





## IN BRIEF

**Collection agent held for ₹23L fraud**

**Ghaziabad:** A collection agent of a construction materials store owner in Loha Mandi here was arrested on Saturday for allegedly embezzling ₹23.78 lakh collected from a group of traders in Meerut, police said. The accused collection agent Dinesh did not return to the shop on August 13 and his phone was switched off later that day, they said. Later, Dinesh is said to have cooked up a story of him being kidnapped with his wife lodging a missing complaint at Vijay Nagar police station. Ghaziabad Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani told PTI that trader Vikas Jain also lodged an FIR in which he told the police that Dinesh had not returned with his collection on August 13. Working on both the complaints, police arrested Dinesh and his brother-in-law Pappu in Aligarh on Friday. Dinesh confessed that he had misappropriated the money because he had a high debt and was under pressure to repay the dues that he had lent from some money lenders. The money was kept at Pappu's house in Sunamai village of Aligarh district, the SSP said.

**Robber arrested after encounter**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi police, on Saturday, has claimed to have nabbed a member of 'Mewat based gang of robbers' and his associate after a brief exchange of fire in the national capital. The active gang member has been identified as Ahmad (32) while his associate has been identified as Saddam (32), both residents of district Nuh in Haryana. "Ahmad was also carrying a reward of ₹25,000 declared by the Uttar Pradesh police in 2019," said the police. According to DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwaha, on August 14 specific input regarding the hide-out of Ahmad in village Rithath near Nuh was received. Following this, a police team was tasked with the operation. "As soon as the teams of special cell and Haryana police surrounded the wanted criminal and warned him to surrender, he took out his pistol and opened fire at the police team. In the meantime, a large crowd gathered and surrounded the police team. The crowd assaulted the team members with lathis and also pelted stones," said the DCP. "The situation was brought under control. Accused Ahmad, along with his associate, was nabbed after the police team opened fire in self-defence in which he was injured," said the DCP.

**2 held for posing as railway employees**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi police has arrested two cousins impersonating as railway employees from Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. The duo was identified as Martand Rubab Kamble (21) and Omkar Bairagi Waghmode (20), both hailing from Maharashtra. DCP (Railway) Harendra K. Singh said that on August 14, 2020, tickets and IDs of passengers were being checked at the main entry gate of Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station to ensure that no unauthorised entry was made in view of Independence Day. Two passengers, when stopped for checking, introduced themselves as railway staff and tried to enter inside the railway station to board the Golden Temple Express. However, their body postures and hurriedness raised suspicion. When the identity cards produced by them were minutely examined, those turned out to be forged.

**3 kids hurt as porch of 4th-floor flat falls**

**Noida:** Three children were injured after the porch of a flat at the fourth floor of a building fell on them in Noida on Saturday, police said. After the incident, all three children were rushed to a hospital, said additional deputy commissioner of Police Ranvijay Singh. While one injured child was discharged after the first aid, two others are still undergoing treatment, he said. Both the children, however, are out of danger, he added. The incident took place around 5 pm at Harola village, under Sector 20 police station limits, said Singh. The cause of the incident is being probed, he added.

# Delhi records 1,276 cases, 10 fatalities in 24 hrs

## Will not reopen city schools unless fully convinced: CM

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
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 situation in the city. Delivering his Independence Day speech at the Delhi Secretariat, Mr Kejriwal said the Covid 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.

Delhi, meanwhile, recorded 1,276 fresh coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the tally in the city to 1.51 lakh, while the death toll from the disease climbed to 4,188. Ten deaths have been during the same period. According to the health bulletin, the death toll from the coronavirus infection has risen to 4,188 and the total number of cases climbed to 1,51,928.



Medics at CWG Village Covid Care Centre celebrate 74th Independence Day in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

The chief minister pointed out that the safety and the health of school children are very important to the AAP government. "I have received several messages from the parents asking us to not open schools right now. I want to assure the parents that we care about your children as much as you do. Till the time we are sure, we are not going to open schools. The safety and the health of your children are very important to us," said Mr Kejriwal. He announced that in view

of reports that some patients collapsed due to drop in their oxygen level even after recovering from the disease and testing negative, the Delhi government will start providing oxygen concentrators to them from next week. "We also found some patients who, after coming home fully recovered, lost their lives because their oxygen levels stopped even after being Corona negative. We are going to send oxygen concentrators to the homes of the patients," Mr

Kejriwal added.

This year, the city government shifted its Independence Day event to the Delhi Secretariat from Chhatrasal Stadium due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mr Kejriwal mentioned that Delhi "gave the model" of home isolation and plasma therapy concept to the country in the fight against the pandemic. "The Delhi model is being talked about in the country and has emerged as a study case in the world. It is an outcome of working by taking everyone together. Home isolation was a scientifically thought model to provide a hospital bed to serious patients and treat mild ones at home," he said.

Talking about the Covid situation, CM said, "At a time when the whole world is struggling, the situation is 'quite under control in Delhi thanks to its two crore people. In June, there was an atmosphere of fear and people were leaving the city due to the spread of coronavirus. The situation is quite under control as compared to what it was two months back."

# CJAR condemns decision to convict Prashant Bhushan

PRAMOD KUMAR  
NEW DELHI, AUG. 15



Prashant Bhushan

The Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms (CJAR), on Saturday, "strongly" condemned the top court verdict holding lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt of court for his two tweets and asserted that it amounts to stifling the right to free speech and expression.

Mr Bhushan is the convener of CJAR.

He was convicted for criminal contempt of court for his two tweets that had criticised the role of the Supreme Court in the destruction of democracy by the executive since 2014 and the role of the past four Chief Justices, including incumbent CJI Sharad A. Bobde, and suspending physical court hearing in wake of the Covid pandemic.

"We feel that Mr Bhushan's two tweets, being expressions of his anguish and a bona fide criticism of the court and the Chief Justice of India, are fully protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India and cannot be stifled by such a conviction," said a

statement by CJAR on Saturday. While the important cases concerning the rights of millions are being adjourned for weeks and months, the CJAR, in its statement, said: "The haste with which the court has proceeded to hear and convict Mr Bhushan is unseemly and sends a message of stern consequence to those who choose to express themselves in manners that are not palatable to judges."

Pointing out that the judiciary commands respect through its impartial and effective decisions and interpretation of law, the CJAR said that respect and dignity cannot be demanded from citizens based on the threat of contempt.

The criminal contempt to prop up the court's dignity is an archaic, obsolete law, in long disuse in its country of origin and abolished in several other countries,

says the statement.

The Supreme Court, the statement says, has enjoyed a "hallowed status" due to the work of progressive and thoughtful judges who have expanded human rights and defended liberty. Seeking to erase the stifling law from the statute book, CJAR says it has to be ensured that it is not used to "silence opinions that seek accountability and reforms in the functioning of the judiciary."

Urging all the judges of the top court to reconsider the decision to convict Mr Bhushan of criminal contempt, as it has hurt the "prestige and dignity" of the court, the CJAR said: "Once hailed as one of the 'most powerful Constitutional courts in the world,' it is unfortunate that the court is intolerant of even the most temperate and well intentioned criticism."

## 102 corona cases push Noida's total tally to 6,408

**Noida, Aug. 15:** Gautam Buddh Nagar on Saturday recorded 102 new Covid cases, pushing the district's tally to 6,408, official data showed.

