

FRONTLINE WARRIORS

D octors play an indispensable role in our lives, often acting as the frontline warriors in the battle against illness and suffering. Their dedication, expertise, and compassion make them deserving of utmost respect and admiration from society.

First and foremost, doctors dedicate years of their lives to rigorous education and training. A doctor's ability to provide reassurance, comfort, and support can make a significant difference in a patient's journey towards recovery.

Doctors often work under immense pressure, especially in emergency rooms, intensive care units, and during medical crises. Despite the stress and demanding work hours, they remain steadfast in their commitment to saving lives and alleviating suffering. Their resilience and ability to make critical decisions under pressure are nothing short of commendable.

The respect accorded to doctors is not only for their medical expertise but also for their humanity and selflessness. Many doctors work in underserved areas, sacrificing personal comfort and security to provide healthcare to those most in need. Their willingness to serve in challenging environments demonstrates a deep sense of altruism and dedication to the welfare of others.

Furthermore, doctors often face challenging ethical dilemmas, balancing medical interventions with patients' wishes and quality of life considerations. Their ability to navigate these complex situations with integrity and compassion reinforces their role as trusted guardians of health and well-being. In times of crisis, such as global pandemics or natural disasters, doctors exemplify courage and resilience. They work tirelessly to care for the sick, often putting their own health at risk. Their bravery and commitment to duty serve as a source of inspiration and gratitude for communities worldwide. The respect we hold for doctors is a recognition of their exceptional skills, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on our lives. They embody the values of compassion, expertise, and selflessness, making invaluable contributions to healthcare and society as a whole. As we express our appreciation for their tireless efforts, we acknowledge that doctors are true heroes whose contributions deserve our highest esteem and gratitude.

"Triumphant Phenomenally Team India Does It With Pride"

MANMOHAN DHAR

India does it with pride. Well friends, the fact of the matter is that every Indian feels on top of the world with this phenomenal victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup at Trinidad, West Indies

Unbeaten throughout the tournament India gives a wonderful gift to fellow citizens well before the Independence Day. We celebrated the victory today and we will celebrate it once again on 15th of August when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will perhaps congratulate team India and the people of India from the ramparts of Red Fort. Don't know, but perhaps he will.

Remember 1983, when team India under the leadership of legendary Kapil Dev won the ODI World Cup defeating West Indies in the final held at Lords cricket ground, England. India's second World Cup win was in the year 2011 when they won the tournament on home soil defeating Sri Lanka in the final at Wankhade stadium, Mumbai under the leadership of yet another cricket legend Mahinder Singh Dhoni. While the match was on, it seemed that India stands no chance of any win at all, but as we all know cricket is a game of uncertainties. Sometimes it catches you unawares and then all of a sudden, you see a post mortem of what happened. A dramatic turn in the game changed the fortunes in just a fraction of a second when Surya Kumar Yadav turned an impossible catch into a reality.

Indian cricket has gone through a lot of ups and downs. It has made country proud and at times it has missed the bus too. But, what Indian cricket has achieved during the last decade is phenomenal. India has not only won international tournaments but has also been able to put an impact on the world cricket.

When it comes to quality and the level of cricket in global arena, India is no less than a giant in the game.

World cricket body the ICC also has to put things in place only after a due consultation with the world's richest cricket board BCCI. In other words it can be said that BCCI has a commanding position in world cricket. But, that does not mean that BCCI in any way impresses upon the ICC to do things which could be detrimental in the longer run for a smooth voyage of the game of cricket.

Venkaiah Garu- life in service of Bharat

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

NARENDRA MODI

oday, India's former Vice President and respected statesman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines.

come true.

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated with each other for decades. We have worked together and I have also learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar because he was inspired by the vision of Nation First. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP.

When the Emergency was imposed almost 50 years ago, young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and that too for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-1980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect democratic principles.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR Tsunami swept the state, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paying the way for the BJP's growth across the state.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is



certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a worksmith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put in to legislative affairs and speaking for people of his constituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his Party but Venkaiah Garu refused to deviate from his core ideology. He went on to play a big role in strengthening the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, going across the villages and connecting with people from all walks of life. He led the Party on the floor of the Assembly and even became the AP BJP President.

You have to dream before your dreams -can

It was in the 1990s that the BJP central leadership took note of Venkaiah Garu's efforts and thus in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appointed the Party's All India General Secretary. It was truly a remarkable moment for a man, who as a teenager would go around announcing the visits of Atal Ji and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the General Secretary, he was focused on how to bring our Party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the National President of the Party.

In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the government as a Minister, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone including Atal Ji puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was being asked which portfolio he wants and his first choice was Rural Development. But, Venkaiah Garu was clear- he was a Kisan Putra, he had spent his early days in the villages and thus, if there was one area he wished to work, it was rural development. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.' Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban development for such an extensive period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national capital, having worked in Gujarat for the previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to Parliamentary norms and rules.

