of whom have also lost their homes.

The gaunt-looking Dynaeva, is staying with a friend, but visits her home daily to maintain an immaculate garden. She carries trays of drinks and sandwiches on the day the volunteers came to visit.

"I am so grateful to them. People around me have helped so much," she said. As she gives an account of her escape from the bombardment, Dynaeva bursts into tears and is hugged by her homeless neighbour, Metla.

"I'm hoping I can stay on my property, maybe in a makeshift home to start," Dynaeva says. "I don't know what will happen to us. Winter will be here soon. I just worry all the time."



Lankan Navy rejects reports of conducting war games with Pak

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday rejected as "fallacious" media reports that it will hold war games with a Pakistani warship docked at the Colombo port but confirmed that it will hold a "Passage Exercise" in the western seas with PNS Taimur as it leaves the island nation.

The docking of Pakistan's newly-commissioned Chinese-built frigate at the Colombo port on Friday came amid Sri Lankan government allowing a high-tech Chinese research ship to visit the southern port of Hambantota from August 16 till 22 for "replenishment purposes," despite India's concern over the vessel's presence in its neighbourhood.

Sri Lanka allowed PNS Taimur to make a port call in Colombo while on its way to join the Pakistan Navy fleet after the Bangladesh government denied it permission to dock at Chattogram Port.

The Sri Lankan Navy in a statement on Sunday said the Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Taimur, which arrived in Sri Lanka on Friday on a formal visit, is scheduled to conduct a Passage Exercise with SLNS Sindurula in seas off Colombo as she departs the island nation on August 15 upon completion of her visit.

"In this backdrop, certain media reports circulating about a 'War Game' between Sri Lanka Navy and Pakistan Navy

are fallacious," the release said.

It said that the Sri Lanka Navy, with the concurrence of foreign navies, conducts Passage Exercises as a routine engagement when their visiting naval ships departing the island after making official port calls.

"The prime motive of these efforts is to enhance interoperability, partnerships and goodwill as well as exchange best practices with foreign navies," it said.

It said the Sri Lankan Navy had conducted similar Passage Exercises with the navies of countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan, Germany, UK, Russia and Australia on a number of previous occasions.

"Conducting similar naval exercises with regional and extra-regional navies will enable each partner to overcome common maritime challenges in the future, through enhanced cooperation. In addition, such engagements will also be vital for its own maritime operations of the Sri Lanka Navy," the statement said.

PNS Taimur is the second of four powerful Type 054A/P frigates built by China. It was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in Shanghai on June 23. The first ship in the Type 054A/P-class, the PNS Tughril, joined the Pakistan Navy Fleet in January. Two more frigates of the same class are currently under construction in China.

PNS Taimur took part in

exercises in Malaysia and Cambodia along its journey to Karachi. The 134m-long ship is a technologically advanced and highly capable sea asset having hi-tech weapons and sensors, the latest combat management and electronic warfare system to fight under multi-threat environments.

The Sri Lankan government on Saturday said that it has allowed Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship, 'Yuan Wang 5', to dock at the southern port of Hambantota from August 16 till 22 for "replenishment purposes," days after Colombo asked Beijing to defer the port-call amidst India's concern over the vessel's presence in its neighbourhood.

The Chinese research ship was earlier scheduled to arrive on Thursday and remain at the port until August 17 for replenishment. However, the Sri Lankan foreign ministry requested the Chinese embassy here to postpone the vessel's visit following security concerns raised by India. Subsequently, the vessel did not dock at the Hambantota port on Thursday as planned.

The southern deep-sea port of Hambantota is considered strategically important for its location. The port has been developed largely with Chinese loans. India has said it carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests.

River torrent kills 7 in China amid widespread heavy rain

AP ■ BEIJING

Seven people were killed by a torrent of water that came rushing down a river in a popular recreational spot following mountain rains in southwestern China, authorities said Sunday.

Workers and volunteers mobilized to urge people to leave the area after receiving an imminent heavy rain warning at about 2:40 p.m. Saturday, the emergency management bureau in Pengzhou city said.

People could be seen scrambling to flee in videos posted on social media, but some were caught when the torrent hit less than an hour later at 3:30 p.m.

One man at the scene said several people were washed



away, including some children, when the waterflow in the lower reaches of the river suddenly increased in just 10 to 20 seconds, the state-owned China National Radio reported.

The Chengdu city government said Sunday that seven people died and three others were hospitalized with minor injuries.

Pengzhou is a tourist spot about 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province.

A video showed a helicopter rescuing a person stranded on a small outcropping by descending to just above the water and opening a door so the person could climb in.

Elsewhere in China, heavy rain flooded streets in the

northwestern city of Xining on Saturday night. Heavy to torrential rain was forecast for the northeast from Sunday to Monday afternoon with 10 to 18 centimeters (4 to 7 inches) of rainfall expected in parts of Liaoning and Jilin provinces.

