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POLITICAL BONDAGES

MONEY 8
FINMIN PLANS TO REVIEW
EXEMPTION-FREE TAX REGIME

SPORTS 11
WITH RAHUL BACK AS OPENER, GILL
MIGHT HAVE TO COME IN AT NO. 3

VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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TAMANNAH TO PLAY
FEMALE LEAD
OPPOSITE RAJINIKANTH
IN JAILER
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TWO ELEPHANTS TO BE DEPLOYED TO CHASE AWAY LEOPARDS FROM CHEETAH ENCLOSURE

Two elephants are being deployed to chase away four leopards from an enclosure in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park meant to house cheetahs during an acclimatization phase after they arrive here from Africa as part of an ambitious reintroduction project, officials said on Sunday. The elephants, along with their mahouts, embarked on the 800-kilometre journey to KNP from Sitapur Tiger Reserve on Sunday morning on trucks stocked with all essential items. STR Director L Krishnamurthy told PTI. As per forest officials, such trained elephants are used for a variety of tasks, including encircling animals for tranquilization, driving away invasive animals, spotting amid monsoon and overgrown thicket etc.

'YOU ARE NEXT': AUTHOR JK ROWLING RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

The police in Scotland on Sunday said they are investigating an online threat, believed to be from Pakistan, made to Harry Potter author J K Rowling in the wake of her support for Mumbai-born writer Salman Rushdie following his stabbing at a literary event in New York state. Rowling, 57, shared screenshots of a Twitter message stating: "Don't worry, you are next". The same Twitter account, believed to be based in Pakistan, also posted messages praising the man who attacked Rushdie, 75, on stage at the event in New York state. We have received a report of an online threat being made and officers are carrying out enquiries, Police Scotland said.

OVER ONE CRORE CASES SETTLED IN NATIONAL LOK ADALAT IN A DAY

Over one crore disputes were settled in the third National Lok Adalat of this year, recording a total settlement amount of Rs 90 billion, the National Legal Services Authority said. Of the disputes settled on Saturday, more than 75 lakh were pre-litigation cases and 25 lakh pending cases, NALSA said. The third National Lok Adalat was held in all states and Union Territories, except Delhi where it will be held on August 21. Chief Justice of India-designate and executive chairman of NALSA Justice UU Lalit said, "Lok Adalat has been instrumental in channelling the development of an inclusive society by making justice accessible at the fulcrum of the society."

MOOSEWALA'S FATHER ALLEGES FRIENDS BEHIND SINGER'S MURDER

Slain Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala's father on Sunday said his son could not decipher that those who were claiming to be his friends would become his enemy one day, and stressed that he will soon reveal their names. Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29. Addressing a gathering in Mansa, Moosewala's father Balkaur Singh said his son made his name worldwide with his singing. Some black sheep became enemies of his career, said Singh. "It was his misfortune that people whom he met at the beginning (of his career) were not the right persons."

Lanka-like crisis may befall AP, says Pawan

Promises to develop State as IT hub if JSP voted to power

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Expressing concern over the poor financial condition of Andhra Pradesh, Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has said that the Sri Lanka-type situation may arise in Andhra Pradesh also. However, he said, "I wish such a fate would not befall the State."

Addressing the IT volunteers of JSP at the State headquarters in Mangalagiri on Sunday, he said that there was the scope for AP to face a Sri Lanka-type crisis. He alleged that the YSRCP government is disregarding the progress of the State in the name of implementing welfare schemes.

"If people come to the streets, whoever be the leader and how strong he is, will taste their wrath. Irate mobs in Sri Lanka barged into the President's residence who fled the country. Such a situation may arise in AP also if people become angry at the government, but I wish that it will not happen here", he said. "The YSRCP government is hoodwinking the people by implementing populist schemes by borrowing huge money from various institutions. At the same time, the development of the state has come to halt. Is the development of the state possible with the borrowed money", he questioned.

He reminded the Supreme Court and the CAG that implementing welfare schemes by borrowing money would disintegrate the financial system of the country.

He opined that the people of the state had voted YSRCP to power trusting that it would lead the state towards development but Jagan Mohan Reddy failed to



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fulfil the aspirations of voters.

Pawan Kalyan underlined the need to develop the state IT hub in order to generate IT jobs for youth of the State. He said that there should be healthy competition in the neighbouring states in the developing IT sector.

He promise to develop AP as an IT hub if voted to power, alleging that the YSRCP government had failed to develop the state as an IT hub resulting in the youths going to other states for jobs.

He advocated that Rs 15 lakh should be given to enthusiastic software engineers who are making efforts to develop new apps and he assured to extend the same if voted power.

Pawan Kalyan made it clear that he had launched the party with the objec-

tive of awakening one generation and reminding the responsibility to the next generation.

Pawan Kalyan said that the book 'Freedom at Midnight' moved him as it reveals the bloodshed during the partition of the country, stating that 1.80 crore to 2 crore people migrated to various places in India and Pakistan and over 15 lakh people were killed immediately after partition.

"We are celebrating the 70 years of Independence but about 2 crore people who had migrated and 15 people who lost their lives during the partition of the country. If there is no able leadership that catastrophe will take place", he said and opposed dividing India on the basis of religion.

175 life convicts in AP walk to freedom

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 175 life convict prisoners were granted special remission by the AP government on Sunday. The Department of Home issued GO 121 setting the convicts free.

The Government of India has decided to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' as a series of events to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. As part of the celebrations, they have proposed to give special remission to certain categories of prisoners and release them in three phases viz., on 15th August, 2022 (75th Anniversary of Independence day), 26th January, 2023 (Republic Day) and again on 15th August, 2023, who have consistently maintained good conduct during their term in prisons.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued guidelines for Grant of Special Remission to certain categories of convicted and life convicted prisoners by constituting a Standing Committee to review the list of eligible prisoners and recommend to the Government for consideration to release them on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in three phases. The Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, AP, Mangalagiri, has sent a prison-wise list of convicted prisoners, who fulfilled the conditions.

The Standing Committee has reviewed the list of eligible prisoners as per the guidelines issued and recommended the names of 175 life convicted prisoners for Special Remission of the sentence.



Flood steady in Godavari, slows down in Krishna

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh received 9.09 mm of rainfall on Sunday under the influence of a depression in the northwest Bay of Bengal while Parvatipuram Manyam district received 7.38 mm.

Srikakulam district received 5.51 mm, West Godavari 5.07 mm, East Godavari 4.89, Kakinada 4.47 mm and Vizianagaram 3.8 mm on Sunday, according to Met data. Other districts received scanty rainfall. Meanwhile, the flood in River Godavari remained steady and slowed down in river Krishna.

The second warning, however, continued in place at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram near Rajamahendravaram.

With over 14.6 lakh cusecs still flowing in the Godavari, several habitations in Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, and B R Ambedkar Konaseema districts remained inundated for the fourth day.

A boat carrying drinking water to inundated villages in Konaseema

With over 14.6 lakh cusecs still flowing in the Godavari, several habitations in Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, and B R Ambedkar Konaseema districts remained inundated for the fourth day.

overtaken in the flood but the eight people in the vessel swam to safety. NDRF and SDRF teams are still in place in the flood-hit districts to carry out relief operations, according to the State Disaster Management Authority.

In river Krishna, 4.10 lakh cusecs (cubic foot of water flow per second) was being discharged from Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir.

From Dr K L Rao Sagar Pulichintala downstream, the flood discharge remained at 3.27 lakh cusecs.

At Prakasam Barrage, further down in Vijayawada, the outflow reduced to 3.51 lakh cusecs on Sunday.

DGP selected for President's Police Medal



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police (DGP) KV Rajendranath Reddy has been selected for President's Police Medal (PPM) for the year 2020.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will present the medal to the DGP during the Independence Day celebrations at Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) stadium here on Monday.

Retired Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) N. Venkat Reddy has been selected for Indian Police Medal (IPM). He retired from service in the Vigilance and Enforcement Department.

Five officers of Andhra Pradesh have won the Union Home Minister's medal for excellence in the investigation for the year 2022.

B. Seetharamaiah of East Sub-Division, Guntur, K. Vasu, Inspector of Police, Old Guntur Police Station, Sk. Khadar Basha, SI, Tanguturi Police Station, Prakasam district, K. Srinivas Rao, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and M. Satyanarayana, Inspector of Police, Penamaluru Police Station, Vijayawada, have won the medals.

Jhunjhunwala dead

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Ace stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, often referred to as India's Warren Buffett, died here Sunday morning. He was 62. Jhunjhunwala passed away early this morning due to a cardiac arrest, a source in his newly set up airline said. 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.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Chaturthi: Aug 14 10:36 PM to Aug 15 09:02 PM
Panchami: Aug 15 09:02 PM to Aug 16 08:17 PM

Nakshatram:
Uttara Bhadrarada: Aug 14 09:56 PM to Aug 15 09:07 PM
Revati: Aug 15 09:07 PM to Aug 16 09:06 PM

Rahukalam: 7:37 AM to 9:11 AM
Yamagandam: 10:46 AM to 12:20 PM
Varjyam: 09:07 AM to 10:43 AM
Gulika: 1:55 PM to 3:29 PM
Amritakalam: 04:28 PM to 06:01 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:45 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly cloudy
Temp: 32°C
Humidity: 74%
Sunrise: 5:51 AM
Sunset: 6:32 PM

Updated: AUGUST 14, 2022 5:00 PM

All set for I-Day fete at IGMC Stadium

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will hoist the National Flag on the occasion of Independence Day at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium on Monday.

The police imposed traffic restrictions in view of the I-Day celebrations under which traffic will be not allowed from 7 am to 12 noon on Bandar Road. CM Jagan will hoist the Tricolour at 8.30 am and address the public. Various departments of the State government have pre-



pared the tableaux to showcase their achievements.

The CM will attend the Governor's 'At Home' programme at Raj Bhavan at 5.30 pm. NTR District Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata said the traffic will be diverted on various routes from 07:00 am to 12:00 pm for the convenience of the people and requested the public to cooperate with the Police department. Only invitees for I-Day celebrations with passes will be allowed from Benz Circle to DCP Bungalow Junction (on Bandar Road). City Buses from RTC "Y"

Junction towards Benz Circle will be diverted to Route No.5 and Ramavarappadu Ring via Eluru Road to proceed towards Benz Circle.

Special instructions were given to invitees regarding entry and parking of vehicles under which "AA Pass" invitees will be allowed through Gate No. 3 (Food Court) and park their vehicles in designated areas.

"A1, A2" pass holders will be allowed from Gate No. 4 (Mee Seva) and park their vehicles on the handball ground. "B1, B2 awardees and their family members" pass holders' entry will be through Gate No. 2 and they can park their vehicles in the football ground or stadium or in the Armed Reserve Ground opposite the stadium.

Journalists will be allowed to enter the stadium through Gate no. 2 wearing a photo accreditation card or photo ID card. Guests with passes should reach the stadium by 7:45 am.

INS Satpura in US to commemorate 'Azadi'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Indian Naval Warship INS Satpura arrived at San Diego Harbour North American Continent on Aug 13 as part of commemorative visits undertaken by the Indian Navy's ships across six continents, three oceans, and six different time zones. The ship will hoist the Indian Tricolour in the presence of the Indian diaspora and distinguished local dignitaries in North American Continent on the historic 75th Independence Day at about 10,000 nautical miles away from her base port.

The ship will also conduct a 75-lap 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Run' at San Diego US Navy Base on Aug 15. Each of the 75 laps will be dedicated to 75 stalwarts of India's Freedom Struggle as a remembrance of their sacrifices for the nation.

The visit of INS Satpura to San

Diego is also historic as this is the first time an Indian Naval Warship has reached the west coast of North America, thus demonstrating the capability of the Indian Navy to deploy across the globe, when required in sup-



port of the National objectives.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an occasion to reinvigorate and re-emphasise India's maritime moorings. Towards this, a large number of activities have been undertaken by the Indian Navy over the last year both within the country and abroad. Commemorative ship visits to 75 Indian ports in the year 2021-22, President's Fleet Review, Lokayan 2022 (sail ship expedition), display of the monumental flag at Mumbai, and community outreach programs across all coastal districts of India are a few major initiatives in this regard by the Indian Navy.

It will be Priyanka vs Bansal in Telangana

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

After Uttar Pradesh now it may be the turn of Telangana to witness a fight between Sunil Bansal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The BJP which is determined to come to power is tightening its grip over Telangana. The BJP appointed its General Secretary Sunil Bansal as its in-charge in Telangana as part of this game plan.

Sunil Bansal is the right-hand man of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. After the appointment of Sunil Bansal as the BJP's in-charge, the



Congress leadership is thinking of appointing its General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as its Telangana in-charge. During the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Sunil Bansal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra fought each other as the in-charges of their respective parties.

