

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Generally, the proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%. Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME exclusively.

Leftist Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras, vowing to reform the crime and poverty stricken nation into a "socialist and democratic state.

Banks have finalised plans to transfer by the end of this fiscal year 15 Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts worth ₹50,000 crore to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL), or the 'bad bank' set up to help resolve the stress. "A total of 38 accounts aggregating to ₹82,845 crore have been identified for transfer to NARCL; however the transfer will happen in a phased manner," State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara said.

Google will invest up to \$1 billion in Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel, including \$700 million for a 1.28% equity stake, the two companies said. The U.S.-based tech firm, which acquired a 7.73% stake in Bharti's rival Jio Platforms for \$4.5 billion in 2020, will acquire 71.18 million shares of Bharti at ₹734 per share, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals. The two companies said they would focus on enabling affordable access to smartphones.

India and the United Kingdom concluded the first round of discussion for the ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The discussion was conducted over two weeks and included 32 sessions that dealt with 26 policy areas, including trade in goods, services, telecommunications, investment and intellectual property. "The negotiations were productive and reflected our shared ambition to secure a comprehensive deal to boost trade between the 5th and 6th largest economies in the world.

PICTORIAL BOOK ON INDIA'S WOMEN UNSUNG HEROES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

1. Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi released a pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle as part of Azadi Ka Mahotsav. The book has been released in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha which is a household name in India. The book celebrates the lives of some of the women who led the charge and lit the flame of protest and rebellion throughout the country.

2. It contains the stories of queens who battled colonial powers in the struggle against imperial rule and women who dedicated and even laid down their lives for the cause of the motherland. The idea is to familiarise our youth with the iconic leaders of the freedom struggle and make them feel proud of their history.

3. The book seeks to make the youth to understand the history of freedom struggle through an Indian perspective rather than the colonial one. The second edition will be on 25 unsung Tribal Freedom Fighters which is under process and will take some time. The third and final edition will be of 30 unsung heroes drawn from other areas. Some of these iconic leaders include-

RANI ABAKKA

1. Rani Abakka, the Queen of Ullal, Karnataka fought and defeated the mighty Portuguese in the 16th century. Her army consisted of people from various castes, religions and sections of society. With this diversity, she ended up mobilizing her people to persistently oppose the Portuguese.

2. She was given the name 'The Fearless Queen'. Her legacy now lives on in Dakshin Karnataka in the form of folk songs, stories and performances of Yakshagana - a form of local theatre. Things in memorial Tulu Baduku Museum. Inshore Patrol Vessel Rani Abakka.

3. Veera Rani Abbakka Utsava is an annual celebration held in her name. Veera Rani Abbakka Prashasti - an award given to distinguished women on that day.

VELU NACHIYAR

1. Velu Nachiyar, the queen of Sivaganga was the first Indian queen to wage war against the British East India Company. She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai. Rani Velu Nachiyar was trained in martial arts like Valari, Silambam, horse riding and archery. She was proficient in many languages like French, English and Urdu.

2. In collaboration with Hyder Ali and Gopala Nayaker, she waged a war against the British and emerged victorious.

3. She is known to have produced the first human bomb as well as establish the first army of trained women soldiers in the late 1700s. A stamp was released in her remembrance.

JHALKARI BAI

1. Jhalkari Bai, was a woman soldier who grew to become one of the key advisors to the Rani of Jhansi and a prominent figure in the First War of Indian Independence, 1857.

2. She was born in a Dalit family and grew up to become a soldier. Jhalkari Bai took on the guise of the Rani and fought the battle.

MATANGINI HAZARA

1. Matangini Hazra was a brave freedom fighter from Bengal, who laid down her life while agitating against the British during Quit India Movement. In 1905, she became actively interested in the Indian Independence Movement, her source of inspiration being Mahatma Gandhi.

2. She took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, especially the Salt Satyagraha, abolition of the chowkidari tax. She resorted to spinning khadi (coarse cotton fabric) on her own charkha - despite her failing eyesight and advancing age.

GULAB KAUR

1. Gulab Kaur was a freedom fighter who abandoned her own hopes and dreams of a life abroad to fight for and mobilise the

The Supreme Court revoked the one year suspension of 12 MLAs from the Maharashtra Assembly, calling it an “irrational” act that would impact the democratic setup, leave constituencies unrepresented and help governments on a “thin majority” manipulate numbers. The BJP legislators were suspended for a year for “grossly disorderly conduct” in the House during the monsoon session in 2021. A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and C.T. Ravikumar quashed the resolution of July 5 last year as “unconstitutional” and traversing beyond the powers of the Assembly.

