

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | THURSDAY 8 | JULY 2021

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 23°C
Rainfall: 0.8 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Pilava: Aani 24
Tithi: Sathurthasi
Star: Mrigasirisham
Rahukalam:
1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam:
6 am to 7.30 am

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.27 am
Luhar: 12.18 pm
Asar: 3.38 pm
Maghrib: 6.39 pm
Isha: 7.58 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.49 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 4.25 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 6.23 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+45,592)	(+817)
3,07,08,496	4,05,057

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+3,367)	(64)
TN:25,06,848	33,196

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

18,56,29,585

DEATHS

40,13,052

COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES

219

worldometers.info

Wife of late Union minister murdered in Delhi

New Delhi: Kitty Kumaramangalam, wife of late former Union minister P Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, was found murdered at her home in southwest Delhi's Vasant Vihar, police said on Wednesday. She was 67 years old, they added. The police said they suspect attempted robbery to be the motive behind the killing and have apprehended a 24-year-old washerman of the area, identified as Raju, in connection with the case. Based on preliminary investigation, it is suspected that the washerman had come to the house around 9 pm on Tuesday night, and when the house help opened the door, he overpowered her, dragged her to a room and restrained her, they said.

COUNTER POINT



I shall discharge my duties, if any, without fear and favour...



STATE | 3
CM Stalin visits Tiruvarur and Nagai



WORLD | 5
Haiti Prez Moïse assassinated

SPORT | 8
Hubert shocks Federer in Wimbledon



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PM freshens face with reshuffle

■ Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsh Vardhan dropped ■ Scindia gets cabinet berth; Reddy promoted

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Keeping in mind caste equations and regional aspirations ahead of crucial Assembly polls, especially in Uttar Pradesh, and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the much-awaited reshuffle and expansion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers finally took place on Wednesday with the induction of many new, young leaders, some expected promotions and at least three shocking departures.

A total of 43 leaders were administered oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind, and the new faces included former Shiv Sena leader and a political heavyweight from Maharashtra's Konkan, Narayan Rane, former Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, senior BJP leader Bhupendra Yadav, JD(U)'s R.C.P. Singh and LJP's Pashupati Kumar Paras, all getting cabinet rank. Mansukh Mandaviya, Anurag Thakur, G. Kishan Reddy, Hardeep Puri, Kiren Rijiju, R.K. Singh and Purushottam Rupala, who were ministers of state, have been promoted as cabinet ministers.

Later in the evening portfolios of ministers were announced with Mr Mandaviya getting the health portfolio, Anurag Thakur getting I&B as well as sports and youth affairs, Hardeep Puri getting petroleum, urban and housing, G. Kishan Reddy getting culture, tourism and development of Northeast, and Kiren Rijiju getting law and justice.

Among the new entrant



President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah at the national anthem after the swearing-in ceremony of new ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Wednesday. — PTI

in the council of ministers, Sarbananda Sonowal got Ayush, port, shipping and waterways, Ashwini Vaishnav got Railways, communication and IT. Bhupendra Yadav got environment and labour ministries, Jyotiraditya Scindia got civil aviation, Pashupati Kumar Paras got food processing, Ashwini Vaishnav got Railways, IT and communications. Meenakshi Lekhi is MoS, external affairs and culture, while home minister Amit Shah will now be assisted by three MoS — Nishith Parmanik, Ajay Kumar along with Nityanand Rai, who was inducted in Team Modi in 2019.

While senior cabinet ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitaraman, S Jaishankar and Narendra Singh Tomar continued holding their portfolios, home minister Amit Shah got the additional charge of the new cooperation ministry. ■ P4

Murugan rewarded for electoral gains

DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
CHENNAI, JULY 7

The newly-inducted Union minister of state for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying L. Murugan is believed to have been rewarded for the performance of the BJP made in the recently-concluded assembly elections in which the party got four seats after a gap of two decades. Mr Murugan, who was earlier the vice-chairman of the National Commission For Scheduled Castes, will be a minister of state in the information and broadcasting ministry also.

Mr Murugan took over as the party's Tamil Nadu unit president in March



2020 with the responsibility of making gains in the state politics dominated by Dravidian parties in the assembly elections which were to be held a year later. Mr Murugan, unlike his predecessors, did not shy away from picking 'soft Dravidian' ideology if warranted, all along maintaining his party's 'nationalist' vision. ■ P4

OPS ends AIADMK-BJP slugfest on poll setback

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR, D. SEKAR
CHENNAI, JULY 7

AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam averted a major showdown between leaders of his party and its ally, the BJP, on Wednesday by quickly tweeting a political message reaffirming the continuation of the alliance and reposing absolute faith in the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, putting all speculations at rest.

However, prior to his intervention, Twitter witnessed a bloodbath in the forenoon with attacks and counter-attacks launched by BJP and AIADMK leaders and supporters, each blaming the other for the debacle of the alliance in



C Ve Shanmugham

the assembly elections.

The slanging match was triggered by former AIADMK minister C Ve Shanmugham, who, speaking at a meeting of AIADMK functionaries in Villupuram on Tuesday, had said the AIADMK would have won for the third time if it had not committed the mistake of aligning with the BJP, which cost them minority

votes.

With the morning newspapers carrying the report, BJP acolytes took to Twitter and started replying in an acrimonious manner. "Actually it's the other way around," said Khushboo, who was a BJP candidate in the elections.

A state general secretary of the BJP, K.T. Raghavan, tagged Mr Shanmugham and said "we feel it was all because of you." State BJP's art and culture wing president Gayathri Raguram was very acerbic in her retort, saying the AIADMK candidates in many constituencies won only because of the BJP's campaign and that at least 10,000 BJP cadre had voted for the AIADMK in every constituency. ■ P2

HC JUDGE SLAPS ₹5 LAKH FINE ON DIDI, RECUSES

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JULY 7

Slapping a fine of Rs 5 lakhs on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for defaming him as a "BJP man", Justice Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta high court on Wednesday recused himself from hearing the Trinamul Congress supremo's election petition challenging her defeat to Suwendu Adhikari in the Nandigram Assembly election.

With his stinging remarks, Justice Chanda, from whom Ms Banerjee on June 18 sought her plea be transferred by acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal over bias to another judge, stated in his order. ■ P4

‘Tragedy king’ laid to rest with state honours

Mumbai, July 7: Screen legend Dilip Kumar on Wednesday was buried with full state honours here, marking the end of an illustrious career as one of Indian cinema's most loved icons.

The 98-year-old actor, who passed away following prolonged illness, was laid to rest around 4:45 pm in the presence of family, including actor wife Saira Banu.

Kumar was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the Juhu Qabristan in Santacruz Mumbai.

As per the state funeral protocols, Kumar's body was draped with the tricolor at his Pali Hill residence, before being moved to the



Naya Daur (1957) a movie still from veteran Bollywood actor Dilip Kumar and Vyjayantimala.

burial ground.

Post the funeral, megastar Amitabh Bachchan and son

Abhishek Bachchan visited

the Juhu qabristan to pay their respects to Kumar.

Earlier in the day, Kumar's friends, colleagues and fans, including Dharmendra, Shah Rukh Khan, Shabana Azmi, Vidya Balan and producer Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ranbir Kapoor paid their respects to the acting legend at his residence.

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai came for the funeral but Covid protocols prevented him to go inside.

Born as Yousuf Khan in Peshawar on December 11, 1922, Kumar was known to generations of film-goers as the "tragedy king."

The Hindi cinema veteran, the last of the golden troika with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand and one of

India's most venerated stars, was admitted to hospital last month following episodes of breathlessness.

The actor had been battling ill health for the last few years, including advanced-stage prostate cancer and lung disease, and had been in and out of the hospital.

The first of the Khans, as he was sometimes referred to, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha for one term, awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan and also served as sheriff of Mumbai. He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke award in 1994 for his contributions to Indian cinema. ■ P2

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SHORT TAKES



Principal chief commissioner of income tax takes charge

Chennai: Senior income tax department official Subashree Anantkrishnan assumed charge as Principal chief commissioner of income tax, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. She was promoted and transferred from IT department, Bengaluru. Subashree belongs to the 1987 batch of Indian Revenue Service. She served in various capacities at many cities including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kochi and Bengaluru.

OPS ends AIADMK-BJP slugfest on poll setback

From P1

Memes were also created and circulated by supporters of both the viewpoints - one, AIADMK lost because of the BJP and two, the BJP did so badly only because of the AIADMK - and a virtual war was raging on social media when Mr Panneerselvam put an end to it.

The controversy also triggered a plethora of debates and news analysis on the media and social networking sites with people trying to assess the strengths and weaknesses of both the parties in the state.

Insiders, however, suspect Mr Shanmugham's outburst to have been sparked by the anger caused by the behind the scenes pressure put on the AIADMK leadership by the BJP to accommodate V.K. Sasikala into the party.

