


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | 16 AUGUST 2020

WEATHER

 **Max:** 27.0°C
Min: 24°C
RH: 32%
Rainfall: 23.7 mm
Forecast: Cloudy.
Max/Min temp.
27/24 °C

NATION | 7

Delhi not to reopen schools if not convinced

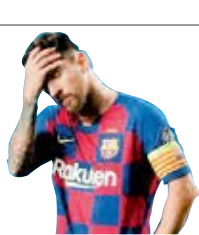


WORLD | 7

Iran hails UN vote on arms embargo

SPORTS | 8

Messi's Barcelona humiliated in Champions League



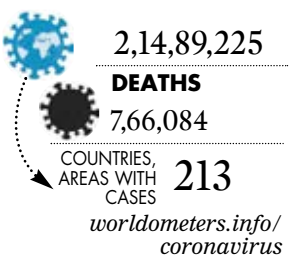
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COVID-19 COUNT

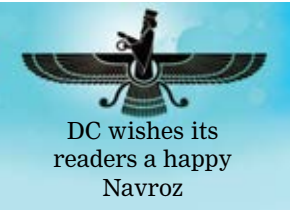
CASES	DEATHS
(+62,571)	(+946)
25,87,715	50,080
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,863)	(+10)
TS: 90,259	684
(+8,732)	(+87)
AP: 2,81,817	2,562

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Shravana Bahula Dwadasi till 1.44 pm
Star: Arudra till 7 am then Punarvasu
Variyam: 6.51 pm to 8.26 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.57 pm to 5.48 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJIRI CALENDAR
Zulhijja 25, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.15 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 5.15 pm
Maghrib: 6.50 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.51 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.50 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.15 PM



ON PAGE 2&3



IN BRIEF

Biden vows to reform H-1B visas

Washington: If voted to power in the November general elections, a Biden administration will reform the H-1B visa system and work towards eliminating the country-quota for Green Cards, his campaign said on Saturday, in a move to woo the influential Indian-American community. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations.

COUNTER POINT



They should also confer these awards on the frontline warriors of Covid-19!

Incessant rains damage crops in AP

6,586 hectares of irrigation land under water, Kurnool most affected region

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

Incessant rainfall during the last few days under the influence of south west monsoon has damaged 10 crops raised over 6,586 hectares in parts of Kurnool, Nellore, West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna and other districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Based on a preliminary report on crop damage prepared on Saturday by state agriculture authorities, Kurnool has suffered damage to several crops over about 4,440 hectares, followed by Krishna 1,650 hectares, East Godavari 231 hectares, Nellore 205 hectares and West Godavari 60 hectares. Crop-wise damage in all five rain-affected districts is as follows: Paddy – 258 hectares, groundnut – 721 hectares, cotton – 307 hectares, green gram – 1,650 hectares, red gram – 185 hectares, black gram – 91 hectares, maize – 3,214 hectares, bajra – 93 hectares, Korea – 42 hectares and castor – 25 hectares.

Agriculture authorities say as different varieties of crops are in various stages of cultivation, they have come up with only preliminary assessment on damages. If the rainfall continues for a few more days, it may cause additional crop loss.

For instance, farmers have taken up direct sowing of paddy in different



Discharge of floodwater crossed 10 lakh cusecs at Dowleswaram barrage in Rajahmundry on Saturday and water resources officials issued the first flood warning.

parts of Guntur district. If the crop gets inundated in rain water for three to four days, the paddy sown would perish. The farmers will have to take up direct sowing again. Similarly, in some areas, paddy is in tillering stage, while in other areas it is in nursery stage. Farmers go for transplantation of paddy nurseries which are 21 to 30 days old. In some cases, transplantation of paddy nurseries of even 40 days is taken up depending on their survivability.

The state agriculture authorities have targeted to raise crops in about 39.59 lakh hectares area for Kharif season in 2020.

■ Page 4: Target higher than last year by 7%

First level warning issued at Arthur Cotton barrage

VADREVV SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, AUG 15

The Indian coast guard found the four missing fishermen and they reached Ameenabada village on Saturday night safely.

The Godavari received huge inflows from upstream and the first warning was issued at Bhadrachalam and Sir Arthur Cotton barrage at Dowleswaram as the water levels touched 44.50 feet at Bhadrachalam and 11.75 feet at Dowleswaram

barrage. Irrigation officials released 10.29 lakh cusecs of excess water into the Bay of Bengal. The flood waters reached Polavaram spillway and work been stopped. The boat control room at Posammagandi in Devipatnam mandal has been inundated by flood waters.

As many as 19 villages in Polavaram mandal of West Godavari, 33 villages of Devipatnam mandal and 15 villages in V. R. Puram mandal have been

cut off from transportation for the past three days and many of these villages sundered by flood waters.

In Konaseema area, five lanka villages, Pedagantipudi lanka, Udimudi lanka, Burugu lanka, Sivayi lanka and Arigela lanka in P.Gannavaram mandal and Thane lanka and Gurajapu lanka in Mummdivaram mandal were flooded.

■ Page 4: 2 country boats arranged for transport

RUMOURS FLOAT ON LJP-JD(U) RIFT IN BIHAR

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, AUG. 15

Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan on Saturday chaired an emergency meeting with party leaders in Patna to discuss political strategies, triggering speculation in political circles about the widening rift between the LJP and the JD(U).

“Every meeting is crucial as there are so many issues in Bihar that need to be addressed. This meeting was called to discuss floods and Covid-19 crisis,” the LJP chief said ahead of the meeting. According to sources, however, LJP leaders were asked to strengthen the party's voter base in the state in view of Assembly polls slated to be held later this year. On many occasions earlier senior leaders have said that the party is preparing to contest on all 243 seats.

LJP insiders told this newspaper that party chief Chirag Paswan has been upset with JD(U) leaders for equating him with “Kalidas”.

They said “he discussed the issue with party leaders and may call another round of meeting soon where he will take some important decisions”.

Jagan insists on 3 capitals

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, reiterating the decision to shift the executive capital as part of the 3-Capital Act, on Saturday said that his government firmly believed that decentralisation (of administration) was essential to heal the wounds inflicted upon the people of the state following bifurcation. He was speaking after hoisting the national flag and taking salute during a colourful parade at Indira Gandhi Municipal Grounds on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day.

He maintained, “In order to ensure all-round development of the State we have enacted Three Capitals Bill into law.”

The Chief Minister said that untouchability still

prevails in a different form and has sneaked into education. He said that the wounds of bifurcation have prompted decentralisation of development with the three capital concept and asserted that the demand for Special Category Status (SCS) will continue.

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy said, “The three capital concept has come out from the core reasons behind

the State bifurcation. We have firmed up the decision to make Visakhapatnam the executive capital and Kurnool the judicial capital so that the fruits of development are evenly spread. Special Category Status is still on our agenda and we will keep pestering the Centre till they concede it.”

■ Page 4: Vested interests perpetrate untouchability

AP records 8,732 Covid cases, 87 more deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

Andhra Pradesh registered 8,732 new Covid-19 cases, scaling up the tally to 2,81,817 and recorded 87 deaths taking the toll to 2,562 in the last 24 hours.

The state health department in its Covid-19 bulletin released on Saturday reported that out of 53,712 samples tested, 8,732 individuals have tested positive.

Out of an overall total of 28,12,197 samples tested so far in the state, 1,91,117 infected patients have been discharged while 88,138 patients are taking treatment in various hospitals.

Among new confirmed infections, East Godavari has topped with 1,126 followed by 959 in Chittoor, 894 in Visakhapatnam, 851 in Anantapur, 734 in Kurnool, 638 in Srikakulam, 612 in West Godavari, 609 in Guntur, 572 in Nellore, 561 in Vizianagaram, 489 in Prakasam, 389 in Kadapa and 298 in Krishna.

With regard to cumulative infections, East Godavari registered the highest number of 39,418 followed by 32,746 in Kurnool, 28,947 in Anantapur, 25,549 Guntur, 24,296 Visakhapatnam, 22,689 West Godavari, 22,478 Chittoor, 16,741 Nellore, 16,522 Kadapa,

13,958 Srikakulam, 12,245 Vizianagaram, 12,081 Krishna, 11,252 in Prakasam, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Rate of recovery was high in East Godavari with 23,753 followed by 23,731 in Kurnool, 22,437 in Anantapur, 18,077 Visakhapatnam, 17,554 Guntur, 17,315 West Godavari, 13,371 Chittoor, 11,477 Kadapa, 11,357 Nellore, 8,809 Srikakulam, 8,086 Krishna, 6,789 Prakasam, 5,466 in Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 343 from other countries.

■ Page 4: Chittoor reports 10 deaths

INNINGS | RECORD

MOSES KONDETY | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 15

Mahendra Singh Dhoni left the international cricket field just as he had arrived – in a flash. The hugely successful former Indian captain announced his retirement from the game on his Instagram page on Independence Day. The Finisher is finished with international cricket.

No big pressers. No fan-

fare. No farewell game. He quietly walked out the door.

“Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout. From 1929 hrs consider me as Retired,” he wrote on his social media page. The 39-year-old last played in India's World Cup semifinal defeat to New Zealand at Manchester in July 2019. Dhoni had made a relatively slow 50 before he was ironically run out.



M.S. Dhoni

Post that performance, much of talk in cricket circles revolved around his

selection for the now-postponed Twenty20 World Cup. The big event being pushed to next year may have influenced the ageing Dhoni's decision to call it quits after 14-and-a-half years of international cricket during which he played 538 matches and scored 17,266 runs, frequently finishing games with a flourish that earned him the nicknames – The Finisher and Captain Cool.

LAC to LoC, forces firm in reply: PM

I-Day speech focuses on making nation self-reliant

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 15

“From LoC to LAC,” India's soldiers have given a fitting reply to all those who have challenged the country's sovereignty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, in what was a clear reference to China and Pakistan.

“From LoC (Line of Control) to LAC (Line of Actual Control), whenever India's sovereignty has been challenged, our soldiers have answered them in their own language,” he said in his address to the nation on its 74th Independence Day. He did not name either China or Pakistan. Referring to the clash with China in June at Galwan Valley in Ladakh, Modi said, “India's integrity is supreme for us. What our jawans can do, what the country can do, the world saw that in Ladakh. I salute all those brave soldiers.”

Twenty soldiers were killed in the clash with Chinese on June 15. With talks on de-escalation deadlocked, the PM's words were seen as a strong warning to China.

Whether it is terrorism or expansionism, India is fighting both, the Prime Minister said. “Today the world stands with India and to get 184 votes out of 192 nations in the UN for a (non-permanent) seat at the UN Security Council is proof,” he said.

Modi, wearing a saffron and white safa with a matching scarf that he used as a mask, signifying that the occasion was being celebrated amid the Covid-19 pandemic, addressed the nation from the Red Fort for the seventh consecutive year. The speech lasted almost 90 minutes.

While paying tribute to those on the front-lines of the fight against Coronavirus, he said as the nation fights the pandemic, Atmanirbhar Bharat has captured people's



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from Red Fort in New Delhi

● All villages to be linked to optical fibre in 1,000 days

● Plans for environment – Project Lion, Project Dolphin, carbon neutral Ladakh

● National Digital Health Mission launched, all Indians to get health ID cards

● Special campaign to reduce pollution in 100 select cities

● NCC to be expanded in 173 border and coastal areas

● Elections in Jammu and Kashmir after delimitation

imagination and should be everyone's mantra.

“The mindset of free India should be ‘vocal for local’. We should appreciate our local products, if we don't do this then our products will not get the opportunity to do better and will not get encouraged,” he said.

“Today, many big firms are turning to India. We have to move forward with the mantra of Make for the world along with Make in India,” the Prime Minister added.

Report: Swarna's owners knew risks

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

The remand report of the police mentioned that the managements of both Swarna Palace hotel and Ramesh hospitals knew fully well about the electrical defects in the hotel but as rectification involved a huge investment, they did not carry

out any repair work.

Assistant commissioner of police, south division, Vijayawada city, N. Surya Chandra Rao, in the remand report submitted to the third additional chief metropolitan magistrate, stated that both managements were aware of possibility of an electric short circuit.

■ Full report on Page 4

Captain Cool scored 17,266 runs in 538 matches, effected 829 dismissals

Dhoni, winner of 2 World Cups, retires

boundaries and four sixes blowing Pakistan away.

The Chennai Super Kings captain will continue to play in the IPL though, as would his teammate Suresh Raina, who followed his good friend into announcing his retirement on Saturday, after 13 years of international cricket. Raina played his 322nd and last match for India (an ODI against England) at Leeds in July 2018.

Telangana and Andhra: Different struggles with one aim, Independence



N. Ramchander Rao

The struggle for Indian freedom which spans over 100 years is one of the momentous episodes in the history of human civilisation since the concept of India as a single political entity was new and, notwithstanding the cultural concomitance, to hold the people who were spread over different independent provinces was n't easy.

Given the geo-cultural complexities and diversities of the nation, many stories related to the freedom struggle did not get the prominence they deserve. For instance, the Indigo revolt of Bengal. On the same lines, the contributions of the two Telugu states did not get adequate focus commensurate with the efforts. A large chunk of Andhra was then part of the Madras province while Telangana region was part of the Hyderabad samsthan.

It is interesting to note that the East India Company started acquiring huge extant land between 1757 and 1857. The battle of Padmanabha in 1794 brought the Vijayanagara samsthan under the British rule. The zamindars of the regions mostly supported by the tribals (the present AOC area) fought the British. It is important to note that this region proved a thorn for the British, for the protests continued till 1947 although sporadically. One major revolt was recorded during the 1830s.

The inspiration was so intense that by 1892 Congress committees took root in almost all the districts of Andhra Pradesh although Krishna, Visakhapatnam and Nellore remained the epicentres.

The phenomenal Alluri Sitarama Raju unleashed one of the greatest revolts from this area. The issue may not have been complete freedom but it was certainly against foreign rule and British authoritarianism. That foreign rule created a sense of resentment was evident in the intensity of anger.

The formation of the Congress in 1885, which many historians feel is the beginning of Indian nationalism, impacted the Telugu region. There was a delegation from Andhra which took part in the first session of the Congress in 1885. The inspiration was so intense that by 1892 Congress committees took root in almost all the districts of Andhra Pradesh although Krishna, Visakhapatnam and Nellore remained the epicentres.

The partition of Bengal and the Congress opposition to it found resonance as leaders like Komarraju Laxman Rao and Gadicherla Hanumatha Rao led the movement against the partition.

Alongside, the Andhra region, which witnessed rapid growth of English educational institutions, also saw the spread of newspapers. *Andhra Patrika* of Kashinaduni Nageswara Rao and *Krishna Patrika* of Mutmuri Krishna Rao played an important role in spreading the message of freedom and uniting the people. The influence of Gandhi on the minds of the people of Andhra was phenomenal compared to his impact in Telangana. The man and his message reverberated in every village. The people, singing *Kollayi Kattitenemi* (what if he wore a loin cloth), followed him.