Monday Mirchi

INCREASED INTERACTION WITH GOI

Sarkari meetings are few and far between. That was clearly the case at least before the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid moved many things to the virtual mode so much so that virtually many things could be packed in a day even in sarkari daftar. Post pandemic, normalcy has been restored in all walks of life, though with some notable exceptions. For babus, the number of meetings with Government of India officials has increased, though the number of occasions for travel in connection with such meetings has come down. Bureaucratic circles are discussing on how some of the in-person meetings which used to happen once in two months or so are now happening virtually every month. A little bird told us even GOI wants to showcase that it has done some review. Covid has shown the true power of technology; for, even though video conferencing was in vogue before the pandemic, there was always an option (or excuse) to travel.

TS DIGITAL DIRECTOR FOLLOWING AP COUNTERPART

They say "Time changes people". TS Digital Media Director Dileep Konatham is an example. On Sunday, not only TRS social media, but also the Digital media wing director had a melt-down after scholar Anand Ranganthan posted tweets to Minister K T Rama Rao. Official circles are now discussing the winds of change. A few months ago, it was suggested in this column that TS Digital Media director stayed away from directly engaging in political activity, though his AP counterpart Devender Reddy Gurrampati had no qualms about being more of YSRCP spokesperson than a government servant, at least on Twitter. Now the Telangana Digital Media director seems to be toeing the line of his AP counterpart. Netizens are however critical of the TS director, saying he is not sticking to his job as chief digital director, Government of TS.

LADY IAS OFFICER'S MIDNIGHT WALK!

In bureaucracy, good work will take you to places; even if that means you are made a guinea pig when the situation demands. A lady IAS officer, who had been to Singapore along with a delegation accompanying Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, was a guinea pig so to speak for testing the soundness of security systems. KCR, who normally names officers, did not name her. He merely said that one good thing that had happened during his Singapore trip was that he was accompanied by Rajashekhar Reddy (his secretary) and one lady IAS officer. Since Singapore businessmen took pride in proclaiming that even during midnight women there

can walk wherever they want and do their work, this delegation wanted to 'test' it. The 'lady IAS officer' and Rajashekhar Reddy made each other walk on either side of the road there. The 'lady IAS officer' went and returned happily, the CM observed. Interestingly, now this 'lady IAS officer' is the only bureaucrat to have changed her display picture to Tricolor on social media after a call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark 75 years of Independence. The lady officer is reportedly the longest standing bureaucrat in Telangana appointed immediately after formation of the state.

TWO BUREAUCRATS JOINING BJP

Of late, babus do not shy away from taking a plunge into politics. Before quitting All India Services, they tilt towards either the ruling party or an ascendant opposition party, making their choices clear. Less than a year after P Venkat Ram Reddy took VRS and joined TRS to become an MLC, a couple of more officers are going to join the league. A little bird told us that two officers, who have been at loggerheads with the current regime, are likely to take VRS soon and join the BJP. The two officers have already spoken to the saffron party's leadership. The buzz is that one of them, an IPS officer, may join the party this month itself during Amit Shah's visit. This apart, a few retired bureaucrats have met the BJP leadership over joining the saffron brigade. Evidently, not just TRS, now even BJP can claim that there are intellectuals and IAS/IPS officers in their party.

WHEN THE AREA OF OPERATION SHRINKS!

In Sanskrit, there is a saying "Yadha Raja, tadha praja". This perhaps can be modified as "Yadha Raja, tadha babus" in the context of Telugu states. Post bifurcation, the Telugu states have raked up several issues relating to the utilization and sharing of river waters. Leaders of ruling parties in the both states have been making allegations over utilization of river waters, creating an impression that after all they are fighting in the interests of their state. Although this has happened in other states too, what stands out in Telugu states is that, following in the footsteps of their political bosses, bureaucrats, though expected to think like 'all India' officials, have also started criticising one another to safeguard the interests of the ruling parties in their respective states. Mind you, until bifurcation these officers had worked together in the combined Andhra Pradesh state. Post bifurcation, their 'area of operation' has shrunk, running counter to their sense of professionalism.

-Yours truly

Congress appoints in-charges for Munugode by-poll

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After the lines TRS, the Congress too has appointed mandal in-charges for the Munugode by-poll on Sunday.

TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud revealed that Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore headed the committee that appointed the in-charges.

The in-charges are Ramreddy Damodar Reddy and Naini Rajender Reddy for Choutuppal Mandal, Balaram Naik and Gandra Satyanarayana for Narayanapur mandal, Danasari Anasuya and Vijaya Ramana Rao for Munugode mandal, Anjan Kumar Yadav and Dr Mallu Ravi for Nampally mandal, SA Sampath Kumar and Adi Srinivas for Ghattuppal mandal, Eravatti Anil and Dr Vamshi Krishna for Chandur mandal, Cheruku Sudhakar and Vem Narendra Reddy for Marrigudem mandal.

Pilgrim rush to Tirumala continues

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Serpentine queue lines of Pilgrims continued even on Sunday extending up to the Octopus building in Outer Ring Road with the unprecedented crowd pull to Tirumala. The hilltown is swarmed by devotees hailing from across the country with the weekend rush coupled with a series of festive holidays. TTD has made elaborate arrangements for food, milk, and water at various points apart from MTIVAC, Food Courts, Narayanagiri Gardens, and other points.

JEO Veerabrahmam inspected the queue lines at Narayanagiri, ORR, compartments of Vaikuntam Complex and verified the amenities being provided to pilgrims at regular intervals by instructing the officials concerned. Srivari Sevaks are pressed into service at all the vital points with a special focus on Annapparasadam, Health, and Vigilance departments.

About 50 thousand plus servings were made in the main Annapparasadam complex alone while in Vaikuntam



Compartments 1.30 lakhs servings (which includes both Annapparasadam and upma, pongal etc.) were offered which is double the normal servings. Apart from this milk was also served to children.

TTD Vigilance and Police sleuths ensured that there was no stampede in queue lines. By 6 pm on Sunday itself,

nearly 60,000 pilgrims had Darshan of Venkateswara Swamy.

In spite of TTD's appeal to infant parents and the aged to postpone their pilgrimage to Tirumala due to the heavy rush thousands belonging to these categories came for Darshan. Apart from the devotees of Southern States, pilgrims from

Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, and many newlywed couples also turned out in large numbers.

All the top brass officials of Engineering, Health, Annapparasadam, Vigilance, and Medical departments are seen continuously monitoring the queue lines overseeing the amenities to devotees.

President hails nation's progress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has helped the world discover the true potential of democracy and the keyword for the country today is compassion for the downtrodden, needy and those on the margins, President Droupadi Murmu said on Sunday.

In her maiden address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Independence Day, Murmu said major economic reforms are being accompanied by innovative welfare initiatives and the world has seen "a new India rising in recent years, more so after

the outbreak of COVID-19".

The president said when India won independence, there were many international leaders and experts who were sceptical about the success of the democratic form of government in India due to poverty and illiteracy at that time.

"But we Indians proved the sceptics wrong. Democracy not only grew roots in this soil, it was enriched too," she said as she asked citizens to pledge to give everything for the sake of the safety, security, progress and prosperity of the country.

The president, in her 17-



minute address, also complimented the policymakers for ensuring the growth of the country that has become more inclusive with reduced regional disparities.

"Our response to the pandemic has been appreciated every-

where. We 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," said Murmu who took over the presidency last month.

She said in combating the pandemic, India's achievements have been better than those of many developed countries. "For this feat, we are grateful to our scientists, doctors, nurses, paramedics and the staff associated with vaccination," she said.

The president said that the pandemic uprooted lives and

also economies in the entire world. "When the world has been battling the economic consequences of the great crisis, India got its act together and is now moving forward. India is among the fastest growing major economies in the world" whose start-up ecosystem ranks high in the world.

The president said "our existence will become meaningful only in building a glorious India" and quoted a poem of poet Kuvempu "I will pass, So will you, But on our bones will arise the great tale of a new India".

Non-violence and non-co-operation: Gandhiji's weapons of mass uprising

Seventy-five years ago, India became free from the British rule, on the historic day of 15th August 1947, as a culmination of several movements and struggle for freedom. The hard-fought Independence was achieved through the efforts of many revolutionary freedom-fighters.

Mahatma Gandhiji is revered as the Father of the Nation for his immense contribution and sacrifice for India's Independence.

He not only ushered the country towards freedom, but also became an inspiration for many freedom struggles and rights movements across the world.

Mahatma Gandhi introduced the doctrine of non-

violence in India as he believed that Independence could be achieved through mass uprising with a combination of non-violent movement and non-co-operation with the British rule. The historic Non-Cooperation Movement, Dandi March and the Quit India Movement were all started under his leadership.

The notion of non-violence attained a special status, after it was propounded by Mahatma Gandhi. He not only theorized on it, but also adopted non-violence as a philosophy and an ideal way of life.

He made us understand that the philosophy of non-violence is not a weapon of the weak; it is a weapon,

The notion of non-violence attained a special status, after it was propounded by Mahatma Gandhi. He not only theorized on it, but also adopted non-violence as a philosophy and an ideal way of life. He made us understand that the philosophy of non-violence is not a weapon of the weak; it is a weapon, which can be tried by all.

which can be tried by all.

It is often said that truth and non-violence are as old as the hills. Even though non-violence was not Gandhi's invention, he is called the father of non-violence because he led the movement to a level never thought of, or achieved in the past.

Gandhi objected to violence because it perpetuates

hatred. When it appears to do 'good' temporarily, it cannot do any good in the long run. A truly non-violent activist accepts violence on himself without inflicting it on another. For Gandhi, perpetrators of violence are products of social disintegration.

During the freedom movement, Gandhi felt the need for a perfect weapon to com-



BISWABHUSAN HARICHANDAN

bat violence and this is non-violence. Gandhi derived non-violence from its Sanskrit root 'ahimsa'.

Ahimsa implies total non-violence, Gandhi

treated ahimsa as love.

For Gandhi, non-violence is the greatest force in the disposal of mankind and considered it as mightier than any weapon of mass destruction. It is a living force of power and no one has been or will ever be able to measure its limits or its reach.

Gandhi's non-violence is the search for truth as he found that truth is the most fundamental aspect in Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence. He dedicated his whole life for "experiments with truth". It was in the course of this pursuit of truth that Gandhi discovered non-violence, which he further explained in his autobiography, as

"Ahimsa is the basis of the search for truth. I am realizing that this search is vain, unless it is founded on ahimsa as the basis." Gandhi always believed that non-violence contained a universal applicability.

In one of his letters, Gandhi wrote: "I have no message to give except this that there is no deliverance for any people on this earth or for all the people of this earth except through truth and nonviolence in every walk of life without any exceptions."

When Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement by giving an ultimatum to the Britishers to quit India, certain people ridiculed how a naked fakir could ask the

great British Empire to quit India. Gandhi's call for Quit India led to a great turmoil all over the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and led to people joining the movement in huge numbers. Britishers became aware of the power of Gandhi. The entire world was surprised that Gandhi chose non-violence as his weapon to fight against the mighty British Empire. They did not realise then the power of non-violence unleashed by Gandhi as a weapon of mass uprising.

The doctrine of non-violence is Gandhi's greatest contribution to the world.

(The author is Governor of Andhra Pradesh)

Revanth tests corona positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy has tested Corona positive. He tweeted regarding this on Sunday, "Suffering from mild flu-like symptoms. I got myself tested for Covid-19 and tested positive on Saturday." I urge all those who had come in contact with me to get themselves tested, isolate and follow the covid-19 protocol.

Revanth posted his test result also along with his tweet.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹202
Without Skin	₹229
Broiler at Farm	₹177

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	400
HYDERABAD	402
VISAKHAPATNAM	401
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.00

It will be Priyanka vs Bansal in Telangana

Continued from Page 1

Sunil Bansal is one of the BJP's chief strategists and had played a key role in scripting the BJP's spectacular win in 2017 in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Bansal was also the key person in the BJP's victory in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2022 too.

The Congress leadership had appointed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as the in-charge of Uttar Pradesh to take on the BJP in the 2022 Assembly elections.

Congress workers had expected

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to turn around the fortunes of the party in Uttar Pradesh. But Priyanka Gandhi Vadra failed to revive the Congress in Uttar Pradesh.

In Telangana, both the Congress and the BJP have a lot of hopes of coming to power in the next Assembly elections. The BJP which is in power at the Centre has many advantages over the Congress which lost power at the Centre eight years ago.

The BJP is using all weapons in its armoury to prevent the TRS from retaining power. The BJP appointed Sunil Bansal as its Telangana in-charge

as he has a successful record as a political strategist. The Congress has only one weapon, that is, appointing Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as its Telangana in-charge.

Compared to the north the Congress and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have a better image in TS. In Telangana, the Congress is stronger than the BJP. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the grandmother of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, once represented the Medak Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress is responsible for granting Telangana state but its local leaders failed to cash in on it. The

Jhunjhunwala dead

brother arrives from Dubai.

Starting off his journey in stock markets while still in college with a capital of just Rs 5,000, he recently teamed up with ex-Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube and former IndiGo head Aditya Ghosh to launch Akasa Air -- India's newest budget carrier. The airline began commercial operations this month with its maiden flight from Mumbai to Ahmedabad.