Many in the AIADMK feel that it was the BJP that was behind Ms Sasikala's latest bravado in openly telling random cadre that she would take over the party once the coronavirus crisis blew over.

The systematic manner in which she records conversations with cadre and then leaks those audio tapes to create an impression that the AIADMK workers are with her has peeved the leaders that they have already started purging those who are in touch with her.

Yet, the AIADMK leaders find the present Sasikala factor to be a thorn in the flesh even though they have been putting up a brave face and even telling people that they do not want an electoral triumph with Ms Sasikala's backing.

Even during the talks for finalising the alliance before the Assembly elections, the BJP had been asking the AIADMK leaders to take Ms Sasikala and her nephew T.T.V. Dhinakaran into the party fold with a view to not letting the AIADMK votes get splintered.

But with a section of leaders like leader of the opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami and also Mr Shanmugham digging in their heels against such a move, the BJP leaders are said to have let it go. But it is also rumoured that AIADMK leaders had wanted Ms Sasikala to be kept out of the hustings.

The sudden announcement of Ms Sasikala that she was keeping off the polls, it is said, was made at the behest of the BJP, which had been allegedly threatening her with letting loose central investigating agencies against her.

Vehicular traffic resumes on Anaikarai bridge

G. SRINIVASAN | DC KUMBakonam, JULY 7

Vehicular movement started on Anaikarai (lower anicut) bridge at Anaikarai near Kumbakonam on Thursday.

Traffic was stopped on the bridge in 1918 in view of safety and security. Now after strengthening the bridge, traffic was permitted on the bridge.

Kovi.Sezhiyan, government whip, flagged off the traffic on Thursday. Dinesh Ponreaj Oliver, Thanjavur collector, and K.Anbalagan, Kumbakonam MLA, participated in the function.

Sezhiyan said that people have been demanding vehicular movement on the bridge as it connected Kumbakonam with northern districts. Initially, town buses will ply on the bridge. Later mofussil buses will be permitted, Sezhiyan said.

Vaccine shortage hits city jab drive

T. SUDHEESH | DC CHENNAI, JULY 7

Even as active Covid-19 cases in the city continue to fall, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is facing a shortage of vaccines for the last couple of days.

The cases dropped from 3,462 with 291 fresh Covid-19 patients on June 28 to 1,776 with 209 fresh cases on Tuesday.

As per the zone-specific data provided by the GCC, all 15 zones marked cases below 200 with six zones

in two digits. Teynampet topped with 191 cases pushing Adyar, which was on the top slot last month, to second place with 183 cases.

On June 28, Adyar had 406 cases while in Teynampet it was below 300. Likewise, Anna Nagar and Kodambakkom, which had little more than 300 cases, reported 161 and 152 cases respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the vaccination drive in the city slowed down for the last few days due to a shortage

of vaccines. The GCC data shows that only 4,786 doses were administered on Tuesday and 6,950 doses on Monday. On Sunday, the jab figure was 14,105. There have been complaints that many vaccination centres administered only the second dose of vaccines.

Also, the state government had started special vaccination camps for the differently abled, pregnant women, lactating mothers and labourers, which also had to be stopped.



Covid-19 vaccine sent to Central government drugs godown in Periamet on Wednesday.

—DC

Man nabbed for sending obscene content to minor girl

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 7

A 30-year-old has been arrested from Chengalpet town for allegedly harassing a minor girl by sending her obscene messages on WhatsApp, police said on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Sadam Hussain (30), a resident of Fazid street in Chengalpet town. He works as a conductor with the state transport corporation.

On Tuesday, a complaint was received at the Chengalpet town police

station from the mother of a minor girl who alleged that Sadam Hussain was sending her sexually explicit messages on WhatsApp.

According to police, the accused, got the number of the 12-year-old girl three months back and started sending her obscene videos and photos to her WhatsApp number. When the girl allegedly asked him to stop sending her vulgar contents, he reportedly told her that it was General Knowledge and she should know about it.

As he did not stop sending messages despite sev-

eral warnings, the minor girl told her mother about Sadam Hussain. Police said when the girl's mother confronted him, he threatened the woman with dire consequences, after which the woman lodged a complaint with the police.

A case under different Sections of the PoCSO Act was registered against the accused at the Chengalpet town police.

The mobile phone, used to send vulgar messages, was recovered from his possession. He was arrested, produced in a court which remanded him to judicial custody.

Pondy sees marginal rise in daily cases

Puducherry, July 7: Puducherry witnessed a marginal rise in the number of new daily cases of Covid-19 with 189 infections added during last 24 hours ending 10 am on Wednesday, taking the aggregate to 1.18 lakh. The new cases were identified at the end of examination of 6,756 samples.

Director of the Department of Health S Mohan Kumar said the

new cases were spread over Puducherry 129, Karaikal 33, Mahe 23 and Yanam 4.

Two more persons succumbed to the viral infection raising the overall toll to 1765.

He said the active cases were 1753 (242 in hospitals and 1511 in home isolation).

While 225 patients recovered and were discharged today the overall recoveries stood at 1,14,898.

The Director said 13.59 lakh samples have been examined so far and of them 11,67,685 were found to be negative.

The test positivity rate was 2.80 percent.

The Director noted that the fatality and recovery rates were 1.49 percent and 97.03 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, 37,465 health care workers and 22,918 front line workers have been vaccinated so far in

HC grants bail to former AIADMK minister

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 7

The Madras high court has granted bail to former AIADMK minister Dr M.Manikandan, who was arrested on June 20, 2021, in connection with a sexual abuse case lodged by an actor, a Malaysian national.

Justice M.Nirmal Kumar granted bail to Manikandan on the condition that he should execute an own bond for Rs 10,000 and two sureties each for a like sum. He should report before the inspector of police, all woman police station, Adyar, daily for two weeks at 10.30 a.m. and thereafter, as and when required for interrogation, the judge added.

The judge said the petitioner should surrender his passport and he should not abscond either during the investigation or trial.



He should not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial, the judge added.

In his order, Justice Nirmal Kumar said the defacto complainant, a graduate and cine actor aged about 37 years was conscious and aware of her relationship with the petitioner and knowing that the petitioner was a married man and having wife and children. From the complaint and the materials so far collected, it was seen that though the defacto complainant claims that she was forced

to go for abortion, in none of the occasion the petitioner had taken forcibly or accompanied her during abortion. Further, the defacto complainant had enjoyed the wealthy lifestyle of the petitioner and she had voluntarily continued her relationship from the year 2017 onwards. The defacto complainant was aware that from August 8, 2019, the petitioner lost his ministerial and thereafter too, she continued her relationship and there was no obstacle for the defacto complainant to compel the petitioner to get married after the petitioner was dropped from the Ministry. Thus, the defacto complainant continued her relationship irrespective of the petitioner being a minister or not, leading to inference the relationship was cordial and voluntary, the judge added.

The judge said the petitioner, an ex-minister having deep social roots apart from that he was a doctor after losing his ministerial, was carrying on his profession at a hospital in Madurai. Further, he has got a family. The second accused in this case, who was said to have introduced the defacto complainant to the petitioner who travelled through the relationship of the petitioner and the defacto complainant from the year 2017 till the relationship broke, who exerted and threatened the defacto complainant not to speak against the petitioner was granted anticipatory bail by this court on June 25, 2021. The petitioner was arrested and he was in confinement. In view of the above discussions, this court was inclined to grant bail to the petitioner, the judge added.

Man killed over illicit affair

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 7

A 32-year-old man was murdered by his paramour's husband and friends in Vanchuvancheri near Guduvanchery. The police recovered the body of the deceased from an abandoned well in Vanchuvancheri and arrested six persons in connection with the murder.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Ramu (32), a resident of Murukathammanpettai in Padappai. He lived with his wife, Renuga (31) and two children. Police added the couple were married for six years.

Ramu worked in a private company in Sriperumbudur where he developed an affair with Mahalakshmi, (32), who was already married to Mani (39). When the duo's family learnt about the affair they asked them to end it. However, despite several warnings, the duo continued their relationship.

Meanwhile, recently, Mahalakshmi started getting close to Dinesh (21) of Vanchuvancheri. Police said he also learnt about the woman's affair with Ramu and asked her to stop seeing him. As she refused to end the relationship, he decided to elimi-

nate Ramu with the help of the woman's husband Mani and his friends.

As planned, Ramu was invited to a booze party in Vanchuvancheri. The gang allegedly stabbed Ramu and killed him. They then threw his body into an abandoned well in the area.

The incident came to light, when Renuga, Ramu's wife lodged a missing complaint with the police. Police on suspicion brought in Mani for investigation and he spilt the beans.

Manimangalam police arrested Mani, Dinesh and four others on the charge of murder. Further investigations are underway.