Vijayawada hosted the Congress meet in 1920 where Gandhi was present and leaders like Duggirala Gopala Krishnaiah, Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Konda Venakatappaiah shot to prominence. The Congress grew stronger riding on the magic of the Mahatma. Gandhi's periodic visits sustained the momentum. He visited Nellore in 1921 for awareness against discrimination of Harijans as his strategy was multi-pronged, to fight the external enemy and cleanse the country of internal maladies.

The regions witnessed largescale protests against the Simon Commission in 1927 and the protests reached their crescendo in Ongole when Tanguturi Prakasham Pantulu dared the British to shoot him. The civil disobedience movement was also a huge success. The Quit India movement in 1942 witnessed enthusiastic participation. The 'Kurnool circular' issued by the Kurnool Congress office which defined a comprehensive action plan against the British in the region left a great impact. The momentum continued till 1947. The story of Telangana was slightly different. The focus was on fighting the discriminatory policies of the Nizam and to bring about awareness amongst the people to be part of the fight against the British. The initial strides came from Muslims. It was in 1857, Turrebaz Khan who protested against the British by hoisting the National Flag in front of the British Residency at Koti. He was subsequently shot by the British. He became popular as Turram Khan.

The Congress committee was formed in 1888 by Mulla Abdul Qayyum who was a rebel against the Nizam and the British. Nizam was a provincial Governor of the British. As the Nizam was supported by jagirdars, who held huge extents of land and villages, the anger was primarily against the jagirdars and the Nizam. So, it took a while for nationalist sentiment and the magic of Gandhi to percolate. In 1892, the Arya Samaj was started. The movement, although spiritual, spread the nationalist sentiment. The formation of Andhra Jan Sangham in 1924 led by Madapati Hanumatha Rao was explicitly to promote Telugu educational institutions but to actually unite the people against the Nizam and the British. It found impetus in the formation of Andhra Maha Sabha in 1930. Madapati and Ravi Narayana Reddy played a crucial role in spreading the nationalist sentiment. The Hyderabad Congress became active from 1938 led by Marri Chenna Reddy and P.V. Narasimha Rao. Vandemataram Ramachandra Rao, an activist of the Arya Samaj, courted arrest in Osmania University. Alongside, Ramananda Tirtha who attended the Bombay session of the Congress came back to launch the Quit India movement. From 1946 onwards, it was the people's revolt against the Nizam and the Razakars.

The writer is a senior lawyer in the High Court and MLC of the BJP



(Left) Mahatma Gandhi with Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. (Right) P.V. Narasimha Rao with former prime ministers I.K. Gujral and Chandrashekar.

PV ran guns to fight against the Razakars



N.V. Subhash

P.V. Narasimha Rao, former prime minister of India, was always against autocracy and the feudal system prevalent during the Nizam's regime. He detested human right violations. He used to get disturbed seeing the rampant poverty, illiteracy and ignorance around him.

As a student, he was greatly influenced by the struggle for Independence against the British in other parts of the country. He wished for a similar struggle against the Nizam to liberate the people from tyranny.

As a student of Osmania University, Narasimha Rao along with a few others recited the Vande Mataram as a token of defiance against the Nizam. Since reciting the Vande Mataram was banned, he was rusticated from the college.

That was when he decided that he should move out of Hyderabad State. He pursued his education in

Nagpur and Pune. He came in contact with national leaders and was greatly influenced by their call for defiance against the British. After he graduated in law from Nagpur University, he returned to Hyderabad. He worked in the office of Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, then a famous lawyer and later Chief Minister of Hyderabad State and Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala, as his junior for a short period.

In 1938, the Hyderabad Congress Committee was formed and Swami Ramananda Tirtha took over as its president. He was a revolutionary and aggressively spearheaded the anti-Nizam movement. Narasimha Rao was attracted to the movement. As the Congress was banned in Hyderabad State, Narasimha Rao had to work undercover. He turned out to be a fiery revolutionary, supplying arms and ammunition to activists in the frontline.

Post-Independence, the Razakars created havoc in the villages, resorting to plunder, rape and murder. To fight them, Narasimha Rao shifted his operations to the Chanda camp, where training was imparted to activists in the use of arms and ammunition. Narasimha Rao was active in this camp for over a year.

Swami Ramananda Tirtha and other leaders of the state impressed upon Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that Hyderabad State should be merged with the rest of India. A separate country could not be carved out as the Nizam had demanded. The autocratic rule of the Nizam should end and democracy should prevail. Police action was ordered and Hyderabad State was merged with India after Police Action. During this entire time, Narasimha Rao stood strongly with Swamiji.

(The writer is grandson of former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao)

BY A. SAYE SEKHAR

Is a senior Journalist and political commentator

Tanguturi Prakasam gave the rousing slogan, 'Simon, go back'



TANGUTURI PRAKASAM

Tanguturi Prakasam, a proud son of India, demonstrated exemplary valour by baring his chest and challenging soldiers of the British Army to shoot him, when they threatened to open fire if the surging demonstrators at a protest did not step back.

The British government, as part of its commitment to study Constitutional reforms, a decade after the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, set up a commission headed by Sir John Simon and six British MPs. Indian freedom fighters were angered by the composition of the commission as it did not have a single Indian.

The commission faced hostility throughout India. When it reached Madras on February 3, 1928, the commission encountered protests led by Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu. Prakasam coined the slogan "Simon, go back". His admirers felt the

He went to England, trained as a barrister and returned to Madras. He became a successful lawyer. He also served as municipal chairman of Rajahmundry in 1904, when he was barely 31.

slogan was like a lion's roar and bestowed on him the title Andhra Kesari (Lion of Andhra).

Born to Subbamma and Gopalakrishnayya in Vonidarayunipalem near Ongole — the district is now named after him — on August 23, 1872, Prakasam went to Rajahmundry along with his teacher E. Hanumantha Rao Naidu.

He then went to England, trained as a barrister and returned to Madras. He became a successful lawyer. He also

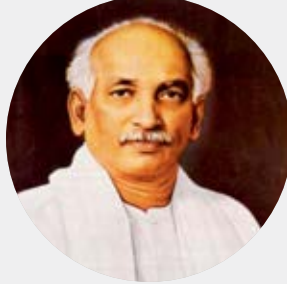
served as municipal chairman of Rajahmundry in 1904, when he was barely 31.

He travelled across the length and breadth of India and participated in many an agitation against British rule. He launched and worked as the Editor of *Swarajya* magazine. Its publication had to be suspended twice. Prakasam Pantulu was jailed for over three years for participating in the Quit India movement.

Prakasam Pantulu became Prime Minister of the Madras Presidency after the victory of the Congress in the elections, on April 30, 1946. He later resigned on the instructions of Mahatma Gandhi. After the formation of Andhra State on October 1, 1953, he became Chief Minister, served for a year and resigned.

Prakasam Pantulu died on May 20, 1957, in Hyderabad.

Pattabhi, doctor-turned-banker, helmsman in the Congress



DR PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

Dr. Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya was an Andhra leader who rose to prominence during the freedom struggle with his close association with Mahatma Gandhi and as a founder of financial institutions. He served as Congress president and worked as Governor of Madhya Pradesh. He founded the Andhra Bank, which is now being merged with the Union Bank of India, with Machilipatnam as its headquarters in 1923. He launched the Andhra Insurance Company, the Krishna District Cooperative Bank and the Bhagyalakshmi Bank.

Pattabhi, as he is popularly known, was born on November 24, 1880, at Gundugolanu in West Godavari district (then in Krishna district) and graduated in medicine (MBCM) from Madras Christian College and began practice in Machilipatnam. He was attracted to

Enraged by the oppression of the people by the British, Hanumanthu formed a small army, giving a quiet go-by to the peaceful agitation.

the freedom struggle in 1912 and gave up his lucrative practice to join the independence movement. With the support of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Pattabhi realised his wish of having a separate Andhra Congress Committee, despite opposition from Mahatma Gandhi.

Pattabhi served as president of the Andhra Provincial Committee of the Congress and as a member of the Congress Working Committee. In spite of Mahatma Gandhi's support, Pattabhi lost to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the elections held for the Indian National Congress presidency in 1939.

Gandhiji owned up responsibility for the electoral loss of Pattabhi. Pattabhi, who was a staunch votary of a separate Telugu State and was in favour of reorganising states on linguistic basis, changed tack after India became independent. He was part of the committee including Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel that rejected the reorganisation of states on linguistic basis. In the post-Independence era, Pattabhi was elected president of the All India Congress Committee in 1948 with the support of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly headed by Babu Rajendra Prasad and he elected to the Rajya Sabha. Pattabhi was imprisoned for over three years during the Quit India movement and authored a prison diary, *Feathers and Stones*, and published it. He died on December 17, 1959.

Alluri's guerrilla warfare had British on tenterhooks



ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

The tribes began rallying behind Sitarama Raju who launched a rebellion against the British, with trained activists looting British properties

Alluri Sitarama Raju was killed when he was just 26, but he lives on in the hearts of Indians. He kindled a sense of nationalism among the so-called 'primitive' tribal groups and led them from the front in the struggle against the British.

Born in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh to Venkatarama Raju and Suryanarayanamma, he inspired the tribals by demonstrating extraordinary skills of leadership. As he wandered in the forest area around the Godavari, tribal groups flocked to him.

Much before he was born, the British government had promulgated the Madras Forests Act, 1882, preventing tribals from free movement and cultivating forest land.

Tribals used to practise 'shifting agriculture' within the forest. The British government began to exploit the forests, leading to the loss of earning and starvation among the tribals.

People in the forests were engaged by the government for labour for a paltry remuneration. As the tribal landlords were stripped of their hereditary rights, they were reduced to being government agents to collect taxes. This led to the unification of the erstwhile haves and the traditional have-nots against the colonial regime.

Alluri Sitarama Raju mustered the support of both groups against the

British. Even though the haves were not completely in agreement with the rules of Sitarama Raju, they agreed to comply with the tenets of the revolution he was spearheading.

The tribes began rallying behind Sitarama Raju who launched a rebellion against the British, with trained activists looting British properties and attacking police stations of Krishna Devi Peta, Chintapalli in Visakhapatnam district and Rajavommangi in East Godavari district. The looting of police stations helped the revolutionary groups acquire guns and ammunition.

This emboldened the tribals who began to flock to Raju and his private army gained strength. They killed a British police officer and challenged the supremacy of the British. Tackling Sitarama Raju and his army wasn't easy for the British as the spread of the tribal people in the forests and the hilly terrain made it difficult for them to identify the hideouts. Sitarama Raju adopted guerrilla warfare against the British police.

The private army led by the "manyam hero" (the hero in the forests is called manyam) fortified its support base through the attacks and killing of police personnel. Police stations in the East

British killed Hanumanthu for protesting against Pullari tax

KANNEGANTI HANUMANTHU

Kanneganti Hanumanthu shot into the limelight when he defied the Pullari Act of the British Raj. This Act was meant to collect tax from plain-dwellers, just as tax was levied on the 'primitive' tribal groups in the forests. He led the freedom struggle in Palnadu area of Guntur district.

Born in 1870, Hanumanthu lived for barely 50 years. He was born to Venkataiah and Achemma in Minchalapadu village of Durgi mandal in the Palnadu area. When people refused to pay the Pullari tax and agitated against the British rule under the leadership of Hanumanthu, the British collector Rutherford brutally suppressed it. Hanumanthu led the agitation in a peaceful manner, following the Gandhian principle of Ahimsa.

The British levied the Pullari tax on collecting twigs and grazing animals.

Inspired by the non-cooperation movement of Mahatma Gandhi, Hanumanthu gave a clarion call to the people of the Palnadu not to pay the Pullari tax. He questioned the propriety of the British regime in levying the tax.

Enraged by the suppression of the agitation and oppression of the people by the British, Hanumanthu formed a small army, giving a quiet go-by to the peaceful agitation. The British lured some traitors to clandestinely track Hanumanthu's movements. However, people could foil the spies and protect Hanumanthu.

The British lured him with lucre and power by appointing him zamindar so that he could collect taxes at will, but Hanumanthu rejected the offer. However, when he learnt that Gandhiji had withdrawn the non-cooperation movement, Hanumanthu sent word to the British that he was ready to pay the Pullari tax on behalf of all the villagers.

When the villagers were heading towards a local festival at Kotappakonda, British troops surrounded them and began hitting them with the butts of their rifles. Hanumanthu reached the scene and urged the police not to torture the people and that he was ready to pay the tax.

The troops took orders from their bosses and opened fire. Hanumanthu was alive for six more hours raising the Vande Mataram slogan. Towards midnight, when he breathed his last, the British Army buried the bodies of Hanumanthu and two others at Kolaguntla.

Turrebaz Khan, Moulvi Allauddin set out to blast British Residency

ATHER MOIN | DC

Has pix of memorial, street named after him, british residency building In Hyderabad, "Turum Khan" is someone who shows unprecedented valour. Very few know how the term came to be. According to historians, the term refers to Turrebaz Khan, the unsung hero of the freedom struggle who was martyred by the British for attacking the British Residency, now the Women's College, in Sultan Bazaar.

Turrebaz Khan, son of Rustum Khan of Begum Bazaar, laid down his life fighting British occupation. His birth date is not known, but his death anniversary is observed on January 24 by a group of people who are aware of his valour.

After the Nizam signed the Treaty of Subsidiary Alliance with the East India Company in 1800, there were bouts of anti-British rebellions till 1857, led notably by Raja Mahipat Ram, Mubarez-ud-Dowlah, Moulvi Allauddin, and Turrebaz Khan. Within the Nizam's Army and the Subsidiary Troops of East India Company, men revolted against British officers.

Afzal ad-Dawlah Asaf Jah V Mir Tahniyath Ali Khan ascended the throne on May 18, 1857, after the death of his father, just days after the First War of Independence had started in the north.

There was an uprising amongst the Indian troops of the Hyderabad Contingent's 3rd Cavalry on their way to Aurangabad. The troops refused to go further, fearing that they would be asked to march north to fight against their fellow Indian soldiers. Subedar Cheeda Khan revolted and fled with 15 others to Hyderabad.

This uprising was overcome tactfully and a number of soldiers were arrested, put to trial by court martial, and given deterrent punishments including execution and transportation to the Andaman Island. Cheeda Khan was arrested within a few days by the Nizam's Prime Minister Salar Jung I, who



Turrebaz Khan martyrs memorial in Koti.

handed him over to the Resident as he was a British soldier. He was imprisoned and tried inside the Residency building.

This incident inflamed the anti-British sentiment in Hyderabad and inflammatory placards appeared all over the city, exhorting people, especially Muslims, to rise in the name of God and his Prophet. They ridiculed the Nizam V and warned him and Salar Jung I that if they did not join the movement, they would be overthrown.