In 2017, our Alliance nominated him as our Vice-Presidential candidate. We faced a dilemma - we thought about how the big shoes

of Venkaiah Garu would be impossible to fill, but at the same time, we also knew there was no better candidate for the Vice Presidency than him. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the Party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deep-rooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and first time MPs get the opportunity to speak. He put great emphasis on attendance, making the Committees more effective and also raising the level of debate in the House.

EDITORIAL

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, it was Venkaiah Garu who was on the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional moment for him- the young boy who was drawn to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India was on the Chair when this was finally achieved.

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer too. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also hosting people. But, off late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk.

Even after the Vice Presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about or on various developments that take place across the nation, he calls me and asks me about it. I met him most recently when our government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him once again on this milestone. I hope young Karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India)

Sacred Shrine of Sarthal Devi

G.L. KHAJURIA

Which the dawn of civilization, man's quest has ever long been bewildering and enchanting in seeking solace from the great grace of divine shakties whose manifestations have mostly been confined to mountainous region of greater Himalayas. In our state, these divine shakties are presiding over every nook and corner and are being revered with utmost devotion and veneration.

The Devi Mata is one having a wide varied personification and is all pervading Shakti. She is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent. She has been worshiped over the millennia past as per our religious script, The Vedas, Puranas and Upnishadas. She has also been worshiped as Aditi, The mother of Gods and is supreme, greater good of knowledge, fortune and ultimate bliss. She is the creator, preserver and destroyer. She is Perceiver of the unperceived knower of unknown and over flowing with love for her delighted devotees. She is benign enough to forgive all even to erring and saviours us from all misories and afficians when we revere her devotcould not make any way out accept to carry out the order of the small girl and taking her on his shoulders; he was wafted through air and finally landed on the mountain by name Ujaal in whose vicinity the temple of Sarthal Devi Mata' till date exists. The shepherd boy rested for a while and when woke up it was to his astonishment that the little girl took the form of an idol. He further perplexingly observed gushing out of a beautiful spring with nectar clear wate:

As per another legend, Raja Agar Dev who ruled Kishtwar those times when once Mata ji appeared in his dream and next day, when the Raja was on hunting Spree in the forest, he saw that all his hunted birds falling on a particular spot and to his surprise he found there an idol. So he realized the dream that he had the other night and ordered the locals to carry this idol to the palace.Strange enough, the idol had hardly been carried a mile or so long when the carries wanted to take rest for a while. They laid the Idol on ground and is believed that this Idol could never be carried away from that spot which made the Raia to believe that this Idol is truthfully the divine shakti of Mata Ji. As such , a temple of Sarthal Devi was constructed there and with the passage of time, a new temple was as well constructed there by Maharaja Gulab Singh. This temple of Shrine shakti of Sarthal Devi is mostly revered and venerated and whosever comes here is blessed with the divine shakti of Mata ii and washed off his sins. The locals and the devotees who throng over here have heartfelt belief and adoration so much that even the childless couples are blessed with child with by the divine Shakti of Mata. It is said that general Zorawar Singh, the Dogra warrior who extended the northern orienteer of India to the extent of Ladakh and Gilgit use to visit the Shrine for blessings and he always came out victoriously. The great Guru Nanak ji during his Sojourn is reported to have spent much of his time in Bhadarwah and Kishtwar and had also visited Chandi Mata (Padder) and Sarthal Mata as well for Holv darshan and blessing.

The number of Yatries (devotees) during Navratras on both the occasions around the year are extremely high from in and around the vicinity and also from far flushed areas of Punjab, H.P, Haryana, and U.P. a two day Mela is celebrated with much fans and fair every year and this year, this is being celebrated on 24th and 25th July.

Apart from the Shrine temple of Sarthal Devi. There are two other prominent of Sheetla Mata (who curse small pox) and then that of Lord Shiva. In reverence of Sheetla Mata and Lord Shiva, a fair is regularly held each year on Bhadarpada Amavasya and Maha Shivratri. Villagers of the vicinity and those from far flung areas throng in huge procession in new bright colour attire with music of all hues viz. drums, flutes, bagpipers and bugles from which Bhadarwah and Kishtwar culture like H.P folk lore occupy a specific placement in northern part of India.

Mata Sarth Devi is an important Shakti Shrine in Kishtwar . The temple and its surrounds are so mesmerizing that all devotees are filled up with joy of spiritual bliss and peace. It has as important tourist potential which warrants boosting on larger scale. The sanctum Santorum has been over the years remained neglected which warrants developments on all fronts. The attention of govt. both at state and centre level is being invited in arranging adequate funding for all round development of the area. The involvement of multi-disciplinary departments is the paramount need in boosting the areas. way and do their best in restoring the shrine apart from introducing additionalities to beautify the complex.