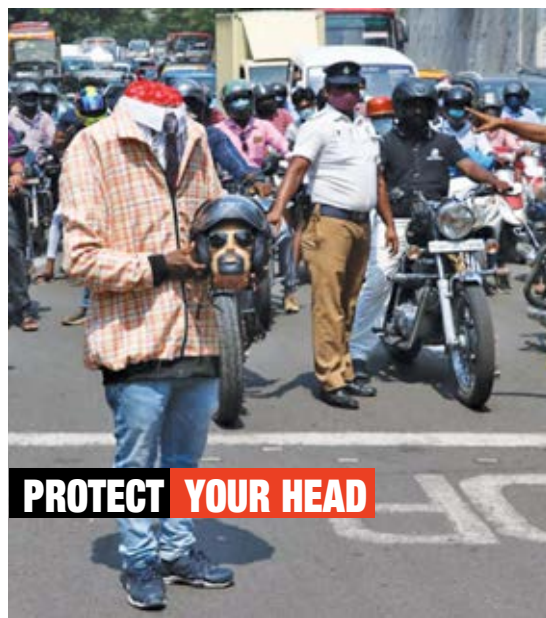
VAO held for taking ₹4,000 bribe from ryot

DC CORRESPONDENT ARIYALUR, JULY 7

The vigilance and anti-corruption police on Wednesday arrested a village administrative officer while accepting a bribe of ₹4,000 from a farmer for issuing a certificate for availing death relief amount for his father, under "Uzavar Padukkaappu Thittam" at his residence at Sathambadi village near Ariyalur.

Police said Aruljothi (35) of Kadambur village approached the VAO Marimuthu for his certificate to avail the death relief amount. He did not want to give bribe to the VAO and informed the V&AC police and they laid a trap and arrested Marimuthu while accepting the bribe from Aruljothi.

Further investigations are on.



Anand Kumar creating helmet awareness amongst motorists in association with Saidapet traffic police on Wednesday.

—DC

Historian recalls life of 'Father of co-op movement' in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, JULY 7

The Nilgiris Documentation Centre(NDC) has lauded the Modi government for creating a separate ministry for co-operation as the co-op movement has an indelible link with Nilgiris.

D. Venugopal, the director of NDC, said the creation of a new ministry of cooperation is a tribute to the father of the Co-operative Movement Sir Frederick Nicholson, who spent his retired life in the Nilgiris and was buried in the Tiger Hill cemetery at Coonoor.

Following the Great Famine of Madras Presidency in 1876, which killed an estimated 10 million people and plunged the entire farming community into heavy debts, the government set up a Famine Commission to prevent recurrence of such disasters.



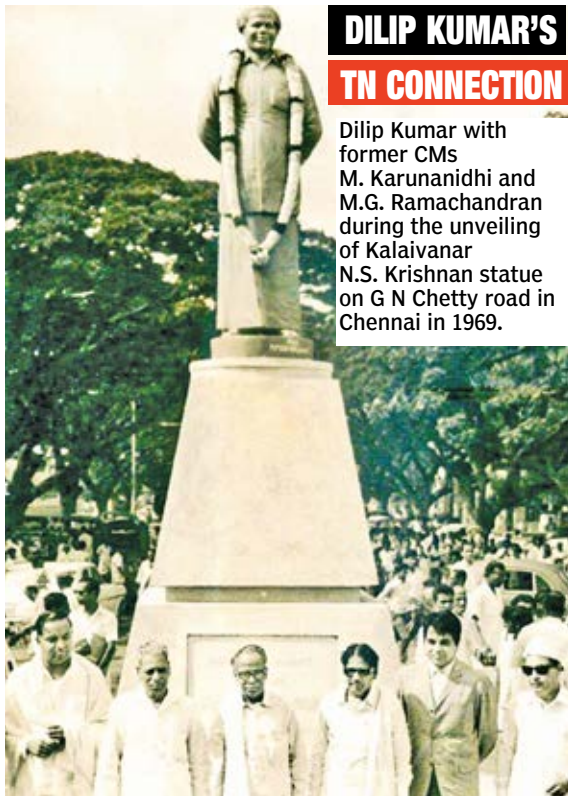
Sir Frederick Nicholson.

As part of the commission work, in 1892, the Governor of Madras, Lord Wenlock directed Frederic Augustus Nicholson, then Collector of Madras, to study the problems of the farmers. Nicholson was considered an expert on agrarian economy. The report which took three years in preparation and involved wide travel in Germany and Italy was published in 1895.

By 1904, co-operative agricultural credit societies and co-operative banks were established in many districts on the lines which existed in Germany and Italy. Nicholson was hailed as the pioneer of the co-operative movement in India.

After retirement in 1904 the Nicholsons lived in Coonoor. They stayed in 'Surrender' which is now the guest house of the Salvation Army. It is appropriate that the honour has come on the centenary of the Coonoor Urban Cooperative Bank, popularly known as Nicholson cooperative bank, of which he was a founder member. Nicholson died on June 18, 1936.

Venugopal added that the formation of a separate ministry for cooperation is a new millennium boost to the co-operative movement in the country.



DILIP KUMAR'S TN CONNECTION

Dilip Kumar with former CMs M. Karunanidhi and M.G. Ramachandran during the unveiling of Kalaivanar N.S. Krishnan statue on G N Chetty road in Chennai in 1969.

B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC CHENNAI, JULY 7

Veteran actor Vyjayanthimala, who did a few blockbuster movies in Tamil before becoming the first woman superstar of Hindi cinema, shared her memories about legendary Hindi actor Dilip Kumar who died at a Mumbai hospital, in a video released here on Wednesday.

She said it was devastating and unbelievable that Dilip saab was no more. "Dilip saab, a noble soul, has passed away, but his memories will live forever in our hearts," she added.

Sharing her experiences of acting with the veteran actor, Vyjayanthimala said, "We did eight successful movies. He was kind, polite and a wonderful gentleman. He was one of the outstanding co-stars I had worked with."

Addressing Dilip Kumar's wife Saira Banu as 'my dearest sweet angel' in the video, Vyjayanthimala

recalls her visits to their Mumbai home. "They were like a family. We had good relationship. I was in regular touch with Saira. During one such visit to their house Saira told Dilip saab, who was not well, that Dhanoo (role played by Vyjayanthimala in the movie *Ganga Jamuna*), has come. There was flicker of recognition in saab's eyes." Saira took great care of him like a mother, she added.

Prince of Arcot condoles actor's death:

In his condolence message, Prince of Arcot, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali said he was shocked to hear the sudden demise of a great yesteryear film hero Dilip Kumar. It will be difficult to fill the vacuum left by him in the film industry. He was a man of principles and etiquette admired and loved by many, he said in a press release. He also expressed his heartfelt condolences to his wife Saira Banu.



Restoration work taken up in Villivakkam lake by Chennai corporation under the smart city project on Wednesday.

—DC

OTHER STORIES

Congress launches protest over fuel price hike

Puducherry, July 7: Former Chief Minister of Puducherry and senior Congress leader V Narayanasamy and different wings of the party held a demonstration here on Wednesday against the hike in the price of petroleum products.

Narayanasamy cycled to a petrol bunk where the protest was organised.

The lone member of Parliament from Puducherry V Vaithalingam was among those who participated in the agitation.

The agitators wanted the Centre to roll back the increase in price of fuel as the hike has affected people already reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic.

The protestors collected signatures from the consumers at the bunks to condemn the rise in price. Slogans condemning it were raised.

Tension prevailed at a petrol bunk on the East Coast Road here with a section of Congress workers and employees indulging in a clash.

The employees of the bunk protested against the gathering of the partymen who were collecting signatures from the vehicle owners.

Police intervened and restored normalcy. —PTI

Stalin visits ancestral house at Thirukkuvalai

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC NAGAPATTINAM, JULY 7

M.K. Stalin, for the first time after becoming the Chief Minister, visited Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts on Tuesday and Wednesday. He also paid homage at the memorial of Anjugam Ammaiyar, mother of late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, at Kattur near Thiruvarur on Tuesday.

Stalin was accompanied



by his cabinet colleagues K.N. Nehru, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Ma. Subramanian, Siva.V. Meyyanathan, Tamil Nadu's special representative in New Delhi

A.K.S. Vijayan, DMK MLA Udhayanidhi Stalin, health secretary J. Radhakrishnan, Tiruvarur Collector P. Gayatri Krishnan, and other MPs and MLAs. He declared open the Rs 12-crore maternity block at government medical college hospital, Tiruvarur.

Stalin also presented the appreciation certificates to Kattur village panchayat president Vimala and Tiruvarur Collector P. Gayatri Krishnan for

achieving cent percent Coronavirus inoculation for those aged 40 and above.