In July 1857, when the imam rose to deliver his Friday sermon in the Macca Masjid, he was heckled by some members of the congregation. Later, Moulvi Allauddin delivered a fervent speech. The congregation wanted to free Cheeda Khan. The crowd was about to break into a riot, but the Kotwal (the then police commissioner) managed to

arrest the ringleaders and make good his own escape.

Later in the afternoon, Turrebaz Khan along with Moulvi Allauddin, led a band of soldiers, Rohillas of Afghan descent and Arab rebels, and mounted an armed attack on the Residency on July 17, 1857. At 5.45 pm, about 500 Rohillas marched towards British Resident Col. Cuthbert Davidson's 'kothi'.

They took positions in two houses belonging to money-lenders Abban Saheb and Jaigopal Das and opened fire at the Residency. They brought down the walls of one Azim Ali Khan's house and tore off the hinges of the entrance near Putli Bowli as their comrades gave covering fire from the two double-storey houses.

The Salar Jung had alerted the Resident that about 500 Rohillas had broken loose from the walled city and were headed for the

Residency. Col. Davidson had taken precautions. The British troops who were led by Major S.C. Briggs opened up with their artillery guns, kept ready by the Resident. Soldiers of the Madras Horse Artillery continued firing their cannons from the walls of the kothi till dawn.

The Rohillas, not well-equipped with arms and ammunition, fled under the cover of darkness, leaving behind four bodies. According to some reports, 30 fighters were killed in that onslaught. Moulvi Allauddin was injured in firing from the Residency.

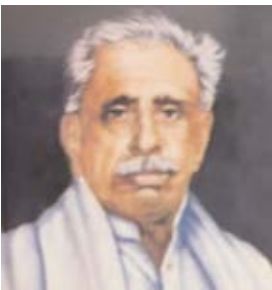
Turrebaz Khan and Moulvi Allauddin escaped and they were declared offenders. A prize of 5,000 rupees each was announced for information about their whereabouts. Turrebaz Khan was taken prisoner on July 22. He managed to escape from jail on January 18, 1859, before he could be sent to 'Kalapani ki saza'. He was once again captured near Toopran and shot dead by British soldiers. Historians believe that he was caught on January 24, 1859, in the forests of Toopran by armed men led by talukdar Mirza Qurban Ali Baig who was duly rewarded.

Turrebaz Khan's body was brought to the city and hung by chains on a tree near the Residency building to serve as a deterrent to the people at large.

Moulvi Allauddin was captured near Manglappally and sentenced to deportation to the Andamans where he died in 1884. The houses of Abban Saheb and Jaigopal Das were blown up.

To mark the revolt of 1857, a memorial with the inscription 'Memorial to the martyrs of July 17, 1857' was erected near the Koti bus station. Turrebaz Khan's name is engraved on the plaque. The stretch from Koti Women's College to Osmania Medical College Road was named after Turrebaz Khan.

With inputs from Affan Quadri, secretary, Mehr Organisation, whose book, Muslim Mujahideen-e-Azadi on India's freedom fighters will be released next year.



Gadicharla Hari Sarvothama Rao

SARVOTHAMA FIRST INDIAN NEWSPAPER EDITOR JAILED

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC

Gadicharla Hari Sarvothama Rao was first Indian newspaper editor to have been jailed on charges of sedition for writing against the British.

Rao was born in Kurnool in 1883. After schooling in Kurnool, Nandyal and Guttu, Rao finished his MA from Madras Christian College in 1906.

While at the Teachers Training College in Rajahmundry, he joined the Indian independence movement.

In 1908, Rao started a Telugu weekly newspaper, Swarajya, with the help of Bodi Narayana Rao.

He wrote numerous essays in the newspaper criticising the many unfair policies adopted by the British government. The British declared his article Viparita Buddhi, which adopted a very severe tone in criticising violence against the Indians (Sarvotham particularly wrote to the effect "The cruel English tiger has devoured two Indians!"), was an act of sedition and sentenced Rao to three years in prison.

In 1914, Gadicharla was made secretary for the Andhra division of the Home Rule League formed by Tilak and Annie Besant.

In this position, he played a pivotal role in inspiring the people by traveling widely. In 1923, he joined the Swarajya Party formed by Chittaranjan Das and Motilal Nehru. He was elected to the Madras Legislative Council as a candidate for the Andhra Congress from the Nandyala constituency.

Sarojini Devi: The Nightingale of India



DR MALLADI KRISHNANAND

Sarojini Naidu, one of the key leaders of the freedom struggle, was born and brought up in Hyderabad. Her house, Golden Threshold, is located near Hyderabad district collectorate, on the Abids-Nampally road, is a simple but elegant construction and has been dedicated to the nation.

Sarojini Naidu's father Aghoranath Chatopadhyaya served at the Nizam College, the first Indian professor there. Sarojini who was called the Nightingale of India was born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879. Besides being a social activist and political leader, she was also a poet. Sarojini Naidu's poetry covers a vast range from children's rhymes to patriotism, romance and tragedy. She began writing at the age of 12 and her poem *In the Bazaars of Hyderabad* is one of the best known of her works.

She brought out a collection of 40 poems under the title *The Golden Threshold*, in 1909. When she built the house at Abids, she named it after her book. In those days, *The Golden Threshold* was the centre of many reformist ideas in areas like marriage, education, women's empowerment, literature and specifically nationalism.

Sarojini Naidu after matriculation left for England and joined the King's College and later the Girton College, Cambridge, with financial support from Nizam VI Mahbub Ali Khan. After her studies, at the age of 19 she married Govindarajulu Naidu, a physician. She joined the Independence struggle in the wake of the partition of Bengal in 1905.

Sarojini Naidu participated in many of Gandhiji's satyagraha movements. She was the first Indian woman to preside over the 1925 session of the Indian National Congress at



Sarojini Naidu with Mahatma Gandhi

She was the first Indian woman to preside over the 1925 session of the Indian National Congress at Kanpur.

Kanpur. She was imprisoned many times during the freedom struggle and spent about two years in various jails. After Independence, she was appointed as Governor of Uttar Pradesh and remained in office until her death on March 22, 1949.

Her daughter Padmaja Naidu dedicated *The Golden Threshold* to the nation on November 17, 1975, and the building was handed over to the Hyderabad Central University by Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi. Some of the articles collected by Sarojini Naidu during her lifetime were donated to the National Archaeological Museum and the Salar Jung Museum.

English writer and philosopher Aldus Huxley said Sarojini Naidu was a woman with great intellectual power with charm, sweetness with courageous energy, and earnestness with humour.

The writer has written two books, Mana Telugu Peddalu, the biographies of 241 Telugu personalities, and Heritage of Hyderabad, a compendium of historical, cultural and heritage structures. He is Chief Public Relations Officer, Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd.

Makhdoom called for armed struggle against Nizam in 1947



AZIZ PASHA

Makhdoom Mohiuddin was a multi-dimensional personality who served the masses, especially the working class.

Born in Andol of Medak district on February 4, 1908, Makhdoom hailed from a

religious family whose forefathers moved to the city from Azamgarh. He was four when his father died. His early childhood was one of poverty and he fed himself with three paise for breakfast and lunch was *chakna-tandoori roti* given by a mosque administration for cleaning the floor.

When he joined college, he lived in the basement of the Sultan Bazaar masjid along with his friend and earned his livelihood selling pictures of actresses. During his college days, he

saw the British rule and got disillusioned with the Congress' non-violence.

The revolutionary poetry of Qazi Nazrul Islam brought a sea change in his outlook. Inspired by socialist ideals, he joined the Comrades Association which was a forerunner of the Communist movement in Hyderabad, and joined the party in 1939.

He started his trade union activity along with Raj Bahadur Gaur, mobilising workers in the Deccan Button Factory in Hussaini

Alam. They used to earn two annas a day and Makhdoom called them satirically '*sehzaade*'. Within four years he had organised unions at Allwyn Factory, Asbestos Cement, Singareni mines, Charminar cigarette factory, Shahbad cement workers, Azamjahi Mills, Hutti gold mines, Nizam State Railways and RTC employees.

On August 16, 1946, the All Hyderabad Trade Union Congress was formed with Makhdoom as its first president.

When the Andhra Maha Sabha was formed to fight for civil liberties and against the tyrannical regime of the Nizam, Makhdoom along with Ravi Narayan Reddy and Baddam Yella Reddy gave a call for armed struggle in 1947. In his early days, Makhdoom wrote romantic poetry. After shifting to Hyderabad, inspired by Nazrul Islam and imbibing the class outlook, Makhdoom's poetry highlighted the injustices in society and exploitation in

feudalism. His first collection of poems, *Surkh Savera* (Red Dawn), was published in 1944. After his return from Vienna, he wrote several poems which reflected the immense problems and exploitation faced by society. *Jange-Azadi, Chand Taron la Bann, Haveli, Jahan-e-Nau and Chara Gar* became very popular. He wrote *Telangana* in Bombay when he was underground.

The writer is a CPI leader and a former RS MP



Makhdoom Mohiuddin



BHARAT RATNA SOUGHT FOR PINGALI VENKAYYA

MD ILYAS | DC

Geetha Madhurya, the gr-eat granddaughter of national flag designer, Pingali Venkayya, lamented over the absence of recognition of Venkayya and asserted the need of bringing awareness of the national flag designer among present generations.

She hoisted the national flag during the 74th Independence Day celebration organised by Amrutha Hastham organisation near Dharna Chowk at Gandhinagar in Vijayawada on Saturday. She asked the government to confer the Bharat Ratna posthumously upon Venkayya recognising his services.

Geetha lamented that Pingali Venkayya was a famous freedom fighter and gave pride to Andhra by designing the national flag.

She said Venkayya sacrificed all his assets during the freedom struggle and ignited a burning desire for freedom among the masses during his time.

She recalled that he was an agriculturist, geologist and educationist besides a freedom fighter.

She lamented that present generations did not know Pingali Venkayya and his greatness which is very sad.

Geetha, with Amrutha Hastham organisers, offered food to the poor under a poor feeding programme in the memory of freedom fighters.

Independence Day, through the eyes of a 12-year-old

BALU PULIPAKA | DC

For Mandhumula Narasimha Rao, all of 12 years on the midnight that ushered in the 15th of August in 1947, the radio broadcast was one that he will never forget. Now, 85 and retired, Narasimha Rao has "clear memories of that night."

"I heard Nehru on the radio that night. A radio was a luxury item those days. Few people had them and those that did had to get a licence to own one," he says. "I remember thinking 'from tonight I can do anything.'"

Narasimha Rao lived in Narayanguda, and, that night, the place of choice to become a witness to history was the home of Baquer Ali Mirza, a friend of his father M. Narsing Rao, who later went on to become the first home minister of AP after Hyderabad State's merger with the Indian Union in 1950.

For Narasimha Rao, Mirza was a man who made a permanent impression. "I have not seen a more handsome man. He was tall, very fair and was from UP. And always with a cigar. Mirza was the intellectual type,



M. Narasimha Rao

reticent. Mirza later headed the Public Service Commission," Rao recalls. Though Mirza did not live very far away from where Rao did, Mirza had driven to his friend's house, picked up the family and drove them back to his house in an antique car. "We were witness to the Independence Day at his house," Narasimha Rao says.

"I have very vivid memories of that day. And also, of the day Gandhi was killed."

Any thoughts of 'doing anything' he wanted, however, had to be put on hold for the time being. With his father running *Royt*, a newspaper in Urdu that was vocal about Independence and against Hyderabad State continuing as an independent dominion inside India, life in the

immediate years after August 15, 1947, were not the easiest. It was also the time when he "experienced terror" for the first time in his young life.

"It had become difficult to stay here. Father was friends with everyone. But Qasim Rizvi was different. The Nizam's government banned the paper because of its political stand. And it was the first time I experienced terror when at night, a group of people came and started pelting stones on our house," Narasimha Rao says.

The situation was getting worse by the day and his relatives used to come home every night so everyone could be together and feel safe.

"We moved to Vijayawada but father stayed back. Once we crossed the Hyderabad border, we felt safe," he recalls.

On how he felt when Hyderabad State merged with the Indian Union, Narasimha Rao says that the day did not feel as special as August 15, 1947. "By then we knew that India was independent. The fire was gone. It was an event that had to happen," Narasimha Rao says.

Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy struck terror in Britishers' hearts

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC

Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy of Kurnool district rebelled against British with an army of 5,000 soldiers to protest the new revenue system that plundered the peasants. He was captured and beheaded on February 22, 1847, and his head hung at the Koilkuntla treasury for 10 years to deter others from following his path.

Son of a palegaadu, Mallareddy, and Seethamma, Narasimha Reddy was born in Rupanagudi village, Uyyalawada mandal, on November 24, 1806. He and his commander-in-chief Vadde Obanna were at the heart of the rebellion against the East India Company in 1847.

The Company had introduced changes to the traditional agrarian system by bringing in the ryotwari system to maximise revenue by exploiting cultivators, depleting their crops and leaving them impoverished.

Narasimha Reddy had a following among 68 villages in Nossam, Koilkuntla,

Narasimha Reddy had a following among 68 villages in Nossam, Koilkuntla, Kadapa and parts of Anantapur areas. After skirmishes with the British, Reddy was beheaded in 1847 at the Koilkuntla treasury for plundering it, 10 years before the 1857 War.

Kadapa and parts of Anantapur areas.

After skirmishes with the British, Reddy was beheaded in 1847 at the Koilkuntla treasury for plundering it, 10 years before the 1857 War. The British were so terrified of the rebellious nature of Narasimha Reddy and his followers that with a view to creating terror among the people, they publicly displayed his severed head at the treasury for 10 years.

Rupanagudi Prabhakar Reddy, a fourth generation descendant of Krishna Reddy, the brother of Narasimha Reddy, said the government should perpetuate his memory.



Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy

SHORT TAKES

Inter revised marks memos on website

Vijayawada: Students of Intermediate education are advised to download their revised short marks memos of Intermediate Public Examinations, March 2020 on website bie.ap.gov.in. The Board of Intermediate Education in a release here on Saturday said that after completion of recounting and reverification of answer scripts of, revised short marks memos have been made available on its website. So, the students who applied for recounting and reverification, can download their revised short marks memos.

2 COUNTRY BOATS ARRANGED FOR TRANSPORT

FROM PAGE 1

Officials arranged two country boats for the transportation of the people of these two lanka villages.

The Kanakalpet causeway has been inundated in the P. Gannavaram mandal. The district collector, D. Muralidhar Reddy, said that 500 people in Rampachodavaram division were evacuated and shifted to safer places due to the floods. He said that eight mobile teams in Yetapaka division, six teams in five sectors in Rampachodavaram division, 15 teams in 15 mandals in Amalapuram division and two teams in Ramachandrapuram division and one team in Kakinada division were sent out.

Meanwhile, the sea at Kakinada shore is very rough and the waves touched the Kakinada-Uppada road. The barges in the anchorage port are rough as eight vessels are at the anchorage port for rice handling. The port officials sent six boats to the anchorage port for standby.