Jhunjhunwala had in previous interviews stated that he became fascinated with stocks as a child after watching his

father balance his market investments. He made his first investment in the stock market in 1985 when he was 25 years old with money borrowed from a relative.

The Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark index Sensex was at 150 when he began investing. It now trades at over 59,000 points.

He had the reputation of being a risk-taker in his investments, many of which paid off spectacularly. He was described as an investor who has "acquired legendary Midas

touch by picking winning stocks".

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.

He was also the chairman of Hungama Media and Apteck and sat on the board of direc-

tors of firms such as Viceroy Hotels, Concord Biotech, Provogue India and Geojit Financial Services.

His 5.05 per cent holding in Titan alone is worth over Rs 11,000 crore. His largest holding is in Apteck Ltd (23.37 per cent), followed by Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd (17.49 per cent), Metro Brands (14.43 per cent), NCC Ltd (2.62 per cent) and Nazara Technologies Ltd (10.03 per cent).

Born on July 5, 1960 in a Rajasthani family, Jhunjhunwala grew up in Bombay, where his father worked as a Commissioner of Income Tax.

Revanth asks Cong leaders to avoid personal criticism

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Expressing concern over the personal criticism in the Congress instead of concentrating on the Munugode by-poll, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that the people of Munugode will lose heavily due to the infighting in the Congress.

He said that there is a need for a debate on the anti-people policies of the State and the Centre and the skyrocketing prices of essentials. The Centre has burdened the poor heavily by increasing the prices of petrol, diesel and gas, he added.

The people have a feeling that they are being deceived by the TRS and BJP governments.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had given jobs to only seven lakh people although 22 crore people had applied for jobs, he said.

In a video message released on Sunday, Revanth said the Congress has the responsibility to question governments on behalf of the poor who are being deceived by the BJP.

He said that the BJP should seek votes in Munugode only after announcing a Rs 5,000 crore package for completing pending projects like the SLBC and Brahmana Vellemla and solving local problems.

He said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has been deceiving the public by repeating the same things he had said earlier.

A.P. SOCIAL WELFARE RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY
D.No. 12-467-8, Moksha Sai Plaza, Service Road, Tadepalli, Guntur District-522 901

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
APSWRE-11521/19/2022-GEN
Dated: 12-08-2022

A.P. Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society, Tadepalli, is inviting e-tenders from the eligible and registered Manpower Supplying Agencies for providing Housekeeping & Sanitation services at all Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Gurukulams of APSWREI Society in the State of Andhra Pradesh through e-procurement. Bidders who wish to participate will have to register in www.approcurement.gov.in and submit their bids. The bidders can access the tender document through www.approcurement.gov.in from 15.08.2022. The last date of receipt of bids is by 3.00pm on 30.08.2022.

R.O.No: 12159PC/ADVT/11/1021-02, Dt: 12.08.2022

Sd/- SECRETARY

'Give priority to protecting women's democratic rights'

Dignity Walk for Women organised to mark 75th Independence Day celebrations

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vasavya Mahila Mandali organised a 'Dignity Walk for Women' to mark the 75th Independence Day celebrations, in Vijayawada on Sunday. NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao flagged off the rally at the collector's camp office. The rally then progressed to DCP Bungalow, MG Road, ZP compound, joint collector's office, and the sub-collector's office, before concluding at the Babu Museum adjunct the MG Road in Vijayawada.

Dilli Rao participated in the walk along with students of Mary Stella College, Andhra Loyola College, NCC cadets, Scouts and Guides and women leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector Dilli Rao said that women leaders had given great contributions to the



Indian Independence Movement, which should never be forgotten. Everyone should take them as inspiration and be involved in the development of the country, he said.

He further said that Jhansi Lakshmi Bai, Aruna Asifali,

Kamala Nehru, Durgabai Deshmukh, Begum Azarat Mahal and Annie Besant played key roles in the freedom struggle. Post Independence, Indira Gandhi bravely took up the leadership of the country, he said. "Without women, there is

no creation, and respecting women is the tradition of Hindu Dharma, which should be followed. Women should be honoured and also given encouragement. Society should take the initiative to end attacks on women. Everyone should

protect the dignity of women," he added. He said that in the next 25 years, women would play key roles in various sectors across the world. Top priority should be given to protecting women's democratic rights. He appealed to all women to utilise the cooperation from the State and Central governments to reach heights.

Later, the NTR District Collector felicitated International Table Tennis player Shailu Noor Basha powerlifter Shadiya Almas at the Babu Museum.

Vasavya Mahila Mandali president Dr. Keerthi, Medical Director Dr. Deeksha, Business Network Director Vishal Desai, NTR District Youth Welfare Officer U Srinivasa Rao, Employment Officer PV Ramesh and Child Line Coordinator A Ramesh were present.

Viral fever, malaria, dengue spread in Vambay Colony

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

People residing in the Vambay Colony on the outskirts of Vijayawada city are under threat of viral fever, malaria and dengue fever. Even though public health is facing a severe crisis, the officials concerned are least bothered.

Choppa Tirupataiah (33), residing in G-603, Krishna Chaitanya (17), residing in G-34, and Shaik Fatima (27), residing in G-101 are suffering from malaria. And they did not get any treatment from the corporation's health department. All three are living in the same block.

Not only in G-block, but in other blocks also many people have a viral fever, malaria and dengue fever. Sanitation in the Vambay colony is in a pathetic condition. The garbage is not removed properly though the sanitation staff visits the colony regularly, said residents.

Because of incessant rains, the outskirts of Vijayawada have faced severe sanitation problems and garbage was not removed properly. Waste is



seen piled up on various roads in the colony. Even people's representatives aren't bothered, they said. "We are paying several taxes which are imposed by VMC. Sanitation staff are not coming to the colony to remove the garbage," people said.

Various areas of Vijayawada city face the same situation, and none of the people's representatives or officers responded. VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar visited several areas and observed garbage piles on the roadside

and function halls. He also gave instructions to the staff. But, the situation has not changed, people said.

Many viral fever, dengue, and malaria patients have approached private hospitals due to lack of proper treatment at VMC Urban Health Centres. But the VMC Public Health Department has no information about this. Most of the people residing at the Vambay Colony, Rajiv Nagar and Kandrika Colony are labourers working in Autonagar and KR Market areas.

Use 'green' products: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Visakhapatnam district in-charge minister Vidadala Rajini said that the people should use products that do not harm the environment. On Sunday, she visited the 'Plastic Alternative Mela' organised at RK Beach. Speaking on the occasion, she congratulated the Commission

ner of GVMC for organising the mela for the first time in Andhra Pradesh. She said that we all know the ill effects caused by plastic, there are many toxic chemicals, which not only harm the environment but also harm all aquatic living beings on earth. If we don't stop using plastic, the generations to come will be at high risk, said the minister.

The minister said that the

GVMC machinery, voluntary organisations, public associations, educational institutions, government, and private offices are working to eliminate plastic and the State government is working to implement the plastic ban in the entire state. She said that in the days to come Visakhapatnam will be leading among plastic-free cities in the world.

NTR district solves most cases in National Lok Adalat

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



District Judge Aruna Sarika congratulated NTR District Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata for solving the highest number of cases across the State in the National Lok Adalat organised by the AP State Legal Services Authority on Saturday. A total of 11,630 cases have been solved, which is the highest among all the districts in the State. The National Lok Adalat was presided over by City Police Commissioner Rana. The pending cases in various police

The district police officers and staff were given appropriate instructions to convey to either party that Lok Adalat is the best way to solve the issues amicably

stations across the district like negotiable family disputes, road accidents, petty cases, and other cases were solved by nego-

tiating with both the parties amicably. The district police officers and staff were given appropriate instructions to convey to either party that Lok Adalat is the best way to solve the issues amicably. In the National Lok Adalat organised on Saturday, a total of 11,630 cases were resolved includes 2,592 IPC cases, 716 Special Act cases, and 8,322 petty cases. The Commissioner congratulated the police officers and staff for their efforts in solving 11,630 cases by coordinating with the complainants and members of both parties.

DGP inspects arrangements at IGMC Stadium

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police (DGP) KV Rajendranadh Reddy observed the rehearsal for the Independence Day parade at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium in Vijayawada on Sunday. IGMS stadium is all set for the conducting of the 75th Independence Day celebrations on Monday.

DGP Rajendranadh Reddy, NTR Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, and NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao visited the stadium and inspected the



security arrangements. Kanti Rana explained the security arrangements and bandobast for the smooth conduct of Independence Day celebrations. The DGP received a

salute from police forces. He gave instructions to the police officers to make the celebrations a success. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would be hoisting the Indian nation-

al flag on Monday, hence all departments along with police should do their duties properly, he said. DGP Rajendranadh Reddy, along with other officers, inspected the venue, VVIP

gallery, VIP gallery, tableaux etc. All departments should cooperate with the Police Department and make the function a grand success, he added. Additional DGP (Law&Order) Ravisankar Ayar was present.

Meanwhile, Vijayawada Deputy Police Commissioner Vishal Gunnie inspected the security arrangements at the AP High Court Chief Justice's residence on MG Road in Vijayawada. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will go to the Chief Justice's residence to meet Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra on Monday.

ON CONDOLENCE VISIT



CHIEF MINISTER: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his wife YS Bharathi Reddy called on Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice, Justice Prashanth Kumar Mishra, at his residence in Vijayawada. Chief Justice Prashanth Kumar Mishra's mother, Nalini Mishra, passed away recently.

Expo highlights 'Partition horrors'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

South Central Railway, Vijayawada Division, observed the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on Sunday. Photo exhibition galleries were set up at 13 stations under the Vijayawada Division viz, Vijayawada, Tuni, Anakapalle, Kakinada Town, Eluru, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Rajahmundry, Bhimavaram Town, Machilipatnam and Bapatla. Digital museums were arranged at 14 stations including Tadepalligudem.

The Partition Horrors Day is observed by the Ministry of Culture to bring to light the agony, suffering, and pain of millions of people who were the sufferers of the partition.

The exhibition was organised to remind the country of the largest displacement of the human population in the last century, which also



The Partition Horrors Day is observed by the Ministry of Culture to bring to light the agony, suffering, and pain of millions of people who were the sufferers of the partition

claimed the lives of a large number of people. Keeping

in mind the vast outreach of the Indian Railways, the exhibition gallery was planned by the Railway Board across 700 stations in India to sensitise and educate the travelling public about the pain and agony endured by our ancestors. The exhibition is showcased with the sobriety and sameness that it deserves and the travelling public are enthusiastically visiting the exhibitions at all the stations of the Division.

Freedom fighter Narasayamma feted

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Kothapet Police Station (Two Town) Inspector Subramanyam felicitated freedom fighter Rampilla Narasayamma, wife of renowned freedom fighter Rampilla Suryanarayana, at her home at Chittinagar in Vijayawada on Sunday. Following the direction from NTR Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, Kothapeta CI Subramanyam visited the house of Rampilla Narasayamma as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

CI Subramanyam asked her about the freedom struggle and Vijayawada's role in it. Also, he enquired about her health. The CI said that police were inspired by freedom fighters and national leaders. Today's youth and students should take inspiration from them and achieve their



goals by working hard, he added. Rampilla Narasayamma said that at the time of the freedom struggle, they made bombs at the top of the hill near the Milk Project in the city. "I, along with my husband Suryanarayana, secretly made bombs and supplied them to freedom fighters," she said.

Freedom Fighters Families Heirs Association national secretary Rampilla Jaya Prakash was also present.

KODALI SAYS MADHAV VIDEO IS FAKE

'Naidu should send video and audio in 'Note for vote' case to US lab'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and YSRCP MLA from Guduvada Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) has said that the alleged video call of MP Gorantla Madhav must have been edited in the TDP office. Nani said that TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu is known for fake documents and fake leadership throughout his career. He alleged that the TDP chief's political career was built on fake documents, fake evidence, fake news, fake claims and fake promises.

Pointing out the TDP leaders' claim that they have sent the video clip to a forensic lab in the US that had confirmed the veracity of the video, Nani asked the TDP leaders to send



video and audio in the 'Note-for-vote' case and get it tested in the US forensic lab. Nani asked the TDP to send the video clip in which then TDP MLA A Revanth Reddy with a cash bag was seen. There is an audio in which Chandrababu Naidu's voice is heard. "Why are they not sending these two clips to the US forensic lab?" he asked. The former

minister said that the video clip which is doing rounds on social media was recorded from another mobile and questioned its originality or authenticity.

Nani said that the video is not from the MP's mobile. It is not even from the mobile of the person who received the call. It was from some other mobile, which could have been a third or fourth or fifth mobile and it was recorded on another mobile which could be a tenth or twentieth mobile. Then how can it be called original, questioned Nani.

He said that Chandrababu Naidu is known for this sort of politics and asserted that people in the State knew what sort of politics the TDP chief would play.