A heat wave was hovering over a wide swath of southern China, with highs Sunday forecast at 35 to 39 degrees Celsius (95 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit) and possibly surpassing 40 degrees (104 Fahrenheit) in some places including Shanghai.

Jiangsu province warned that road surface temperatures could rise to 72 degrees (162 Fahrenheit), raising the risk of flat tires, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

'Uneasy peace in Indo-Pacific due to recent Chinese actions'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

There is an "uneasy peace" in the Indo-Pacific due to China's recent aggressive actions, an influential US Congressman has said, underlining that India and the US should work together with countries such as Japan, South Korea and Australia for maintaining stability in the strategically vital region.

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, who has just returned from a historic trip to the region, including Taiwan, as part of a US Congressional delegation led by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in an interview with PTI said one of the interesting topics of conversation during their travels was the rise of India and the importance of the country playing a greater role.

The Congressional delegation led by Pelosi travelled to Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. In Taipei, much to the anger of China, thousands of Taiwanese turned out in the middle of the night to welcome their American guests.

"I think there is an uneasy peace (in the region). In all the countries we visited, whether it was Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Korea or Taiwan, there is a real concern about aggression from the People's Republic of China (PRC)," the 49-year-old Democratic Party leader said. China's military launched



a week-long military exercises around Taiwan in retaliation for Pelosi's high-profile visit to the self-ruled island, which Beijing views as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China's provocative military drills around Taiwan raised global concerns that Beijing may be preparing to annex the self-ruled island.

In the Indo-Pacific region, where India can exert influence, especially through initiatives such as the Quad in providing stability and security, "I think that partnership with India is extremely important for maintaining an international rules-based order," Krishnamoorthi said.

In November 2017, the US, India, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the four-nation Quad grouping to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence,

amid China's growing military presence in the strategic region.

"And so, when the PRC throws itself militarily at its neighbours, whether it is in the South China Sea, or Taiwan, or even against India on the western border of China, then the neighbours...Get very concerned...They definitely want an increased security presence from the United States, among others," Krishnamoorthi said.

He said India and the US working together with countries such as Japan, South Korea, Australia and other Indo-Pacific nations is indispensable for maintaining stability in the region.

He described the challenge from China as "very serious".

The Congressman said the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has unfortunately botched its response to COVID-19, causing tremendous economic uncertainty and a slowdown in China's economy, the world's second largest.



Official: Over 50 deaths from seasonal floods in Sudan

AP ■ CAIRO

Floods triggered by seasonal torrential rains in Sudan have killed more than 50 people and inundated over 8,170 homes since the rainy season started, a senior police official said on Saturday.

Nineteen fatalities have been recorded in North Kordofan province, followed by Nile River province, which reported seven deaths, said Brig. Gen. Abdul-Jalil Abdul-Rahim, spokesman for Sudan's National Council for Civil Defence. The western Darfur region, which has five provinces, reported 16 deaths, he added.

He did not say when the first casualty occurred. Sudan's rainy season usually starts in June and lasts until September, with floods peaking in August and September.

Abdul-Rahim said at least 25 people were also injured so far this year, according to the

country's state-run SUNA news agency.

The flooding and heavy rainfall inundated 16 government facilities and around 40 stores, and damaged at least 540 feddans (acres) of agricultural land across the country, Abdul-Rahim said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said an estimated 38,000 people have been affected by heavy rainfall across the East African country since May.

Last year, flooding and heavy rains killed more than 80 people and swamped tens of thousands of houses across the country. In 2020, authorities declared Sudan a natural disaster area and imposed a three-month state of emergency across the country after flooding and heavy rain killed around 100 people and inundated over 100,000 (one lakh) houses.

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 Rade-wagen, 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 Bishoy. 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 Bishoy. "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 bus 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 Silvan 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 cease-fire. 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 Nablus.

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 commitment 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 off ventilator and able to talk

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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Truss in commanding lead over Sunak in UK PM race

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 he had remained loyal to Johnson and not called on him to resign.

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 ministerial hopeful 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.



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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

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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.

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 over-seeing customs.

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Finance Min plans to review exemption-free tax regime

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry is proposing to soon review the exemption-free new tax regime with a view to making it more attractive for individual income taxpayers, sources said.

Eventually, sources said, the Government aims to establish a system where there are no exemptions and the complex old tax regime with exemptions and deductions is terminated.

The Union Budget 2020-21 introduced a new tax regime. Taxpayers were given the option to choose between the old regime with various deductions and exemptions and the new tax regime that offered lower tax rates without exemptions and deductions.

The intention behind the move was to provide significant relief to the individual taxpayers and to simplify the income-tax law. Asked about the experience of the new tax regime, sources said, there are clear signs that people who have finished their home and education loans are willing to shift to the



new tax regime as they have no exemptions to claim.

Sources further said that lowering of taxes in the new regime would make the new tax regime more attractive.

A similar tax regime for corporate taxpayers was introduced in September 2019 by significantly lowering rates and removing exemptions.