Inter-state borders to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are cut off at Chetti village in Kunavaram mandal as the flood waters are flowing on the roads as the Sabari is in spate. The revenue minister and the deputy chief minister, Dharmana Krishna Das, told reporters here on Saturday that all steps were being taken to face the flood situation in the state. He said that ward and village secretaries and volunteer services are being made use of in flood relief measures.

● The sea at Kakinada shore is very rough and the waves touched the Kakinada-Uppada road. The barges in the anchorage port are rough as eight vessels are at the anchorage port for rice handling. The port officials sent six boats to the anchorage port for standby.

TARGET HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR BY 7%

FROM PAGE 1

This target is seven per cent higher than that of last year's 37.14 lakh hectares. They are also expecting food grain production to the tune of 183.64 lakh metric tonnes against last year's production of 172.18 lakh metric tonnes.

A senior agriculture officer said, "As rainfall is continuing, we have come up with preliminary assessment of crop damages due to inundation of fields. If the rainfall recedes, crops may survive. But in case rains continue for some more days, crops may suffer further damage. Once the rainfall stops, our field officers will take up enumeration of crop damage or loss."

AP has received an actual rainfall of 421.8 mm against normal 329.9 mm, showing excess rainfall of 27.9 mm from June till date. However, Srikakulam district has received deficit rainfall of 24.1 mm, while Vizianagaram witnessed deficit rainfall of 11.1 mm. The remaining districts received excess rainfall.

Visakhapatnam district received actual rainfall of 454.2 mm against normal rainfall of 429.7 mm.

VESTED INTERESTS PERPETRATE UNTOUCHABILITY

FROM PAGE 1

On untouchability, he said vested interests were opposing children of weaker sections to study in English medium fearing that they will have a level playground with their kin who are sent to corporate schools. While the average illiteracy rate is

33 percent, in SCs it is 36 per cent and among STs it is 51.2 percent which is a matter of concern. The fruits of the reforms in the education sector we are now implementing will be clearly visible in ten to twenty years from now as the curriculum also includes skill development. The young-

sters will be ready for the competitive world."

Claiming transparency in governance, he said, "We have brought in transparent and corruption-free governance and introduced Reverse Tendering, Judicial Preview and Direct Benefit Transfer system during the 14 months in office."

Polavaram to be ready by 2022 Kharif: Jagan

Of the 129 promises made, we have fulfilled 83: Chief Minister

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

Addressing the 74th Independence Day celebration at Vijayawada on Saturday, Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, reiterated welfare programmes and development of all sections of the society as priorities of the government, saying, "In the true spirit of the Constitution, we are providing opportunities to all and are ensuring social justice. Our Nava Ratnalu are being implemented to uplift the weaker sections in an unprecedented manner, despite financial constraints."

Affirming the completion of Polavaram project, Mr Jagan stated, "We have been taking firm steps towards prohibition and, on the irrigation front, we will be completing the six core projects on time. Efforts are on to complete Polavaram by the 2022 Kharif season. Free power to farmers, incentives to MSMEs, providing 75 per cent reservation to locals in industries and setting up of skill development centres are the other initiatives of the government."

HOSPITAL DENIES COMMUNITY QUOTA

FROM PAGE 1

To address the problem, the Sangham reserves 25 beds in the hospital. If the beds are not filled up, they bear the expenses.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 hospital Manager Mudunuri Raja denied such an agreement and there was no question of reserving the beds for any particular community.

"We assess the condition of the patients and allocate beds depending upon the availability. But there is no question of reserving beds on the basis of a community as the doctors treat the patients depending on their condition," he said.

Raja added that some leaders of one community approached them but the hospital management refused booking of beds to any community or group.



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy takes part in Independence Day celebrations at the IGM Stadium on Saturday in Vijayawada. — C. NARAYANA RAO

Of the 129 promises made in the manifesto, we have fulfilled 83 and 30 are in the pipeline and 16 will be implemented soon. There are 39 welfare schemes which were being implemented that were not mentioned in the manifesto."

Praising the services of the Covid-19 warriors, Mr Jagan said, "In the times of Covid-19, we salute the frontline warriors from doctors to nurses, technicians, sanitary workers, Asha workers and others for their service."

Medicare has taken a big leap now after it was neglected. We have made Aarogyasri vibrant by developing infrastructure like more ambulance vehicles and improving facilities and extending its scope, covering a larger number of ailments. From primary health centres to teaching hospitals, the quality of medicare has been improving and 16 more teaching hospitals would be added to the existing 11 in the coming days."

Mr Jagan said, "We

have provided opportunities to weaker sections and women in temple committees, nominated posts, nominated contract works and have shaken up the outsourcing system by doing away with middlemen and commissions. The cabinet composition also stands as a shining example of social justice."

Mentioning the volunteers system, Mr Jagan said, "We have developed a delivery mechanism system for the welfare schemes in the form of

village and ward secretariats and have appointed 1.4 lakh people in government service besides 2.7 lakh volunteers and 82.5 per cent of them belong to weaker sections."

Saluting the freedom fighters, Mr Jagan concluded his speech by saying, "We must be grateful to the freedom fighters and their sacrifices which led the country from darkness to light, taking the country from backwardness to development."

‘Managements knew of fire hazard’

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 15

The remand report of the police mentioned that the managements of both Swarna Palace hotel and Ramesh hospitals are responsible for the fire mishap.

The police named Dr Kodali Raja Gopala Rao as accused No. 1, Dr Kurapati Sudarsan as accused No. 2 and Pallapapothu Venkatesh as accused No. 3 in the remand report. The police informed the magistrate that the three accused knowingly did not take safety measures and if released on bail, may tamper with evidence and even abscond. They requested the magistrate to remand the accused for a period of 15 days to judicial custody pending investigation in the case. The police also said that all the three accused confessed their involvement.

The police registered the FIR based on a complaint lodged by tahsil-

dar, central Vijayawada city, P. Jaya Sri, against the managements of Ramesh hospitals and Swarna Palace hotel under sections 304 and 308 read with 34 of the IPC.

Meanwhile, Ramesh hospitals managing director, Dr Ramesh Babu, released an audio tape alleging that the ongoing enquiry was not being conducted in an impartial manner and said that the Ramesh hospitals management was ready to face an impartial probe. He said that it was unfair to arrest Dr Raja Gopala Rao and Dr Sudarshan as they were not there in the hotel at the time of the fire and added that such arrest was against the principles of natural justice. He further said that on the day of fire mishap, he, along with the two doctors, were present for an enquiry by the collector in the collectorate. He refuted allegations of charging high

fees in the hospital and said that nearly 10 lakh patients underwent heart surgeries in his hospital and 5,000 employees were working there. All of this, of course, circumstantial and irrelevant detail.

Referring to the remarks of some political leaders that they were adding 'Choudhary' as a suffix to his name replacing 'Babu', he said that it pained him a lot and opined that it was unfair to bring in caste, religion and politics into health care. He also said that several Covid-19 infected patients in critical condition were treated at the CCC at Swarna Palace hotel and went home after recovery. He expressed concern over the way all their hard efforts to treat patients have been erased following the fire. This sits uncomfortably with the fact that he has been absconding since the incident.

Isro to launch Gaganyaan soon

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, AUG. 15

The Indian space research organisation (sro) will be launching Gaganyaan, an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft, and a small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) in the coming days.

The director of the Satish Dhawan space centre, A. Rajarajan, disclosed this during Independence Day celebrations held at the India's space port in Shar, Sriharikota on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rajarajan commended the doctors, nurses, sanitary workers, drivers, CISF workforce for their outstanding service for waging a war against Covid-19. He also hailed the patients who survived the virus. Assuring the best medical

care to all the Isro employees, he said Covid-19 can be kept at bay by observing safety precautions and consuming nutritious food.

Appreciating the teachers and students of Shar school, apart from their parents, for achieving 100 per cent results in Class X and XII, Mr Rajarajan also praised Shar employees and employee's union leaders for running the organisation with limited staff with the Covid-19 threat looming large over the region.

Receiving the guard of honour from the central industrial security force (CISF) on the occasion senior officials of Shar, P. Gopikrishna, G. Grahadurai, CISF commandant, Jithendra Kumar and employees took part in the celebration, duly following the Covid-19 protocol.

CHITTOOR REPORTS 10 DEATHS

FROM PAGE 1

Among deaths, Chittoor has reported 10 followed by nine in Guntur, eight each in East Godavari and West Godavari, seven each in Anantapur, Kadapa and Kurnool, six each in Nellore, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram, five each in Prakasam and Srikakulam and three in Krishna.

Regarding cumulative deaths, Guntur has 284 followed by 283 in Kurnool, 266 in East Godavari, 225 in Chittoor, 223 in Krishna, 216 in Anantapur, 199 in Visakhapatnam, 188 in West Godavari, 161 in Srikakulam, 157 in Prakasam, 137 in Nellore, 112 in Vizianagaram and 111 in Kadapa.

The state health authorities have discharged 10,414 infected patients after recovery.

AP TESTS 52,663 PER MILLION

Meanwhile, AP has carried out Covid-19 tests on 52,663 samples per million population and has registered a positive rate at 10.02. Maharashtra has tested 24,415 samples with positive rate at 18.78 while Telangana has tested 18,097 samples with a positive rate at 12.43.

MRF SCRAP SALES

MRF, a leading tyre manufacturing company is interested in disposal of process scraps generated at its plants located at Chennai, Arakonam, Perambalur (All Tamil Nadu), Pondicherry, Kottayam (Kerala), Medak, Ankenpally (Telangana), Goa and Dahej (Gujarat).

Reputed scrap contractors may respond confirming their interest in participating in an E-Auction to:

Vice President - Materials

MRF LIMITED

114, Greams Road, Chennai - 600 006.

Email: santhoshkumar.r@mrfmail.com

VISAKHAPATNAM INDUSTRIAL WATER SUPPLY COMPANY

'e' Procurement Tender Notice No:03/2020-21/SGM/GM/VIWSCO

DT:14-08-2020

1) No. Of Works : 1 No. Reconstruction of new SP near Pamulavaka Village (2nd call)

2) Value of Works (ECV) : Rs.164.56 Lakhs

Down loading-Starting date : 15-08-2020 2.00 PM

Down loading-Ending Date : 03-09-2020 3.00 PM

Bid submission-closing date : 03-09-2020 4.00 PM

Technical Bid opening date : 03-09-2020 5.00 PM

Price Bid opening date : 05-09-2020 5.00 PM

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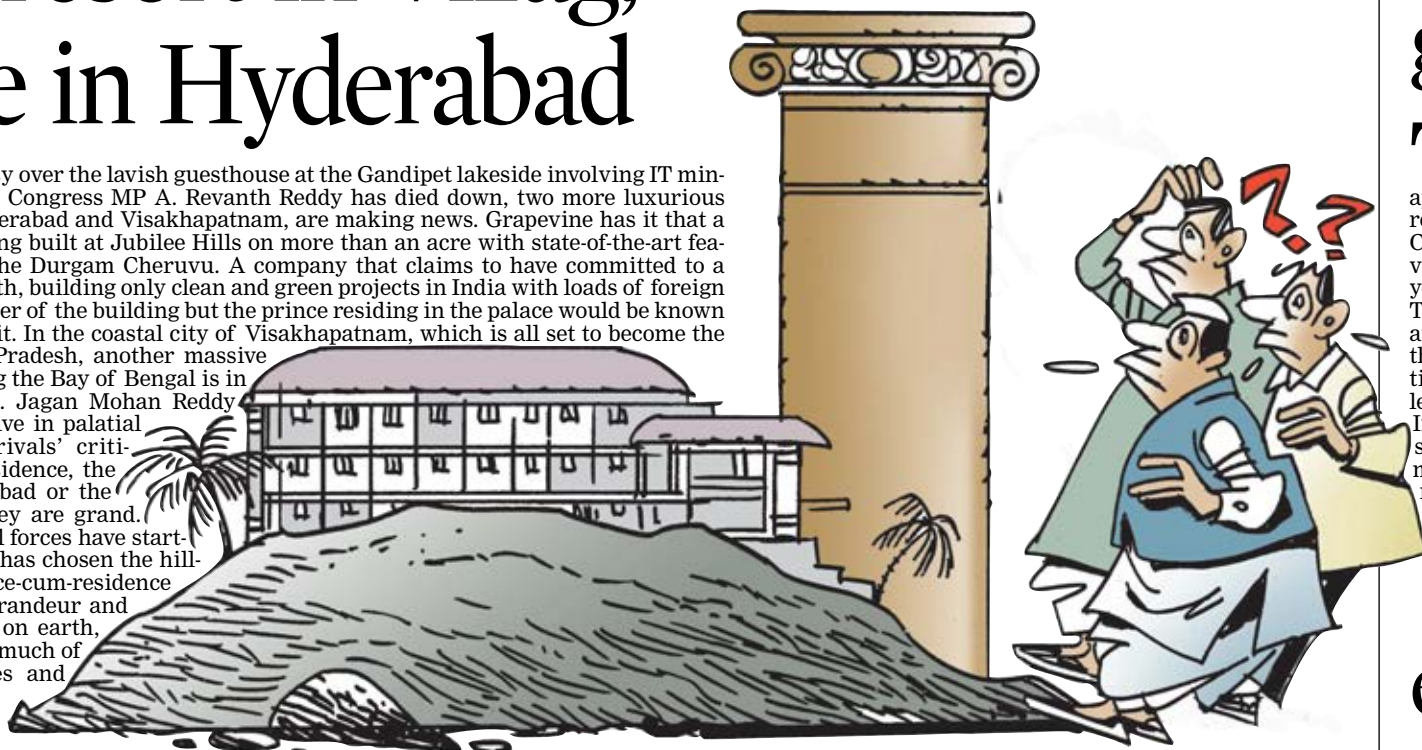
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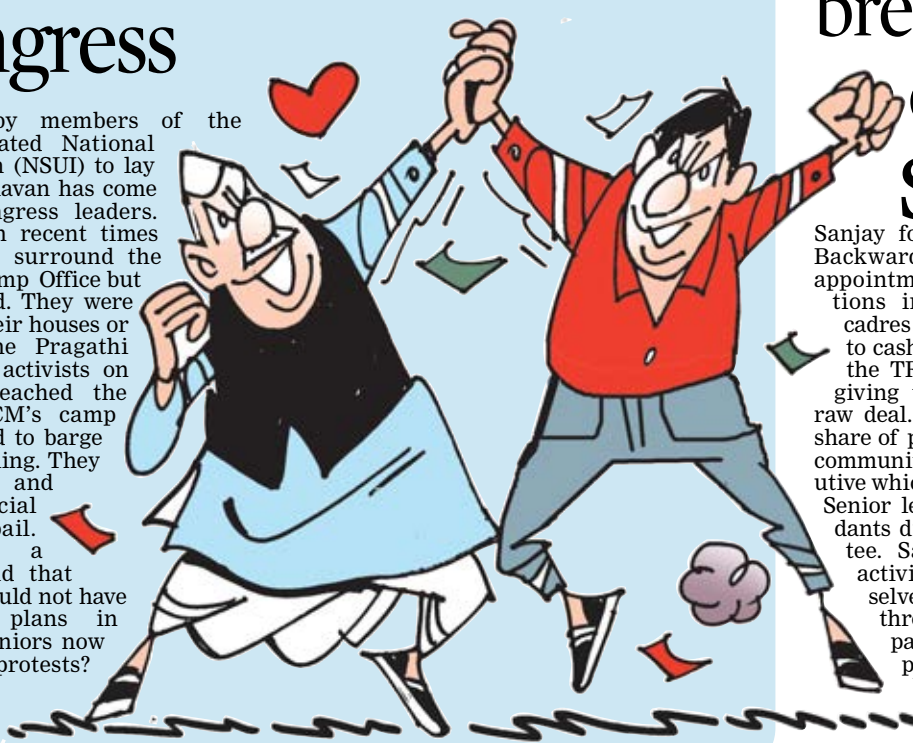
A posh resort in Vizag, a palace in Hyderabad