Will quit politics if allegations proved: Batchula Arjunudu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP MLC and party Ganna varam Assembly constituency in charge Batchula Arjunudu has challenged the YSRCP leaders that he is ready to quit politics if the allegations made by the YSRCP are proven. "YSRCP leaders are proof of petty politics and they are constantly making baseless allegations against me," he added.

MLC Arjunudu organised a 'Badude-Badudu' in Ramavarappadu village of Vijayawada Rural Mandal in the NTR district on Sunday. He visited houses and explained the State government's anti-people policies. TDP leaders and cadre gave a grand welcome to MLC Batchula Arjunudu.



Speaking on the occasion, the MLC said that people had been enthusiastically participating in

the Badude-Badudu programme. "The YSRCP leaders cannot stand this overwhelming

response and they are making unnecessary allegations against me. If the ruling party

leaders do not stop making allegations, they will have to pay the price," he warned. He further said that Ramavara padu was developed during the TDP rule, but now the village was neglected by the government. Infrastructure facilities should be provided in the villages, he demanded. "CC roads, drainages and bridges across the Ryves canal were constructed during the rule of the TDP," he pointed out.

He alleged that the State government had been imposing additional burdens on the people by enhancing electricity charges, RTC bus charges, collecting garbage cess and levying impact cess. Poor and middle-class people were facing severe financial trouble. "Development

of villages is stalled. Roads and drainage systems are in pathetic condition. Drinking water is contaminated and people are suffering from viral fever, dengue and malaria," he said. Sufficient doctors are not available at the Primary Health Centres and there are no medicines either, he alleged.

TDP Vijayawada Rural Mandal president Goddalla China Rama Rao, general secretary Koneru Sandeep, TDP Ramavarappadu president Addepalli Srikanth (Hari), party leaders Garimella Narendra Chowdary, Dandu Subrahmanyam Raju, Guda valli Narasimha Rao, Bomma sani Aruna, G Baburao, Addepalli Samba Siva Nagaraju and others were present.

Special Branch CI selected for two police medals

PNS ■ ELURU

Special Branch Circle Inspector V Ravi Kumar was selected for two police medals. He would receive the two police medals in the Independence Day programme to be held in the police parade ground tomorrow. Circle Inspector Ravi Kumar was selected for the DGP Disc medal for the year 2020 and the Best Services medal for 2021. The services extended in the police department during the last 10 years would be considered for the selection for the Disc medal. Similarly, factors such as best services rendered in the last 20 years without any remarks in discharging duties are taken into consideration for awarding the Best Service Medal.



Why freedom at midnight? To avoid inauspicious start!

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary celebrations of our Independence or Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, some of us may be reminded of the celebrations during the Golden Jubilee 25 years ago. One may recall the many midnight functions organised then to mark our 'Freedom at Midnight'! But the question that continues to be asked is: Why on earth did we choose to be free at an unearthly hour? Was it by choice or by compulsion? What was special about that midnight hour for our 'Tryst with destiny'?

To answer the foregoing questions, I need to jog my memories back to the 1980s, when as a research scholar in JNU, I had a gap year. Having completed the course work for M Phil with a high grade point, I was eligible for direct Ph D, but underage to appear

for the Civil Services Exam. As I was relatively free, my Professor and guide asked me to help the internationally celebrated authors Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre (of 'Freedom at Midnight' fame) to edit the personal papers and private documents of Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy, which they had collected for their best seller publication. That's how I was swamped by huge loads of material which I had to ferret out for new publications, later brought out in two separate volumes, viz. 'Mountbatten and the Partition of India' and 'Mountbatten and Independent India'.

That is when I stumbled upon an interesting interview of Lord Mountbatten by the authors of the book during the course of their research for the international

As per the Hindu calendar tithis (days as per solar/lunar cycle) begin at the sunrise; while as per the Western (Gregorian) calendar, the date begins at midnight. This crucial difference afforded a slim window of opportunity to work out an astrological solution (upay) to this difficult dilemma.

best seller Freedom at Midnight. The recorded interview was published in the first part of the new publication Mountbatten and the Partition of India.

Let's hear from the horse's mouth, as it were, as Mountbatten recounts in these excerpts from his interview, characterised by his trademark arrogance and insouciance:

"Q. The ceremony of August 15 had no precedent. Who invented it, engineered it? A. Well, I discussed it

with Nehru. The first and most amusing thing, of course, is that I had selected August 15 because it was the date of the Japanese surrender (to me as the Commander of Allied forces at Singapore) - which had only taken place, do not forget two years ago - but I had not consulted the astrologers.

As you know, the Indians are riddled with astrology. I did not realize it. On an inauspicious day, one could do nothing. Well, Nehru



BP ACHARYA

did not believe in astrology but, he said so many people did, and that I had chosen an unpropitious day. I suppose it was silly of me not to consult the astrologers, but I had forgotten.

He said, "Never mind. If you agree that we can have a midnight meeting and just before the midnight

strikes, we'll transfer power, that'll be all the more auspicious."

And I thought - what a marvellous, dramatic idea, having a midnight meeting while the rest of the world sleeps - and you'll remember ... This was done, not because we wanted a dramatic moment, but because I'd chosen the wrong day! Because the astrologers said it was not propitious!"

So there you are ... That is how we were saddled forever by freedom at midnight, as an uncomfortable compromise between Viceregal arrogance and astrological adjustment or upay, as it is often called. While the date was fixed arbitrarily by an egotistical Viceroy, what is surprising is that the Indian leaders rather meekly submitted to his whims and fancies! When Nehru broached it with other

leaders, apparently there was stiff resistance particularly from Sardar Patel and JB Kripalani who wanted to avoid the inauspicious day. Eventually, it was left to an ingenious astrological subterfuge to resolve this conundrum.

As per the Hindu calendar tithis (days as per solar/lunar cycle) begin at the sunrise; while as per the Western (Gregorian) calendar, the date begins at midnight. This crucial difference afforded a slim window of opportunity to work out an astrological solution (upay) to this difficult dilemma. As per the astrologers, the 15th August, 1947, which fell on the 14th day (chaturdashi) of dark fortnight (Krishna paksha), with the most inauspicious new moon day (amavasya) setting in too had to be avoided by all means. Thus,

as per the innovative compromise formula, this could be achieved by avoiding the sunrise of the 15th August, thereby avoiding the inauspicious dark chaturdashi/amavasya. But as per the Gregorian calendar, the 15th would begin after midnight. So, it was an ingenious tightrope walk that necessitated this midnight ceremony and the rest is history.

Thus, freedom at midnight became our "Tryst with destiny", and, over time, became a symbol of dramatic transfer of power emulated in some other colonial countries like the Hong Kong. For us, however, it remains a story of peculiar compromise.

(The author is a retired Special Chief Secretary of Telangana)

State has achieved substantial progress in last 3 years: Minister



PNS ■ BAPATLA

Minister for Social Welfare Merugu Nagarjuna has said that Andhra Pradesh has achieved substantial progress during the last three years and appreciated the officials for their hard work in this regard. The Minister inaugurated

the Police Parade Ground, constructed on the 4.40 acres of land, behind the SP office here, on Sunday. The minister also inaugurated the newly-constructed dais with 36 feet in width and 36 feet in length.

Minister Nagarjuna said that the state was progressing under systematic and transparent

governance. In the same order, the Bapatla district is also moving towards development. He said that the district Collector is taking special initiative for the development of the Bapatla district expeditiously.

He said that the police force is working efficiently to curb

'The State is progressing under systematic and transparent governance. In the same manner, the Bapatla district is also moving towards development. District Collector is taking up a special initiative for the development of the district expeditiously'

crimes in the Bapatla district. The country is celebrating the golden jubilee of Independence and in response to the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hoist the flag on every house; all had participated in the progress irrespective of caste, religion, and caste. "Though Andhra Pradesh state is stuck in a debt trap, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is leading the State toward progress and maintaining transparency," he lauded.

Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Kona Raghupati said that the government was implementing welfare schemes

and carrying out development works simultaneously, considering the welfare of the people and the development of the State as two eyes of the government.

Kona Raghupati appreciated the officials of the Bapatla district for working efficiently for the development of the district. He claimed that the Chief Minister responded by pleading to provide basic amenities in the district and for the development of the Bapatla constituency. Collector Vijaya Krishnan, SP Vakul Jindal, ASP P Mahesh, and Bapatla RDO G Ravindhar, and other officials were present.



PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Minister for Health Vidadala Rajini inaugurated the newly-constructed Azadi Park and a 100 feet pole to hoist the national flag near RK Restaurant here on Sunday. The minister along with Collector L Shiva Shankar and MLA Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy unveiled a plaque in memory of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Independence Day as part of Azadi Ka Amrit. They released pigeons, which are symbols of peace, on the occasion.

The minister thanked those who contributed to the construction of the park. Later she

planted saplings in the park.

Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated Collector L Shiva Shankar, the SP and other officials for the construction of the park in a short time. She lauded the officials that the Independence Day programmes under the Azadi Ka Amrit programme were organised in the district in such a manner that they reflected patriotism and made people remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Collector L Shiva Shankar said that Independence Day celebrations were organised for the first time in the newly formed Palnadu district. He said that political leaders, offi-

cials, students, people's representatives and people of all sections had taken part in the Independence Day programmes.

MLA Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy thanked the District Collector and SP for organising Independence Day celebrations in a grand manner inculcating the message of patriotism to all.

Those who contributed to the construction of the park were felicitated on the occasion. Tahsildar Tamana Naik, DEO Venkatappayya, DWAMA PD Joseph Kumar, agriculture officer Murali and social welfare DD Obul Naidu were among those present.

FIRST TIME IN INDIA

Researchers develop 3D printed artificial cornea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

For the first time in India, researchers in Hyderabad have successfully 3D printed an artificial cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit eye. Researchers from LV Prasad Eye Institute, IIT Hyderabad and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have collaborated to develop the 3D printed cornea from the human donor corneal tissue.

The cornea is the clear front layer of the eye that helps focus and aids in clear vision. Corneal damage is a leading cause of blindness worldwide with more than 1.5 million new cases of corneal blindness reported every year. Corneal transplantation is the current standard of care for cases with



severe disease and vision loss. Unfortunately, there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of donor corneal tissue worldwide, which is further complicated by lack of adequate eye banking networks, especially in developing countries. Human tissue based 3D printed corneas are not only

safer but are also more affordable for patients with corneal blindness in India. Each donor cornea can aid in preparation of three 3D printed corneas. In addition, the cornea can be printed in various diameters from 3 mm to 13 mm and can be customised based on the specifications of the patient.

Farmer bludgeoned to death in Suryapet dist

PNS ■ SURYAPET

In a horrifying incident, unidentified assailants threw red chilli powder into the eyes of a 36-year-old man before bludgeoning him to death at Nadigudem village under Vallapuram mandal in Suryapet district on Sunday. The assailants, according to police, had waylaid Koppara Veerababu when he was on his way to his field and murdered him. Differences had reportedly cropped up between him and his brother Koppara Bhadrappa over a land dispute.

He was found murdered at his agricultural field. Nadigudem sub-inspector Edukondalu said he had not yet received a complaint.

Programmes for I-Day fete impressive: MLC Appireddy

PNS ■ GUNTUR

MLC Lella Appireddy has said that the programmes organised for the last two weeks as a run-up to the Independence Day celebrations were impressive.

The MLC planted a sapling on the premises of the Reddy hostel as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' organised by the Bandi Sahiti Reddy Charitable trust here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that India is like a mother to the world in democracy. "We are fortunate as we are participating in the diamond jubilee celebrations of Independence. We should feel proud of our culture, tradition and democratic values which we have inherited," he said, adding that India is progress-



The MLC planted a sapling on the premises of the Reddy hostel as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' organised by the Bandi Sahiti Reddy Charitable Trust

ing by following democratic systems. Trust president Bandi Ashok Reddy, hostel president Challa Anji Reddy, president Kandi Sanjeev Reddy, YSRCP student wing state president Panuganti Chaitanya and corporator Padala Subba Reddy were present.

Cong files complaint against Srinivas Goud with DGP, NHRC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AICC member Bakka Judson has filed a complaint with the Director General of Police (DGP) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) alleging that Tourism Minister V. Srinivas Goud had flouted rules by firing a police gun in the air during a crowded event at the freedom rally in Mahabub nagar on Saturday. He said in his complaint that firing a police gun is illegal and that the police officer who allowed it is also liable for punishment along with the Minister. Judson told the DGP that TRS leaders should not get away after breaking rules and endangering the public. It is shameful on the part of the Minister to say that "he had fired only a rubber bullet. I am a member of the Rifle Association.

Huge rally taken out with 3,000 m National Flag

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The main thoroughfares of Ongole assumed tricolours as a huge rally taken out with a 3000 metres long national flag in which over 10,000 people participate here on Sunday as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit programmes.

The rally which was christened "Trivarna Prakasam" went through the Ravi Priya Mall road, Addanki bus stand centre, Collector's office and finally it reached the mini-stadium. The slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai resonated on all the roads.