The Government had announced a cut in base corporate tax for then existing companies to 22 per cent from

30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2024, to 15 per cent from 25 per cent. Companies opting for these new tax rates will have to forego all exemptions and incentives.

Under the new tax regime for individual taxpayers announced on February 1, 2020, people with an annual income of up to ₹2.5 lakh do not pay any tax. **PTI**

Commerce Min proposes host of incentives to revamp SEZs

New Delhi: The commerce ministry is proposing a host of direct and indirect incentives such as deferral of import duties and exemption from export taxes to revamp Special Economic Zones through a new legislation, an official said.

In the Union Budget this year, the government proposed to replace the existing law governing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with a new legislation to enable states to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs' (DESH).

The official said the commerce ministry has sought views of different ministries, including finance, on the new bill. After collating the feedback, the ministry would seek approval of the Cabinet and then introduce the new bill in Parliament.

The proposals seek to provide incentives such as retention of zero-rating of IGST (integrated goods and services tax) on domestic procurement by a unit in an SEZ; continuation of indirect tax benefits to developers of these zones; and allowing depreciation on sale of



used capital goods cleared to domestic tariff areas.

There is also a plan to extend the corporate tax rate to 15 per cent without any exemptions for units undertaking authorised operations in these development hubs.

States can also provide support measures to these zones to boost manufacturing and job creation. The existing SEZ Act was enacted in 2006 with an aim to create export hubs and boost manufacturing in the country. However, these zones started losing their sheen

after imposition of minimum alternate tax and introduction of sunset clause for removal of tax incentives. These zones are treated as foreign entities in terms of provisions related to customs. Industry has time and again demanded continuation of tax benefits provided under the law. Units in SEZs used to enjoy 100 per cent income tax exemption on export income for the first five years, 50 per cent for the next five years and 50 per cent of the ploughed back export profit for another five years. **PTI**

States should not give freebies beyond fiscal capabilities: Kumar

New Delhi: State Governments should not dote out "non-merit freebies" such as gifts and consumer durables beyond their fiscal capabilities, according to former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

Kumar noted that there is a difference between merit transfer payment and non-merit freebies, especially those which are done beyond the fiscal capability of any government. "Non-merit freebies which are the nature of giving out gifts, consumer durables... Those are to be looked at carefully and in any case should not be undertaken by the governments who have fiscal constraints," he told PTI in an interview.

Noting that in a democracy, transfer payments via the government through the instrument of taxation and distribution is always necessary, he said, "any transfer payments whose social rate of return is higher than any private rate of

return, in other words which has positive externalities, is worth doing."

On some politicians comparing the current economic situation of Sri Lanka with India, Kumar said, "any such comparison is simply unwarranted and mischievous to different levels."

Sri Lanka is grappling with a severe economic crisis and India has been at the forefront of extending economic assistance to Sri Lanka.

According to Kumar, in the Nordic countries, the tax to GDP ratio is nearly 50 per cent because they spend lots of public money in providing public goods and services to the common person.

"I think that is not something we should discuss or debate. "It is important to increase the quality and access of public goods and services for the common person, especially for those at the bottom of the pyramid," he said. **PTI**

Greaves Cotton exploring export opportunities for electric two-wheeler

Mumbai: Greaves Cotton is exploring export opportunities for its Ampere brand of electric two-wheelers bolstered by the recent investment from global investor Abdul Latif Jameel in the e-mobility arm.

In an interaction with PTI, Greaves Cotton Managing Director and Group CEO Nagesh Basavanahalli said that Greaves Electric Mobility is working on new products, both in two and three-wheeler segments, including on high-speed electric scooters, and may launch a few of them by the fiscal-end.

The Saudi Arabia-based family-owned diversified business Abdul Latif Jameel, which has presence across 30-odd countries, announced in June this year its commitment to invest USD 220-million in the Cotton Greaves' subsidiary.

As part of the deal, it has

initially invested USD 150-million (₹1,171-crore) for a 35.80 per cent stake in Greaves Electric Mobility.

The city-based diversified engineering company has presence in five businesses—engine manufacturing, electric mobility, retail, financing as well as technology.

Greaves Electric Mobility manufactures two-wheelers under the Ampere brand while three-wheelers, e-auto and e-rickshaws, are produced under the Ele and the Teja brands.

"We are exploring export opportunities for our two-wheeler (Ampere) brand. We are still discussing it internally but exports definitely are on our mind," Basavanahalli told PTI. "Our partner (Abdul Latif) has presence across 32 countries and strong partnership globally with certain other global marquee companies," he said. **PTI**

LIC keen to re-enter mediclaim segment, awaiting regulatory clarity: Chairman

Mumbai: Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is keen to re-enter the mediclaim segment as and when the regulator provides clarity on the issue, its chairman has said.