Even before the controversy over the lavish guesthouse at the Gandipet lakeside involving IT minister K.T. Rama Rao and Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy has died down, two more luxurious palaces, one each in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam, are making news. Grapevine has it that a huge residential facility is being built at Jubilee Hills on more than an acre with state-of-the-art features. It will have a view of the Durgam Cheruvu. A company that claims to have committed to a "Green Cosmos" by, to start with, building only clean and green projects in India with loads of foreign funds, is believed to be the owner of the building but the prince residing in the palace would be known to the world once he occupies it. In the coastal city of Visakhapatnam, which is all set to become the executive capital of Andhra Pradesh, another massive structure on a mountain facing the Bay of Bengal is in the news. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy never hides his penchant to live in palatial buildings, notwithstanding rivals' criticism. Be it his Bengaluru residence, the one at Lotus Pond in Hyderabad or the one he is residing in now, they are grand. Taking advantage of this, rival forces have started spreading rumours that he has chosen the hill-top Bay Park Resort as his office-cum-residence in the new capital. With its grandeur and serene beauty, it's a paradise on earth, no doubt. After all, we read so much of history of the kings, princes and their palaces!



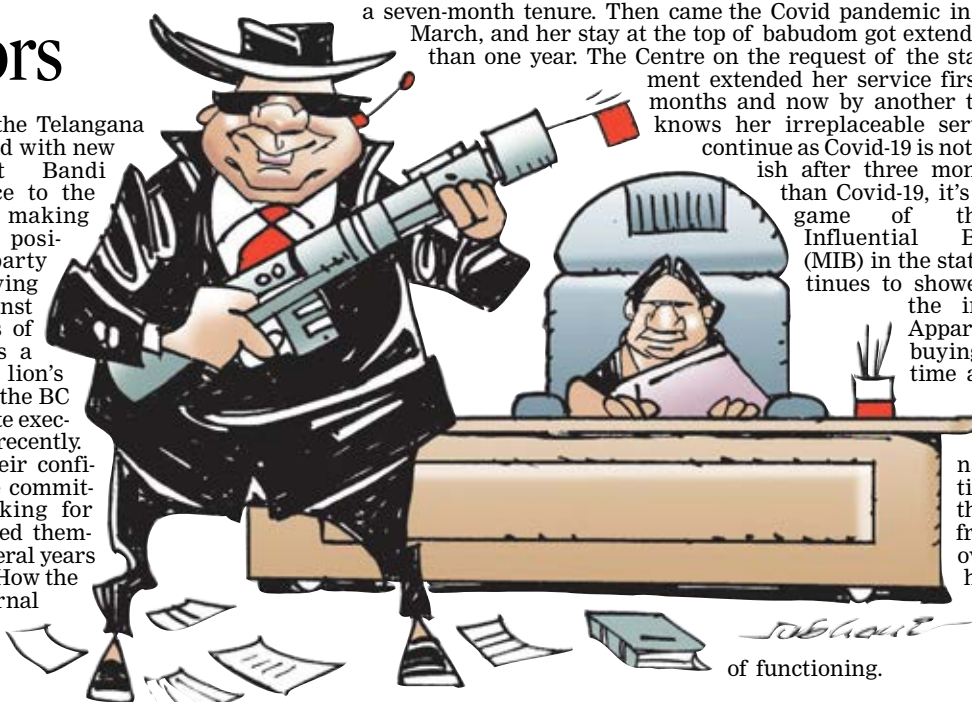
Students hold out a lesson to Congress

The attempt by members of the Congress-affiliated National Students Union (NSUI) to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan has come as a lesson to Congress leaders. Congress seniors in recent times have given calls to surround the Chief Minister's Camp Office but they did not succeed. They were either arrested at their houses or before reaching the Pragathi Bhavan. The NSUI activists on the other hand reached the entrance of the CM's camp office and even tried to barge in by scaling the railing. They were duly arrested and released from judicial custody on bail. Following this, a Congress leader said that maybe they they should not have announced their plans in advance. Will the seniors now indulge in 'flash' protests? Watch this space.



Bandi's bandwagon breaks hearts of seniors

Senior leaders in the Telangana state BJP are irked with new state president Bandi Sanjay for giving importance to the Backward Classes while making appointments to leadership positions in the party. The party cadres feel that Sanjay is trying to cash in on criticism against the TRS and the Congress of giving the BC communities a raw deal. Sanjay has given a lion's share of posts to leaders from the BC communities in the party's state executive which was reconstituted recently. Senior leaders found that their confidants did not make it to the committee. Sanjay was also looking for activists who had dedicated themselves to the party for several years through thick and thin. How the party handles this internal pressure remains to be seen.



Ravindra's slot gets filled in AP

The curtains are really down, this time officially, for the Stephen Ravindra soap opera. After waiting for a year to have him as the intelligence chief, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed K.V. Rajendranath Reddy as Director General, Intelligence, replacing the IG rank official Manish Kumar Sinha. Sources in the CMO said Reddy, a senior and low-profile cop, did a lot of digging into various misdeeds of the Telugu Desam government during the last one year when he was heading the Vigilance and Enforcement department. To continue the work, the Chief Minister left the V&E post with him and made Sinha the Vizag police commissioner. If the replacement of the intelligence chief has to be read as the CM's desire for better functioning of the department, Sinha is not to be blamed because he is no less when it comes to efficiency. His choice, again a pick of the Most Influential Bureaucrat (MIB), is a wrong one, feel bureaucrats in the state. For years Sinha was out of Andhra Pradesh and did not have much knowledge of the grassroots' happenings, a quintessential requirement for an intelligence chief. With Vizag being the next capital, the honest, tough and no-nonsense Sinha is a good choice indeed.

Lady luck smiles ever more benignly

In the climax of a recent Tollywood flick, *Bheeshma*, the villain, says from a hospital bed: "I can face the enemy if he is strong and intelligent but I couldn't do anything because sheer luck is his weapon." When it comes to luck, none beats AP Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney. None including herself must have thought that she would land from Delhi one day to become Chief Secretary but for the bitter episode of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy shunting then incumbent L.V. Subrahmanyam. When she took over in November last, she hardly had a seven-month tenure. Then came the Covid pandemic in February-March, and her stay at the top of babudom got extended to more than one year. The Centre on the request of the state government extended her service first by three months and now by another three. Who knows her irreplaceable services may continue as Covid-19 is not going to vanish after three months! More than Covid-19, it's the power game of the Most Influential Bureaucrat (MIB) in the state that continues to shower luck on the incumbent. Apparently, he is buying as much time as possible to prevent Aditya-nath Das, tipped to be the next CS, from taking over at the helm because of the latter's style of functioning.

LEISURE

BRIDGE | Susanna Gross

I am frankly repulsed by the latest cheats, exposed after the online invitational Alt and OCBL tournaments. When F2F bridge became impossible, a few innovative bridge organisers came up with a sensational alternative that enabled world-class players to compete against each other online and the rest of the (bridge) world to watch and learn from their play. Sadly too tempting for Michal Nowosadzki and Sylvia Shi, respectively Polish and American World Champions, who, when investigated and confronted, 'voluntarily confessed' to self-kibitzing (seeing all four hands by logging on with two devices) throughout.

Dealer South	Love all
♠ A 7 4 3	♥ Q 10 6 5
♥ A K 10 8	♦ Q 4
♦ 7 3	♣ Q 8 5 4
♣ K J 9	♠ 7 5 4
♠ K 9 8 2	♥ A 5 3
♥ J 9 7 2	♦ A K J 10
♦ 9 6 2	♣ A Q 10 8 6
♣ 3 2	

Of course kibitzing was instantly banned (as were they), ruining the fun for thousands and making everyone else's results and efforts meaningless. Imagine playing today's grand slam double dummy (see diagram).

After South opened 1♣ and reversed into 2♦, there was no stopping North, who propelled the partnership into 7♣.

West led a small trump. There are several ways to play this hand. Declarer can play for ♥Q, J inside — a 25 per cent chance. With three strong trumps in dummy and the fact that he can ruff Spades in hand, a dummy reversal could be better? Or he could finesse in Diamonds, only needing one card right. South wins the trump and then plays the ♠ Ace and ruffs three Spades in hand using one trump and A.K of Hearts as entries, draws the last trump in dummy and tries the Diamond finesse. That should work if trumps are 3-2 and the ♦Q is outside, altogether a 34 per cent chance. However, without any more entries to dummy, Declarer is only able to take one finesse in Diamonds, and so will need the Queen to be short. The correct way to play the hand — and congratulations if you found it — is to win the lead in dummy and finesse in Diamonds straight away. So much easier double dummy!

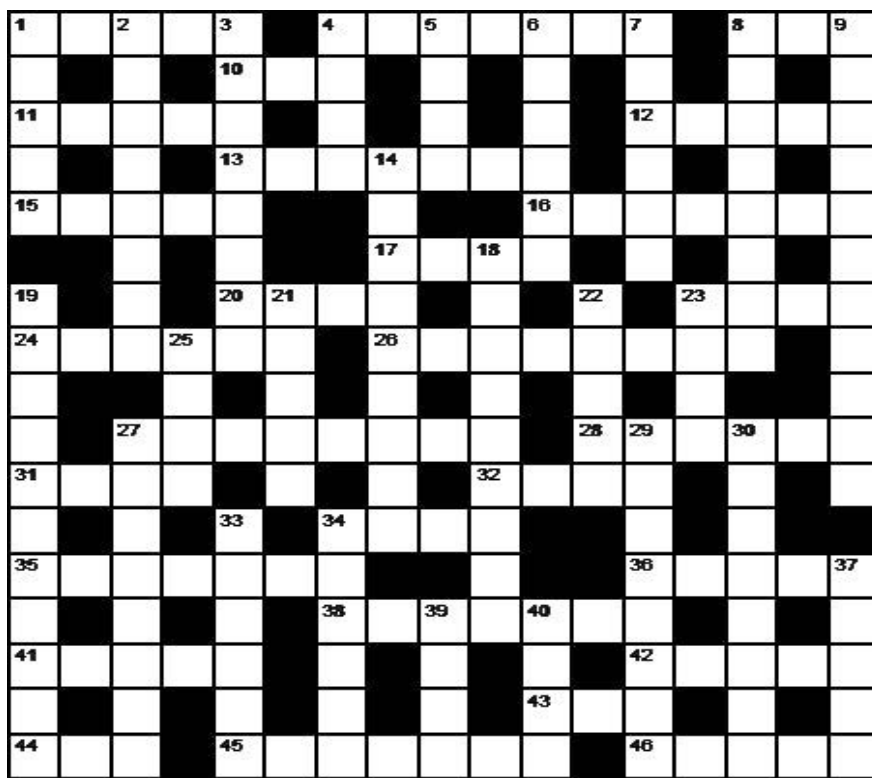
SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 947

ACROSS

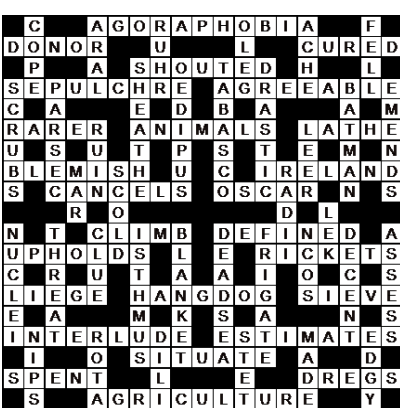
- Middle (5)
- Public platform (7)
- Multi-Mode receiver (3)
- Inlet for "air" channel (3)
- Elbow-push? (5)
- Famous writer of fairy stories (5)
- Abul Kalam Azad's title? (7)
- Twin of Esau (5)
- Lhasa local (7)
- Class or genre (4)
- Prepare for press (4)
- Fixed amount (4)
- False, prefix (6)
- Green gems (8)
- Ghastly (8)
- Concealed (6)
- Flat (4)
- "O'Neal" actor? (4)
- German river (4)
- Sooner (7)
- Bet (5)
- Pain-killing or soothing (7)
- Don clothing (5)
- Firing distance (5)
- Grief (3)
- Munich the (3)
- Belly (7)
- Sediment, left-overs or silt (5)

DOWN

- Bollywood's — Bajpai (5)
- Devote wholly (8)
- Quavered (8)
- Ketu's counterpart in Indian folklore? (4)
- Pop drink (4)
- Go round, oscillate, spin (6)
- Zimbabwe's political big-wig Robert (6)
- Makes slightly damp (8)
- Plead in protest (11)
- Slovenly person (9)
- Picked by choice (9)
- Thresholds (5)
- Majnu's counterpart (5)
- Playback singer Narayan (4)
- Atop or over (4)
- Cries of approval (4)
- Responded to a question (8)
- Grace and beauty (8)
- Noxious emanation (6)
- Rubbed out or obliterated (6)
- Marsh grasses (5)
- Egg cell (4)
- Sign of boredom (4)



SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD - 945



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Here's your chance to win a cash prize of ₹200 each. All you need to do is rush in your completed crossword entry to us by Wednesday with your full name and address. Mark the envelope to:

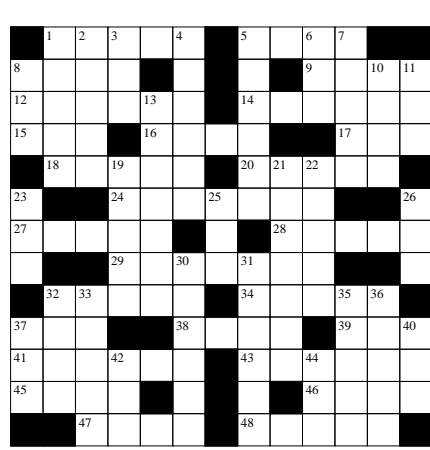
Sunday Crossword-947
Sunday Magazine, 36, S.D. Road,
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WINNERS OF CROSSWORD 945

CH. Srivani and
Priyanka Thakur,
Secunderabad

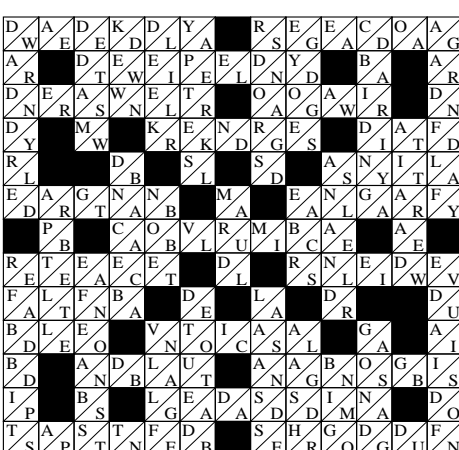
CROSSWORD JIGSAW

Here the crossword puzzle is broken up into fragments which may or may not be shuffled. Your task is to reconstruct the complete puzzle from the fragments. We have retained the black squares in the grid to help you out.