The 3000 metres national flag attracted the attention of the people of the city. The students created a national flag by sitting in the form of 'Tricolour' which became the cynosure of all eyes in the programme. A large number of students, employees, doc-



tors, transgenders, Anganwadi workers and Self-help group women were among those who participated in the rally.

State Social Welfare Minister and District In-charge Minister Merugu Nagarjuna who was the chief guest on the occasion con-

gratulated the participants. Addressing the gathering, the minister said that because of the sacrifices of many people India had got freedom from the Britishers. He called on people to contribute to the development of the district. Minister Nagarjuna,

Minister for Municipal Administration Aadimulapu Suresh, ZP Chairperson Boochepally Venkayamma, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MLAs Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, Burra Madhusudan Yadav, District Collector AS Dinesh

The 3,000 m National Flag attracted the attention of the people of the city. The students created a National Flag by sitting in the form of Tricolour which was the cynosure of all eyes

Kumar, SP Malika Garg, Joint Collector Abhishek Kishore, Mayor Gangada Sujatha, Gopala Krishna, Grandson of Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu were among those who participated in the programme and saluted the National Flag.

TDP leaders take out 'Azadi Ka Amrit' rally

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers, led by Telugu Yuvatha president Ravipati Saikrishna, took out a huge motorcycle rally here on Sunday.

The rally began from the TDP office in Arundalpet and went through the main thoroughfares. The motorcycle rally was taken out as a prelude to the TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's 'Azadi Ka Amrit' meeting.

Former minister Prathipati Pulla Rao, Nakka Ananda Babu, TDP state general secretary, MLA Anagani



Satyaprasad, and former MLA Tenali Shravan Kumar were

among those who took part in the programme.

INDIA CORNER

Terror module busted in Punjab ahead of I-Day

Ahead of Independence Day, the Punjab Police on Sunday claimed to have busted a Pakistan ISI-backed terror module and arrested four persons. The operation was carried out jointly by the Punjab Police and the Delhi Police. Tight security arrangements have been made in Punjab and Haryana and their common capital Chandigarh ahead of the Independence Day, with vehicles being checked at state borders and strict vigil being maintained to check anti-social elements, officials said. "Ahead of #IndependenceDay, Punjab Police foils major terror threat and busts Pak-ISI backed terror module, with help of Delhi Police. 4 module members associated with Canada-based Arsh Dalia & Australia-based Gurjant Singh arrested," the Punjab Police tweeted. "Three hand-grenades (P-86), 1 IED & 2-9mm pistols along with 40 live cartridges have been recovered," it said in another tweet.



BSF extends Independence Day greetings to Pakistan Rangers at IB in Guj, Raj

The Border Security Force (BSF) extended Independence Day greetings to Pakistan Rangers on Sunday at the international border near Kutch and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat and Barmer district of Rajasthan. A release from the border-guarding force said it had extended greetings to Pakistan Rangers on the occasion of Independence Day of the neighbouring nation. "On the occasion, Pakistan Rangers offered sweets to BSF which were accepted by Indian troopers at international borders of Bhuj and Banaskantha district of Gujarat as well as at ICP Munabao, Gadra, Kelnore, Somrar and Varnahar in Barmer district of Rajasthan," the public relations officer of the BSF Gujarat Frontier said in the release. The BSF guards the 2,290-kilometre India-Pakistan border in Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat on the country's western flank.



Dalit boy death: Mayawati demands President's Rule in Rajasthan

Bhujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Sunday demanded President's Rule in Rajasthan following the death of a Dalit boy, who was allegedly beaten up by his teacher for touching a water pot. Nine-year-old Indra Kumar Meghwal, who was studying at a private school in Surana village of Jalore district, was allegedly beaten up on July 20 and he succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Gujarat's Ahmedabad on Saturday. The accused teacher Chail Singh (40) has been arrested. He has been booked for murder and also under The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. In a tweet in Hindi, Mayawati said, "A nine-year-old Dalit student of a private school at Surana in Rajasthan's Jalore district was brutally thrashed by a teacher belonging to upper caste after he drank water from a pot. Yesterday, he died during treatment."



PM may announce 'Heal in India', 'Heal by India' projects on I-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to announce a host of initiatives for the health sector on Independence Day with the highlights being the 'Heal in India' and 'Heal by India' projects and a roadmap to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047, official sources said.

Inclusion of the Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer in the National Immunisation Programme and the expansion of the National Health Mission under a new name 'PM Samagra Swasthya Mission' may also figure in Modi's speech from the Red Fort on Monday, they said.

Under the 'Heal in India' initiative that aims at positioning the country as a global hub for medical and wellness tourism, medical infrastructure at 37 hospitals in 12 states will be ramped up to boost medical tourism, the sources said.

Interpreters and special desks at 10 identified airports, a multilingual portal and simplified visa norms for international patients and their companions are also among the highlights of the initiative. Official sources told PTI that



the government has identified 44 countries, predominantly African, Latin American, SAARC and Gulf nations, from where a large number of people visit India for medical purposes. The cost and quality of treatment in these nations were also taken into account, they said. Under the 'Heal by India' initiative, which aims to project the country as a global source of trained and competent man-

power in the health sector, the Health Ministry is developing an online repository of health-care professionals, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists, which will also have a provision to mention which nation they wish to render their services.

Through the portal, external stakeholders such as patients and recruiters from India or abroad will be able to search for

a required professional based on the speciality or system of medicine, languages known and the country they prefer to work in, an official had told PTI. About the prime minister's expected announcement of expanding the National Health Mission for developing tertiary care capacities at district-level hospitals, an official source said that five per cent of the resources allocated for

every state will be earmarked for tertiary care. Along with the expansion, the National Health Mission is expected to be rechristened PM Samagra Swasthya Mission, the source told PTI.

This overhauled mission will provide an integrated platform for the convergence of the four pillars of Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, and PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

Elaborating on the strategic roadmap drawn up by the Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the Tribal Affairs Ministry to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047 when India will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Independence, an official said a roadmap has been prepared to screen around 7 crore people under the age of 40 years in 200 districts of 17 states in three years to eliminate the disease in the next 25 years.

As for the Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV), it has been indigenously developed by Serum Institute of India. At present, India is fully dependent on foreign manufacturers for the vaccine.

World looks towards India for managing diversity: RSS chief

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the whole world looks towards India for managing diversity.

Speaking at a function on 'Bharat@2047: My Vision My Action' in Nagpur city of Maharashtra, Bhagwat also said an 'Akhand Bharat' will happen when people stop being scared.

"The world points at India when it comes to managing diversity efficiently. The world is full of contradictions but managing dualities will only come from India, he said.

Bhagwat said there have been many historical events which were never told to us nor taught in a proper way.

For instance, the place where Sanskrit grammar was born is not in India. Did we ever ask a question why? he said. "It is chiefly because we first forgot our own wisdom and knowledge and later the land was conquered by foreign invaders who mainly came from north west region," he said. We unnecessarily gave importance to caste and other similar structures," Bhagwat said. The systems which were formed for work were used to create differences between people and communities, he said. We do have small differences in language, dress, cultures, but we need to have a



mind that will see the big picture and not get stuck into these things, the RSS chief said.

"If we want Bharat to become big, we should understand that all languages in the country are national languages, people from various castes are mine, we need to have such affection, he said.

He said "why should we be afraid when we talk about Akhand Bharat."

People wonder when will it happen. "It will happen when we stop being scared. What was there will happen again. But we will need to become that Bharat and dream about that Bharat," he said. Bhagwat also emphasised on knowing what is Bharat. He said Bharat gives the entire world the mantra of unity and non-violence. At the same time, Bharat can forgive and punish also. The RSS chief further said that in the modern

world, Germany became powerful and Hitler was born. When America became powerful, Hiroshima and Nagasaki (atomic bombings) happened.

"Now when China is getting a little powerful, we can see what is happening across the world. But when India is powerful, it uses its powers to save the world. India is the worshipper of non-violence and not a worshipper of weakness," he said. Speaking on the importance of the country's Constitution and citizen discipline, he said there is a system and a Constitution made by representatives selected by people. "The Constitution should be followed properly. The Constitution is so generous there is already a system in it for amendments. We all should faithfully obey the Constitution and laws which have been made," he said.

India well-equipped to handle challenges: Minister

PNS ■ 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.

Looking for issue-based solution' to Naga problem: NSCN-IM

PNS ■ KOHIMA

The NSCN-IM on Sunday claimed that negotiation (with the Government of India) is meaningless if it cannot deliver a solution to the Naga political problem.

NSCN-IM general secretary Th Muivah said Nagas are looking for an issue-based solution and not imposition of the Centre's will. A framework agreement was signed between the Centre and the Nationalist Socialist



Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) in 2015 after over 80

rounds of negotiations since a ceasefire pact was sealed in

1997 to solve the decades-old problem. The final solution is still elusive as NSCN-IM has been persistent in its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Naga people. Nagas are looking for peace, but peace without freedom is wishful thinking, Muivah said. Indeed, we are for agreement, but it would be a form without content if it cannot bring a solution, he said. He was speaking at an event in Hebron on the outskirts of Dimapur.

MAHA CM SHINDE ALLOCATES PORTFOLIOS

Fadnavis gets Home & Finance Ministries

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Five days after the induction of 18 ministers into his cabinet, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday distributed portfolios, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) getting several key ministries, including the Home and Finance that will be handled by Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. Shinde kept Urban Development and 11 other ministries with himself. Shinde, whose rebellion



against the Shiv Sena leadership had led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, had taken oath as the chief minister on June 30

with the support of the BJP. Fadnavis was sworn in as his deputy. In addition to Home and Finance and Planning, Fadnavis will also handle Law and Judiciary, Water Resources, Housing, Energy and Protocol portfolios. Another important portfolio - the Revenue Department - has been given to BJP leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who had quit the Congress a few months before the 2019 Assembly elections to join the saffron party.

Woman's body found buried in field in UP, husband booked

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Aug 14 (PTI) The body of a 28-year-old woman was found buried in a field in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, police said.

Shatrughan Nishad noticed a foul smell emanating in his field in Pipra Miglan village and informed police about it. Police found a woman's body buried in the field, they said.

Locals told police that the woman, who was identified as Radhika Nishad, had a dispute with her husband Amit Nishad and had been living with her mother, they said.

On a complaint by the woman's mother, Gita Devi, an FIR has been registered against her son-in-law for killing her daughter for dowry, Superintendent of Police, North, Manoj Kumar Awasthi said. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination. The cause of death will be known only after the report comes, the police said.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

ITBP to scale 75 peaks, undertake 75-day patrol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) will scale 75 peaks on Independence Day and complete a 75-day-long relay long range patrol along the LAC with China to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, a senior officer said Sunday.

The mountain expedition named 'Amritarohan' will take place at various locations along the eastern front on August 15, ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey told PTI.

The peaks to be climbed are located in the vicinity of 75 ITBP border posts spread along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC), he said. Out of



these, 33 peaks are located in Ladakh, 16 in Uttarakhand, 11 in Sikkim, 10 in Himachal Pradesh

and five in Arunachal Pradesh, Pandey said. "Himveers of the force will climb these 75 different

peaks on August 15, 2022, and create a unique record of hoisting the Indian flag simultaneously," he

said. The tallest peak among these is at a height of 18,750 feet and is located in Sikkim. Simultaneously, the border force has also started a 75-day long relay range patrol (LRP) by its troops along the 3,488 km of the LAC. "The relay LRP started from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on August 1 and will terminate at Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh on October 14 after completing a 75-day journey, covering a distance of about 7,575 km across the borders," Pandey said.

The about 90,000 personnel-strong ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and it is deployed for rendering a variety of internal security duties apart from guarding the LAC.

With 500 high-mast flags, Delhi has become 'City of Tricolours': CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said with the initiative of installing 500 high-mast national flags across the national capital, Delhi has become the "City of Tricolours".

He was addressing thousands of students at an event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence at Thyagaraj Stadium here.

"Delhi has become the City of tricolours. We have installed 500 high-mast national flags across Delhi with the objective that people should see the national flag everywhere they



go and do not forget the country," he said. He said he spotted as many as nine high-mast tricolours on his way to the venue of the event. The chief

minister also asked everyone to pledge to take India to greater heights. "Indians are the most intelligent and industrious people in the world."

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PAPER WITH PASSION

India survives

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

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



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

PICTALK



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

PTI

A cowardly attack

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

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



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

Saving India from unruly neighbours

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

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

An expert on Strategy: Edward Luttwak years ago innovated the concept of ‘Armed 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 jumbala. The party which tried to fool the public with promises which were not fulfilled is now talking against the freebies. What about BJP boasting that it is giving free ration to 80crores people with their fund, is it not freebies?

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

THE BIG BULL IS NO MORE

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

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



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

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

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

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

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

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

A SALUTE TO MARTYRS

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

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

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

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

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

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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



Maharashtra Deputy CM —Devendra Fadnis



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

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

Founder Microsoft —Bill Gates

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



Writer —Javed Akhtar



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

I’m not standing in Islamabad. We don’t need to take any permission for the Tiranga yatra. there’s no need to be scared.