Carrying out minor engineering works (M.E.W) : Since the areas over the years have dilapidated and eroded emanating from weather conditions and biotic interference. It therefore, become penitent to carry out all minor engineering works to safeguard all such areas under threat of further degradation and to arrest the fragila soil of its being eroded, particularly during monsoons and at occasions when the areas are subject to torrential rains and floods tan amounting landslides etc.

Construction of enroute shelter sheds : Since the yatries (devotes) during navratras are mostly on foot to Shrine, so it is imperative to construct Shelter Sheds on routes at equi-distance for their convenience

Construction of toilets both for ladies and gents : This is most pertinent to ensure cleanliness of road and its surrounds. All such toilets are needed to be connected with water pipes to keep this neat and clean. This task have to be taken up by PHE and its associates.

shooth voyage of the game of cheret.

What is more important is that the board of cricket in India gives the same weightage to women's cricket as well. Though India is doing well internationally in women's cricket but there is still a lot which when taken care of can put the Indian women's cricket in the lead globally.

Thanks to some very progressive and constructive measures taken by the Indian cricket board for the state of art development of the game and also the players' welfare is concerned. Memories are still alive when Indian cricketers used to have numberless complaints regarding the upliftment issues and the callous approach of the management towards the players who put the prime of their life into the well being of the game and still were looked down due to various constraints of the board.

But, Indian cricket is going to new heights and the world has acknowledged the supremacy India enjoys. This is the reason that India as a team has learnt to finish the game in their favour despite being at the verge of defeat. And, this T20 World Cup is the live example of the ultimate supremacy that Indian cricket and Indian players enjoy and are being respected for.

Future of Indian cricket is very bright and it has entered an era where it can broaden the ambit of the game with its authoritative position recognised the world over.

It is not the tournaments you win that speak of the hold you have on the game. It is the leadership that you can provide to the entire world to create an acceptance for the game of cricket. It is a well known fact that soccer is the most popular game the world over, but at the same time the popularity of cricket can in no means be underrated. Still there is a lot that needs to be done in making the game a worldwide feature.

BCCI undoubtedly is in a strong position to have an impact on world cricket and can change the image of the game to the extent that the non playing countries also get reasonably attracted towards the gentleman's game.

This World Cup can be a key factor in propagating the degree of Karisma and the glamour this wonderful game carries with it. World bodies associated with the game shall definitely look into the avenues which can help a great deal in establishing the magical influence of the game. And, nevertheless BCCI hold the centre stage to make things go in the right direction.

Senior players of Indian cricket have set an example for the entire world when Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravinder Jadeja decided to hang up their boots for T20 cricket. This was a fantastic gesture on part of these giants of the game and they have set an example for all those who think they are indispensable. Greatness of players lies not in their arrogance but it comes to fore when they display a gesture of cricketing maturity. And that is what has been established by these legends of world cricket.

It is time to celebrate and at the same time look into avenues to make Indian cricket more impressive and inspiring. edly with true mind, body and soul.

Nestling amidst lush green vibrant and salubrious pines and other broad leaved forests exists the sanctum sanctorum of Sarthal Devi . This barely lies 53 kms ahead of Thatri lying on National highway -1B and some 105kms from Batote. Sarthal Devi Shrine echelons a height of 7000ft from mean sea level (M.S.L) and is akin to the sanctity and Shakti of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi though of course there is no such rush of devotees because of lack of communication and allied facilities.

The sacred temple of Mata Sarthal Devi is having a single piece of idol the Goddess with eighteen arms. It is a mystical piece having power shakti on the beholder where devotees come for holy darshan, pay obeisance and obtain blessing. It is believed that this idol from Kashmir valley. Some five and half century back, when Sultan Skinder and most prominently renowned as Sikander ruled Kashmir (1389-1412AD). According to a popular belief, Sharika Bhawani (Sarthal Devi) who had her abode on Hari parbat in Kashmir, once miraculously changed herself in the form of a small Kanyna (Girl) and asked a shepherd grazing goats nearby to take her on his back. Though astonished, the shepherd

It would rather be no obvious experience for all those who left their home and hearths to escape from the tyranny by of the rulers of those olden time, Mata Sarthal Devi provided them real and supported them against all oddities and squabbles. Suggestive measures:-

Improving road connectivity. The entire stretch connecting Kishtwar and hence to the scared shrine is in a dilapidating condition which warrants up-grading and improvement to avert the turns and twist and facilitating the tourists and devotees alike. This will enable smooth movements of vehicles and make the Journey risk Free from eventualities. Here the PWD and beacon authorities shall have make all out efforts for ensuring life line of connectivity.