Later, Stalin visited the birth house of his father M. Karunanidhi at Thirukkuvalai in Nagapattinam district on Wednesday and garlanded the statues of Karunanidhi, Muthuvel Anjugam Ammal and Murasoli Maran.

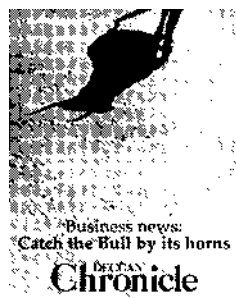
Stalin also visited the library in the same complex and made an entry in the visitor's book.



DENGUE CONTROL

Corporation commissioner Raja Gopal Sunkara inspects mosquito fogging machines in Coimbatore on Wednesday.

— DC



Professor arrested for sexual harassment in Tiruchy college

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JULY 7

The all-woman police, Srirangam, arrested Prof Paul Chandramohan, head of the department of Tamil in a college in Tiruchy on Wednesday over sexual harassment charges.

Based on a sexual harassment complaint of some first MA Tamil literature girl students against him, the college administration set up a 7-member committee, including a woman advocate, under the leadership of vice-principal Alagappa Moses.

The committee submitted a report to the college management after a detailed inquiry with the affected students.

Based on the report, the

college administration suspended Prof. Paul Chandramohan on June 30, sources added.

District Collector S. Sivarasu ordered an inquiry by the social welfare department to prove the charges against the professor. Following this, the all-woman police registered a case and arrested Prof Chandramohan on Wednesday.

The sources said Prof Chandramohan was suspended twice previously

for sexual torture of college hostel girls in 1997 and once again he was suspended for writing a letter with double meaning words to a woman assistant professor of the Tamil department.

He became the head of the department of Tamil in 2015, but a few days before his elevation, video clippings of his illegal intimacy with a woman in a room became viral and he lost his promotion in 2015.

Upasi concern over excess tea import, low export

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, JULY 7

The United Planters' Association of South India (Upasi), headquartered at Coonoor near here, has expressed concern over excess import of tea and discouraging scenario in the export sector.

Upasi president Prashant Bhansali stated that increased import of tea into India is a matter of great concern and it is detrimental to the sector. The imports

Heavy imports are reported from Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam. The domestic tea sector has been witnessing increasing cost of production due to high input cost and high wages and any higher intake of teas through import will have a telling effect on this sector

of tea during 2020 were estimated at 23.40 million kg as against 15.85 million kg in 2019, an increase of 47.63 per cent. During the first quarter of 2021, the import has

shown a significant jump of 139.36 per cent.

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increasing cost of production due to high input cost and high wages and any higher intake of teas through import will have a telling effect on this sector.

Bhansali requested the Union government to closely monitor import of tea and also implement provisions of Tea [distribution & export] Control Order 2005, wherever necessary.

"On the other hand, tea exports had taken a hit as evident from the decline in the quantity exported and

the value realised. For instance, tea export was lower by 42,430 tonnes in 2020 and the declining trend continued during the first four months of 2021. Though some recovery was expected on the export front, the shortage of containers, especially food grade containers and increased freight charges had become an obstacle for plantation exports, including tea, from India. This has resulted in an increase in the transaction time and cost leading to

a considerable delay in completing the export formalities" he pointed.

The low budgetary allocation for the export incentive scheme in the Union Budget 2021-22 is also a matter of concern.

The export of plantation commodities needs to be supported as we are at a competitive disadvantage compared to other export origins due to the infrastructural inefficiencies, high wages and social costs, Bhansali noted.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: Financial gains are on the cards. Set achievable targets and use your management skills to realize them. Converse precisely to avoid misunderstandings.



Taurus: Be polite to those standing in your way. A romantic inclination with a person you have secretly admired may finally develop.



Gemini: Conference and business meetings will run smoothly if you listen to others before revealing your own views. Do not set out on long journeys today.



Cancer: Take care of your spouse. Students should not waste time on useless entertainment and try to concentrate on their studies. A lack of peace is indicated.



Leo: Today you shall obtain a position of responsibility and authority. Owing to your outstanding performance, you are likely to gain seniors' favor.



Virgo: You feel secure about a certain aspect of your life. A remarked success and career growth is likely. Today, you will receive a lot of help from someone. You will have a lot of energy today.

You share your b'day with

Jaden Christopher Syre Smith is an American actor, rapper, singer, and songwriter. Smith's film debut was with his father, Will Smith in the 2006 film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.



Libra: Today is a highly fortunate day for you in terms of career growth and enhancement in income. There can be significant changes in your life this day.



Scorpio: Planets are not indicating any significant changes today. Try your best to control useless expenditures. Avoid investing in stock market today.



Sagittarius: You might be worried and tensed due to slow career growth and heavy work burden. It would be better to continue working without a lot of expectations.



Capricorn: Today you will have enough courage to overcome all kinds of hindrances. There are chances of work being disrupted in the final stages. Try not to miss out on suggestions today.

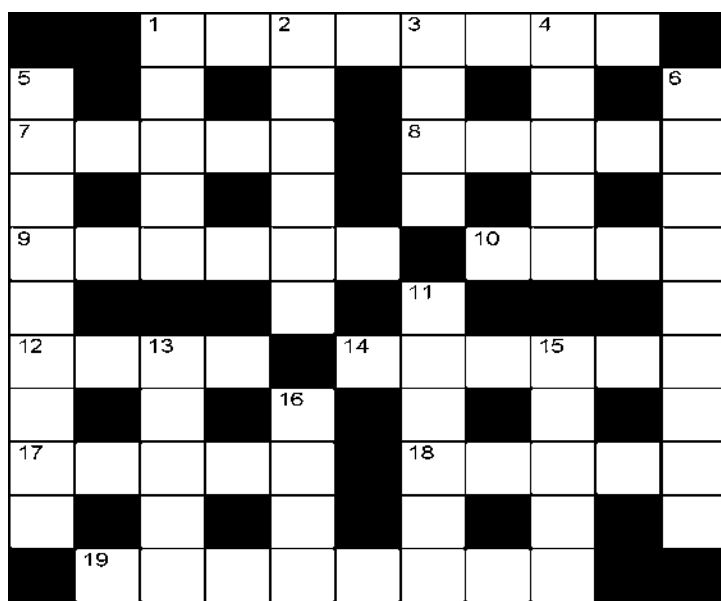


Aquarius: Maintain a distance from over friendly relatives. Today you might find it difficult to control unnecessary expenses. Sedentary lifestyle could cause some tension today.



Pisces: Irresponsible behavior of children could stress you out. Your cheerfulness will enable you to enjoy a perfect health. Neglecting romantic life could cause emotional disturbances.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- Abided by (8)
- Grossly stupid (5)
- Fire shots from hiding (5)
- Vinegar acid (6)
- Helot (4)
- Monster (4)
- Become septic (6)
- Accounts examination (5)
- Kind (5)
- Deteriorate (3,5)

Down

- Rub sore (5)
- Fine plain cotton fabric (6)
- Deprivation (4)
- Select class (5)
- Eight-sided (9)
- Artist (9)
- Amalgamation (6)
- Long hilltop (5)
- Slight colouring (5)
- Simmer (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Euphoric, 6. Exit, 7. Beaver, 9. Wreck, 11. Delta, 12. Ideal, 13. Mufti, 16. Settle, 18. Sari, 19. Disputes.

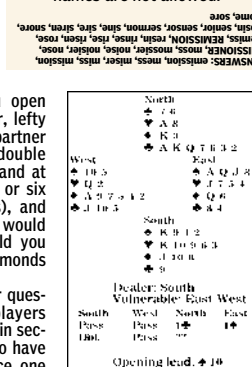
Down: 1. Edelweiss, 2. Prize, 3. Robe, 4. Chateau, 5. Fee, 8. Realities, 10. Crafted, 14. Feast, 15. Sees, 17. Erg.

Word Mine

S
N
M
R
O
I
I
E
S

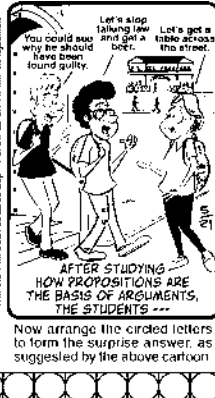
TODAY'S RATINGS: 24 AVERAGE; 26 GOOD; 28 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.



jumble

FINKE
LSEPL
KMROSE
DRIEAT
THE



Yesterday's Jumbles: WHILE ORBIT WINERY DEVOUR

Answer: The pitcher had led the team in wins and strikeouts until he was — OVERTHROWN

opponent has already passed, your partner probably has a decent hand, and if so, you want to make it as easy as possible for him to judge where to play.