BJP leader W Bengal —Suvendu Adhikari

FIRST COLUMN

METHOD OF WORK IS KEY TO ORGANISATIONS

Internal leadership shapes judgement and processes



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

India@75: Unshackle political bondages

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



SUMET BHASIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

Indian pharmaceutical industry poised to take off

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

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

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



NIKHIL K MASURKAR

(The author is CEO, Entod Pharmaceuticals.)

further heights.

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

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

The Patent Act, 1970

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

The Drug Policy, 1978

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

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

Hatch-Waxman Act 1984

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

The 1991 economic reforms

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

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

Recently, the Cabinet also approved two schemes, namely

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

Finmin plans to review exemption-free tax regime

PNS ■ 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

The intention behind the move was to provide significant relief to the individual taxpayers and to simplify the income-tax law.

announced on February 1, 2020, people with an annual income of up to Rs 2.5 lakh do not pay any tax.

For income between Rs 2.5 lakh to 5 lakh, the tax rate is 5 per cent.

Inflationary impact on FMCG price & margin to continue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inflationary pressure on some raw material inputs for the FMCG industry is abating but the manufacturers expect its impact on price and margins to continue in the current quarter.

In the April-June quarter, listed FMCG companies including - HUL, ITC, Godrej Consumer Product, Nestle, Dabur and Britannia delivered mixed results, reporting impact on their margins and mostly, a drop in volume in some categories.

FMCG companies also expect volume decline to continue in the rural side but see some stabilisation in the business and recovery in demand, starting from the third quarter of FY23.

Companies such as Britannia Industries said that it has taken necessary price increases in Q1 which were



really not covering inflation at this point in time but a good part of this will be covered by the July-September quarter.

"We were not able to take the entire price increase during this quarter. We have taken some price increases in the first quarter and we will complete that in Q2 of this year, said Britannia Industries Managing Director Varun Berry during recent earning

while responding to a query on near-term price increase.

In April-June, Britannia reported a 13.24 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 335.74 crore while its sales were up 8.74 per cent to Rs 3,700.96 crore.

When asked about the inflationary scenario, Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra in his post-result analyst call said inflation would not abate in the second quarter.

LIC keen to re-enter mediclaim segment, says Chairman

PNS ■ 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 indemnity-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.

Indian toy manufacturers eye global markets

PNS ■ 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 popu-



lar 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.

"Three years back 80 per cent of the toys were imported and the rest 20 per cent was from the domestic manufac-

turers but now the situation has changed," said Aggarwal, adding, "Imports have been reduced by 60 to 70 per cent and many players are only importing components and assembling the toy in India."

Rajeev Batra, promoter of Panda International, said that the government's move to prohibit the sale of non-certified toys in the country played a "game changer" role in boosting domestic manufacturing and reducing imports from China.

Bank of India sees 10-12 % growth in advances

PNS ■ 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.

13 gold mines may be sold this month

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government plans to put on the block 13 gold mines in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the ongoing month amid its efforts to give a boost to the mining sector's contribution to the country's gross domestic product.

Of the 10 blocks in Andhra Pradesh, the auction of five blocks may take place on August 26, while the remaining five are likely to be put on



the block on August 29, according to latest data of the

government. The gold mines in Andhra

Pradesh include Ramagiri North Block, Boksampalli North Block, Boksampalli South Block, Javakula-A Block, Javakula-B Block, Javakula-C Block, Javakula-D Block, Javakula-E Block, Javakula-F Block. The notices inviting tender for these gold mines were floated in March. In the case of remaining three gold mines in Uttar Pradesh, the auction will happen this month. But no specific dates have been given.

FPIs invest Rs 22,452 cr in Indian equities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly Rs 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 Rs 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 Rs 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.

Jhunjunwala: The RARE big bull; unabashed wealth

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Stock market investments are always said to involve risks and people who made big fortunes often made headlines as scammers, leading to Dalal Street always being looked at with suspicion, but Rakesh Jhunjunwala was broadly an exception.

Jhunjunwala, a partner at RARE Enterprises, who rose to amass a USD 5.8 billion fortune and earn the tag of the country's biggest individual investor, leaves behind a relatively cleaner slate, as was seen in the most

common description for him - 'India's own Warren Buffett'.

Unlike names like Harshad Mehta and Ketan Parekh, whose rise in fortunes in post-liberalised India was tainted with scam links, the newest 'Big Bull' in the more-regulated market had lesser baggage on this front.

Jhunjunwala was unabashed about wealth creation and strutted his connections flamboyantly, a sign of the shift to a market-based economy in early 1990s taking root.

While he did not make big headlines for scams,

Jhunjunwala did feature in some cases of insider trading and was also speculated to front-run on stock trades ahead of big news events. In 2021, he and others settled an insider trading case related to Aptech by agreeing to pay Rs 37 crore under the consent route, where an individual can close a pending matter without admitting or denying the charges.

A Rs 70-crore gain on an investment in Zee Enterprises in a short time, by investing in the stock days ahead of its board deciding on a merger with rival Sony Pictures



Networks in 2021, had also led to chatter around his conduct.

However, it was Jhunjunwala's long-term,

research-based bets on stocks like Titan and Indian Hotels Company which made him one of the biggest names in the Indian markets.

Every move in his portfolio was tracked closely by the growing number of investors in India, who wanted an early entry into scrips which would eventually break out.

Some of the bets, especially in the infrastructure space, did not pay off for Jhunjunwala. But the proverbial 'humbling effect' was missing, as he would often succeed in some other stock, showcasing his Midas

touch. People in the know say behind the value creation was an operation of deep research carried out by him and analysts at the Nariman Point office of RARE Enterprises (which is named after the first two letters in the name of Rakesh and his wife Rekha). And when companies underperformed, Jhunjunwala was unsparing, like the iconic character of Gordon Gekko in the movie 'Wall Street'. Managements of quite a few portfolio companies faced questions from an irate Jhunjunwala himself on analyst calls.

MONEY MATTERS

Noise plans to make 10 lakh smartwatches a month

Wearable and hearable device maker Noise is planning to increase monthly local production of smartwatches to 10 lakh units per month from August, a top official of the company said. The company has produced 10 lakh units of its all products, including total wireless audio devices and smartwatches till date, Noise co-founder Amit Khatri told PTI. "We are the leading smartwatch category in the country. We are part of the top 6-7 smartwatch brands in the world now. We have already produced a million units till now (including smartwatches and TWS) and from this August we aim at producing a million units per month smartwatches," Khatri said. At present, indigenously manufactured products both TWS (True Wireless Stereo) and smartwatch account for 25 per cent of total. Khatri said that the company plans to increase the share of locally made TWS and smartwatches to 80 per cent of the company's total sales. Noise had recorded a revenue of around Rs 850 crore and plans to more than double its revenue to Rs 2,000 crore in the current financial year.



75 electric buses from Switch Mobility hit Bengaluru city roads

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday flagged off 75 "Switch EIV 12 buses" to cater to the needs of the people in Bengaluru. Switch Mobility Ltd's "new technologically advanced" electric buses are a part of the 300-strong electric bus order and would be inducted into the fleet of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL). Switch Mobility, the next-generation carbon-neutral electric bus and light commercial vehicle company, would supply, operate and maintain the 300 buses, the company said in a release. "In order to cater to these needs, Switch India launched the Switch EIV 12 platform in June 2022 and today we are delighted to begin initial deliveries of our Switch EIV buses to BMTCL as part of our 300-strong electric bus order," said Mahesh Babu, Chief Executive Officer, Switch India and Chief Operating Officer of Switch Mobility Ltd.



Drug makers Glenmark, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's recall products in US

Leading generic drug makers Glenmark, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's and Jubilant Cadista are recalling multiple products in the US market, the world's largest market for medicines, for various issues. As per the latest Enforcement Report by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), Mumbai-based drug firm Glenmark is recalling over 6.5 lakh tubes of a generic skin treatment ointment due to manufacturing issues. New Jersey-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, a subsidiary of the company, is recalling affected lot of Tacrolimus Ointment, which is used to treat eczema, due to "Defective Container", it added. The company initiated the nationwide Class III recall on July 11 this year. The affected lot has been manufactured in India and distributed in the US by Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, the report stated.





Emily Blunt joins Ryan Gosling in David *Deadpool 2* Leitch series *The Fall Guy*

The TV series *The Fall Guy* already had star power with Ryan Gosling and David Leitch. Now, it has added one more name to its list. Hollywood star Emily Blunt is set to co-star opposite Gosling in the series, which now has a March 1, 2024 release date, reports Deadline. The feature film is inspired by the 1980s series of the same name and will be directed by Leitch, who is producing with partner Kelly McCormick via their 87North along with Guymon Casady, who will produce through Entertainment 360.

According to Deadline, Drew Pearce, who worked with Leitch on Universal's *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*, wrote the script and serves as executive producer. Gosling will also produce. Geoff Shaevitz and original series creator Glen A. Larson will executive produce. Matt Reilly will oversee the project on behalf of Universal. Production for the film is set to begin in Australia this fall. Deadline further adds that after action-heavy roles in films such as *Edge of Tomorrow* and *A Quiet Place* franchise, this series

gives Blunt another franchise-possible action pic she can sink her teeth into. The film marks a reunion for Blunt and Universal after she recently wrapped production on the Christopher Nolan movie *Oppenheimer*, which also stars Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Matt Damon. Blunt was also seen not very long ago in the Disney movie *Jungle Cruise* opposite Dwayne Johnson. She is currently filming the Netflix drama *Pain Hustlers* opposite Chris Evans.



FBI concludes Alec Baldwin pulled the trigger of the gun in fatal Rust shooting

An FBI investigation has concluded that Alec Baldwin did pull the trigger of the gun that killed Halyna Hutchins. The cinematographer was accidentally shot dead on the set of the movie *Rust in Santa Fe, New Mexico*, in October 2021, and the FBI has now concluded that Baldwin, 64, must have fired the gun. The firearm was supposed to have been loaded with dummy bullets, and Baldwin has previously denied that he pulled the trigger. However, the report which has been seen by ABC News has determined that the gun could not have been fired unless the trigger was pulled. The investigators tested the gun in various ways to see if they could fire the weapon without using the trigger. But ultimately, they concluded that it simply wasn't possible. Baldwin addressed the incident during a TV interview last year when

he claimed not to have pulled the trigger. He said at the time, "The trigger wasn't pulled. I didn't pull the trigger. I would never point a gun at someone and pull the trigger on them, never." The FBI's report could still potentially lead to criminal charges against the Hollywood star and other people involved in the fatal accident. Meanwhile, Baldwin previously admitted that he couldn't explain how a bullet ended up in the gun. The veteran actor said that the weapon was only intended to be a prop for the Western movie. He said last year, "Someone put a live bullet in a gun. A bullet that wasn't even supposed to be on the property." Baldwin also admitted that he was still struggling to come to terms with the tragedy. He shared, "Even now, I find it hard to believe that [the incident occurred]. It doesn't seem real to me."

Kailash Kher joins celebs calling for an end to rumours about Raju Srivastava



Popular singer Kailash Kher has shared a video on his Instagram handle requesting his fans and everyone to pray for Raju Srivastava's early recovery and stop spreading rumours. The famous comedian suffered a heart attack on August 10 and was taken to AIIMS, New Delhi. He is undergoing treatment and his condition is critical. In his video, the *Teri Deewani* singer said, "Namashkar, I am Kailash Kher, Bharat and entire world I request that Raju Srivastava is our family friend and elder brother and a disaster has come upon him. There is deterioration in his health condition due to which he is hospitalised and many people are spreading rumours that he

passed away or he is no more." He added, "Please in place of this, pray for his good health as prayers have a lot of power. We at a personal level have organised Mahamrityunjaya Mantra by 21 saints." In the video, Kher also talks about Raju as a person and how he established himself while coming from a humble background. He noted, "He is a kind of person who established himself coming from a very humble background and entire like him are very important in society so pray rather spreading rumours." Earlier, Kher's industry colleagues Shekhar Suman and Sunil Pal had also posted health updates indicating that Srivastava's health condition is stable.

'They have replaced me with another actress who was a bigger name'

Actress Neena Gupta in her recent interview has revealed that she started getting work after *Badhaai Ho* in 2018. In 2017, Neena had shared a picture of herself on Instagram with a caption that read, "I live in Mumbai and I am working on a good actor looking for good parts to play." Several Bollywood actors including Priyanka Chopra lauded Neena's move. In a recent interview with *Etimes*, Neena said, "I did not get work because of my Insta posts, I got it because of *Badhaai Ho*. That film changed the course for me. I was recognised as a good actor and that got me more work and respect. It's unbelievable at times to see such good work coming to me now.