"We are already doing a lot of long-term health protection and guaranteed health products. And we are evaluating the suggestion that the regulator Irdai made recently," LIC Chairman M R Kumar told PTI when asked about the same during its earnings call over the weekend.

The chairman further said, "I don't think it will be difficult for us as we already offer some of the health products."

Mediclaim policies, which are indemnity-based health plans, are the best-selling health insurance products in the country. However, in 2016, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had asked life insurers to withdraw indem-



nity-based health plans from the market. Life insurers since then have been allowed to offer only fixed benefit health plans.

Under indemnity-based health insurance plans, the insurer provides reimbursement for the money spent on medical treatment up to the sum insured. For fixed benefit health insurance plans, a fixed amount is paid out of the sum insured for pre-determined illnesses or medical conditions.

Recently, the new Irdai Chairman Debasish Panda had said it was time life insurers re-entered the health vertical as he had given a mandate to the industry to ensure that every citizen has a health insurance policy by 2030.

However, Panda later clarified that the regulator was only evaluating the pros and cons of allowing life insurers to sell health insurance policies and that no decision has been taken yet. **PTI**

Jhunjhunwala will be remembered for his acute understanding of markets, says Ratan Tata

Mumbai: Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, on Sunday said ace investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala will always be remembered for his acute understanding of the markets as well as for his jovial personality, kindness, and foresightedness.

Jhunjhunwala, often referred to as 'India's Warren Buffett', passed away here Sunday morning due to a cardiac arrest. He was 62.

Jhunjhunwala had investments in more than three dozen companies, the most valuable being watch and jewellery maker Titan, part of the Tata conglomerate. His portfolio includes companies like Star Health, Rallis India, Escorts, Canara Bank, Indian Hotels Company, Agro Tech Foods, Nazara Technologies and Tata Motors.

"Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who sadly passed away this morning, will always be

remembered for his acute understanding of the stock exchanges of India. He will also be remembered for his jovial personality, his kindness, and his foresightedness," Ratan Tata said in his condolence message.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to his family which has to share the burden of this great loss," he added.

Jhunjhunwala was brought dead to the Breach Candy hospital early on Sunday morning. Suffering from kidney disease and ischemic heart disease, the hospital certified that cardiac arrest was the cause of his death.

A self-made trader, investor and businessman, he was also known as the 'Big Bull' of Dalal Street. With an estimated net worth of around USD 5.8 billion (about Rs 46,000 crore), Jhunjhunwala was the 36th richest billionaire in India, according to Forbes' 2021 listing. **PTI**

Shareholders approve Ashish Kumar Chauhan as NSE MD, CEO

New Delhi: Leading bourse National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Sunday said that shareholders have approved the appointment of Ashish Kumar Chauhan as its managing director and chief executive.

The Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EOGM) of NSE was held on August 11, according to a statement.

Shareholders approved the appointment of Chauhan, who was the MD and CEO of rival bourse BSE, with 99.99 per cent votes. He assumed charge as NSE chief on July 26. His appointment at the top post of the NSE was cleared by the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on July 18.

He took over the helm of NSE from Vikram Limaye, whose five-year term ended on July 16. Limaye did not seek another tenure at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) despite being eligible for it. **PTI**

Indian toy manufacturers scale up amid rise in demand; eye global markets

New Delhi: Government policies such as increasing customs duties on imported toys and mandating BIS certification requirement for imports not only boosted domestic manufacturing but also helped the industry to explore global markets and enhance exports.

The demand for toys based on Indian mythological characters, desi movie characters and superheroes such as Chota Bheem are on the rise as the domestic players break away from the dominance of China and some other countries, according to industry experts.

Now the 'made-in-India' toys have a very clear edge in the domestic markets and the manufacturers are scaling up their production capacity to meet the growing local as well as international demand.

The import of toys into India has declined sharply from USD 304 million in 2018-19 to



USD 36 million in 2021-22, said a data from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

On the other hand, exports have increased from USD 109 million in 2018-19 to USD 177 million in 2021-22, it added.

According to the industry, the sector is also going global, as manufacturers are scouting new markets and increasing exports to the Middle East and African countries.

The Indian toy industry is growing as the government has mandated the domestic players to have BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) certification

for import and also increased customs duty, said Toy Association Of India president Ajay Agarwal.

"These are the two reasons as import of toys has declined," Agarwal told PTI.

Encouraged by these supporting initiatives, the Indian manufacturers are now scaling up their production and investing to augment their capacity, he added.

"Now several makers are manufacturing toys based on Indian ethos and culture. Icons like Chota Bheem are very popular and several manufacturers have the licence to manufacture them," he said, adding that more manufacturers are entering this category of toys.

According to a joint report by industry body FICCI and KPMG, the Indian toy market was estimated to be around USD 1 billion in 2019-20 and is expected to double to USD 2 billion by 2024-25. **PTI**

Bank of India sees 10-12% growth in advances in current fiscal

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India expects advances to grow by 10-12 per cent in the current fiscal year with corporate loans yet to pick-up, top official said in an analysts call.