The number of active cases in the district stood at 867, up from 826 on Friday, according to the data released by the UP health department for a 24-hour period. The district currently ranks 15th in the state in terms of active cases, the data showed.

According to the data, 65 more patients got discharged during the period.

So far, 5,498 patients have recovered from Covi in Gautam Buddh Nagar, the third highest among districts in UP after Lucknow (8,994) and Kanpur (5,548), it showed.

The district has so far recorded 43 deaths linked to coronavirus and the mortality rate among positive cases stood at 0.67 per cent, according to official statistics. The recovery rate of patients dropped slightly to 85.79 per cent from 86.21 per cent on Friday, as per the statistics. — PTI

## CBI arrests 3 DDA staff for receiving ₹1L bribe: Official

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** The CBI has arrested three employees of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), including an assistant director, for allegedly receiving ₹one lakh bribe from a person purchasing a plot of land, officials said on Saturday.

Assistant director Sudhanshu Ranjan, Upper Division Clerk Ajeet Bhardwaj and security guard Darwan Singh were taken into custody by the probe agency in the bribery case, they said.

The case pertains to a deal related to a DDA plot of land allotted to a shanty dweller who sold it to a person known to him, officials said.

The officials were demanding bribe from the buyer to the enter name of the seller in DDA records, they said.

"It was further alleged that the complainant had bought this plot from said private person on GPA and wanted to sell it to someone else, for which the said plot required to be entered in the records of DDA in the name of said private person (an allottee of

the said plot). It was also alleged that the said accused asked the complainant to arrange a bribe of ₹4 lakh," CBI spokesperson R.K. Gaur said.

On a complaint from the buyer, the CBI laid a trap and caught Ajeet Bhardwaj while accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh, the officials said.

"The other accused were also arrested subsequently. Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused in Delhi and Noida which led to the recovery of incriminating documents," Gaur said. — PTI



A group of people after participating in a run on the occasion of 74th Independence Day in Gurugram on Saturday. — PTI

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### NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR EMPANELMENT OF TRANSPORTERS AND LOGISTICS AGENCIES

EOI is invited from experienced and reputed Transporters and Logistics Agencies to act as Rail Aggregator And Handler (RAAH) for collection and transportation of cargo in Moradabad Division.

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  - Unloading of parcels at destination station
  - Delivery of parcels at customer's door step
  - Insurance of packages against theft, loss, damage or pilferage
- will have to be carried by empanelled agency under the supervision of the Railway.



Interested parties may attend a pre-bid meeting to be held on 10.09.2020 at 11:00 hrs in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Department, Moradabad to discuss the modalities of proposal and drafting of application for empanelment.

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Children fly a kite at India Gate on the occasion in New Delhi on Saturday. — AFP



## SHORT TAKES

## Modi has bigger role for NCC cadets

**New Delhi:** The National Cadet Corps (NCC) will be expanded in 173 border and coastal districts and nearly one lakh new cadets will be trained under the mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. He said around one-third of the one lakh new cadets will be girls. "Today, India is among those countries of the world where women are being included in combat roles in the Navy and the Air Force," he said. "About 173 districts in our border areas, our coastal areas share their boundaries with some or the other nation's border or coastline. In the coming days, NCC would be extended in those border districts for the youth there. We will train around one lakh new NCC cadets from bordering areas, and we will work towards the idea that amongst those, one-third of them are our daughters," he added. — PTI

## Curbs extended in Manipur till Aug. 31

**Imphal:** The Manipur government on Saturday extended the complete lockdown till August 31 to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the state, where 192 more people tested positive, pushing the tally to 4,390. A state government directive also asked deputy commissioner to issue orders imposing curfew from 5 pm to 6 am. "New cases of Covid-19 continue to be detected amongst people who have no travel history outside the state," the notification said. Out of the 192 fresh coronavirus cases, 131 are from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), officials said. A total of 78 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the recovery rate in the state to 55.53 per cent, they said. Manipur now has 1,939 active cases. There have been 13 Covid-19 deaths in the state so far. — PTI

## Naidu pays tribute to unsung heroes

**New Delhi:** Paying tributes to the "unsung heroes" of the Freedom Struggle, vice president and Rajya Sabha chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said while it is "natural to celebrate the national icons, there is a need to recognise the contribution of many unsung heroes" of the Independence movement. Suggesting respective state governments to publish tales of valour and sacrifices of these unsung heroes from their region in the history text books and take steps to keep their legacy alive, Mr Naidu said "Only then will we be doing justice to them and build an India of their dream — a truly Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat and Sashakt Bharat."

## PM unveils vision for self-reliant India

Modi pins hopes on ₹110 lakh crore National Infra Pipeline to ease Covid hit on economy

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** Unveiling his vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the goal is to make India a global manufacturing hub while a ₹110 lakh crore pipeline of national infrastructure projects is being created to boost the economy and create jobs.

Addressing the nation on the 74th Independence Day from the ramparts of the 17th-century Red Fort, he said India received record foreign investment in the last fiscal when FDI rose 18 per cent.

Companies were looking to invest in the nation even during the corona crisis. "How long can the raw material be sent out of our

country and finished products imported," he asked. "Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) is not only about cutting imports but also raising our capacity, creativity and skills," the Prime Minister said.

The vision, he said, is not just to make in India but make for the world.

"Today world's biggest companies are looking at India," he said in his 86-minute speech. "Now along with 'Make in India', we will have to move ahead with the mantra of 'Make for World'."

He cited the example of India during the corona crisis becoming an export surplus nation in the manufacturing of N-95 face masks,

## Srinagar: LED screens live stream speech

**Srinagar:** Projectors were set up by the administration at two of the busiest intersections in Srinagar city for live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the Independence Day. The projectors, connected to sound amplifiers, were installed at Jehangir Chowk flyover and the traffic grade separator at Tourist Reception Centre. — PTI

PPE kits and ventilators.

From just one corona testing lab, India now has 1,400 labs. "Our policies, our

process, our products should be the best," he said.

Asia's third-largest economy's main focus will be the creation of a pipeline of national infrastructure projects worth more than ₹110 lakh crore, Modi said. "About 7,000 projects in different sectors have been identified. This will be a type of infrastructure revolution."

Stating that working in silos in the infrastructure space has ended, he said a large scheme to connect the country through a multi-modal connectivity infrastructure is ready. The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project will play a crucial role in pulling the country out of the impact of Covid-19, he

said. Vocal for local, re-skill and up-skill campaigns will be the main pillars, he said.

On his government's response to mitigate economic hardships caused by the coronavirus outbreak and ensuing lockdowns, Mr Modi said 7 crore families were given free cooking gas LPG cylinders, over 80 crore people got free ration and close to ₹90,000 crore transferred into bank accounts.

The moratorium on EMI payment during the pandemic period has resulted in a rebate totaling ₹6 lakh crore over the loan period, he said adding that ₹25,000 crore fund was created for completion of unfinished real estate projects. — PTI

## Optical fibre in all villages in next 1,000 days: Modi

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the project to connect India's over six lakh villages with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days.

Besides, a high speed Internet connectivity via submarine optical fibre cable will be extended to Lakshadweep in this period, he said.

In his address to the nation, he pointed out that only five dozen panchayats in the country were connected with optical fibre cable by 2014, the year his government came to power for the first time.

In the last five years, 1.5 lakh village panchayats have been connected with optical fibre cable, Mr Modi said.