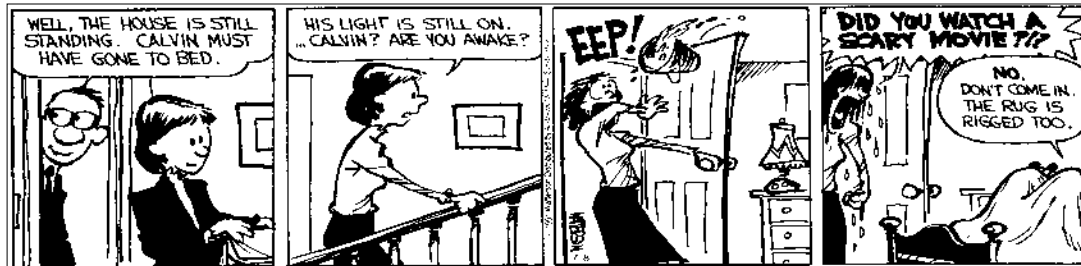
At the time, North rebid three clubs. Admittedly that was a jump-rebid, but it was too cautious. South understandably passed, and an excellent game contract was missed.

With eight probable tricks, North should have cue-bid two spades, asking partner to

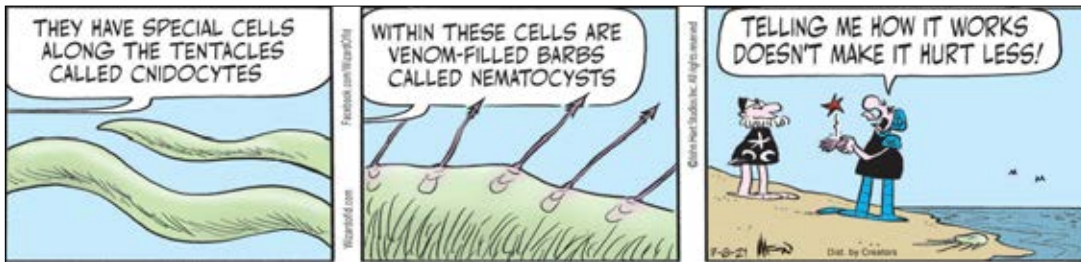
bid no-trump with a spade stopper. Here, of course, South would have been happy to continue with two no-trump, and North would have raked in at least one overtrick.

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CALVIN AND HOBES | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



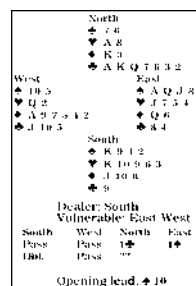
bridge PHILLIP ALDER

LONG SUITS PROVE COPIOUS WINNERS

Mort Walker, who created "Beetle Bailey," said, "It's not true that nice guys finish last. Nice guys are winners before the game even starts."

At bridge, winners help you make contracts. When you have lots of winners, especially in the form of a long suit, bid up. If you take the necessary number of tricks to make your contract, it does not matter how few high-card points you had. Look at the North hand in

today's diagram. You open one club in third chair, lefty overcalls one spade, partner makes a negative double (showing four hearts and at least 6 points, or five or six hearts and 6-9 points), and righty passes. What would you rebid? Also, would you have opened two diamonds with the West hand? Looking at the latter question first, many players would these days, but in second chair, you ought to have a textbook hand. Since one



Remembering Stan Swamy



People hold candles to pay homage to human rights activist & Jesuit priest Father Stan Swamy during a condolence prayer meet in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

HC judge imposes ₹5L cost on Mamata

Recuses himself from hearing poll plea against Suwendu

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 7

Slapping a fine of ₹5 lakhs on West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee for defaming him as a “BJP man”, Justice Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta high court on Wednesday recused himself from hearing the Trinamul Congress supremo’s election petition challenging her defeat to Suwendu Adhikari in the Nandigram Assembly election.

With his stinging remarks, Justice Chanda, from whom Ms Banerjee on June 18 sought her plea be transferred by acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal over bias to another judge, stated in his order: “The aforesaid chronology of the events... clearly suggests that a deliberate and conscious attempt was made to influence my decision before the recusal application was placed before me for judicial consideration on June 24.”

He observed: “The calculated psychological offen-

● **JUSTICE CHANDA** alleged the way Banerjee’s letter to the acting CJ was ‘deliberately made public’ was “the unfortunate part of the episode”.

sive and vilification adopted to seek recusal need to be firmly repulsed, and a cost of Rs 5 lakhs is imposed upon the petitioner. Such cost should be deposited with the Bar Council of West Bengal within two weeks from date, and upon such deposit, the Bar Council shall set aside the amount for the families of the advocates who had succumbed to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

The judge noted: “I have no personal inclination to hear out the case of the petitioner. I had no hesitation in taking up the case either. It is my constitutional obligation and duty to hear out a case assigned to me by the Hon’ble Chief Justice neutrally and dispassionately. I have, however, decided to recuse myself from this case for a different reason. The

imbroglio stemmed from the inception of the litigation was due to the assignment of this case before this bench.”

He elaborated: “Since the two persons involved in this case belong to the highest echelon of state politics, in the name of saving the judiciary, some opportunists have already emerged. These trouble-mongers will try to keep the controversy alive and create newer controversies. The trial of the case before this bench will be a tool to aggrandise themselves. It would be contrary to the interest of justice if such unwarranted squabble continues along with the trial of the case, and such attempts should be thwarted at the threshold.”

Before recusing himself, Justice Chanda said: “In this country, it is almost impossible not to get a person who may not have said to have some political views... Like any other citizen of the country, a judge also exercises his voting rights in favour of a political party, but he

lays aside his individual predilection while deciding a case... It is preposterous to suggest that a judge having a past association with a political party as a lawyer should not receive a case involving the said political party or any of its members. The past association of a judge with a political party by itself cannot form apprehension of bias.”

Justice Chanda alleged the way Ms Banerjee’s letter to the acting CJ was “deliberately made public... and disclosed in this recusal application”, was “the unfortunate part of the episode”. He underlined: “The letter contained highly confidential information concerning the appointment of a judge of the high court, and the petitioner, being the chief minister of the state, who took the oath of secrecy, was constitutionally obliged to maintain the secrecy of such information.”

EAM meets Raisi, hands over personal message from Modi

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 7

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the situation in Afghanistan with the Iranian leadership on Wednesday in Tehran while on a transit aircraft-refuelling halt en route Moscow.

The EAM, who landed in the Iranian capital on Wednesday evening, met Iranian President-elect

Ebrahim Raisi to whom he handed over a personal message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sources said the Iranians extended Jaishankar the honour of being the first foreign dignitary to meet Iranian President-elect Raisi who recently won the polls in the west Asian nation.

Jaishankar is visiting Moscow on an official visit and had also stopped over at Tehran in September last while simi-

larly proceeding to Moscow. Mr Jaishankar on Wednesday also held talks with his counterpart Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and the fluid situation in Afghanistan is understood to have been discussed at length.

New Delhi is worried over turmoil in the strife-torn nation following the pullout of US troops and recent military gains by the Pakistan-backed Taliban which is expected to even threaten the

Afghan capital Kabul soon. India has been a strong supporter of the increasingly-embattled Afghan Government led by President Ashraf Ghani. Iran, a neighbour of Afghanistan, is also watching the events unfolding there with some concern.

“Always a warm welcome from FM @JZarif. Useful discussion on regional and global affairs,” Jaishankar tweeted.

6 MIGRANTS FROM PAK GET INDIAN CITIZENSHIP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JULY 7

Six Pakistani migrants, who have been living in Madhya Pradesh for decades, were on Wednesday granted Indian citizenship under Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), passed in the parliament in December 2019.

All the six people had migrated to India from Sindh province of Pakistan more than three decades back and have been living in Madhya Pradesh since then, an official spokesman of the state government said.

While two of them, Nand Lal and Hemant Kumar, have settled in Bhopal, four others, Arjundas Manchandani, Jairam Das, Narayan Das and Saushalya Bai, have been living in Mandasaur in MP for decades.

“The six Hindu migrants who fled Pakistan to India due to religious persecution in the neighbouring country were granted Indian citizenship. The MP government has completed the process and granted them Indian citizenship in MP under the CAA. They came to MP between 1988 and 2005”, state home minister Narottam Mishra said.

This was the first case of grant of citizenship to Pakistani migrants in Madhya Pradesh under Citizenship Amendment Act.

The parliament passed a Bill in December 2019 granting Indian citizenship to people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities who migrated to India from neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December, 2014 due to religious persecution in these countries.

PM freshens face with reshuffle

FROM PG 1

The reshuffle, which was preceded by 12 resignations, including of three heavy weights -- Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and information & broadcasting minister Prakash Javdekar -- was also seen as weeding out ministers who may have turned into liabilities at a time when the Modi government has been under attack from the Opposition over mismanagement of the second wave of Covid-19 that led to an unprecedented number of deaths and devastated the economy. Some departures seemed to be an attempt by Mr Modi to end battles on a thousand fronts that were leading to more criticism than serving any purpose.