STRIKE OUT

This crossword has no clues and the answers there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it! In each square you have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you chose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.



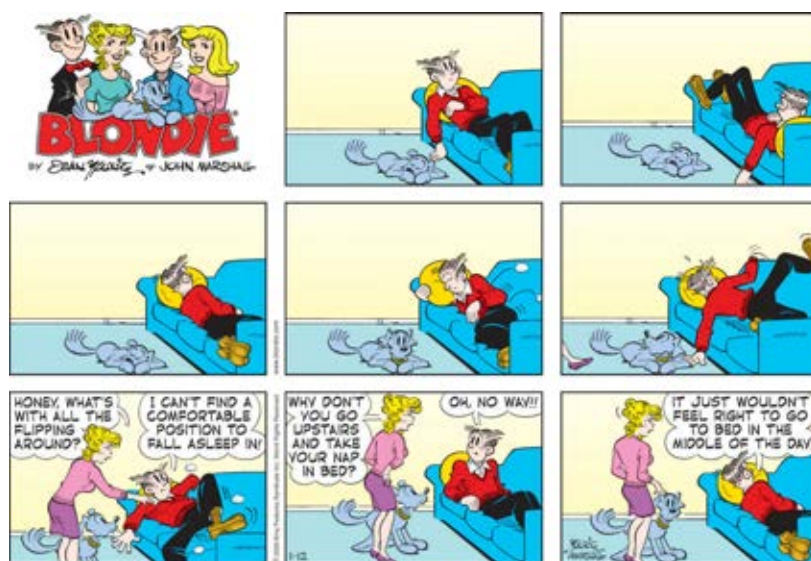
PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



DECCAN Chronicle

16 AUGUST 2020



Krishna Shastri
Devulapalli

Off the beaten track

Who will I be when I look at Souza?

A couple of years ago, at an out-of-town gig I was bafflingly offered (and unwisely accepted), I had to spend time in a space that had a lot of Art. Art with an 'A'. In fact, the space was so filled with Art that, had I needed to thump my idiot head to a bloody puree, an urge I felt almost immediately after setting foot at said venue, there was no wall remaining to do it on.

All valuable, super-tasteful, painfully curated art, I was told. By everyone who had been there before me. Which was a rare privilege in itself, apparently, if one went by the paeans written about the place and its equally artistic owner almost like it was a rite of passage. (Not too many write-ups about his unyielding fist – judging by how much I had been paid, though – I noticed.)

So formidable was the arty reputation of the person, so admiring the intakes of breath at his mere mention that one couldn't be faulted for thinking his early morning efforts produced delicate art installations worthy of Sotheby's.

After about half-an-hour of inescapable, overpowering art inhalation, I excused myself for a minute, rushed out into the anything but artistic street on which the establishment was ironically located and took deep, life-affirming whiffs of the overflowing garbage bin nearby. So many artists, so much imagination, so much time, so much love, so much sacrifice. Nailed to those four walls. With apologies to Winston Churchill, never, I felt, had so much been created by so many for so few.

Call me middle-class, but I've always had a deep suspicion of art



So who are you, my dear art collector, when you look at the Souza? Or the Husain? Or the Sher-Gil?

collectors.

At a very basic level, it is because I am yet to meet a man or woman (I include the tasteful, if 'careful', owner of the aforementioned establishment) who possesses valuable art who has struck me as, how do I put it, warm. And I have met many.

That got me thinking. Could it be because warmth (which is basically about giving) and a mindset that encourages hoarding (which is what collecting really is) rarely go together?

Because there is something cold, calculated and cynical about the collector's process: totally ignoring Saraswati in early life — for how else can one ingratiate oneself to Lakshmi — and using the ruthlessly acquired, jealously guarded, disposable Lakshmi later to side up to Saraswati, feigning affection, appreciation, understanding... only to grab her in a headlock and nail her to a wall.

The collector, as has recently come to light yet again (via Messrs Mehul Choksey and Nirav Modi, among others), is someone who equates art with imprisonment.

Art is to be possessed, he thinks. Maniacally. And held hostage in his many homes. Art is to be shown-off, to philistine buddies who know even less about it than he does, at exclusive cocktail dos. Art is a boast. Art is libido. Art is a side-dish. Art is a framed cheque. Art is a concubine in his harem. To be swapped perhaps for more attractive models. And in extreme cases, when space has run out, but the money hasn't, art is a sex slave, procured by whatever means, to be stuffed away remorselessly into secret basements, lockers and pits dug in the garden.

Whereas what else is art but the opposite: freedom.

Let's speak of Al Pacino for a bit. Because it's always good to speak of Al Pacino. In the 1970s, when a young Pacino was preparing to play the role of Frank Serpico, the New York cop who blew the whistle on a corrupt NYPD, he apparently met the man and asked him what he thought was a pretty straightforward question.

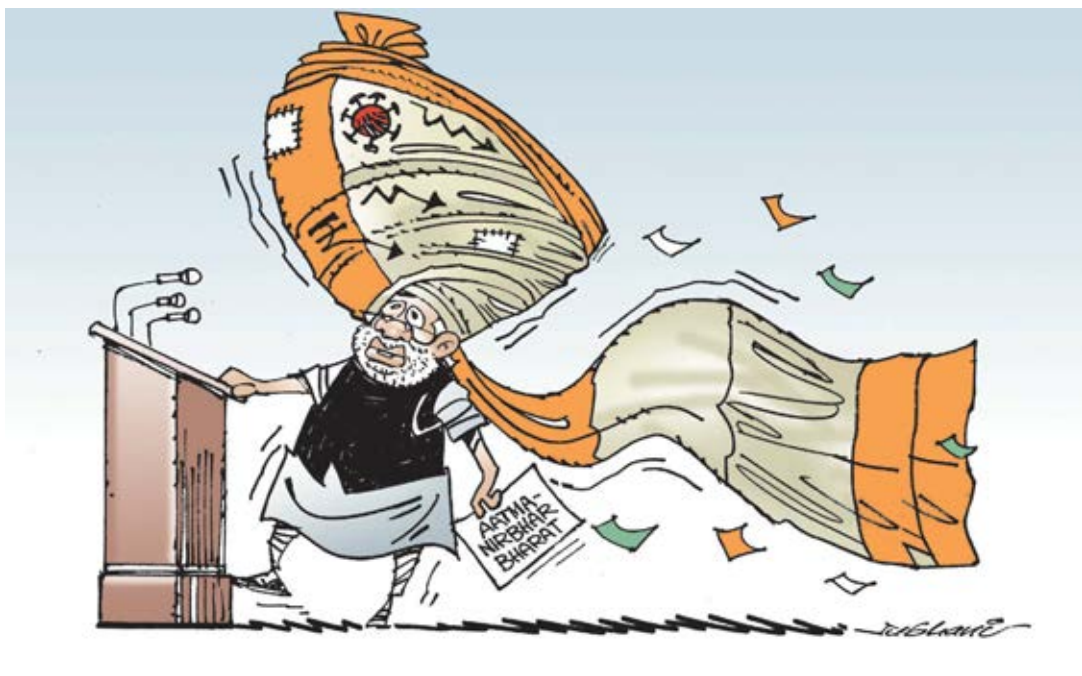
"Why didn't you just take the money, the bribes that were offered to you, for a while," the actor reportedly said, "and give it to charity?"

Story goes that the real-life Frank Serpico fixed his soon-to-be celluloid counterpart with a gimlet eye and said "Hell, if I did that, who would I be when I listened to Beethoven?"

So who are you, my dear art collector, when you look at the Souza? Or the Husain? Or the Sher-Gil?

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a humour writer, novelist, columnist and screenwriter

Subhani



PM's 'shopping list' had no substance, only words



Aakar Patel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the usual speech from the Red Fort for Independence Day. I think it was a good speech as his fans have come to expect from him; I can say with certainty that it was a long speech. He is an entertaining speaker for some (not for me, because I like intellectual material, and his style does not appeal to me). Certainly, he speaks a lot. A former Australian high commissioner to India, Walter Crocker, wrote a biography of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in which he observed that Nehru sometimes spoke three times a day. Mr Modi is like that in some ways, though the content is not the same. I stopped watching Mr Modi speak a long time ago but thought it was important to hear him on Independence Day. This is what I observed.

Mr Modi unfurled the national flag and saluted, which I didn't think he should have done. The salute is a military gesture and civilians should abstain from it. Defence minister Rajnath Singh did not salute with the Prime Minister, which I thought was the right gesture.

In his speech, Mr Modi made much about the freedom struggle though, of course, his Sangh Parivar had abstained from it. Perhaps he was speaking for the others who participated, though he did not mention the Congress or its leaders. He also made some historical errors in his explanation of the freedom struggle, which we can explain away as his usual lyrical flourish.

He said he bowed to the Covid warriors. I am not

sure if Mr Modi knows that six lakh Accredited Social Health Activist (Asha) women are on strike, being paid only ₹2,000 per month and not given protective clothing while doing their contact tracing work. Last week, Amit Shah's police in Delhi filed an FIR for against them for protesting. Perhaps Mr Modi does not know. Television news channels do not report such things as much as they do Bollywood suicides.

He spoke again of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, without explaining what it meant or how it was different from the licence raj and 1970s-style import substitution, which has demonstrably failed. The world is interconnected and interdependent, as he has himself said so often and he repeated on Saturday. He said something about finished goods and value addition (finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman looked suitably stricken when he said this). But there was nothing of any depth. But it is fine not to expect details and granularity from him because that is not Mr Modi's style.

I wish however that he had told us why our economic growth had been declining for 10 consecutive quarters and this year our GDP will contract. He said we were blessed with

Mr Modi made much about the freedom struggle though, of course, his Sangh Parivar had abstained from it. Perhaps he was speaking for the others who participated...

Last week, Amit Shah's police in Delhi filed an FIR against the Asha workers for protesting. Perhaps Mr Modi does not know. TV channels do not report such things as much...

natural wealth but didn't say why his new environmental policy was eroding safeguards to protect this wealth. He spoke about India importing wheat in the past, which had changed. Perhaps he did not know that this was because of an American scientist, Norman Borlaug, and his work on dwarf wheat which led to the Green Revolution here.

He said that we would win against the coronavirus. But how would this victory be achieved and what would it look like? What happened to the 21-day Mahabharat he said we would need to fight? We are still fighting 130 days later, and in fact we have raced almost to the top of the global infected chart. Victory seems to be a hollow word.

At some point, I switched off because he was rambling about unconnected things — ports, airports, Jan Dhan accounts, highways, EMIs, RBI, middle class, GST, the MSME sector, carbon neutral model, national education policy, dolphins of two types, innovation, optical fibre, sanitary pads, gas pipelines, the Covid vaccine, houses for migrant labour — and it was hard to focus.

He said many times that this thing or that thing could never have been imagined by anyone in the past. Perhaps he should have said it could not be imagined by him.

There was something about another ID card to add to our Aadhaar, PAN, Voter ID — that would bring better health. He raised Kashmir but didn't speak about its people. He

said some delimitation work was on there and that it would benefit Kashmir's chief minister and MLAs, but it may have slipped his mind that it doesn't have either MLAs or a chief minister or statehood. He said not one word about the Kashmiris he has locked up and denied connectivity.

He was evasive about China. He raised his voice even louder and began screaming about India's unity and sovereignty. He spoke about 20 jawans in Ladakh but he couldn't even name China. He said the world had seen what had been achieved, though even we Indians don't know because Mr Modi has himself said nothing had happened and nobody had come.

All in all, it was like reading a laundry list or shopping list. There was no substance and no focus on a subject that could have been spoken about at length. How will we manage the recession in which millions of us currently on the cusp are likely to slip back into poverty? How will migrants get back to cities when rather than 16,000 daily trains only 260 special ones are running? What will happen to middle class urban individuals who have to pay rent and school fees and have lost their jobs?

It may have been a lot better for him to spend time on that rather than just reel off a list. Perhaps he has left that for his next speech, though I don't really plan on listening to it.

Aakar Patel is a writer and columnist

The Prime Minister said we were blessed with natural wealth but didn't say why his new environmental policy was eroding safeguards to protect this wealth

LETTERS

FATE OF AP

Intervention of the courts and Opposition parties in every decision has become a curse for the public in AP. The people gave a clear mandate to the YSRC. Let the party rule as per the wishes of the public. If they do something wrong, the party will be shown the door like the TD. This government is decentralising the capital in three places. Let the people from all corners be together in doing this.

V. Chidambar Reddy
Kurnool

SCHOOL REOPENING

It is quite natural that most parents and unions are unhappy with reopening of schools on September 5 when Covid-19 cases rising in the state (*Parents. Unions unhappy over reopening of schools, DC, Aug. 15*). It would be better for the government to wait for cases to decline for the sake of the health of students. It is true that education is important for students, but so is health which cannot be neglected at any cost.

P. Panduranga Rao
Mandavalli, Krishna

AP EAMCET

After much delay, new schedules for AP common entrance tests have been announced and it is cheering news for worried and apprehensive students (*AP Eamcet to be held from Sept.17, DC, Aug. 15*). It is also a relief for the anxious parents. The state must conduct it well with Covid-19 protocols.

Dr C. Ghanshyam
Visakhapatnam

BHUSHAN GUILTY

Prashant Bhushan's tweet that SC judges substantially allowed destruction of democracy is nothing short of casting aspersions on judges. Imputing motives appears to be a professional aberration. It would be in the interest of justice and democracy to keep away from making comments repugnant to survival of democracy.

D.S.P. Rao
Kakinada

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

Mopping up of Pak-trained Mizos renewed

SHILLONG, Aug. 15

After two years of comparative peace, the security Forces in the Mizo hills have renewed mopping up operations following the return of over 100 heavily and well-trained rebels from East Pakistan, according to authoritative sources.