He also announced that a new policy on cyber security will be unveiled shortly, saying the nation's dependence on the cyber world has increased in the changed circumstances, an apparent reference to the upheavals brought in by the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the country is witnessing expansion of roads and internet at unprecedented and rapid speed, from the peaks of Himalayas to islands in the Indian Ocean. — PTI

## Big plans for lion, dolphin &amp; carbon neutral Ladakh

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** From saving Gangetic dolphins and Asiatic lions along the lines of Project Tiger to making Ladakh carbon neutral and reducing pollution in 100 cities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a series of plans to protect the country's environment and biodiversity.

The Prime Minister also spoke on renewable energy and the need to maintain a balance between development and the environment.

Referring to the National Clean Air Programme, launched in January 2019, Mr Modi said, "A special campaign is being worked out to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities with a holistic approach." He announced the government's big plans for Ladakh, which became a Union Territory in 2019.

"As Sikkim has made its mark as an organic state in the northeast, Ladakh, Leh and Kargil can also create their own niche as a carbon neutral unit. The Indian government has joined hands with the locals of the region to create a new model of development as per their own requirements," he said. — PTI

## Mobile Internet services restored in Kashmir Valley

**Srinagar, Aug. 15:** Internet services on mobile devices were restored in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday after remaining suspended for several hours as a precautionary measure on the occasion of Independence Day.

Mobile Internet services were cut in the early hours of the morning as stringent security arrangements were put in place for Independence Day celebrations across the Valley, a police official said.

Though the services were snapped as a precautionary measure, mobile phone services, which used to be suspended for the duration of the Independence Day ceremony, functioned as usual, he added.

The Internet services were restored later in the day as the official function was over at Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium here, the official said. Suspension of mobile phone services and Internet on mobile devices as part of the security drill have become routine since 2005, apart from a few occasions. — PTI

## 'Testing times' for democracy in India: Sonia

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** In her Independence Day message, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said these were "testing times" for Indian democracy and people need to introspect if there is freedom in the country to ask questions, disagree or seek accountability.

Since independence, India has tested its democratic values from time to time and constantly developed them, Mrs Gandhi said. She alleged that "the present government, it seems, is standing contrary to democratic system, constitutional values and established traditions. These are also testing times for Indian democracy."

Mrs Gandhi said today all citizens need to introspect and think what freedom means. "Is there freedom in the country today to write, to speak, to ask questions, to disagree, to have views, to seek accountability?" she asked, and added that "as a responsible opposition this is our responsibility that we make every effort and struggle to keep India's democratic independence intact".

India is not only famous across the world for its democratic values and pluralism of different languages, religions, and sects, but it is also known for facing adversity with unity, she said in her message on the 74th Independence Day. Her message was in Hindi.

"Today, as the entire world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, India will have to unitedly defeat this pandemic and set an example. I can

say with full confidence that all of us together will come out of this pandemic and the state of severe economic crisis," Mrs Gandhi said.

The Opposition questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his call for "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and said at a time when the government was privatising national assets, a self-reliant India was mere "rhetoric".

Congress leader Randee Surjewala said that it was important to question the government on whether it believes in the mandate of the people and if there is freedom to speak freely in the country. "Does our government believe in democracy? Does our government believe in public opinion? Do we have the freedom to speak, think, travel, to wear what we like, to earn our livelihood or has that been curbed," he said.

The Left parties alleged that the PM's speech was full of rhetoric and said that his New India was subversive to corporates and not self-reliant.

Urging the people to unite against the government's move to privatise India's assets, the Left parties said that only a people's movement can fight the present regime. — PTI

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with party leaders during the 74th Independence Day celebrations at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday. The Congress on Saturday launched a video series titled "Dharohar", which will look back at the party's history and its contributions to India during its nearly 135-year-old history. Rahul shared two videos on his Twitter handle. The first episode looked at the formation of the Congress. — PTI

## Woman officer assists PM unfurl tricolour

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** A woman Army officer, Major Shweta Pandey, assisted the Prime Minister in unfurling the national flag atop the ramparts of the Red Fort. It was only fitting as the Prime Minister spoke about women empowerment and their achievements in his address to the nation.

Women are toiling in coal mines, but India's daughters are also flying fighter planes and touching the skies, he said.

Hailing from Lucknow, Major Pandey was commissioned in the Army in March 2012 from the Officers Training Academy, Chennai. She is an alumna of City Montessori School, Lucknow, and holds a B.Tech degree in computer science. — PTI

## Twitterati hail mention of ₹1 sanitary napkins

**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi came in for praise from Twitter users for mentioning sanitary napkins in his Independence Day speech with many of them calling it a step towards breaking taboos associated with menstruation.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra scheme, the Prime Minister said, the government has started giving away sanitary napkins at ₹1 to empower women and keep their health in check.

In 6,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, more than 5 crore sanitary napkins have been provided to women in a short period of time, he said in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort.

The Twitterati said it is rare for a Prime Minister to talk about menstruation during a national address and it will help in breaking taboos associated with it.

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar also took to the social media platform to praise the Prime Minister. "Our @PMOIndia talking about

sanitary pads in his Independence Day speech today is true progress...made menstruation a mainstream topic. Also kudos to the government who has so far distributed sanitary pads to about 5 crore women at ₹1," he said.

A Twitter user said, "Best thing about @narendramodiji speech today... speaking passionately about women's hygiene, free sanitary pads, breaking taboos, open door to women in Armed forces once again! Good to see!"

Another user said raising the topic in the Independence Day speech is praiseworthy.

"Talking about the taboo topic of sanitary pads from Red Fort on the #IndependenceDay speech is something really huge, historical and praiseworthy. Kudos to @narendramodi," he said.

"In a country, where #menstruation is considered taboo and a society which does not pay attention to women's hygiene and health issue, #IndianPM talked about #sanitarypads in his #IndependenceDay2020 speech, another user said. — PTI

## J&amp;K on new trip of normalcy: L-G

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, AUG. 15



Manoj Sinha

A new era of normalcy and development has dawned in Jammu and Kashmir due to the changes effected in the last one year, lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday and expressed the resolve to make peace, progress and social harmony the most integral part of the transformed narrative.

It is a matter of great sorrow that the legacy of cultural syncretism has been eclipsed by the vicious story of sectarianism. But, we want to transform the narrative once again. We want to make development, peace, progress and social harmony the most integral part of the narrative of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Sinha said in his Independence Day speech at Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium here.

He said that the government is committed to providing a better alternative that stands for development, welfare and social transformation for the people of J&K and urged the youths to engage in activism that helps the nation to progress.

Referring to former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's doctrine of "Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat", Mr Sinha

lamented that humanity conceded defeat to terrorism for decades in Kashmir; democracy suffered at the hands of vested interests and Kashmiriyat was massacred to appease the hatred that ensued.

One of the first tasks that the new J&K L-G has done after assuming charge this week was to issue strict instructions to security forces to provide foolproof cover to political workers, particularly panchayat-level leaders in the Valley.

In the past one month, at least five BJP leaders have been killed leading to major panic among political workers in the Valley.

Though some preventive measures have already been taken, a major security audit is now being done to ensure proper security cover for them. The Centre is keen to start electoral process in J&K at the earliest, something that Prime Minister Narendra Modi also touched upon in his Independence Day speech.

## KEEP YOUR CITY CLEAN & GREEN

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54 location/sites has been designated where construction & Demolition Waste / Malba / Debris in small quantity only can be disposed by general public/residents.