The bank's year-to-date (YTD) loan growth stood at about 5 per cent mainly driven by Retail sector advances, Agricultural and MSME loans (RAM).

"Advances growth guidance will be in the range of 10 to 12 per cent for the full year. So far up to June, we had YTD growth of about 5 per cent, but that is mostly on the back of good RAM growth. Corporate is yet to pick up. We believe that from this quarter onwards, there could be some movement in the corporate book," A K Das, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO), told analysts in post Q1FY23 earnings conference call.

The bank's gross advances



(global and domestic) stood at Rs 4,77,746 crore at end-June 2022.

In the first quarter ended in June of the current fiscal year, the lender registered a decline of 22 per cent in net profit at Rs 561 crore as against Rs 720 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Exuding confidence that it won't be difficult to achieve the loan growth target for 2022-23, Das said the bank expects Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 2.90 per cent domestically and global NIM of 2.75 per cent. In Q1FY23, bank's domestic and global NIMs stood at 2.88 per

cent and 2.55 per cent, respectively.

Das said a lot of repricing in loan book is happening in both sides and it would be good if the bank could maintain the guidances on its NIMs. In terms of asset quality, the bank said it has set a target of ₹2,500 crore reduction in bad loans every quarter.

Of this, ₹1,700 crore will come from upgradation and cash recoveries and the rest will be through various OTS (One Time Settlement) programmes which the lender has lined-up already, M Karthikeyan, Executive Director, said.

"We are sure that during this year, about ₹3,000 crore will come through resolutions through NCLT, that's what our guidance is," he added. At end of June 2022, bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) improved to 9.30 per cent of the gross advances, translating to ₹4,415 crore. **PTI**

Kotak's maiden FoF to make first make close by mid-Sept with ₹500 cr commitment

Mumbai: Kotak Investment Advisors, which launched its maiden ₹1,500-crore fund of funds (FoF) earlier this month, hopes to make the first close by the middle of September, garnering around ₹500 crore.

Established in 2005, Kotak Investment Advisors is the largest homegrown alternate asset fund, managing USD 5.7 billion (around ₹45,000 crore) across, real estate funds, infrastructure funds, special situations fund, listed strategies (stocks), and pre-IPO investments.

Its stressed assets fund is the largest in Asia with assets under management worth over USD 1 billion (about ₹7,900 crore).

According to a Crisil report, as of March 2022, the total investment commitments in the alternate investment funds (AIF) industry stood at ₹4.41 lakh crore between category I, II and III funds.



Of the total ₹2.33 lakh crore of incremental fund inflows between FY21 and FY22, ₹31,988 crore were into 93 category I funds, which are mostly early-stage venture capital and social impact funds; ₹1,47,654 crore into 240 category II funds (listed and unlisted equity funds, realty and debt funds) and ₹53,413 crore into 170 category III funds, which are long-only and short-only equity funds.

The Kotak India Alternate Allocation Fund, which was launched on August 3, is the maiden fund of funds (FoF) from the company. **PTI**

Six of top 10 companies add ₹1,56,247.35 cr to market cap

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of six of the 10 most valued companies surged by ₹1,56,247.35 crore last week, with Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) emerging as the biggest gainer.

While RIL, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC and Bajaj Finance saw gains in their market capitalisation (m-cap) in the holiday-shortened week, Infosys, HUL and LIC suffered losses.

Stock markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Muharram.

The RIL's valuation zoomed ₹66,772.08 crore to ₹17,81,028.47 crore. The m-cap of TCS jumped ₹12,642.03 crore to ₹12,44,004.29 crore

and that of HDFC Bank advanced by ₹32,346.90 crore to ₹8,25,207.35 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank went up by ₹25,467.37 crore to ₹6,70,920.64 crore. HUL lost ₹11,454.26 crore to ₹6,09,765.92 crore in its valuation and LIC saw an erosion of ₹3,289.00 crore to ₹4,31,459.72 crore. The mcap of SBI was unchanged at ₹4,73,584.52 crore. **PTI**

FPIs invest ₹22,452-cr in Indian equities in Aug on softening inflation concerns

New Delhi: After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors have become aggressive shoppers of Indian equities and have invested ₹22,452 crore in the first two weeks of August amid softening inflation concerns.

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly ₹5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in the entire month of July, data with depositories showed.

FPIs had turned net buyers for the first time in July, after nine straight months of massive net outflows, which started in October last year.

Between October 2021 till June 2022, FPIs sold ₹2.46 lakh crore in the India equity markets. Going forward, foreign fund inflow is expected to

improve in the emerging markets on account of fading concerns of rising inflation and tightening of monetary policy by central banks, Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

According to official figures, India's retail inflation softened to 6.71 per cent in July due to moderation in food prices but remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month.