India is “positive” and “willing to engage” in talks with Pakistan on upgrading the 1974 joint protocol on religious pilgrimages to allow air travel and increase the number of shrines that pilgrims from both countries could visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The Supreme Court refused to lay down the “yardstick” for determining the inadequacy of representation for granting reservation in promotions for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in government jobs. It held ‘cadre’, and not class or group or the entire service, as the unit for the purpose of collection of quantifiable data for giving promotion quotas. The court stuck firm by the decisions of its Constitution Benches in the Jarnail Singh and M. Nagaraj cases that the question of adequate representation of SC/ST communities ought to be left to the respective States to determine.

A nation aspiring to be a “world leader” should debate on the welfare of its citizens rather than make Parliament a stage to exchange jeers and launch personal attacks on one another, the Supreme Court said in a judgment on Friday. To see Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies ridicule each other instead of engaging in constructive debates in Houses is hardly worthy of the claim that “we are the oldest civilisation on the planet and the world’s largest democracy”. With the completion of 75 years of Independence and ambitions of becoming a world leader, elected members should at least know that they are expected to show statesmanship and not brinkmanship in the House.

The Philippines on Friday signed a \$374.96million deal with BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd. for the supply of shorebased antiship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. This is the first export order for the missile, a joint product of India and Russia.

Indian people against the British Raj. **Gulab Kaur was a freedom fighter with the Ghadar Party.**

2.She was in charge of the printing and distribution of party literature, and was also known to give speeches on boats to Indian passengers. *Gadhar di dheer*- Gulab Kaur is a book written by S Kesar Singh about Gulab Kaur.

CHAKALI ILAMMA

1.Chakali Ilamma was a revolutionary woman who fought against the injustice of zamindars during the Telangana rebellion in the mid-1940s. **She was a member of the Andhra Mahasabha.**

2.She is one of the first women to dismantle the supremacy of the feudal lords of Telangana and has inspired various women to fight for their land and dignity.

PADMAJA NAIDU

1.Padmaja Naidu, the daughter of Sarojini Naidu and a freedom fighter in her own right, who would later become Governor of West Bengal and a humanitarian after Independence. She was also the joint founder of the Indian National Congress in Hyderabad.

2.She was associated with the Red Cross, an international humanitarian organisation committed to protect human life and health. **Miss Naidu was also associated with the Bharat Sevak Samaj, All India Handcrafts Board and Nehru Memorial Board.**

3.She collected the poems written by Sarojini Naidu and published it as a book titled *The Feather of the Dawn* in 1961. The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (also known as the Darjeeling Zoo) in Darjeeling is named after Ms Naidu.

BISAN DEVI SHAH

1.Bishni Devi Shah, is a woman who inspired large number of people in Uttarakhand to join the freedom movement.

2.Bishni Devi took part in various movements like the Civil disobedience movement and the Khilafat Movement and also participated in the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress in 1920.

SUBHADRA KUMARI CHAUHAN

1.Subhadra Kumari Chauhan Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was one of the greatest Hindi poets, who was also a prominent figure in the freedom movement. She is known for her evocative patriotic poem ‘Jhansi ki Rani’.

2.**Subhadra’s style of writing focused on women who overcame hardships besides fighting for nation’s sovereignty through her works.** She used poetry as a medium to inspire people to join the freedom struggle.

3. Chauhan eventually became the first woman satyagrahi in 1923. *Tej Se Tej (As Effulgence Met Effulgence)*, a book written by her daughter Sudha, chronicles her mother’s life and times, while Prof Alok Rai is translating her memoirs into English.

DURGAWATI DEVI

1.Durgawati Devi was the brave woman who provided safe passage to Bhagat Singh after the killing of John Saunders and much more during her revolutionary days. When Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were awarded the death sentence, Durga came out openly in the field to oppose it.

2.As revenge for the hanging of Bhagat Singh and others, Durga decided to kill Lord Hailey, an ex-Governor of Punjab, who was also a staunch enemy of the revolutionaries. Although the Governor escaped, his aides were injured.

3.Durga was arrested and awarded three years imprisonment. She was an active member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

SUCHETA KRIPLANI

1.Sucheta Kripalani, a prominent freedom fighter, became independent India’s first woman Chief Minister of UP Government. She was committed to the Gandhian ideology. Sucheta was fearless in mind and spirit and chartered her own independent course.

2.**As India ushered in its Independence Sucheta was invited to sing Vande Mataram, Saare Jahan Se Acha and Jana Gana Mana before Nehru’s “Tryst with Destiny” speech.** In her book “An Unfinished Autobiography”, Sucheta recounts the emotion

The Centre appointed V. Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor, three days before the start of the Budget session of Parliament.

Drone tech entrepreneurs have urged the Centre to simplify drone rules and facilitate credit systems for a healthy takeoff of the sector. "If the government can reduce import duties, it will encourage drone manufacturing in India so that the overall cost of the system gets way lesser.

she felt as a ten-year old after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. **3.** During her political journey, she founded the All India Mahila Congress. In 1949, she was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and led the Indian delegation to the International Labour Organisation in 1961.