S. No.	Location	S. No.	Location
1	Open space behind Chest Clinic M&CW Center, Karawal Nagar	27	Near CRPF camp
2	Road No. 64, PWD road, D-pocket corner Hospital, W. No. 28-E, PWD road	28	Bhim Gali No. 1, Kali Ghata Road, Open plot
3	Near DCP office Welcome, W. No. 42-E EDMC land	29	Service road near Govt. Sr. Sec. School Khajuri
4	In front of I-Pocket, Dilshad Garden market adjacent to Red Corner Hospital, W. No. 28-E, PWD road	30	Near Old Police Station, open side
5	Near dhalao, X-Block, Brahampuri, W. No. 47-E, EDMC	31	Back side of Sai memorial school, Geeta Colony, adjacent to Pusta road
6	Loni Road near Golchakkar, 49-E PWD road.	32	Block 12 near dhalao, Taj Sartaj road
7	Opp. Red Cross Hospital	33	Taj enclave road near dhalao, Geeta Colony
8	E-Block, Behind Gagan Cinema DDA Land	34	DDA flats, near Shanti mohalla Subzi mandi
9	Opp. Primary School, Near SI Office Sunder Nagri	35	Near Y-point, New Seelampur Metro line
10	Near Gurudwara DDA Land, New Seema Puri	36	DDA road near Bhikam Singh colony
11	Opp. Primary School, Janta Flats, Near DJB tanki	37	T-Point near Hans Apptt, Arjun Nagar Jhuggies Vishwas Nagar
12	Near Railway Fatak, under fly over MS Park	38	Open space near Dhalao D-Block Anand Vihar
13	Opp. Muskan Restaurant	39	Pond in Gazipur Village
14	DDA Land near Petrol Pump, Opp. Usmanpur Police Station	40	Open DDA land in front of Fruits & vegetable Mkt Gazipur village Ward No.19E
15	Shastri Park DDA Land, Near D-Aqua Hotel	41	Open land near B-Pkt, 36 Qtr Dilshad Garden
16	5 <sup>th</sup> Yamuna Pusta in-between Dhalao and PWD Office	42	Between Mukesh Nagar drain & Railway line. Gopalji dairy road near dhalao ESI Hospital Jhilmil Ward No.30E
17	MTNL Ground, Yamuna Vihar	43	Near Dhalao opp. Police Station Mayur Vihar Ph-I
18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pusta in River side	44	DDA land opp. Chand Cinema
19	MTNL Ground, Yamuna Vihar	45	DDA Land near Chilla DDA Flat Chilla Village
20	Near Foot over bridge Wazirabad, Opp. Primary School	46	Near Dutt Bhawan Metro Station New Ashok Nagar
21	In front of Ganga Vihar H-Block, on Bank of Drain No.1	47	Near New Ashok Nagar Police Station
22	Opp. A-Block, Near CTC	48	DDA Land opp. Sapera Basti
23	Near Saboli Samshan Ghat DDA Park	49	DDA Land opp. Dhalao pkt A-3 New Kondli
24	Near Jail Road/ Petrol Pump Wazirabad	50	DDA Land near block-19 Nehru mkt. Kalyan Puri
25	Safedawala park	51	Opposite Block-8, Khichripur near I&FC drain
26	Near Brij Puri Puliyu on the bank of Drain No. 01	52	M.B. Road opposite Police Station Shakarpur
		53	Near Railway Line, Nehru Enclave Shakarpur
		54	

\*The location may be shifted any time by EDMC without further notice.

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## SHORT TAKES

## Prez police medal for 32 CBI officials

**New Delhi:** Total 32 CBI officials have been honoured with this year's President's Police Medal for distinguished service and Police Medal for meritorious service on the occasion of Independence Day. While the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service has been awarded to six officers, the Police Medal for Meritorious Service has gone to 26 officers. The officers awarded the President's Medal for Distinguished Service are: ASP Prasennjit Roy, DSP Surinder Singh Bhullar, and Head Constables Vijay Goswami, Vazir Singh, S Ravi and Shyambir Singh. The recipients of Police Medal for Meritorious Service include DSPs Diwas Kumar, K. Lokho Moses; Inspectors Ashok Kumar Jha, Manoj Kumar, Rajesh Bhonsle; ASI Mahesh Vasant Patil among others.



## Sena blames WHO for Covid spread

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday held the World Health Organisation (WHO) responsible for the spread of Coronavirus and questioned the authority of the global health watchdog. Comparing the WHO with the CBI, he said it is a group assembled by getting people, including doctors, from everywhere. He also claimed that he doesn't take medicines from doctors, but prefers to consult compounders as they are more knowledgeable than doctors. Meanwhile, the BJP has condemned Shiv Sena leader's statement. In an interview with a regional television news channel, the Shiv Sena leader said, "The WHO is a group of people. So what if the doctors are also part of their team. In reality, the compounder knows more than the doctors."

## Ex-Marshall pens book on India's wars

**New Delhi:** Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam will come out with a comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month. *Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020* is a sequel to the military historian's *India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971*, according to publishers HarperCollins India. In his new book, Subramaniam covers every major operation that the armed forces have participated in, including the Kargil conflict of 1999, insurgencies in the Northeast, terrorism and proxy wars in Jammu and Kashmir, separatist violence in Punjab, the IPKF intervention in Sri Lanka, and the continued stress along the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control. — PTI

## I-Day function scaled down...

■ **Continued from Page 1**  
Instead, 500 NCC cadets were invited to the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who would often venture among the schoolchildren and shake hands with them at the end of the event, said, "Today, our children are not here with us. The pandemic has halted all of us." Colourful carpets in enclosure and aisles contrast seating and walking areas, and posters bearing social distancing norms messages like "keep six ft distance", "wear a mask", dot the venue. Senior-most Cabinet ministers were seated on the upper dais. Guests, security staff, VIPs, all were sporting masks as prescribed under the safety norms. Some guests were even seen sporting designer masks to add to the uniqueness of the event that embraces the "new normal" brought in by the coronavirus pandemic. Delhi has been one of the worst-affected cities in the country as far as the spread of the virus is concerned. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the national capital has crossed 1.5 lakh, while 4,178 people have died due to the viral infection.

## BJP leader beaten to death in Bengal

Trinamul denies role in violence, 8 people held

**Hooghly (WB), Aug. 15:** A BJP worker was allegedly beaten to death by TMC supporters over hoisting of the national flag on Independence Day in West Bengal's Hooghly district, police said.

TMC has denied the charge and the police has arrested eight persons in connection with the incident that occurred on Saturday afternoon in Khanakul area of the district.

A scuffle had broken out between two groups over hoisting of the national flag, a senior police official of the district said.

"One person was beaten to death. We have arrested eight persons. We have started an investigation into it, he said.

According to state BJP sources, Sudarshan Pramanik, 40, was beaten to death by TMC supporters.

The party has called a 12-hour Khanakul bandh, the sources said. "Our party worker was beaten to death by TMC supporters over hoisting of the national flag in the area. Our party workers are not spared even on Independence Day," BJP state president Dilip Ghosh said.