US inflation slowed down from a 40-year high in June to 8.5 per cent in July on lower gasoline prices, indicating that the US Fed might be less aggressive in hiking interest rates. "As long as energy prices remain low and there are no

surprises from the war zone, foreign flow is likely to continue," Vijay Singhania, chairman at TradeSmart, said.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, is hovering around USD 98 per barrel.

According to data with depositories, FPIs infused a net amount of ₹22,452 crore in Indian equities during August 1-12. The sentiments in the equity market have turned bullish due to sustained buying by FPIs. "Depreciation in dollar (dollar index declined from above 109 during late July to around 105.26 on August 12th) is the primary driver of capital flows to emerging markets," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said. **PTI**

PFC Projects likely to rope in investor partners for stressed power projects

New Delhi: PFC Projects Ltd, an equal joint venture of Power Finance Corporation and REC Ltd, is likely to rope in technical or strategic investor partners to operate and maintain acquired stressed or non-performing assets next year.

PFC Projects Ltd (PPL) will rope in strategic investor partners through competitive bidding and the first such bid is likely to be floated next year, a source told PTI.

The joint venture has been set up for taking over stressed assets or NPA (non performing assets) in the power sector. Earlier this month, the boards of PFC and REC approved a subscription of 50 per cent equity each not exceeding ₹50

crore each in the PPL.

"The PPL will explore both options of technical as well as strategic partners for running the acquired stressed power plants. It will select a technical or strategic partner for each acquired stressed project through competitive bidding. First such bid is likely next year." At present, the company has bid for two stressed projects—3600 MW KSK Mahanadi Power project and 1920 MW Lanco Amarkantak Power project. The company filed a joint bid with state-run power giant NTPC for the 3600 MW KSK Mahanadi Power project.

The company will require a technical or strategic investor

partner for the 1920 MW Lanco Amarkantak Power project.

The source said that the company is likely to invite bids for a technical or strategic investor partner next year as the stressed project is undergoing insolvency proceedings which may conclude in 2023.

The company will choose an investor partner for each acquired project. The PFC is a non-banking finance company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power for financing projects in the sector. The PFC Board on August 12, 2022 accorded approval for creation of Power Asset Management Company (PAMC) for taking over the stressed/NPA power assets. **PTI**

NEYMAR NETS 2 AS PSG BEATS MONTPELLIER 5-2 IN FRENCH LEAGUE

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 wrong-footed 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 Youssef 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 half-time.



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 @narendramodi 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 medalist, 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 @narendramodi 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.



AIFF Electoral list: Legends of '70s and '80s set to 'return' on different turf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Their mesmerized all and sundry with their skills and 'surefootedness' during those heady Indian club football days of 1970's and '80's but former national captains like Shabbir Ali, Manoranjan Bhattacharya will have a far bigger task at hand in coming days.

Their prudence will decide the course that Indian football system charts, after more than a decade long 'One-Man show' at the helm of affairs, which has done more harm than good for the game in the country.

These two and 34 other prominent internationals of their times are now part of an exclusive voter's list to elect the next governing body of All India Football Federation (AIFF) with an imminent FIFA ban looming large.

There are 24 male and 12 female former India footballers, who have been included in the initial voters' list of 67 for the elections dated on August 28 on the orders of the Supreme Court. It features some of the biggest names, including former India captains like Bhaichung Bhutia, IM Vijayan, Mauricio Alphonso, Climax Lawrence, Prasun Banerjee, Biswajit Bhattacharya, Bruno Coutinho, Oinam Bembem Devi, the lone Padma Shree awardee among women footballers in India.

As per rule, an 'eminent player' must have played at least two matches for India and must have retired two years before the date of election.

The publication of the electoral college also ruled out a big politician running for the AIFF president's post. Former sports minister and current union minister Sarbananda Sonowal's name was doing the rounds as presidential candidate.

Assam Football Association President Naba Kumar Doley, who is also a BJP MLA in the state, is in the electoral college so also Football Delhi chief Shaji Prabhakaran. Any person who is a mem-

ber of the electoral college and an Indian citizen can fight for the AIFF president's post.

These elections to the All India Football Federation are being in the backdrop of world governing body FIFA's threat to ban India and take away hosting rights of Under-17 Women's World Cup on the ground of "third party interference".

FIFA has also expressed its unhappiness on the inclusion of 36 players in the electoral list -- the same as the number of representatives from state associations, terming the move as "not prudent".

The three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA), which is running football in the country, is, however, going ahead with the elections. It has appointed a returning officer who prepared the electoral college.

Nomination papers can be filed from August 17 to 19 by the candidates and delivered to the returning officer in person or by post.

Sports ministry, CoA and Fifa are holding discussions on the decisive shape of the AIFF constitution.

Shabbir Ali and Manoranjan Bhattacharya, offensive and defensive bulwark of the Indian team of the 70s and 80s, began their careers four and eight years after India's last medal in the Asian Games -- a bronze in 1970 in Bangkok.