Restoring back temple complex: Lot of efforts with extra expertise need to be inculcated to make the monumental heritage of sacred shrine a piece of heaven over the spot. The Archeological deptt. shall have to make the head Extensive/intensive afforestation works : This is the paramount need of the hour to improve, protect and preserve the areas insofar as safeguarding environment is concerned. So, extensive/intensive afforestation works are warranted to be taken up. Here the Social forestry deptt. have to pick up the thread in the successful orientation of the programe. The deptt of Soil conservation as well is to associated with for the treatment of areas much vulnerable to erractic erosion, eroding nullahs and gullies. The construction of check dams are also warranted where ever there are risk of flash floods. Introduction of Soil binding species are to be priorized to conserve and preserve the soil.

Introduction of ornamental plants, climbers and creepers

Such introduction shall have to be inculcated on both sides of the road to give it a picturesque look. And on the blooming of flowers shall further add beauty to the road and its ambience thus captivating the tourists and devotees alike Also, this will boost spiritual and eco-tourism of the area, apart from improving the local economy of the area at large which is clarion call of the day.

YOUR COLUMN Pages of Knowledge

Dear editor,

ften people ask themselves various questions as to why their life is like this or that. Some people wonder who they are, what is their place in this world. Behavioral psychologists say with solid evidence that seventy-two percent of the people in this world think in this way. We get answers to these questions in books. A book is a safe filled with incalculable wealth. Whoever acquires this wealth after reading this becomes the richest person. Priceless when curiosity is satisfied, Money means satisfaction. It has also been said that 'When satisfaction comes, all wealth is like a pivot.'

The book not only works a miracle, it gently creates a magical happiness in the reader that he comes out of sadness and depression and starts flowing in the feeling of a complete humanity. So reading a book is just like chatting with a close friend. Knowledge of a good and useful book gives a person the means to reach new limits. When a person sings along with reading a book, he feels a wonderful energy and struggles with his limitations. He develops skills to overcome his physical and mental limitations. After this, the person gains a new confidence and abilities to achieve new levels

In this sense, apart from happiness and satisfaction, the book

also gives strength to courage for struggle. Mahatma Gandhi experienced a unique transformation within himself after reading John Ruskin's 'Unto the Last', which he adapted as 'Sarvodaya' and chose to use as a teaching tool. like this leo Gandhiji was greatly influenced by Tolstoy's book 'The Kingdom of God is Within You' and he made non-violence a weapon of protest to protect humanity. He also named the ashram established as a center of struggle in South Africa as Tolstoy Ashram. Nowadays some schools are also making reading a compulsory activity and are including the books of Akbar-Birbal and Tenali Ram in the summer vacation study of the students. The reason is that these books easily provide simple solutions to small and big problems of life. Can't get it. Along with this, we also get a glimpse of the atmosphere and conduct of contemporary India. Books play an important role in nurturing the moral values of humans. Books written by saints and famous people teach us about the right moral values to become a good person. If mythological works like 'Panchantra' and 'Hitopadesh' teach moral values of life, then books like 'Simhasan Battisi' and 'Chandrakanta Santati' also show us many unseen aspects of life. Similarly 'Harry Potter' and Books like 'Cinderella' show us dreams about a beautiful world away from the bitter realities of life. Books are the real treasure of childhood for every child. It also teaches us to differentiate between good and evil. A person can have many types of hobbies. Some of them are people fond of books who never feel lonely and experience having a better friend in their life. The author of the book puts his lifelong journey and his knowledge into words and

gives it the form of a book. many such writers Many types of thoughts are in front of us in the form of a book, after reading which a stream of positive and peaceful thoughts starts flowing in the human mind. The role of books in experiencing things deeply is not hidden from anyone.

In a way, the book also works as a medicine, which shows the way out of every small and big dilemma of life in a moment. The author writes the words written in books in his own style, which is read or heard in the form of a poem, article, poetry or story, but the meaning of the words remains the same.

However, it depends on the style of a writer and how he presents his views to the people. Therefore, it is important that the youth be motivated to read books, through which youth or people of other groups can come to know each other's thoughts. Perhaps this is the reason why the stories written by the great storyteller and story emperor Prem Chand are still widely read all over the world. Every person wants to see the reflection of his feelings somewhere. By reading the social environment in every story of O. Henry, the reader feels that the story is his own. Looks like.

That is why books are the only precious thing in our life which makes us face to face with ourselves. The book fills a voice in our mind without speaking. Through this we can attain true knowledge, which has no limits. The meaning of words works to give a direction to our life or rather, books have the ability to change a person's life. There are many such books which reveal many layers of life. Works as soap for the mind.

Vijay Garg