TMC leader and the party's spokesperson in the district, Prabir Ghosal



Tricolours on autorickshaws on the occasion of 74th Independence Day in Bengaluru on Saturday. — PTI

## Didi pays visit to governor on I-Day

**Kolkata:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday called on Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at Raj Bhawan here which she later termed as a "courtesy visit". Ms Banerjee was accompanied by chief secretary Rajiva Sinha, home secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay and state police chief Virendra.

refuted the charge and said the death was due to factional fight in BJP. Bengal BJP in its official Twitter handle hit out at

the ruling TMC over the incident. "Sudarshan Pramanik, booth worker from Arambagh was brutally murdered while hoisting the flag on Independence Day.

Suspects are from the ruling party who are on a killing spree even on the Independence Day. We must take a pledge for a #MamataMuktoBengal today".

The saffron party workers led by party MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato and its state-level leaders blocked the state highway connecting Khanakul to Kolkata with the body of the deceased BJP worker.

The police lathicharged to disperse the crowd but there was no report of any injury. — PTI

## Waves of positive change bypassed Nagaland: Gov

‘Ravi blames vested interests’

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, AUG. 15

Nagaland governor's R.N. Ravi on Saturday said that vested interests have misappropriated the dividends of peace and didn't allow them to reach to the people of the northeastern states.

In his customary Independence Day message, Mr Ravi who is also the Prime Minister's envoy for Naga peace talks said, "Incongruously a deeply entrenched network of vested interests has emerged during the period which has misappropriated the dividends of peace and did not allow them to reach the people."

Pointing out that there is mass scale mayhem and miscarriage of dreams and expectations of the people of Nagaland Mr Ravi asserted, "It is unendurable and unacceptable."

Referring as to how the "waves of positive change" sweeping all parts of the country and seem to have bypassed Nagaland, the governor said, "When the security forces and Naga armed groups agreed to suspend operations against each other paving way for a political settlement, the legitimate expectation of the people of Nagaland was dividends of peace-freedom from fear of guns, better health, better education, better infra-



R.N. Ravi

structure, better livelihood opportunities, an atmosphere to dream and an ecosystem to pursue their dreams."

Mr Ravi who was in Kohima on Saturday said, "Nagaland is endowed with one of the finest human and natural resources. Unfortunately, today it has the dubious distinction of the worst-performing state in the country including the northeast region on almost all the significant indicators of human development."

Mr Ravi in his message said that nearly 25 per cent of the Nagaland's children are not enrolled in schools and around 60 percent of youth have not been to high school.

"Literacy in Nagaland may be technically over 80 percent, in reality, those who have not even been to High School cannot be called functionally literate," he regretted.

About the investment climate he said, "Investment climate in Nagaland is worrisome. We need to build an investment friendly ecosystem."

## Ex-cricketer Chauhan critical, on life support



**New Delhi, Aug. 15:** The health condition of former India opener Chetan Chauhan, who tested positive for Covid-19 last month, is "critical" and he remains on life support at a medical facility in Gurugram.

The 73-year-old Chauhan, who is also a cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, was admitted at the Sanjay Gandhi PGI Hospital in Lucknow after testing positive for the virus on July 12.

His condition did not improve and after he developed other complications, Chauhan was shifted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. The former cricketer, though, is responding to treatment.

"Early morning today, Chetan ji had a kidney failure and subsequently, had multi-organ failure. He is currently on life support. We are all praying that he wins this battle," a senior Delhi & Districts Cricket Association official, who is keeping track of the developments, told PTI on Saturday.

When his younger brother Pushpendra Chauhan was contacted, he said: "He is critical but has shown some signs of improvement after treatment during the day. We are hopeful that his condition will improve in coming days."

Chetan Chauhan, who played 40 Tests for India, was the legendary Sunil Gavaskar's longest-serving opening partner.

He has served the DDCA in various capacities — president, vice-president, secretary and chief selector — apart from being manager of the Indian Team during a tour of Australia. — PTI



ITBP personnel celebrate the 74th Independence Day on the banks of Pangong Tso in Ladakh on Saturday. — PTI

## ■ ‘Govt’s focus on farmers, working class’

## Maha govt made 29.5L farmers debt-free: CM

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, AUG. 15

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said that his government has made 29.50 lakh farmers in the state debt-free by depositing ₹18,980 crore into their bank accounts. The government will focus on farmers and the working class as it tries to transform Maharashtra into a welfare state, he added.

Mr Thackeray, who hoisted the national flag at Mantralaya in south Mumbai on the occasion of 74th Independence Day, directed the administration to ensure better health facilities to remote areas of the state. Stating that the government has started the process of unlocking the state "cautiously in a staggered manner", Mr Thackeray also noted that Maharashtra has increased Covid-19 tests on a "big scale".

He said the government also procured 418.8 quintal cotton, highest in the last 10 years. The chief minister observed that schools could not be reopened in the state due



Volunteers of Social Activities Integration (SAI) NGO distribute sweets among the sex workers on the occasion of Independence Day in Mumbai on Saturday. — PTI

to the Covid-19 threat, but the government took steps to see education is being imparted to students through Google Classroom initiative. "Maharashtra has become the first state to take such a step in the country," he added.

The Chief Minister said that around 66,300 industrial units have resumed operations after the government set in motion the process of unlocking. He said more than 16 lakh workers have returned to their workplaces. "The government has signed MoUs worth around

₹16,000 crore with investors from 12 countries and more agreements worth ₹8,000 crore will be inked," Mr Thackeray said.

"The government also launched 'MahaJobs' portal to ensure that locals, Marathi people get employment," he added. Mr Thackeray said the government will lay stress on providing proper healthcare facilities in both the urban and remote areas in the state. The chief minister hailed Covid-19 warriors, such as doctors, nurses and policemen.

## Aircraft designed on rooftop clears 1st phase of test flight

**Mumbai, Aug. 15:** An aircraft, which was developed on rooftop of a flat, has "successfully" performed the first phase of test flight, its designer and developer claimed.

The aircraft would now have to prove a flight at a height of 2000 feet in the next phase, Captain Amol Yadav, who has been working for a fully 'made-in-India' plane for the past two decades, said.

Captain Yadav has designed and developed the aircraft on the rooftop of his house in the western suburb of Kandivali in Maharashtra.

"I along with a technician performed the first phase of the test flight of our aircraft and the plane made a balance flight. And it was a fantastic one," he said.

In the first phase of the flight, the aircraft's movement on the ground

## MUMBAI

▶ **IT TOOK** almost six years for Captain Amol Yadav, a former pilot of now defunct Jet Airways, to build his self-financed aircraft. It was built for practical purposes solely on the terrace of his apartment

▶ **HE SAID** the aircraft was airborne for 15-20 seconds and landed back safely

at a slow and a fast speed, its capability to make turns on ground for taxiways and bays, and proper application of brakes were checked.

"It was also checked whether the aircraft can maintain a balance flight after taking off the ground," Yadav said. Aviation regulator DGCA had granted the

permission for the first phase of the flight last year.

The test flight required insurance, which was huge, he said, adding, I bought that as well with the funding from family members. "I have done everything that the DGCA wanted me to do prior to the test flight," Yadav added.

He said the aircraft was airborne for 15-20 seconds and landed back safely. He also said that the next phase of the flight involves risk. "If we decide to go ahead further, we will be needing at least ₹1-1.50 crore. So we will have to mop funds as well."

It took almost six years for Yadav, a former pilot of now defunct Jet Airways, to build his self-financed aircraft. It was built for practical purposes solely on the terrace of his apartment.