They are offering and accepting me in varied roles. Having said that, even today, some film-makers prefer to take a yesteryear heroine instead of me in a role, just like it was back in the day because she was more known in her younger days. It has happened, that I was offered a role

and then I came to know that they have replaced me with another actress who was a bigger name in her heydays." Apart from working in films like *Mandi, Rihaae, Drishti* and *Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda*, she has also bagged several international projects such as *The Deceivers, In*

Custody, and *Cotton Mary*, as well as popular TV shows like *Mirza Ghalib* and *Saans*. Neena was last seen in Netflix's show *Masaba Masaba 2*, in which her daughter Masaba Gupta plays the lead role. She will be seen next in Amitabh Bachchan-starrer *Goodbye*.



FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6		7		8
9		10		11
12			13	14
15				16
17				18
19				

SUDOKU

4								
9	6			8	5			
	3	7	4		6		1	
3		4	8				6	
				1				
5				9	2		7	
5			1	2	6	7		
		9	5			8	2	
							9	

Yesterday's solution

6	5	7	2	8	1	9	4	3
9	2	1	6	3	4	8	5	7
8	4	3	5	7	9	1	6	2
2	6	8	9	4	3	7	1	5
7	3	9	1	6	5	2	8	4
5	1	4	7	2	8	3	9	6
3	9	6	8	5	2	4	7	1
1	7	2	4	9	6	5	3	8
4	8	5	3	1	7	6	2	9

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- 1 Creatures that turn into frogs
- 6 Absent
- 7 Extremely foolish
- 9 Vote into power
- 11 One fifth of thirty-five
- 12 Memorise
- 13 The part of a theatre where people perform
- 16 Take something away
- 18 A toy on a string that can be spun up and down
- 19 Dried grapes used in baking

DOWN

- 1 Someone on a journey
- 2 A male duck
- 3 Fewer
- 4 Someone studying at college or university
- 5 The number 3 in Roman numerals
- 8 Very unsafe
- 10 Inquisitive
- 14 A nut from an oak tree
- 15 A prisoner's room
- 17 Finish

SOLUTION

C	S	E	T	W
P	H	O	T	O
G	R	A	F	I
H	O	R	S	E
E	D	M	A	N
M	A	N	I	F
I	A	V	E	R
C	U	R	I	S
A	B	E	R	T
L	I	B	R	A
S	S	M	M	K

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Suhani Shah, who is a mentalist and a YouTuber, takes us through her journey in the content world, mentalist being a specific genre of magic and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

How do witches, after all, find their place in the modern world? Do we adapt to their beliefs or wait for the magicians to release their secrets?

Whatever it is, for a girl from Ahmedabad, magic is less about secrets and more about awareness. But when she was a child, like many other mentalists around the world, Suhani Shah also baffled audiences with her incredible mental and intuitive abilities. She started from the city of Mahatma Gandhi and went onto a global stage in no time.

Though she knew that only modern audiences knew about this new branch of magic and realism, Suhani, who actually left her education at a very early stage only to pursue her passion, put us on the inter-continental map really.

When we had an entertaining chat with the mentalist, she began to share, "I was hooked on watching magical programmes on television as a kid. It was so fascinating. I was not just any other kid. It irked me to start performing those tricks and to know the revelations behind them. My father really encouraged me in that small city to do something big on my own. He took the realm of magic well too seriously for me, even as a six-year-old kid. But he propelled me that I'd not be wasting my talent performing in schools or at

'ADDING AN EXTRA 'A' IN YOUR NAME WON'T BRING YOU SUCCESS'

birthday parties; he wanted some huge gigs to happen to me. None of the locals knew about it then. People didn't usually watch movies back then either. How will they accept something like wizardry? He started on a spree to find magic trainers for me and, mid-way, it taught us the bitter truth: nobody will teach you the real magic, and neither did I possess some outwardly gift."

She further adds, "For youngsters today, YouTube is the real trick. For me back then, it took seven months of rehearsals to learn what it was from an assistant group. Another challenge that sprung up was that due to the possibility of me not being able to read or write, somebody else was reading the dialogues for me. In 1997, I performed my first ever stage show, and it brought me

wide-scale publicity. There was praise coming in from the then Chief Minister too. Contracts started to pour in and there was no looking back. From Ahmedabad to Bombay to overseas, I was out there."

Suhani continues, explaining that mentalism is a specific genre of magic and it is one of the many genres that magic offers — illusions, street magic, parlour magic, and so on. She continues, "People only understand that Suhani

does magic; they have no idea about what mentalism is, but it's seriously very powerful. I heard things that kids shouldn't be hearing. I didn't go to school, didn't attend college, but devoted my whole life to this profession."

Nobody noticed that earlier. They were worried about who would marry me. Neither did anyone find this to be a legitimate career. But hello, you can play a trick on hundreds of people into believing you have crazy mental abilities with the simplest of tricks and trust me, I have. Some even thought of me as 'madari', but who cares."

Nevertheless, in her opinion, it is not advisable to directly start with mentalism as it requires some level of expertise and showmanship.

"I am more into corporate shows, but people all over the world are the same. What stood out as a memory for me was when I was performing at Soho Theatre in London and there were no Indians in the audience. I was there translating my Hindi gigs into English for the Britishers, which in turn killed the gig. I became slower in my performance. What I loved was that there were foreign spectators who wanted to watch me on a ticket. It brought a wide smile to my face."

She never took it as a challenge to go into an industry dominated by men. But she hoped she had opened a new door of career choices for girls out there easily.

Moreover, she adds, "I am here to eradicate superstitions. People were making documentaries about me. I have had incidences when people walked up to me and asked me to cure their illnesses or check for robbery cases. That made me realise I needed to simultaneously educate the masses and that in turn converted me into a TEDx speaker too. This is a prevalent problem across the globe! Mentalism is the 21st century's coolest, creative, and reputation-making art to pursue, but one has to be thorough about it. Fear is the biggest business running across the country, there are self-proclaimed godmen around us. I started doing workshops and writing books on human psychology. Adding an extra 'A' in your name will not bring you success; the belief in you will. There is no red v/s black going on in this era. It's all bogus theories. And, all of this was while I didn't know how to read and write. I learned how to speak English proficiently and that's my asset."



Prediabetes: Not as Benign as Once Thought

Your pancreas produces a hormone called insulin. Insulin allows blood sugar (glucose) into your cells so your body can use it as energy. In prediabetes, your cells don't respond to insulin as they should.

Prediabetes can be diagnosed with a fasting plasma glucose test (100 to 125 mg/dL), oral glucose tolerance test (140 to 199 mg/dL), and Hemoglobin A1c test (5.7 to 6.4%). It is important to know that you could have prediabetes and still have no symptoms. However, there are several risk factors including being overweight, age being 35+, family history of type 2 diabetes, sedentary lifestyle, and histo-

ry of GDM in women that could help you recognize the advent of prediabetes.

What happens in the prediabetes cycle?

- The cells become sluggish or have a low response to insulin causing insulin resistance.
- The pancreas tries to get the cells to respond by producing more insulin.
- For a while, the extra insulin makes up for the weak response. Blood sugar levels stay normal.
- Eventually, your pancreas can't keep up production. Extra glucose stays in your blood instead of entering your cells.

- Your blood sugar keeps rising. At this point, a blood test may show
- If you ignore prediabetes you are likely to develop Type 2 diabetes in the future.

Healthy choices of lifestyle can help manage the condition of prediabetes or at least keep it from rising toward the levels seen in type 2 diabetes.

If you are at risk for prediabetes, those same lifestyle changes (losing weight, regular physical activity, and a healthy eating plan) may prevent you from getting it.

(The writer, Dr. CH Vasanth Kumar, MD, is the national president of Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Consultant Physician, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad)

TEJAL SINHA

Tum aagye ho Noor aagaya hai is one of his many songs. Anyone who has seen his incredible acting will remember him as one of the iconic stars of the Golden Age and classic Hindi cinema. He's been the 'Noor' of the Hindi film industry, even after his death. Yes, we are talking about the legendary actor Sanjeev Kumar. Not only does the film fraternity remember him, but his fans still remember him through his iconic films like *Sholay*, *Trishul*, *Khilona*, *Manchali*, and other countless films.



In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta, the author of *Sanjeev Kumar: The Actor We All Love*, takes us through her journey and her experience of writing the biography of the late veteran actor Sanjeev Kumar.

What more can a fan ask for than to be able to get to know more about their favourite actor? Author Reeta Ramamurthy made it possible for all the fans and also the near and dear ones of the actor.

The Pioneer connects with the author for an exclusive interview, in which she takes us through her journey, her love for writing, the idea behind the biography, and a lot more.

Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta, an author, a researcher, and a mother, says she's been someone who likes to simplify complex things and make them easily understandable, someone for whom writing and breathing are the same and deeply spiritual.

Taking us through her journey of being an author, she shares a horrific incident with us and says, "My whole family

was on a road trip in December 2016, when we had a nightmarish accident. These are moments when your life flashes before your eyes. I knew it was time to start doing what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, which was to write. I had been procrastinating about when to make the switch from running a very successful PR firm to becoming a full-time writer. But after that accident, I knew it was time."

With a desire to help people fulfil their latent potential, Reeta was highly inspired to begin writing. She continues, "I have this great desire to help people fulfil their latent potential. My first book was titled *Rescript Your Life*. The message in the book is that being unkind to yourself is a form of violence. Part of the reason I write biographies is to tell stories of people who have re-scripted their lives, successfully."

Thanks to her, Sanjeev Kumar comes alive in a biography that tells the story of the actor and the man. She shares about how she got the idea of writing the biography, "Sanjeev Kumar's book came alive through a set of divine coincidences. My mother asked me once 'So many actors have books about them, why doesn't Sanjeev Kumar have one?' Another media professional, Hema Upadhyay, asked me the same question again. I started seeing this as a signal from the universe. Since Sanjeev Kumar's real name was Harihar Jariwala, I first called actor Darshan Jariwala, who said that he wasn't related

to him. Then I got the number of Sanjeev Kumar's nephew, Uday Jariwala, from the Surat Municipal Corporation, they had built the Sanjeev Kumar auditorium. Udayji, of course, became the force behind the book."

For the biography, some of the biggest names from Bollywood, like Paresh Rawal, Shatrughan Sinha, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Tanuja, Pratik Gandhi, Sarita Joshi, Anju Mahendru, and Sachin Pilgaonkar, have supported the effort and given their special inputs about Sanjeev Kumar in the biography. She says, "Most of them were Sanjeev Kumar's friends, and they loved him dearly. They gave me their time and their memories, almost 40 years after his death, for which I'm eternally grateful. Perhaps I could make a special mention of Rakeysh Omprakash Mehraji, he was the subject of my first biography, *The Stranger In The Mirror*, and he graciously became a part of my second biography, even though he did not know Sanjeev Kumar personally."

Sharing with us her most memorable moments while writing the biography, she says, "Even after all these years, I could sense their fondness for him. I could see the kinship in Tanuja ma'am's eyes and I could detect the heaviness in Moushmi Chatterjee ma'am's voice. There was a genuine admiration in Paresh Rawal Sir's foreword and an honesty in Vidya Balan's afterword. A biography takes

shape from personal emotional narratives, historical context, secondary published material, and photographs. It was my great privilege to piece these together and allow the story to emerge."

As an actor, Sanjeev Kumar's legacy is impeccable, *Shatrangh Ke Khiladi* features in Martin Scorsese's 40 films you must watch before you die. Be it Amitabh Bachchan, who had worked with Sanjeev Kumar in films like *Trishul*, or Shatrughan Sinha, who had worked with the actor in films like *Haathkadi*, these actors had remembered their very own dear friend through the biography and also appreciated Reeta for the same. Sharing her feelings on the same, she says, "All of them are responding to someone who was their own. So, when Amitabh Bachchan Sir tweeted about the book, he paid homage to his friend. I really cannot take any credit for the response the book has received—it is Sanjeev Kumar's great blessing. The book has had a global impact too, I have received fantastic reviews from London and Manchester as well."

Lastly, on the work front, Reeta is soon going to come up with another biography with Harper Collins and another international project.

"They are not film-based but about people who have had a massive impact on our lives," she signs off.

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.

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



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

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

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

India have also won multi-national tournaments like the

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has urged South Africa to come up with ideas to counter the attacking style of play showed by the hosts' in their home summer till now.

South Africa were given a glimpse of it when they were thrashed by England Lions by an innings and 56 runs in the four-day tour match at Canterbury.

The ongoing international season in England has seen their Test team, led by Ben Stokes and coached by Brendon McCullum, play a new, ultra-aggressive style of play. It has worked well for England, who defeated New Zealand 3-0 and then chased down a record 378 against India in rescheduled fifth Test at Edgbaston in July.