The overhaul also ushers in a generational shift in the ruling BJP, as the average age of the Union Council of Ministers has dropped to 58 years with 14 ministers now below 50 years of age.

Of the 43 leaders who were administered oath of office, from Uttar Pradesh -- where the BJP is already in battle mode for coming Assembly polls -- seven new members were inducted in Team Modi, while from West Bengal, where the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC retained power in the recently concluded Assembly polls, four new BJP leaders have been accommodated in the council of ministers.

Ally Apna Dal’s Anupriya Patel, who was an MoS in the last government and whose meeting with the Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi ahead of last Lok Sabha polls is said to be the reason for keeping her party out of the NDA government till now, also made it to Team Modi as an MoS.

But her inclusion has left another ally from UP, Nishad Party, agitated. Another significant induction is that of Udupi-Chikmagalur MP, Shobha Karandlaje, who is considered close to Karnataka Chief Minister and Lingayat strongman B.S. Yeddiurappa. The Karnataka BJP is abuzz with rumours of a leadership change as voices of dissent are growing against the 78-year-old CM.

With Nishank resigning, Uttarakhand, another state that’s going to have polls soon, has been represented by Naintal-Udhamsingh Nagar MP, Ajay Bhatt.

In the current council of ministers, defense minister Rajnath Singh and minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi are the only two who had also served in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Five representatives from Northeast, including Sarbanand Sonowal from Assam, Kiren Rijiju from Arunachal Pradesh, Rameswar Teli from Assam, Pratima Bhoomik from Tripura and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh from Manipur are now part of the NDA government.

After the reshuffle and expansion, the NDA government has 27 OBC ministers, 12 SCs, eight STs, 11 women, five minorities and 21 belonging to other castes.

Ahead of the expansion, 12 ministers resigned from their portfolios, including education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, who is recuperating from post-Covid complications, his deputy Sanjay Dhotre who is also unwell, health minister Dr Harsha Vardhan, law and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, environment and information broadcasting minister Prakash Javdekar, Sadanand Gowda, Santosh Gangwar, Babul Supriyo,

Rattan Lal Katariya, Pratap Sarangi and Debashree Chaudhuri.

While speculation is rife that non-performance was the reason why some of these ministers -- excluding those who had asked to be kept out of the Union Council due to health reasons -- were asked to resign, the ruling BJP was abuzz that some of the ministers including, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Prakash Javdekar, will now be the voice of the party and guide the party’s spokespersons ahead of Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. Mr Prasad had been in the news lately for an escalating standoff between the Indian government and Twitter.

From West Bengal, which earlier had two ministers -- Debashree Chaudhuri and Babul Supriyo -- now four members (Nishith Pramanik, Shantanu Thakur, John Barla and Subhash Sarkar) are part of the NDA government. While Shantanu Thakur is from the Matua community, Mr Prannaik is from the Rajbangshi community. Both influential communities in West Bengal had voted in favour of the BJP in the recently concluded Assembly polls.

Though the BJP failed to dislodge TMC, increasing the representation of the state in Team Modi was seen as a message to the Mamata Banerjee led outfit that the BJP has not given up and will be more aggressive in its strategy in the state.

Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan’s Darbar Hall, PM Modi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda held a meeting with BJP leaders who were to be part of Team Modi at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg.

Second wave costs Vardhan his post

FROM PG 1

The situation with the micro-blogging platform led to Mr Prasad’s account being temporarily blocked for a few hours, allegedly over complaints of a violation of the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Speculations is rife that information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javdekar had to go as complaints from the film industry poured in after he tried to regulate OTT platforms. Mr Javdekar had claimed that he received complaints that two Amazon Prime shows -- Tandav and Mirzapur -- had “hurt religious sentiments”. However, sources close to Mr Javdekar denied that this was the reason for his removal but did not give any further details.

As the Covid-19 situation worsened in India, the health ministry kept get-

ting embroiled in controversies one after another. Dr Harsh Vardhan came under severe criticism from within the party and outside when he went after former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. On April 18, the former PM had written a letter to Prime Minister Modi suggesting a few changes to the country’s vaccination strategy. Dr Harsh Vardhan lost his cool, and not merely sent out a stinging response to the former Prime Minister but also tweeted saying that “History shall be kinder to you Dr Manmohan Singh ji if your offer of ‘constructive cooperation’ and valuable advice was followed by your @INC leaders as well in such extraordinary times.” His response stunned even his colleagues within the party and government and did not sit well with the BJP leadership.

India, Pakistan mourn as the first Khan departs

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Three generations of Indians and Pakistanis united on Wednesday to mourn the passing of Mohammed Yusuf Khan and to pay homage to an immortal actor and a legend as he was laid to rest at the Juhu kabristan.

Dilip Kumar, an actor, writer, occasional singer and intellectual, whose 65 films serve as milestones in the history of Indian cinema as well as in the making of a modern, Independent India, died on Wednesday at Mumbai’s Hinduja Hospital after prolonged illness. He was 98 and is survived by his wife, Saira Banu.

The passing of Dilip Kumar, who was born in 1922 in Peshawar and named Mohammed Yusuf Khan, leaves yet another solemn milestone in the history of India. It marks the end of an idea that died on the celluloid and off it long ago, but whose aura and promise lingered in the life and works of Dilip Kumar, and in the hearts of many Indians. It was the idea of an India that was shaped on ground by Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar, but celebrated and reinforced on screen by the dacoit Ganga (Ganga Jamuna, which he wrote),

carried the sunshine and bounce of a newly-Independent India with the pledge of a secular, socialist state when they hummed, Suhana safar aur ye mausam haseen...

The first Khan of Bollywood was “discovered” at the age of 19 in Nainital by Devika Rani of Bombay Talkies while he was looking to buy fruits for his father’s business.

Though he dreamt of being a Test cricketer, he went to meet her in Bombay and was presented with three names to pick from -- Jehangir, Vasudev and Dilip Kumar. He learnt later, from the posters of his first film, Jwar Bhata, what had been chosen on his behalf.

The film didn’t do well, but it launched a career that has served as the guiding spirit for the best and biggest stars since.

Kumar, who had impeccable Urdu and Hindi diction, remains a daunting, revered presence in the Indian film industry not just because of the awards and accolades he received for his acting, but because with almost every role he played, he created a template for that character. From prince Salim defying his father for a kaneez (in K. Asif’s Mughal-e-Azam) to the dacoit Ganga (Ganga Jamuna, which he wrote),

from the despairing, alcoholic lover Devdas to the trade union leader Sagina (Sagina Mahato), from the principled cop in Shakti to the role of separated-at-birth twin brothers Ram Aur Shyam, there is little left in that he hasn’t covered.

Kumar used silences, pauses and whispers to deliver his dialogue with such impact that they have become idioms for a state of being. After Kumar, there can only be amusing imitations of his perfect delivery of these immortal lines from Devdas: “Kauin kambakht bardasht karne ke liye peeta hai? Main to peeta hoon ki bus, saans le sakon.”

A perfectionist who took his craft to heart and home, he was known to prepare intensely and for days for roles, and his finicky nature was on display even in his colour-coordinated wardrobe where the rule was, “White is white and off white is off white”.

But what he poured into his tragic roles seemed to come from a sadness within that had begun to cast a shadow. So Kumar consulted psychiatrists and made a conscious and very successful transition to lighter roles. His comic timing and crackling laugh were as joyous as his inimitable, inebriated sorrow was romantic.

SHOCKING CASE Kitty Kumaramangalam was 67 years old and a lawyer

Wife of late Union minister murdered

New Delhi, July 7: Kitty Kumaramangalam, the wife of the late Union minister P. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, was smothered to death during an attempted robbery at her home in southwest Delhi’s Vasant Vihar, police said on Wednesday.

Kitty Kumaramangalam was 67 years old and a lawyer. She had been living alone since the demise of her husband a few years ago, they said.

The police said they suspect attempted robbery to be the motive behind the killing and have arrested a 24-year-old washerman of the area, identified as Raju, and his 34-year-old associate Rakesh Raj, a resident of Munirka and a

driver working in the Ministry of External Affairs on contract basis.

The accused entered the house without any resistance as Raju has been known to the family.

Raju has been visiting the house for over five years now and was aware where valuables, including cash, jewellery and essential bank documents, were kept.

So, he hatched the conspiracy and roped in his two associates Rakesh and Suraj to execute the robbery, according to the police.

Based on preliminary investigation, it is suspected that the washerman had come to the house around 9 pm on Tuesday

● **THE POLICE** said they suspect attempted robbery to be the motive behind the killing and have arrested a 24-year-old washerman of the area, identified as Raju, and his 34-year-old associate Rakesh Raj, a resident of Munirka.

night, and when the house help opened the door, he overpowered her, dragged her to a room and restrained her.