— PTI

## ED probing if Sushant paid EMI for Ankita's flat

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, AUG. 15



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is now probing if the EMIs of Sushant Singh Rajput's former girlfriend Ankita Lokhande's flat was allegedly deducted from the actor's bank account, which could have led to the fall in the funds that the family is hinting towards.

The probe has revealed that the said apartment where Ankita Lokhande stays is registered in the name of Rajput and the EMIs were allegedly being paid by him. Lokhande has however refuted the claims and has put out the registration papers and the bank statements in public domain.

The probe of ED in connection with the alleged money laundering of ₹15 crore led to the money trail. The statement of former staffers and the chartered accountant along with his family members has now revealed the possibility of the EMI having been paid by Rajput. "The details are being investigated and the financial documents will give further clarity," said an officer. The ED on Tuesday recorded the statement of Rajput's sister Meetu Singh in connection with the money laundering case. Her statement was recorded after the agency grilled the actor's former manager Shruti Modi. The central agency also grilled Rajput's flatmate Siddharth Pithani again on Tuesday. He and Modi landed at the ED office around 11 am whereas the actor's sister reached there post noon.

## UP MLA arrested for role in criminal case

**Bhadohi, Aug. 15:** A Bhadohi police team on Saturday took Gyanpur MLA Vijay Mishra, detained at Agar Malwa in Madhya Pradesh on its request for the law-maker's alleged role in a criminal case, in its custody and is bringing him here on transit remand, said an official.

Bhadohi SP Ram Badan Singh said after arresting the MLA in Agar Malwa, his district police team, led by Dy SP Kalu Singh, produced him in a court there and secured his transit remand. Vijay Mishra, his wife Ramlali Mishra, a UP MLC, and son Vishnu Mishra were booked on a complaint

by his relative under sections 323 (voluntary causing hurt), 347 (wrongful confinement), 387 (putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt), 449 (house-trespass) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code on August 4. The MLA, belonging to Nishad Party, currently has 73 cases registered against him and has been booked under the Goonda Act and the stringent National Security Act in the past. He would be produced before a court on Sunday, the SP added.

Mishra was detained by MP police team on Friday. — PTI

## ■ Fresh investments will generate jobs for 16,504 people Odisha receives ₹20Kcr investments

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, AUG. 15

Covid-19 crisis has not dampened the spirits of prospective investors to come to Odisha and invest in the mineral-rich coastal state. During this pandemic period, the state has received investments to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore. In an exclusive interview with this newspaper on Saturday, Dr Nitin B Jawale, Managing Director (MD) of Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL), said the state had emerged as the top most investment destination among all other Indian states last year. The fresh investments will cre-



IPICOL MD Nitin Jawale

ate employment opportunities for 16,504 people.

"Odisha is one of the fastest growing states of India 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 have 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 (IT & ITes)," he said.

The Odisha government, in order to overcome the challenge of direct and physical interactions with the prospective investors to convince them about the state's potential as an industry-friendly destination, adopted tech-options, including video-conferencing and virtual meetings.

"Attracting investments is a continuous process. Apart from our rich natural resources like minerals, water and land, skilled

human resources and good physical infrastructure, we have political stability in our state. These positive aspects have always helped us woo the investors, very successfully," said Mr Jawale.

The top officer informed that several foreign firms, including American companies, have expressed their interest for investment in Odisha.

"We are expecting big size investments in almost all sectors, including tourism, textiles, petroleum and petrochemicals. Our strategic coastal location, 480-km long coastlines, major ports, mineral deposits and industry-ready land bank are helping attract more investors."



# 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 Mutnuri 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 Prakasam 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*

## 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



(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

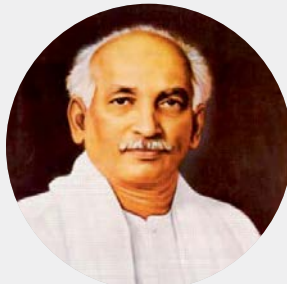
served as municipal chairman of Rajahmundry in 1904, when he was barely 31.

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.

## 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.



## THE ASIAN AGE

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 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

### TIMELESS CLASSIC

It was 10 years in the making but now it is forever. Chock full of history and romance, K. Asif's magnum opus, *Mughal-e-Azam*, is as grand as it gets and having just completed 60 years of its existence, is still a captivating watch. Terrific performances by Prithviraj Kapoor, Madhubala and Dilip Kumar breathed life into the characters of Akbar, Anarkali and Salim, respectively. The music by Naushad and lyrics by Shakeel Badayuni can still make your heart sing. Asif directed only two movies in his lifetime, this was his second but it made him a legend. Youngsters, watch this film.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
*Mumbai*

### EMPTY VESSEL

**THIS REFERS TO** "India's mood is sombre. Is Modi government out of sync?" Indeed after six years of the Narendra Modi government's rule, India's economy has tanked and we are busying ourselves building temples as people die of hunger and the coronavirus. On Aug. 15, the Prime Minister chose to deliver his third longest I-Day speech. Swaraj Party leader Yogendra Yadav has tweeted, "My teacher would often ask us, why are you speaking so much? Have you not much to say? Wish everyone had so wise a teacher."

**Tapomoy Ghosh**  
*Katwa, West Bengal*

### LEGALLY EQUAL

**THE SUPREME COURT** decision upholding equal property rights for daughters is a verdict that is being praised all over the country. Our society has always been male dominated. The verdict is a bold step and will act as a catalyst to empower women and treat them equally. Property rights are fundamental to a woman's social, economic and legal security. A great day in the march for sex equality.

**Chandan Nath**  
*Guwahati*

### HOW MUCH LONGER?

**SOCIAL DISTANCING** is a public health practice that aims to prevent sick people from coming in contact with healthy people. It can include large-scale measures like cancelling group events or closing public spaces, as well as individual decisions such as avoiding crowds. The goal of social distancing is to slow down the outbreak and reduce the burden on the health infrastructure. Experts describe this as flattening the curve. With Covid-19 touching 150 days of spread, we are caught up in this struggle. How long will this continue?

**C.K. Subramaniam**  
*Navi Mumbai*

### HUMANITY LIVES

**LAST WEEK**, 19 people died in an air crash in Kozhikode. Without the people's support, the casualties would have been higher. Braving the rain and the current Covid situation, locals queued up to donate blood having received the information on social media. This proves that humanity still lives.

**V. Nagendra Kumar**  
*Hyderabad*

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

# 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 Party 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, 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 party 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*



## 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. In a similar incident nearby in 2018, a woman narrowly survived when she was fishing and her throat was slashed by a mackerel.

## Fire engulfs Athens recycling plant

**Athens:** A large fire engulfed a plastics recycling plant in the north of Athens on Saturday, sending up large clouds of toxic thick smoke that led to the partial closure of the national highway. More than 49 firefighters and two helicopters are battling the blaze that broke out in the suburb of Metamorfosi, the Athens News Agency reported. The northern national highway from the Greek capital to the central city of Lamia was closed because of poor visibility but was later partially opened. The authorities have urged people living nearby to keep their doors and windows closed and avoid walking outside because of the toxic smoke. For now the fire has been contained inside the factory but because of the plastics that are burning, it is difficult to put out the flames, according to firefighters.