"Having seen this England side play to that level for four Tests, and the Lions against South Africa, it is clear they have committed to this method. South Africa now have to come



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

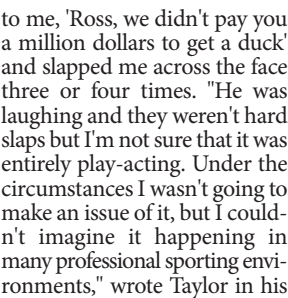
exceedingly well in the Caribbean ODIs, what I can gauge from this team's philosophy is prepare players for multiple slots. Hence I feel for this particular series, Shubman might have to come in at No. 3," former national selector and Test opener Devang Gandhi

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

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

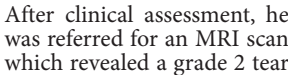


book, of which an extract was published on stuff.co.nz.

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

In the book, Taylor wrote

South Africa's right-arm fast bowler Duanne Olivier on Sunday was ruled out of the upcoming three-match Test series against England due to a grade two right hip flexor muscle tear.



involving the right pectineus muscle."

"Due to the extent of the injury, he has been ruled out of the three-match Test series against England and will return home where he will commence his rehabilitation with the Gauteng Central Lions medical team," said Dr Hashendra Ramjee, Proteas team doctor in an official statement. South Africa have chosen to not

announce a replacement for Olivier on their Test tour of England. Since his re-entry into the Test team from the series against India in 2021-22, Olivier has picked 11 wickets at an average of 33.63 in five matches.

Experienced New Zealand pace bowler Matt Henry has been ruled out of the three-match One-day International series against the West Indies due to a rib injury, dealing a huge blow to the tourists who are currently involved in a T20I series in the Caribbean.



now fly back to New Zealand in the hope that he recovers in time for the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy ODI series against Australia in September.

Henry's departure will see inexperienced quick Ben Sears

board the flight to the Caribbean as replacement, with the 24-year-old in line for his international ODI debut during the three-match series that commences this week.

While New Zealand coach Gary Stead was disappointed to lose Henry, he is excited about the possibility of seeing Sears earn a first ODI cap for his country. "It's a shame for Matt to have to return home at this point of the tour," Stead was quoted as saying.

"Although the injury is not overly serious -- we felt there was a significant risk it would become worse through playing.

National Bank Open: Carreno Busta stuns Evans, sets final clash with Hurkacz

Pablo Carreno Busta reached his first ATP Masters 1000 and National Bank Open final after registering a 7-5, 6-7(7), 6-2 victory over Daniel Evans in the semifinal, here.

The 31-year-old had a match point in the second-set tie-break but saw his perfect set streak on the week snapped at nine before storming back in a dominant final set on Saturday night.

After so little separated the competitors for most of the two-hour, 58-minute marathon, Carreno Busta raced through the finish line by winning the final 12 points, including eight on return.

"It was fun for the crowd but for

me it was tough. I had a match point in the second set but he served pretty good so I couldn't do anything. When you have a match point and have to play another set, it's always hard to do it," said Carreno Busta about the gripping encounter.

"Mentally I think I was very good. Probably the beginning of the third set was the hardest part of the match. But after that I thought I had to be more aggressive, try to push a lot, try to go to the net, and it was good," he added.

The Spaniard will next face eighth seed Hubert Hurkacz as he bids to become the first unseeded champion at the National Bank Open since Argentina's Guillermo Canas in 2002.





For OTT, Malayalam genre is a good example to follow: K V Guhan

route. You wanna know why? He says, "Everyone knows I started off as a cinematographer and then turned into a director. So I have always been part of this cinematic expedition. The crew operates under me now. But while I was so preoccupied with cinematography, I learnt the director's vision."

Taking the movie into a completely thrilling genre, he joined the chords and said, "Theatres were becoming an impossible streak for the near future when pandemic struck us. This concept wasn't made for the theatrical experience anyway, OTT helped us try new formats and jump into new genres like this. Then you are answerable to your viewers also. I have a lot in the bank for 70mm screens too, I want commercials to run well in theatres. As a novice in this industry, I know the strength and weaknesses of a commercial and how

can I run it successfully in theatres. And when it comes to OTT, Malayalam content is the primary example to follow. They set some bars. It's not that earlier we didn't have taboo concepts to explore in Telugu cinema, but I had seen some egos clashing, that's the difference. Our industry has a bit of a shaky mindset, but I saw the vein in Anand to experiment and that made me cast him. And he had no interest in playing a heroic role either, he's here to try out versatile roles. It's okay to lose sometimes in a movie, according to me."

As per the director's roar, you'll see Anand Deverakonda for a very mediocre screen-time in the first half and slowly four characters will connect on a highway. He made sure all the four actors get their equal amount of screen-time in an ensemble cast like this, leaving none to any inequalities. With Abhishek Banerjee's debut here, he went all excited only because, "I am a mad fan of *Paatal Lok* series the way Abhishek helms the psychotic character blew my mind. I find him an idiosyncratic film personality in this showbiz, he's fit to be in Telugu cinema. I also knew he was trying to connect with the south audiences for quite a while, so this is his chance. He's also having a Chennai background, that connects us both."

The plot completely shot on a high-

way seemed like an easy task for the cinematographer turned director at the beginning, but relatively in no time, he realised, "It wasn't as easy to bring four actors in a frame just exactly the way you want. We all were travelling, it wasn't a cakewalk. There were very less days to shoot due to the dates of the actors, but we sailed the boat through for *Highway*. It's our experimental version of OTT. Because highways are really an integral part of our lives because who doesn't travel? The real crisis-cross happens between the people! In some scenes, Anand went a little confused wherein stepped in and explained to him the importance of that scene."

Telling us about his overall experience over the past 20 years, he elaborated, "My film-making style is very different from others. Even as a newcomer, I felt Anand let himself completely immersed in his craft. Kalyanram is as similar to Anand Deverakonda when it comes to their reactions on camera. As an old hand, let me tell you it's an everyday challenge in this industry. There will be egoistic people around you but you continue to fight to be in the film! As a cinematographer, from the point one keeps the shot issues of self-esteem begin. There can be potential classes between a cinematographer and a director but what ends well, goes well."

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Cult cinematographer K V Guhan's movies at least stand for one thing and that is, no matter what, his cinema accounts for the ones that generate a fervour across the city one by one. For example, his film *Dookudu* inspired some deep obsession with the feel of cinemas. Upon bringing a fresh cinematic feel to the OTT now with Anand Deverakonda starrer *Highway*, he deliberately skipped the theatrical



Sree Vishnu's next releasing on Sept 23

Hero Sree Vishnu is presently starring in a fictional cop biopic *Alluri* directed by Pradeep Varma and produced by Bekkem Venugopal under Lucky Media banner. Bekkem Babita is presenting the movie, where Sree Vishnu will be seen as an honest cop Alluri Sitarama Raju. Nijayitheeki Maaru Peru (Synonym for Sincerity) is the tagline of the picture. The team has announced release date of the movie on Sunday. *Alluri* will release worldwide grandly on September 23. The movie will capitalize on Dasara holidays from its second week. Sree Vishnu looks fierce in the release date poster, where

he is seen carrying a spear in his hand. We can see blood dripping from the weapon. *Alluri* is a riveting action entertainer. Kayadu Lohar played the leading lady, while Suman will be seen in a vital role in the movie. The film's first-look poster and teaser received a terrific response. The teaser, in particular, increased expectations of the movie with its potential content. Harshavardhan Rameshwar provided music. Raj Thota, Dharmendra Kakarala and Vital are handling the cinematography, editing and art departments respectively.

MADONNA SEBASTIAN TO APPEAR OPPOSITE TOVINO THOMAS IN *IDENTITY*

Well-known actress Madonna Sebastian, who has delivered several critically acclaimed hits in Tamil and Malayalam, is to next act in a Malayalam film titled *Identity* that will feature actor Tovino Thomas in the lead along with her.

Taking to Instagram to make the announcement, Madonna Sebastian on Sunday said, "Announcing my upcoming in Malayalam titled *Identity*. Written and directed by Akhil Paul - Anas Khan [the makers of *Forensic*]...." The film, which is to be Produced by Ragam Movies, Raju Malliath in association with Century Kochumon, is to go on floors in 2023. The actress



also gave away the fact that the film would be a "high-voltage action thriller."

The fact that Tovino Thomas is teaming up with the makers of *Forensic* for a second time has thrilled fans and has triggered expectations from the upcoming project.

directed by Akhil Paul and Anas Khan, featured Tovino Thomas in the lead and had gone on to become a big superhit at the box office. The film was so good that it is being remade in Hindi. It has already been dubbed and released in Telugu on the OTT platform Aha. Now, the core unit of *Forensic* has again come together for *Identity*.



Tamannaah to play female lead opposite Rajinikanth in *Jailer*

star's look for this film. The film, which will be Rajinikanth's 169th, is being produced by Kalanithi Maran of Sun Pictures and has Anirudh scoring its music. Other members of the cast and crew are yet to be officially announced by the unit.

Hyd girl Shruthika takes home the title of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa - The Singing Superstar*



Zee Telugu's *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa - The Singing Superstar*, culminated on a fantastic note after a magical run of 26 weeks. After presenting several talented singers, 20-year-old Hyderabad-based Shruthika Samudrala was announced as the winner and she proudly took home the prestigious title of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa - The Singing Superstar*. After mesmerising one and all with her breath-taking performances during the Grand Finale, she even walked away with a glit-

tery trophy, a prize money of Rs 1 lakh as well as a brand new Maruti Suzuki Wagon R. Sudhanshu, who gave a close competition to the winner, was also adjudged as the runner-up. The Grand Finale of the show which was telecasted on August 14 saw mesmerising performances by the top 8 finalists. The show was also graced by legendary singer P. Suseela, superstars Shruti Haasan, Nithin, and Krithi Shetty, music director Raghu Kunche, as well as director Dev Katta.

Forgetting history will take us back to old times, warns Kamal Haasan

Expressing his heart-felt wishes for Independence day to every Indian celebrating the occasion, actor and politician Kamal Haasan on Sunday warned that history has taught us that forgetting lessons from the past could take us back to old days. The actor took to Twitter to share a post in Tamil, in which he said, "My hearty wishes to every Indian who is celebrating the 75th Independence Day of India."

He then recalled an incident that happened 25 years ago at the inaugural function of his eagerly-awaited film *Marudhanayagam*. Kamal Haasan said that in the presence of the British Queen, he had delivered a dialogue for the film. Recalling the lines he spoke in front of the British Queen, the actor said, "How did you get the thought that you can either own or lease or rent the sea, the air or the forests? Will you be as old as this tree? Who are you? This is my country. I walk on the ashes of my father.



Tomorrow, my son will walk on my ashes." The actor said that these lines were not written for cinema. "They were an expression of the

enslaved by foreigners," the actor said. Pointing out that our history has told us that several brave freedom fighters had given up their lives, their livelihoods, wealth and comforts and had struggled for long to win our Independence, Kamal said, "If you forget history, you will have to return to the very same old days says history," and urged people to take a vow not to forget history. He said, "Let us take a vow not to forget history. Let us recall with gratitude the services of the brave freedom fighters of yesteryears and the personnel of the three armed forces who stand guard at our borders to enable us to celebrate this day. Courage and sacrifice is meant for everybody. Let us inculcate these."

Adivi Sesh meets the OCTOPUS Special Force!

Major, the film that won the hearts of millions across the country, Adivi Sesh, celebrated Independence Day at the Octopus Special Forces Campus.

The OCTOPUS was established in 2007 by the government of erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh on the lines of

National Security Guards (NSG) to counter the terrorist activities. Spread across 600 acres, the Campus is a training ground for the Organization for Counter-Terrorist Operations. Sesh got to witness the boot camp first-hand, an experience that was equal parts thrilling and enlightening. While filming *Major*, the

inspirational journey of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan and his bravery and sacrifice in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Adivi Sesh already underwent a lot of training that military officials do and that further fuelled his passion.

Talking about his visit, Adivi Sesh says, "In honour of Independence day, I visited the Octopus Special Forces Campus and it truly was a surreal experience. I met the Group Commander, and the Training officers of the commandoes. We saw their drills, we saw live firing of their weapons, IED explosive drills and even their K9 squad. The Canines were so well trained that they can walk on a rope blindfolded. As a lover of dogs, it was an extraordinary moment to see. As an Indian it makes me swell with pride and emotion to watch the action first-hand. You wanna add something like, I salute the soldiers' efforts, who are always looking out for our safety."



Actress Bhumika Chawla says that those moments that bring in the feeling of nothing and just being one with the universe are the most special and gratifying.

The actress, whose performance in the recently released and critically acclaimed Telugu film *Sita Ramam* has garnered praise, on Sunday took to Instagram to pen her thoughts on life and its moments. She wrote, "Moments... The morning that's quiet, the kind of silence where there is just the feeling of being in the moment... is gratifying."

Praise for *Sita Ramam* turns Bhumika Chawla philosophical

Life is filled with moments... different moments... Each moment brings in something... Some bring lessons and awareness. Some moments bring -- being in now, the blissful ones. Some bring happiness. Some bring in the adrenaline rush. Some bring in the desire to work hard. Some moments are filled with so much happening and doing. Being too busy. But those that bring in the feeling of nothing, just being one with the universe, are the most special and gratifying ones."