Midfielder Prasanta Banerjee, said to be the first Indian player to have earned Rs 1 lakh in a season, and nimble-footed Babu Mani made the electoral college as also their former team-mates Biswajit Bhattacharya, who scored India's lone goal scorer in the 1984 Nehru Cup against Poland. Former national team captain and goalkeeper Atanu Bhattacharya, who made it to the Asian All-Star team, is another big name in the list. Others include Aloke Mukherjee, Brahmanand, Tarun Dey and Parminder 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' expulsion 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."



European Swimming C'ships: Romanian teen Popovici shatters 13-yr-old 100m freestyle world record

IANIS ■ ROME

17-year-old Romanian world champion David Popovici became the youngest swimmer to break the men's 100m freestyle world record at the European Swimming Championships here on Saturday.

Popovici stormed home in a time of 46.86 seconds and shattered the 13-year-old world mark of 46.91 set by Brazil's Cesar Cielo at the 2009 FINA world championships, which also were held at the same pool at Rome's historic Foro Italico.

In the men's 100m freestyle final, Popovici was the second in the first 50m with 22.74 and turned to dominate the field with 24.12 in the second half, beating Hungarian butterfly world champion Kristof Milak 47.47 and Italian Alessandro Miressi 47.63, respectively.

Popovici also broke the world junior record, European record, European junior record and meet record at the same time.

The Romanian young sensation claimed two gold in the 100m and 200m free at the FINA worlds in Budapest, Hungary in June.

Popovici was convinced that this was his chance to erase the name of Brazil's Cesar Cielo's from the record books and replace it with his own; but only by swimming .05 faster than the 46.91 mark that was set in this very same pool at the 2009 FINA World Championships.

It took a step by step improvement to achieve a new world record of 46.86, one that brought a huge smile to the face of 17 year old David Popovici and brought the crowd at the Foro Italico pool to its feet. Popovici shaved .05 off a dusty world record that was set in a shiny suit.

Lukaku swiftly opens Inter account in 2-1 win at Lecce



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Seasoned striker Sunil Chhetri on Sunday advised fellow players to continue giving their best on the pitch and not worry about FIFA's threat of suspension on Indian football. Earlier this month, world football governing body FIFA had threatened to suspend the AIFF and strip off its right to host the women's U-17 World Cup in October due to a third party 'influence', the warning coming just days after the Supreme Court's directive to hold elections of the national federation.

The SC-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) has since, though, started the electoral process. The elections are slated for August 28. "I've spoken to the boys and my advice is to not give it too much attention because it is out of your control," Chhetri said during a virtual media

interaction organised by his club Bengaluru FC in the build-up to the new season.

"People who are involved are doing their best to make sure that we are going to come out with the best results possible. "Everyone is working hard towards it. As far as players are concerned we are going to make sure that we do our work properly."

"We have to make sure you better yourself as a player. Whenever you get an opportunity to represent your club or your country, put your best foot forward. "All other verticals in the AIFF are trying to fix as much as possible to make sure that they come out with flying colours," he said.

India is to host the FIFA women's U-17 World Cup from October 11-30 and the Union Cabinet last month approved the Signing of Guarantees for hosting the women's age group show-

2-time champ Simona Halep advances to Toronto final

AP ■ TORONTO

Two-time champion Simona Halep of Romania advanced to the National Bank Open's final, beating Jessica Pegula of the United States 2-6 6-3 6-4.

Halep will face Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia, a 6-4 7-6 (7) winner over 14th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in the night semifinal.

Halep smashed a racket on the hard court at Sobeys Stadium after she missed a return late in the third set.

"The fire is back," Halep said. "It's a good sign if I do that. It looks like I'm fighting. It helps me sometimes. I don't know if it's always good or not, but it helps me."

The 15th-seeded Halep won the tournament in Montreal in 2016 and 2018. Pegula was seeded seventh.

Haddad Maia reached her first WTA Masters event final. In June, she won consecutive grass-court events in Nottingham and Birmingham in England for her first two tour titles.

"I just try to breathe a little bit more. I try to calm down and think about what I need to do and not what I'm experiencing," Haddad Maia said.



"I try to play every point and think about the next shot. She beat top-ranked Iga Swiatek in the round of 16.

"I don't think about, Oh, I'm here playing against No. 1 in the world in a big stage in a 1000 WTA," because otherwise I wouldn't be able to play," Haddad Maia said.

Halep won the Melbourne Summer Set 1 to open the season for her 23rd title, and first since since 2020. She began working with coach Patrick Mouratoglou in April and said he has rekindled her passion for tennis, pointing to training sessions at his tennis school in the French Riviera.



Honda Racing India rider Senthil Kumar finishes 15th, scores a point in Race 2

PTI ■ TOKYO

Honda Racing India team earned a point with Senthil Kumar finishing 15th in round 3 of 2022 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) here on Sunday.

In his first stint at the Sportsland SUGO international circuit, Senthil managed to bounce back from a DNF in race 1 to claim a point for the team. However, teammate Rajiv Sethu, who had finished fifth on Saturday, could not recover from the mistake in the initial laps and finished the race in 17th position.