He also tried to loot her ring. During the process, she was also beaten up while trying to restrain and sustained bruises on her neck, knees and face, they said. Rakesh and

Suraj entered the house in the meantime and smothered Kumaramangalam with a pillow, the police said.

The house help, Mithila, later managed to raise an alarm. She immediately called her husband and brother-in-law and informed about the incident.

They reached the spot and took Mithila to Safdarjung Hospital. Her brother-in-law then made a PCR call, a senior police officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh said, “We received a PCR call at around 11 pm on Tuesday. Teams were formed and the washerman was

arrested from his residence. Based on his disclosure, one of his associates, Rakesh Raj, has also been arrested while our teams are working to nab the third accused in the case.

Police said they also found opened briefcases at the scene of the crime which suggest that the motive was attempted robbery. In her statement, Mithila said the accused took away valuables in two-three bags.

One of the bags stuffed with clothes was recovered from Raju, the officer said, adding that ₹60,000 in cash was seized from Rakesh.

The body has been handed over to the family.

SHORT TAKES

ROCKETS TARGET
BASE HOSTING US
TROOPS IN IRAQ

Baghdad, July 7: Fourteen rockets were fired Wednesday at the Ain al-Assad air base which hosts American troops in western Iraq, a spokesman for the US-led coalition said.

The base was attacked by 14 rockets that “landed on the base & perimeter... At this time initial reports indicate 3 minor injuries. Damage is being assessed,” Colonel Wayne Marotto wrote on Twitter.

It was the latest in a spate of attacks targeting US military and diplomatic facilities in Iraq that have been blamed on pro-Iranian armed groups within a state-sponsored paramilitary force.

POPE HAD SEVERE
NARROWING OF
HIS COLON

Rome, July 7: Pope Francis' recovery from intestinal surgery continues to be regular and satisfactory, the Vatican said Wednesday, as it revealed that final examinations showed he had a suffered a severe narrowing of his colon.

The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the 84-year-old Pope was continuing to eat regularly following his Sunday surgery to remove the left side of his colon, and that intravenous therapy had been suspended. Bruni said final examination of the affected tissue confirmed a severe diverticular stenosis with signs of sclerosing diverticulitis.

Francis underwent three hours of planned surgery Sunday. He is expected to stay in Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic, which has a special suite reserved for popes.

27 KILLED IN
PROTESTS, SAYS
ESWATINI MIN

Johannesburg, July 7: Twenty-seven people died last week during pro-democracy protests in the southern African kingdom of Eswatini, a minister said on Wednesday.

“Unfortunately, yes, 27 people lost their lives,” Commerce Minister Manqoba Khumalo said in a phone interview, expressing regret that force had to be used to break up the protests. “It was not intended, but... the nature of the attacks that were happening was such that in some instances force had to be used, and in some instances gunfire had to be exchanged, and there were casualties,” he said.

“But in some cases people were trapped in buildings when those buildings were burned... This is very unfortunate.”

11 HARASSED TEEN
WHO DAMNED
ISLAM, CONVICTED

Paris, July 7: A French court on Wednesday convicted 11 of 13 people charged with harassing and threatening a teenager who harshly criticised Islam in online posts and ended up changing schools and receiving police protection to preserve her safety.

The verdict came in a trial in Paris that was the first of its kind since France created a new court in January to prosecute online crimes, including harassment and discrimination. The court sentenced the defendants to suspended prison terms of four to six months and fined them about \$1,770 each.

Social networks are the street. When you pass someone in the street, you don't insult them, threaten them, make fun of them, the presiding judge, Michel Humbert, said.

What you don't do in the street, don't do on social media.

The teen at the center of the landmark cyberbullying case, who has been identified publicly only by her first name, Mila, testified last month that she felt as if she had been condemned to death.

Europe decries
Iran nuke move

Says Tehran violating commitments under the '15 deal with world powers

Return to Vienna
for talks, says US

Berlin, July 7: Germany, France and Britain are voicing “grave concern” over a further move by Iran that they say is a serious violation of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, warning that it threatens the outcome of talks aimed at bringing the US back into the agreement.

The three European powers' foreign ministers issued a joint statement on Tuesday over a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, “confirming that Iran has taken steps in the production of enriched uranium metal”.

Since then-president Donald Trump pulled out of the agreement in 2018, Iran has gradually been violating its restrictions to put pressures on the remaining parties — the three European nations, Russia and China — to come up with economic incentives to offset crippling American sanctions.

Among other things, Tehran has started enriching uranium to well above the purity allowed under the agreement. It has also been spinning advanced centrifuges, producing uranium metal and stockpiling more uranium than allowed. Uranium metal can also be used for a nuclear bomb, and research on its production is specifically prohibited under the nuclear deal. The IAEA already said in February that its inspectors had confirmed that Iran has begun the production of uranium metal.

The European foreign ministers said of Tehran's latest step that “Iran has no credible civilian need for uranium metal (research and development) and production, which are a key step in the development of a nuclear weapon”.

Washington, July 7: The United States on Tuesday warned Iran to stop nuclear “brinkmanship,” saying the West Asian country's latest efforts to enrich uranium could complicate its return to talks aimed at restarting the 2015 nuclear accord.

“We continue to urge Iran to stop this brinkmanship, to return to Vienna prepared for real talks, and to be in a position to be prepared to finish the work that jump-started in April,” State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters. — AFP

They said it was all the more concerning given that no date has been set for the resumption of negotiations in Vienna aimed at bringing the US back into the nuclear deal and Iran back into full compliance, and that Iran has “significantly curtailed” IAEA access.

“We have repeatedly stressed that time is on no one's side, the statement said. “With its latest steps, Iran is threatening a successful outcome to the Vienna talks despite the progress achieved in six rounds of negotiations to date. — AP

Afghan govt team meets
Taliban in Tehran: IranTaliban attacks
provincial capital

Tehr, July 7: An Afghan government delegation met with Taliban representatives in Tehran Wednesday, the Iranian foreign ministry said, as the Islamist militia pressed a lightning advance amid the pullout of US troops.

Opening the talks, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif welcomed the departure of its US foe from its eastern borders but warned: “Today the people and political leaders of Afghanistan must make difficult decisions for the future of their country.” Deputy chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai headed the Taliban delegation while former vice president Younus Qanooni represented the government, the Iranian ministry said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed Stanikzai's visit to Tehran to “discuss issues of mutual interest”. But he made no reference to any Afghan government delegation, saying only that Stanikzai was holding talks with “some Afghan personalities”. “They will discuss

Herat, July 7: The Taliban launched a major assault on a provincial capital in Afghanistan on Wednesday, the first since the United States military began its final drawdown of troops from the country, as insurgents press on with a blistering offensive.

Fierce fighting erupted in the western city of Qala-i Naw, the capital of Badghis, with the militants seizing police headquarters and offices of the

country's spy agency.

As news of the morning assault spread, social media was flooded with videos of clashes — with some showing armed Taliban fighters on motorbikes entering the city as onlookers cheered.

Afghanistan's Defence Minister Bismillah Mohammadi said government forces were in a “very sensitive military situation”, adding that “the war is raging” with the Taliban. — AFP

ence to any Afghan government delegation, saying only that Stanikzai was holding talks with “some Afghan personalities”. “They will discuss

and exchange opinions on the current situation of the country and finding a solution through talks,” Mujahid added. — AFP

Lanka gold coin on
China party century

Colombo, July 7: Sri Lanka on Wednesday issued its most expensive gold coin ever to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, underscoring the close ties between the countries. The commemorative 1,000-rupee (\$5) coin will be sold for 222,000 rupees from Monday, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka said.

“The coins have been issued at the request of the government of Sri Lanka as an accolade for long-standing friendship and mutual trust between the two countries,” the

bank said. Sri Lanka has increasingly turned to China for financing and diplomatic support in recent years, prompting India and the United States to express concern.

One side of the 12-gram (0.42 ounces) coin marks the Chinese party's anniversary while the other celebrates 65 years of diplomatic ties between the two nations and depicts a Colombo theatre built with Chinese financing.

Sri Lanka released its last gold coin to mark 50 years of independence from Britain in 1998. — AFP

Ever Given cruises Suez Canal



The Panama-flagged MV Ever Given container ship sails along Egypt's Suez Canal near the canal's central city of Ismailia. The 200,000-tonne container vessel was stuck in the Suez Canal during a sandstorm on March 23, causing major disruption to world shipping and the loss of millions in revenue for Egypt. The ship weighed anchor on Wednesday after Egyptian authorities and the Japanese owner agreed a compensation deal.

— AFP

Haiti Prez Moïse assassinated

Port-au-Prince, July 7: Gunmen assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and wounded his wife in their home early Wednesday, inflicting more chaos on the unstable Caribbean country that was already enduring an escalation of gang violence, anti-government protests and a recent surge in Coronavirus infections.