## Josephine Storm churns closer to US

**Miami:** Tropical Storm Kyle was moving away from the mid-Atlantic coast of the United States early on Saturday as Tropical Storm Josephine continued its crawl toward islands in the Caribbean. Threats to land appeared to be minimal from both storms, according to the US National Hurricane Center's 5 am advisories. Kyle was centered 280 miles (450 kilometers) southeast of Providence, Rhode Island, while Josephine was 310 miles (500 kilometers) east of the northern Leeward Islands. Both storms had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 kph), forecasters said. Josephine was tracking west-northwest at 15 mph (24 kph), while Kyle was churning east-northeast at 21 mph (33 kph). No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for either storm. Josephine was forecast to bring 1 to 3 inches (3 to 8 centimeters) of rain to parts of the northern Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

## 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.

Beaches in Port Macquarie have been closed for 24 hours as authorities attempt to track the shark.

There have been five fatal shark attacks in Australian waters in 2020, higher than the country's average of three deadly attacks a year.

## Chilling out in hot Dubai



Employees of an Emirati Ice company drop blocks of ice in a swimming pool amid soaring summer temperatures in the Gulf emirate of Dubai on Saturday. — AFP

## Trump orders Chinese owner of TikTok to sell US assets

**Washington, Aug. 16:** President Donald Trump on Friday gave the Chinese company ByteDance 90 days to divest itself of any assets used to support the popular TikTok app in the United States.

Trump's executive order said there is "credible evidence that leads me to believe that ByteDance ... might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States."

Trump last week ordered sweeping but vague bans on dealings with the Chinese owners of TikTok and the messaging app WeChat, saying they are a threat to US national security, foreign policy and the economy.

It remains unclear what the TikTok orders mean for the app's 100 million

● **WHITE HOUSE** press secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended Trump's earlier TikTok and WeChat orders Thursday, telling reporters he was exercising his emergency authority under a 1977 law enabling the president to regulate international commerce to address unusual threats.

US users, many of them teenagers or young adults who use it to post and watch short-form videos. Trump on Friday also ordered ByteDance to divest itself of "any data obtained or derived" from TikTok users in the US.

Microsoft is in talks to

buy parts of TikTok.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended Trump's earlier TikTok and WeChat orders Thursday, telling reporters he was exercising his emergency authority under a 1977 law enabling the president to regulate international commerce to address unusual threats.

"The administration is committed to protecting the American people from all cyber threats and these apps collect significant amounts of private data on users," said McEnany, adding that the Chinese government can access and use such data.

TikTok said it spent nearly a year trying to engage in "good faith" with the U.S. government to address these concerns. — AP

## 3,00,000 held in S. Africa for violating lockdown laws

**Johannesburg, Aug. 15:** Nearly 3,00,000 people have been arrested in South Africa for violating the lockdown laws that were introduced at the end of March to combat the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, according to the figures released here.

Minister of Police Bheki Cele announced the quarterly crime statistics on Friday.

At the start of the lockdown, Cele had warned that people contravening the regulations would end up with a criminal record which would impact on issues such as their future job prospects. But at the

statistics announcement, he said his colleague in the Ministry of Justice was looking at ways to avoid this. "Unfortunately, most of the people arrested will come out with criminal records and it is not our aim to criminalise South Africans. — PTI

## Returning Brits begin quarantine while Russia rolls out virus vaccine

**London, Aug. 15:** British travellers returning home from parts of Europe and beyond began having to quarantine on Saturday under new restrictions, while Russia said it has produced the first batch of its controversial Coronavirus vaccine.

The UK opted to remove France, the Netherlands, Malta and three other countries from its list of places exempt from self-isolation rules, as a second wave of virus infections threatens more disruption and economic chaos on the continent.

The move announced on late Thursday sparked a 36-hour scramble for plane, train and ferry tickets among some Britons desperate to get back before the 4 am (0300 GMT) change.

All arrivals from the blacklisted states after the deadline must quarantine for 14 days, with the measure already in place for people coming from several other countries including Spain and Belgium.

French student Antoine, 23, cut short his holiday to rush back to Bristol, in southwestern England,

where he is at university.

"I'm a waiter in a small cafe near college, I can't afford to spend 14 days in the house," he said at London's St Pancras railway station after arriving on a Eurostar train.

France is facing a resurgence of the disease that emerged in China late last year and has so far infected over 21 million people globally and killed more than 7,60,000.

French authorities have reported more than 2,500 new cases on each of the past three days — levels not seen since May when

the country emerged from lockdown.

With cases still rising around the world, Moscow said the first consignments of its "Sputnik" vaccine had been produced, just four days after President Vladimir Putin announced Russia had won the global race to approve a vaccine.

It has drawn a sceptical response from Western scientists and the World Health Organization, which have said the vaccine still needed a rigorous safety review. — AFP

## Biden promises to reform H-1B visa

## Joe to eliminate country quota for Green Cards

**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 worker visas. The administration will also take steps to stem the rising tide of hate and bigotry, address the security 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 video 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 cam-

● **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 worker visas.

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. A Green Card allows a non-US citizen to live and work permanently in America. "He will increase the number of refugees we welcome into this country by setting the annual global refugee admissions target to 1,25,000 and seek to raise it over time to commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need," it said.

"He will also work with Congress to establish a minimum admissions number of 95,000 refugees annually. Biden will remove the uncertainty for Dreamers by reinstating the DACA programme and explore all legal options to protect their families from inhumane separation," the campaign said. — PTI



Hassan Rouhani

## EMIRATES MADE 'HUGE MISTAKE' WITH ISRAEL DEAL: IRAN PREZ

**Tehran, Aug. 15:** The United Arab Emirates has made a "huge mistake" in reaching a deal towards normalising ties with Israel, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech on Saturday.

He warned the Gulf state against allowing Israel to have a "foothold in the region".

"They (the UAE) better be mindful. They have committed a huge mistake, a treacherous act. We hope they will realise this and abandon this wrong path," Rouhani said without elaborating.

The agreement, which is set to make the UAE only the third Arab state after Egypt and Jordan to make peace with Israel, calls for a temporary suspension of Israel's planned annexation of occupied West Bank territory, but not withdrawal.

The deal-brokered by US President Donald Trump with support from senior adviser Jared Kushner — is seen as a strategic boost for the UAE's regional and global standing.

Rouhani said the deal seemed aimed at ensuring that Trump wins another term in the US presidential election in November and referred to the fact that it was announced in Washington. — Agencies

## Belarus leader seeks Putin's aid as pressure builds

**Minsk, Aug. 15:** The opposition in Belarus kept up the pressure on President Alexander Lukashenko with a new demonstration in Minsk on Saturday, while the strongman sought the support of his main ally, Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Thousands of opposition supporters gathered near a metro station in the capital where a demonstrator died during this week's police crackdown on protests against Lukashenko's claim to have won re-election on last Sunday.

With the opposition gaining momentum after days of demonstrations, Lukashenko's main election challenger Svetlana Tikhanovskaya had called on supporters to rally again over the weekend.

Demonstrators heaped flowers at the spot where Alexander Taraiskovsky, 34, died on Monday. The crowd chanted "Thank you!" and raised victory signs while police kept a low profile.

Many held up photographs of protesters beaten during the crackdown while one man stood in

his underwear revealing the purple bruises on his thighs, buttocks and back.

Hundreds of mourners also attended the dead protester's funeral, including poet and former opposition candidate for president Vladimir Neklyayev said: "This cannot be forgiven".

Facing the biggest challenge to his rule since taking power in 1994, Lukashenko called in Moscow's help and spoke on the phone with Putin, after warning there was "a threat not only to Belarus".