The duo of Senthil and Rajiv battled their hardest with 17 best of Asian riders from six countries (Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) in Asia Production 250cc (AP250) class. With four riders crashing out in the last lap, it proved to be a challenging race for everyone. Senthil however, took advantage and sped up to jump ahead on the leaderboard to come in contention for winning some coveted points.

Learning from my mistakes of yesterday I wanted to perform better today. I am happy to have bagged a point for the team and it is only with their support and guidance that this was possible," he said.

piece in Bhubaneswar, Goa and Mumbai. The Durand Cup will kick off the season in Kolkata on August 16 and Bengaluru FC will take on Jamshedpur FC on the second day of the tournament.



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Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loan terms, the below loan accounts are in delinquent status. The Bank has issued multiple notices to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the below-mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard.

The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after 22nd August, 2022 for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 9 August 2022	Date of Sale Notice
1	XXXXX0284	T JAYANT KUMAR NAIDU	54,875.65	10-Aug-22
2	XXXXX3232	GOPI VIJAY	54,148.96	10-Aug-22
3	XXXXX9184	JAYA DEVI HARDEL	61,493.82	10-Aug-22
4	XXXXX7782	MAHANTI VIJAYA LAKSHMI	1,189.82	10-Aug-22

Date : 15.08.2022

Place : CHHATTISGARH

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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.

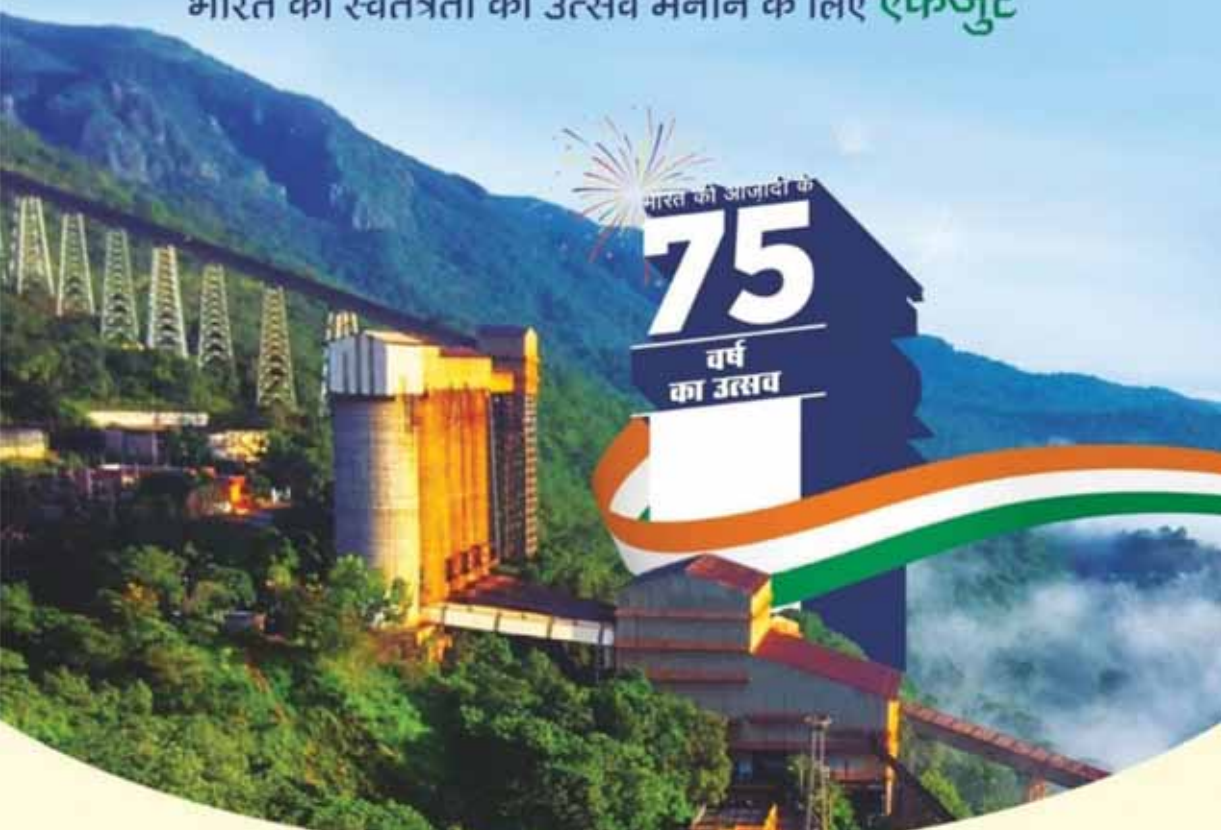
But the last ODI that he played was against West Indies in Ahmedabad, where with both Rohit Sharma and Dhawan present, Rahul was back in the middle-order.

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.








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