Six rebels have been killed and 31 others captured in the mopping up operations in the last two weeks. The arms and ammunition seized include Barrett guns, light machine guns, sten guns and a huge quantity of sabotage materials like plastic explosives.

The documents seized from the captured hostiles revealed that they had returned with specific instructions from Pakistan authorities to sabotage road communications, blow up bridges, ambush army convoys and stimulate the secessionists.

It's official: Equal credit must go to all for Rajasthan patch-up

Eggshell walk

The truce in Rajasthan has posed a piquant situation for Congress spokespersons. There were three Gandhis who were to be credited. In addition, Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot were both to be praised. Randeep Singh Surjewala led by example.

Acknowledging Sonia Gandhi's leadership, the AICC head of media and communication attributed the resolution of the Rajasthan political crisis to Rahul Gandhi and thanked Priyanka Gandhi for her role in it.

In one single line. Next he went on to admire both Gehlot's large-heartedness and Sachin Pilot's prudence.

A template was set. Many Congress leaders, particularly in-house TV talking heads, are worried these days as fulsome praise for Priyanka Gandhi has the potential of upsetting Team Rahul, as her brother is all set to return as the 87th president of the Congress Party.

Restless Scindia

Jyotiraditya Scindia seems to be getting restless over the delay in his induction as a Union Cabinet minister. The Scindia camp is now mounting pressure in the guise of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly bypolls, arguing that the former Maharaja of Gwalior's induction in the Narendra Modi government would enhance the BJP's prospects in 27 Assembly seats. Some overenthusiastic supporters are even sending messages that Mr Scindia would get the railways portfolio.

An internal BJP survey has reportedly given the ruling BJP a mere 50 per cent chance of success in the Madhya Pradesh bypolls.

Overdue bypolls

The future seems tense for some BJP ministers in Madhya Pradesh. There is no sign of the bypolls in the state even as the clock is ticking. There are 14 ministers in the Shviraj Singh Chouhan Cabinet who are



By WAQYANAWIS

not members of the Assembly. If the polls are held by September-end or early October, senior ministers belonging to the Scindia

camp, Govind Singh Rajput and Tulsi Selawat, may lose their ministerial berths.

Mahesh's 'grouse'

Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt is an unhappy man these days. More than the controversy over Sushant Singh Rajput's death or various nepotism allegations, Bhatt is upset over the news of Sanjay Dutt's lung cancer. For him, Sanju has been like a son. What offends Bhatt the most is the venom and organised hate spewed against the trailer of *Sadak 2* in which Sanjay Dutt is playing a lead role. Why can't Sanjay Dutt be spared in his vulnerable state?

Father figure

Pranab Mukherjee's serious illness has been become a cause of concern for many, cutting across party lines. He has been a towering figure in national politics from the days of Indira Gandhi to the Narendra Modi era. As former president, Bharat Ratna and a

Union minister for decades, Mukherjee had a unique position to talk to Modi, Rajnath Singh, Sonia Gandhi, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Sitaram Yechury, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Mamata Banerjee with equal ease. For the Congress, Mukherjee remained a father-figure even after becoming "apolitical". His daily appointments used to have a heavy dose of visitors from the grand old party seeking his informal advice.

Sanjay Jha's prospects

Sanjay Jha is a worried man. Suspended from the Congress for speaking and writing out of turn, he was repeatedly counting a lot on Sachin Pilot and other dissidents. With Pilot's *ghar wapsi*, Jha's hopes are now with Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tiwari battling for internal party democracy.

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

SHORT TAKES

PRANAB CONTINUES TO BE ON VENTILATOR

New Delhi, Aug. 15: The condition of former president Pranab Mukherjee remained unchanged on Saturday and he continued to be on ventilator support, doctors attending on him said.

They said his vital and clinical parameters are stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists.

The 84-year-old former president was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi Cantonment on Monday and was operated upon for the removal of a clot in the brain.

He had also tested positive for Covid-19.

"The condition of Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged on Saturday morning. He continues to be on ventilatory support.

His vital and clinical parameters remain stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.

Mukherjee's office also posted pictures of the former president unfurling the national flag on Independence Day in the past and wishing fellow citizens on the day.

"On behalf of #CitizenMukherjee, his office recalls some of the recent Independence Day celebrations, he so enthusiastically participated in and would have never missed. Today also the Tricolor flies high.

"As he recuperates, let us repledge ourselves to a free, democratic and plural India that he stands for and hope that he is back to celebrate these core values of our Nationhood at the earliest," his office tweeted on his behalf.

His daughter and Congress leader Sharmistha Mukherjee also tweeted pictures of Mukherjee unfurling the national flag in the past.

"In his childhood, my dad and my uncle would hoist National Flag at our ancestral home in village. Since then, he never missed a year to hoist tri-colour on Independence Day," she said.



ITBP personnel celebrate the 74th Independence Day on the banks of Pangong Tso, in Ladakh. Senior army commanders of India and China on Saturday held extensive talks in taking forward the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at a number of friction points including in Pangong Tso and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the developments said.

- PTI

AK: No schools in Delhi unless fully convinced

New Delhi, Aug 15: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that the Delhi government will not open schools unless it is "fully convinced" about the improved Covid-19 situation in the city.

Delivering his Independence Day speech at the Delhi Secretariat, Kejriwal said the Covid-19 situation in the city is "quite under control" as compared to what it was two months back and thanked all the stakeholders, including the central

government, corona warriors and different organisations.

He said in view of reports that some patients collapsed due to drop in their oxygen levels even after recovering from the disease and testing negative, the Delhi government will start providing oxygen concentrators to them from next week.

The chief minister said the safety and the health of schoolchildren are very important to the AAP government. - PTI

Congress asks why was China not named by PM

In I-day speech, PM named neither Pakistan nor China

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 15

The Congress again trained its guns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not naming China in the Independence Day speech.

Speaking to reporters after Prime Minister's address on the Independence Day, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said all Indians should ask the government this Independence Day what it was doing to protect the country and

push China back.

He said, "Each and every Congress worker and all 130 crore Indians are proud of our armed forces and have full faith in them. We salute the armed forces for giving China an apt reply every time there has been an attack. But what about those who are sitting in power. Why are they scared of mentioning China's name."

In his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, the Prime Minister delivered a sharp message to China and

Pakistan, declaring that the armed forces deployed along the borders with the two countries have given a fitting reply to those who sought to challenge India's sovereignty. However, he did not take the names of the two countries.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi also released an Independence Day message. She said, "it has been 60 days since Col. Santosh Babu and 20 soldiers have been martyred. Our biggest tribute to their supreme sacrifice

would be to end Chinese occupation of Indian territory."

In the last couple of weeks the Congress has been demanding that the central government comes clean on the "infiltration by Chinese army".

The opposition also criticised the government for its *atmanirbhar* (self reliant) slogan and questioned how it will keep the country's freedom when it has sold 32 public sector undertakings, handed over the railways and airports to private hands.

ODISHA BEATS LOCKDOWN, GETS `20,000CR INVESTMENTS

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, AUG. 15

Despite Covid-19 crisis, prospective investors are coming to Odisha and have invested in the mineral rich coastal state. During this pandemic, the state has received investments to the tune of ₹20,000 crore.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper on Saturday, Dr Nitin B. Jawale, Managing Director of Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha, said the state had emerged as the top most investment destination among all other Indian states last year.

The investments to the tune of ₹20,000 cr received during lockdown will create employment opportunities for 16,504 people, he said.

"Odisha is one of the fastest growing states and is a land of several opportunities. The state has performed well in the past few years and has marked itself as one of the most attractive investment destinations. Odisha has caught the attention of many companies which has led them to invest into various sectors in the state. These sectors include food processing, chemicals and petrochemicals, metal and steel, textile and garment, tourism and information technology and IT-enabled services (IT & ITes)," he said.

The Odisha government, in order to overcome the challenge of direct and physical interactions with the prospective investors, adopted tech-options, including video-conferencing and virtual meetings.

WORLD

IN BRIEF

Fish kills angler in Australia

Sydney: A 56-year-old fisherman has died in Australia after being hit by a fish which jumped into his boat, police said on Saturday.

"The man had been fishing with family and friends on Darwin Harbour when he was struck in his chest by a large fish," Northern Territory police said. The party returned the man to shore, where paramedics administered CPR. "Sadly, the man passed away," police said. "This appears to be a freak incident which is hugely distressing for the people in the boat and other family and friends of the man." It was not immediately clear what type of fish was involved.

SURFER SAVED AFTER FRIEND PUNCHES SHARK

Sydney, Aug. 15: A woman has survived a great white shark attack on Australia's east coast after her surfing companion repeatedly punched it until it let her go.

Paramedics were called to Shelly Beach at Port Macquarie, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Sydney, on Saturday morning after the 35-year-old woman was attacked while surfing. She was taken to a local hospital with serious leg injuries, but has since been flown to a nearby bigger hospital where she will undergo surgery.

New South Wales state police said the woman and a man were surfing when she was bitten on the right calf and the back of her thigh. Her companion then punched the estimated 3-meter (10-foot) shark until it let her go.

"We've had some really serious and tragic shark encounters over the past couple of months along the coastline, so to paddle out of your own safety zone, into an area where you know there is a large shark, I think is amazing ... a tremendous act of bravery," state Surf Life Saving chief executive Steven Pearce said.

Iran hails UN security vote on arms embargo

United States humiliated by rejection, says Prez Rouhani

Tehran, Aug. 15: Iran on Saturday hailed a UN Security Council vote rejecting a US bid to extend an arms embargo on the Islamic republic, saying its foe has "never been so isolated".

President Hassan Rouhani said the US had failed to kill off what he called the "half alive" 2015 deal with major powers that gave Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme. "The United States failed in this conspiracy with humiliation," said Rouhani. "This day will go down in the history of our Iran and in the history of fighting global arrogance."

Only two of the Council's 15 members voted in favour of the US resolution seeking to extend the embargo, highlighting the division between Washington and its European allies since President Donald Trump withdrew from the

● **ONLY TWO** of the Council's 15 members voted in favour of the US resolution seeking to extend the embargo, highlighting the division between Washington and its European allies since President Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear accord in 2018.

Iran nuclear accord in 2018. Washington's European allies all abstained, and Iran mocked the Trump administration for winning the support of just one other country, the Dominican Republic.

"In the 75 years of United Nations history, America has never been so isolated," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi tweeted.

"Despite all the trips, pressure and the hawking, the United States could only mobilise a small country (to vote)

with them." People on the streets of Tehran had mixed reactions.

"This is an American political game. One day they give a resolution to the Security Council, the next they say they have taken" Iranian fuel, said a worker at the city's Grand Bazaar who gave his name only as Ahmadi.

A drugstore employee named Abdoli said she was happy Iran won, but added that it "should interact with the United States and establish relations". The result increases the likelihood the US will try to unilaterally force a return of UN sanctions, which experts say threatens to plunge the Council into one of its worst-ever diplomatic crises.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, on a visit to Poland on Saturday, made it clear the United States would press on despite the defeat at the UN.

"It is unfortunate that the French and the United Kingdom... didn't support what the Gulf states have demanded, what the Israelis have demanded... I regret that deeply," Pompeo told reporters in Warsaw.

"The United States is determined to make sure that the Iranians and this regime, this theocratic regime does not have the capacity to inflict even more harm on the world". Israel's UN ambassador called the UN vote a "disgrace". "This decision will further destabilise the Middle East, and increase the spread of violence around the world," said Glad Erdan.

The embargo on conventional arms is due to expire on October 18 under the terms of a resolution that blessed the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

— AFP



Robert Trump

TRUMP VISITS BROTHER ROBERT IN HOSP

Washington, Aug. 15: President Donald Trump on Friday visited his brother Robert who has been hospitalised in New York and who the president described as "having a hard time."

The details of Robert Trump's illness were not immediately clear. "I have a wonderful brother. We've had a great relationship for a long time," Trump told reporters on Friday. "He's in the hospital right now. He's having a hard time."

The president, who is expected to spend the weekend at his New Jersey golf resort, arrived at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan on Friday afternoon.

Speaking about his brother in Washington earlier in the day, Trump did not answer why his brother had been hospitalised.

— AP

Biden promises to reform H-1B visa system

Washington, Aug. 15: If voted to power in the November general elections, a Biden administration will reform the H-1B visa system and work towards eliminating the country-quota for Green Cards, his campaign said on Saturday, in a move to woo the influential Indian-American community.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

In a major policy document for Indian-Americans released on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day, the Biden Campaign also emphasised its support to family-based immigration system and streamlining processing for religious workers visas.

The administration will also take steps to stem the rising tide of hate and bigotry, address the secu-

rity needs of house of worship, eliminate language barriers and honour the diversity and contributions of Indian-Americans, it said.

This is for the first time that a Democratic presidential candidate has come out with an exclusive policy document for Indian-Americans. There are 1.3 million eligible Indian-American voters across eight battleground states. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is scheduled to address the Indian-American community in a vi-

deo message later in the day.

Biden will support family-based immigration and preserve family unification as a core principle of our immigration system, which includes reducing the family visa backlog, his campaign said. "He will increase the number of visas offered for permanent, work-based immigration based on macroeconomic conditions and exempt from any cap recent graduates of PhD programmes in STEM fields," the campaign said.

"And, he will support first reforming the temporary visa system for high-skill, specialty jobs to protect wages and workers, then expanding the number of visas offered and eliminating the limits on employment-based Green Cards by country, which have kept so many Indian families in waiting for too long," it said. According to the policy document, Biden will restore and defend the naturalisation process for Green Card holders.

— PTI

SU+DO+KU

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

WHAT TO DO

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

SU+DO+KU 2

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

Did you think the SU+DO+KU

on the left was easy? Try this. Check the solution tomorrow. Tips available at: www.sudoku-xis.com DC-AGE SU DO KU FORUM: Discuss the SU DO KU puzzles printed and contribute mind teasers of your own at www.sudex-el.com/forum

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

SHORT TAKES

Serena loses to player No.116

Lexington: Serena Williams has played 967 tour-level singles matches as a professional, with just four losses against opponents ranked outside the top-100 and none in eight years. Well, it's time to add to that list: Williams was beaten by No. 116 Shelby Rogers 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the Top Seed Open quarterfinals.

Rogers, who is from South Carolina, took six of the last eight points Friday after trailing 3-1 in the tiebreaker to collect only her third career victory over a top-100 opponent.

She also reached her first WTA semifinal since 2016. Need to go even further back in the record books to find this sort of tournament exit for former No. 1 Williams: The owner of 23 Grand Slam singles titles hadn't bowed out against someone so low in the rankings since No. 111 Virginie Razzano stunned her at the 2012 French Open.

Later on Friday, Coco Gauff reached her second WTA semifinal with quite a comeback. Gauff won 10 of the last 11 games to eliminate No. 8 seed Ons Jabeur 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. — AP

Sikki, physio test Covid negative

New Delhi: Shuttler N. Sikki Reddy and physiotherapist Kiran Challagundla on Saturday returned negative for Covid-19 in a second round of tests, clearing the decks for resumption of the national badminton camp in Hyderabad from Monday.