The Kremlin said the leaders concluded the "problems" in Belarus would be "resolved soon" and the countries' ties strengthened.

While Lukashenko periodically plays Moscow off against the neighbouring EU, Russia is Belarus's closest ally and the countries have formed a "union state" linking their economies and militaries. Opposition protesters criticised Lukashenko for seeking Moscow's aid and said they feared a Russian intervention. — AFP

## AFGHAN WOMEN'S TRAILBLAZER CAMPAIGNER SURVIVES GUN ATTACK

**Kabul, Aug. 15:** Trailblazing Afghan women's rights campaigner Fawzia Koofi, a member of the negotiating team that will hold peace talks with the Taliban, has been wounded in a gun attack near Kabul, officials said on Saturday.

Gunmen opened fire on Koofi, 45, and her sister on Friday when they were returning from a meeting

in the province of Parwan near the capital, interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arihan said.

Koofi, a former member of parliament and strong critic of the Taliban, was shot in her right hand, he said, adding that she was in a stable condition.

The Taliban denied they were involved in the attack on Koofi. — AFP

## Emperor Naruhito expresses 'deep remorse' over his country's wartime actions

## Japan marks 75th anniversary of surrender

**Tokyo, Aug. 15:** Japan on Saturday marked the 75th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, with Emperor Naruhito expressing "deep remorse" over his country's wartime actions at a somber annual ceremony curtailed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Naruhito pledged to reflect on the war's events and expressed hope that the tragedy would never be repeated. There was no word of apology from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who gave thanks for the sacrifices of the

Japanese war dead but had nothing to say about the suffering of Japan's neighbours.

"Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," Naruhito said in a short speech at the event in Tokyo marking the 75th anniversary of Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945.

Amid virus fears and worries about the fading memories of the fast-aging war generation, about 500

participants, reduced from 6,200 last year, mourned the dead with a minute of silence. Masks were required, and there was no singing of the "Kimigayo" national anthem.

Naruhito has promised to follow in the footsteps of his father, who devoted his 30-year career to making amends for a war fought in the name of Hirohito, the current emperor's grandfather. Abe has increasingly sought to whitewash Japan's brutal past since taking office in December 2012. He hasn't acknowl-

edged Japan's wartime hostilities during August 15 speeches, which had previously been a nearly 20-year tradition that began with the 1995 apology of Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama.

Abe, in a largely domestic-focused speech, said the peace that Japan enjoys today is built on the sacrifices of those who died in the war. He pledged that Japan will reflect on lessons from history and will not repeat the war devastation. He listed damage inflicted on Japan and its

people, including the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, massive firebombings of Tokyo and the fierce battle of Okinawa.

Abe pledged to play a greater role in tackling global problems. Under his goal of turning Japan into a "beautiful" and "normal" nation, Abe has steadily pushed to cleanse Japan of its embarrassing wartime history and build up its military by stretching the interpretation of Japan's war-renouncing constitution. — AP



Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako bow as they attend a memorial service marking the 75th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II at the Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on Saturday. — AP



## 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-10 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-medallist, 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 his raw thoughts



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

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 certainly, 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

THE ONLY CAPTAIN TO WIN ALL THREE ICC LIMITED-OVERS TROPHIES



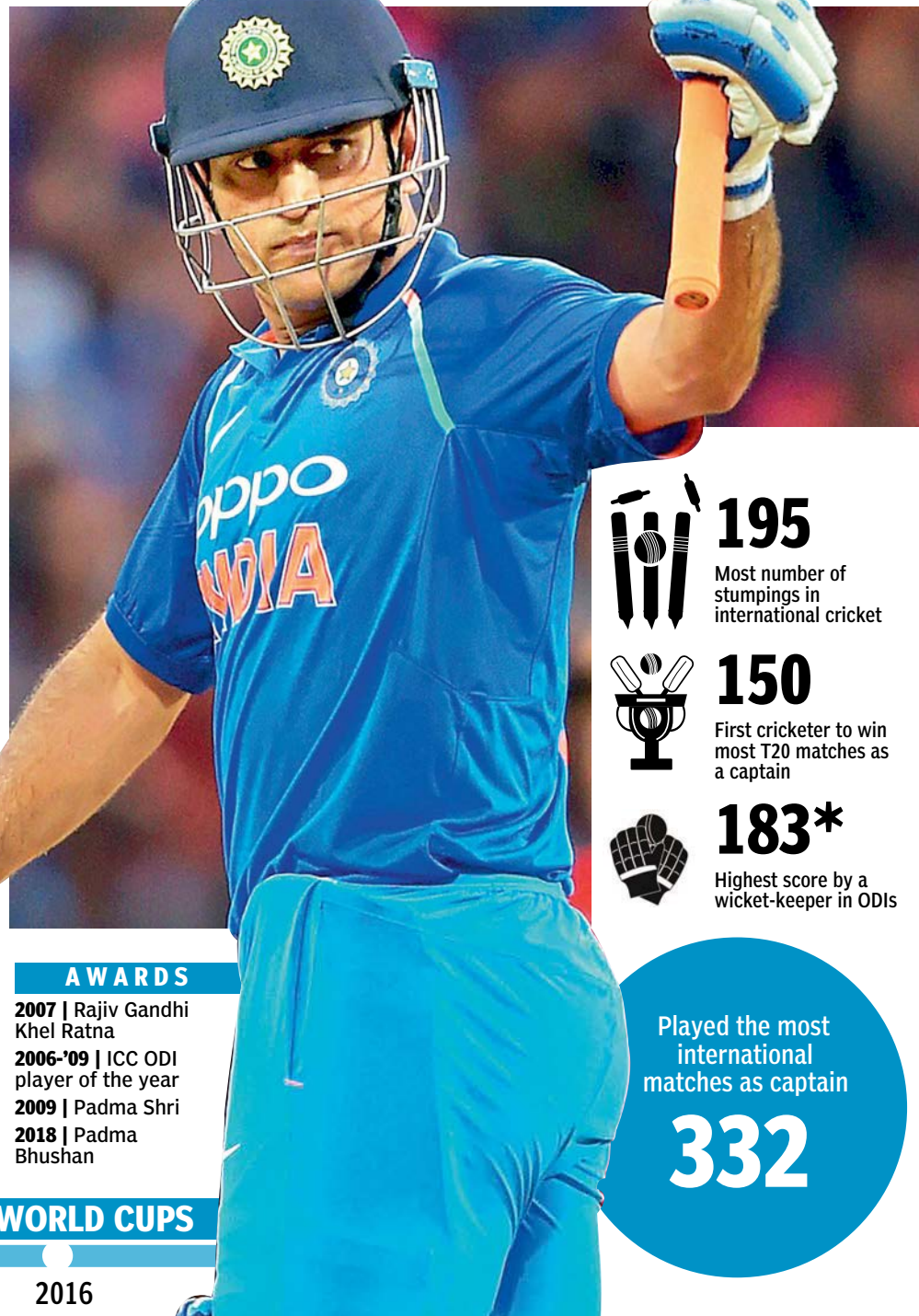
2007 T20 World Cup



2011 ODI World Cup



2013 Champions Trophy



**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**

## AWARDS

2007 | Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

2006-'09 | ICC ODI player of the year

2009 | Padma Shri

2018 | Padma Bhushan

## 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 their 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 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 Chepauk 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.

Chepauk 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

AGE 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