The 26-year-old Sikki, a Commonwealth Games bronze medalist, and Kiran had, on Thursday, tested positive for the highly contagious disease at the SAI Pullela Gopichand academy, which was immediately closed down for sanitisation and the camp suspended for a few days.

However, the duo on Friday decided to get themselves tested again in a private hospital. The reports showed that Sikki and Kiran are both negative.

"Shuttler Sikki Reddy and Physiotherapist Kiran C, who were part of the Badminton National Camp at Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad and had tested positive for Covid-19, took the RT PCR test again, and both have tested negative," SAI said in a statement. — PTI

Golfer Aman in US Amateur semis

Oregon: Indian-American golfer Aman Gupta's dream run at the 120th US Amateur continued as he beat the younger but higher-ranked Michael Thorbjornsen 1-up in the quarterfinals at Bandon Dunes here.

The 21-year-old Gupta trailed Thorbjornsen till the 13th, but tied at the 14th and went ahead on 15th. Thorbjornsen pulled level again on 16th, before Gupta won the 17th with a par and they halved the 18th and that sent Gupta into the last four.

He will now meet Tyler Strafaci, World ranked 56th from Georgia Tech. Strafaci won 1-up over 2016 US Mid-Amateur champion Stewart Hagestad. "I feel great about my game. I'm still hitting it good.

Chipping was a little bit of a struggle but I kind of found my rhythm last night after the round, and I've been putting good all week," said Gupta. "I'm just going to go hit my game plan tomorrow and hopefully pull out a win and get to the final," he added. — PTI

HAMILTON ON POLE FOR SPANISH RACE

Barcelona: Lewis Hamilton roared to a record-increasing 92nd Formula One pole position of his career on Saturday when he outpaced Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in a sizzling qualifying session for the Spanish Grand Prix. The championship leader and six-time world champion clocked a best lap of one minute and 15.584 seconds to take the prime starting slot ahead of title rival Bottas by 0.059 seconds. It was Hamilton's fourth pole of the year and fifth in Spain and brought with it his 150th front row start. — AFP

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OVER AND OUT

Dhoni calls time on limited overs cricket too

New Delhi, Aug. 15: What do they know of Dhoni who only Dhoni knows.

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

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

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

And then one fine afternoon, he could stun the world by relinquishing Test captaincy with 10 short of landmark 100 games.

And after another five years and seven months, he literally punches one in the gut on a balmy August 15 evening to say, "from 19:29 hours, consider me retired".

Just like that. Just like that Lieutenant Colonel Dhoni says over and out, adding to the sense of loss and chaos that 2020 has come to symbolise.

A legend in art of chasing, who became a megastar in finite cricket bringing in Sachin Tendulkar's poise and Virat Kohli's aggression in optimum proportions, one can never pinpoint what Dhoni actually was. He was a bit of everything and still a bit more but no one could actually comprehend what.

Everyone thought they knew Dhoni, but no one knew him.

There's a compartment that possibly remains shut. It's for none to see, it's where he probably computes, processes



Suresh Raina (left) hugs his Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni after the duo announced their retirement from international cricket.

his raw thoughts and emotions while taking a decision.

Retirement may be one such decision, it was his own but he needed to come to terms that the change room is no longer the place where he belongs.

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

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

He wasn't a social reformer by any stretch of imagination but most cer-

tainly, hinterland's biggest icon after economic liberalisation. Remember his 70 odd at Lord's in the first Test of a 2007 series. He showed doggedness and guts with limited technique on his first England tour.

With S. Sreesanth at the other end, it was the rain that rescued India. But then fortune favours the brave.

Just like the World T20 final in Johannesburg, where lack of bowling options turned into a great punt as Haryana Police's Joginder Sharma earned his Wikipedia page with an over no one can forget.

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

— PTI

WHAT MAKES MS DHONI SO SPECIAL



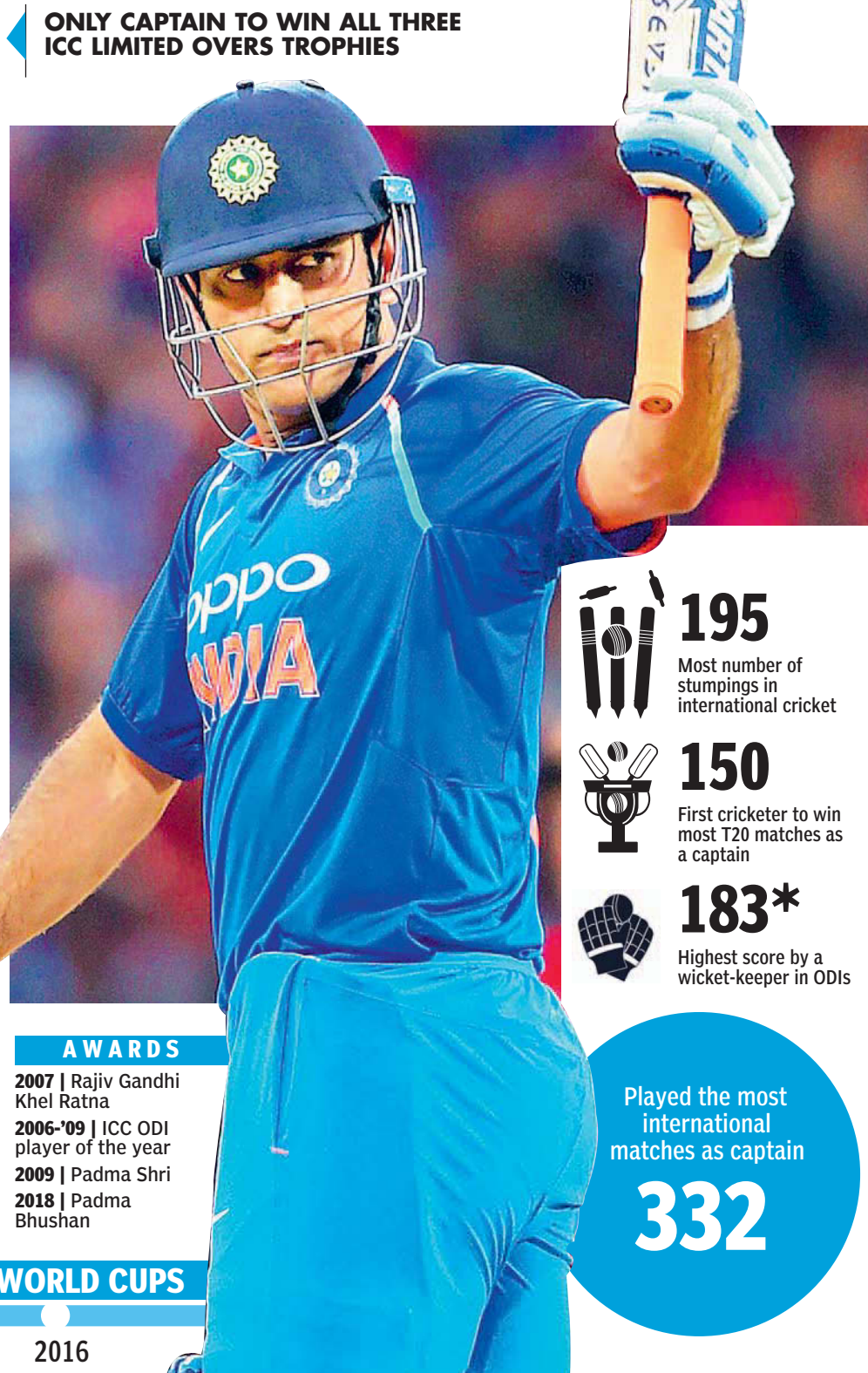
2007
T20 World Cup



2011
ODI World Cup



2013
Champions Trophy



AWARDS

2007 | Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

2006-'09 | ICC ODI player of the year

2009 | Padma Shri

2018 | Padma Bhushan

195
Most number of stumpings in international cricket

150
First cricketer to win most T20 matches as a captain

183*
Highest score by a wicket-keeper in ODIs

Played the most international matches as captain

332

THE ONLY PLAYER TO CAPTAIN A TEAM IN MOST NUMBER OF T20 WORLD CUPS

2007

2009

2010

2012

2014

2016



Every cricketer has to end his journey one day, but still when someone you've gotten to know so closely announces that decision, you feel the emotion much more. What you've done for the country will always remain in everyone's heart. But the mutual respect and warmth I've received from you will always stay in mine. The world has seen achievements, I've seen the person. Thanks for everything skip. I tip my hat to you @msdhoni.

— VIRAT KOHLI



It is the end of an era. What a player he (MS Dhoni) has been for the country & world cricket. His (MS Dhoni) batting in one-day cricket in his early stages made the world stand up and notice his flair and sheer natural brilliance. Every good thing comes to an end and this has been an absolutely brilliant one.

— SOURAV GANGULY



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

— SACHIN TENDULKAR



Seeing Dhoni's journey from a small town boy into a match-winner and one of the most astute leaders the world has seen was remarkable. Thank you for the wonderful memories, Mahi. It was my privilege to play alongside you and I will always cherish the memories we shared together.

— VVS LAXMAN



To have a player like him, Mission Impossible. Na Koi Hai, Na Koi Tha, Na Koi Hoga MS ke jaisa. Players will come & go but there won't be a calmer man like him. Dhoni with his connect with people having aspirations was like a family member to many cricket lovers.

— VIRENDER SEHWAG

MSD — Chennai's adopted son

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, AUG. 15

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is, in many ways, Chennai's adopted son. Though he had to work his way into the Indian team starting out as a small-town cricketer from Ranchi, his elevation to cult status ran parallel to his association with the southern city. And he couldn't have picked a better place to announce his retirement, than the city where he is fondly referred to as *Thala* — Chief.

Dhoni was quietly sweating it out at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, away from media glare and frenzied followers,

when the scheduled Instagram post took the cricketing world by surprise at 7:29 p.m. No one would have seen it coming. When Dhoni landed in Chennai on Saturday to kickstart the Super Kings' training camp ahead of IPL-13, experts were still raving about his fitness.

For IPL fans, it's difficult to imagine Chennai Super Kings without Dhoni. N. Srinivasan, MD of India Cements, has already made it clear that Dhoni will be retained even if he goes back to the auction pool.

"People keep saying when will he... how long will he play, etc. He will play. I can assure

you. He will play this year. Next year he will go to the auction; he will be retained. So there is no doubt in anybody's mind," Srinivasan said.

Dhoni's bond with Chennai doesn't end with being the skipper of one of the most successful IPL franchises. It was here at Chepaik that his Test career took off under grey skies. He may have made only 30 in a rain-ruined match against Sri Lanka in 2005, but it was only the beginning of a great innings in India colours for the champion.

Chepaik has witnessed many a Dhoni blitzkrieg in the IPL, but the knock that stood out

was the one he scored in whites. His 224 — Dhoni's highest in Tests — against Australia in 2013 bailed India out from a precarious position on a pitch that resembled the French Open surface.

His match-winning knock came at a time when his captaincy was under fire and his tactics ridiculed by several former cricketers. Some had even questioned his place in the Test team back then.

Following the footsteps of his favourite captain and mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Suresh Raina, one of India's prolific white ball players, also quit international cricket.

Captain Cool is in my heart, says Super fan

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, AUG. 15

Saravanan Hari, a.k.a. the 'MSD Superfan', knew it was around the corner but he was hoping and praying that his 'God', M.S. Dhoni, would continue to don the blue jersey for a while longer.

When the announcement came like a bolt from the blue on Saturday, Saravanan, for a moment, thought it was "routine rumour". "In the past, there have been many speculations. So I couldn't believe it. He has once again proved that he is different and does things in his own way. People had expected him to announce his retirement when India's campaign came to an end in the semifinal of the 2019 World Cup," said Saravanan.

Saravanan said he would continue to paint Dhoni's name on his body whenever he watches India matches.

"I wish he played the T20 World Cup. I won't say I'll miss him. He is in my heart. I just hope he continues to play for Chennai Super Kings or remains associated with the franchise in some capacity," added Saravanan.

BARCA WIN BETTER THAN BRAZIL ROUT: MUELLER

Lisbon, Aug. 15: Record-breaking Thomas Mueller said Bayern Munich's 8-2 thrashing of Barcelona in the Champions League quarterfinal on Friday topped the 7-1 hammering Germany handed Brazil at the 2014 World Cup as he stole the limelight from Robert Lewandowski and Lionel Messi.

Man-of-the-match Mueller netted twice in Lisbon as Barcelona conceded four goals in the first-half of a Champions League game for the first time as Bayern led 4-1 at half-time.

Substitute Philippe Coutinho, on loan from Barcelona, also scored twice after the break, alongside goals from Joshua Kimmich and Lewandowski, as Barcelona suffered their heaviest defeat in Europe.

"When we (Germany) played against Brazil we were not as in control as we were tonight," insisted Mueller who also scored in the historic World Cup semifinal. "You can never completely turn Barcelona off, but we gave their midfield practically no room, we did what we wanted to do," Mueller added.

The 30-year-old Mueller capped an outstanding display by passing Philipp Lahm's record to become the German with the most Champions League appearances with 113 games.

— AFP

Bayern stun Barcelona with eight goals

Lisbon, Aug. 15: A merciless Bayern Munich inflicted a humiliating, record defeat on Barcelona on Friday, recording a scarcely believable 8-2 victory in their Champions League quarterfinal in Lisbon to leave Lionel Messi forlorn and surely hastening in the end of an era in Catalonia.

Thomas Mueller scored twice either side of goals from Ivan Perisic and Serge Gnabry in a stunning opening 31 minutes at an empty Estadio da Luz, with a David Alaba own-goal having briefly brought Barcelona back level.

Luis Suarez pulled it back to 4-2 at one point in the second half, but



Barcelona's Luis Suarez (from left) and Lionel Messi react after their 2-8 loss to Bayern Munich in their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal match at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on Friday.

— AFP

Barcelona then caved in, with Joshua Kimmich getting Bayern's fifth before three more goals in the final stages, one for the

prolific Lewandowski and two for substitute Philippe Coutinho.

That was the really

humiliating part for the beaten side, with Coutinho on loan in Bavaria from Barcelona, who spent 160 million

euros on signing the Brazilian but never got the best out of him. It is Barcelona's worst European defeat and the worst of Messi's career. The game was eerily reminiscent of Germany's 7-1 destruction of Brazil in the 2014 World Cup, a game in which Mueller also played and scored.

Germany went on to win that World Cup and Bayern look a good bet to win this Champions League, although they will surely face a sterner test in the semifinal regardless of facing Manchester City or Lyon.

Barca have just about been here before: They were torn apart by Bayern in the 2013 semis, losing 0-7 on aggregate. — AFP