Claude Joseph, the interim prime minister, confirmed the killing and said the police and military were in control of security in Haiti, where a history of dictatorship and political upheaval have long stymied the consolidation of democratic rule. While the streets of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, were quiet Wednesday morning, some people ransacked businesses in one area. The country appeared to be heading for fresh uncertainty ahead of planned general elections later this year.

Moïse, 53, had been ruling by decree for more than a year after the country failed to hold elections and the opposition demanded he step down in recent months. Former President Michel Martelly, whom Moïse succeeded, said he was praying for first lady Martine Moïse, calling the assassination “a hard blow for our country and for Haitian democracy, which is struggling to find its way.”

Joseph said Martine Moïse, 47, was shot and in a hospital. He condemned the president's killing as a “hateful, inhumane and barbaric act.” “The country's security situation is under the control of the National Police of Haiti and the Armed Forces of Haiti,” Joseph said in a statement from his office.

“Democracy and the republic will win.” In the statement, Joseph said some of the attackers spoke in Spanish but offered no further explanation. He later said in a radio address

that they spoke Spanish or English. A resident who lives near the president's home said she heard the attack. “I thought there was an earthquake, there was so much shooting,” said the woman who spoke on condition of anonymity because she fears for her life.

“The president had problems with many people, but this is not how we expected him to die. This is something I wouldn't



Jovenel Moïse

“The message to the people of Haiti is this is a tragic tragedy,” she during a previously scheduled interview on CNM. “And we stand ready and stand by them to provide any assistance that's needed.” Haiti's economic, political and social woes have deepened recently, with gang violence spiking heavily in Port-au-Prince, inflation spiralling and food and fuel becoming scarcer at times.

— AP

Study: Pfizer, Moderna
vax cut 91% virus riskCDC says Delta is
dominant variant

Washington, July 7: People who receive Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna are up to 91 per cent less likely to develop the disease, according to a US study which also suggests that the preventives reduce the severity of symptoms and duration in those who still get an infection. The research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine on June 30, is among the first to show the benefits of mRNA vaccines even among those who experience breakthrough infections — testing positive after immunisation.

The mRNA vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna contain genetic instructions for our cells to make the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2, which the virus uses to infect and enter the human cells.

Our immune system then builds an immune response against the spike protein, and learns how to fight off the Coronavirus if we encounter it in future.

“One of the unique things about this study is that it measured the secondary benefits of the vaccines,” said study co-author Sarang Yoon, an assistant professor at the

Houston, July 7: The highly contagious Delta variant has become the dominant Coronavirus strain in the US, accounting for more than 51 per cent of Covid infections in the country, according to new data released by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The variant, also known as B.1.617.2, was first detected in India in December and is spreading quickly across the globe. In some parts of America, the Delta strain accounts for more than 80 per cent of new infections, including some

Midwestern states like Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. It is already causing 74.3 per cent of infections in Western states, including Utah and Colorado, and 58.8 per cent of infections in Southern states like Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, according to CDC estimates.

New Covid infections with the Delta variant now account for 51.7 per cent of the infections. The B.1.1.7 or Alpha variant makes up for 28.7 per cent cases after remaining a dominant variant for months, the data said. — PTI

University of Utah, US. The study was designed to measure the risks and rates of infection among those on the front lines of the pandemic — doctors, nurses, and first responders.

“These are the people who are getting exposure to the virus day in and day out, and the vaccine protected them against getting the disease.”

per quoted a resident as saying she heard five shots and went out to see what had happened.

She said she saw de Vries lying on the ground with a lot of blood on his face.

She told the paper that he couldn't speak but was still alive, and that she held his hand as they waited for emergency services.

At the scene of the shooting Thursday, shocked residents were laying flowers and lighting candles.

— AFP

WIDESPREAD | CONDEMNATION

Attack on our values of democracy, says EU chief Charles Michel

Dutch scribe fighting for his life after shooting

Amsterdam, July 7: Prominent Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries was fighting for his life in a Dutch hospital on Wednesday after being shot multiple times, including in the head, in what the EU chief described as “an attack on our values”.

Amsterdam police chief Frank Paauw said three people had been arrested, among them the suspected shooter, but gave no details on the possible reasons for the attack.

De Vries, who first won fame for his inside reporting on the kidnapping of millionaire Freddy Heineken in 1983, was shot up to five times in front of shocked bystanders as he left a television studio in a busy Amsterdam street on Tuesday.

The attack sparked widespread condemnations, with Europe's top official Charles Michel calling it a “crime against journalism and an attack on our values of democracy and rule

of law.” De Vries — a celebrity journalist in the Netherlands known for speaking on behalf of crime victims — was “fighting for his life”, Amsterdam mayor Femke Halsema told a news conference late on Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses told local media that the 64-year-old journalist and TV presenter was shot up to five times, including once in the head.

Dutch media reported Wednesday that De Vries,

known for his hard-hitting reporting, has been threatened several times in the past. Since last year, he has been acting as an advisor and confidante of the main prosecution witness in the case against Ridouan Taghi, described as the Netherlands' most wanted criminal, whose organisation was described as a “well-oiled killing machine by prosecutors.”

Prime Minister Mark Rutte told a press conference in The Hague the

attack was “shocking and inconceivable”.

“It's an attack on a courageous journalist and by extension an attack on the freedom of the press, which is so essential for our democracy and rule of law,” he said.

De Vries was shot at around 7:30 pm local time (1730 GMT) — still daylight at this time of year in Amsterdam — as he left a television studio after appearing on a talk show.

Het Parool daily newspa-

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)			
'e' Procurement Notice No CE-03/VMC/AE/2021-22, Dt.07-07-2021.			
S.No	Name of the work	No. of call	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of Bridge Connecting to Madhyakatta (Budamerukatta) to Madhura Nagar on Eluru Canal, Vijayawada. with Reverse Tendering Process.	2nd call	500.00
2	Renewal of BT road with Hot Mix process to cross roads and Drains connecting Bandar Road & Eluru Road Ali Baig street, Museum Road, Nakkala Road, Domakal Road, Goodavalli Street, Rajagopalachari Street and other Roads in Governor peta & Surya Rao peta area 21st Division.	1st Call	712.00
3	Providing BT Roads, Drains & Paver Blocks at Swathi Press Road, Karnataka Hammohana Rao School Road, Gangaraju Kalyanamandapam Street, Purna Hospital Road, Boyapati vari Street Balaji Street, Vemuri Vari Street, Jadagam Vari Street and Govindarajulu Naidu Street in Suryarao Peta 19th division.	1st Call	250.00
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Download of bid documents starts from (S.No.2 to 4) - 09-07-2021 from 03.30 P.M. Last date / time for receipt of tenders (S.No.1) - 22-07-2021 upto 4.00 P.M. Last date / time for receipt of tenders (S.No.2 to 4) - 23-07-2021 upto 4.00 P.M.			
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DECCAN Chronicle

8 JULY 2021

Huge relief, reset by CBSE may help students reboot

Two heads are better than one is a common saying but it is moot whether it applies to examinations too. Using an opportunity of a pause in Board exams caused by the pandemic, the CBSE has used the reset button to come up with a revolutionary two-exam mode in different formats for Class 10 and 12 that seeks to change the basic concept of holding a single exam that used to determine everything, from the students' careers to shaping their lives. In a takeoff on the two-semester system that colleges use for engineering studies, the academic session will be bifurcated into two terms with the first term exams of 90 minutes' duration to be held in November-December 2021 and second term exams in March-April 2022 at exam centres.

The idea may be to distribute the stress of exams and to get the students accustomed to taking exams in their stride while also splitting the syllabus to bring down the burden. The continuous recording of internal assessment scores rather than just one annual score is likely to help students get over the vagaries of an academic year. Any number of unknown factors may crop up in a sweeping reform, particularly about the authenticity of exam results if they are to be held in online mode with students taking the exam at home in case the pandemic forces the postponement of operating exam centres. The semester system might also allow students some time to take on additional study for entrance tests to professional courses.

What the reform promises is a vision that will take everyone beyond last academic year's fiasco in which the exams could not be held at all and students suffered from the digital divide

The elimination of rote learning that used to dominate student methods in taking the single big exam as a determinant of their marks would be the greatest contribution to the Indian system of assessing student merits in exams. The system is burdened right now with ratifying the marks that schools will be giving their students for the previous academic year. Tackling the anomalies likely to crop up is going to be a challenge, as schools would certainly try to favour their students in internal assessment marks. What the reform promises is a vision that will take everyone beyond last academic year's fiasco in which the exams could not be held at all. All students have suffered from the inadequacies of online teaching and learning for a whole academic year now when the inequities of India's patchy Internet coverage were most evident across the urban-rural divide.

The uncertainty over how long the pandemic will last before the virus becomes just endemic. It would take a brave nation to declare the second wave has subsided and consider the situation to be safe enough to put students and teachers back in classroom mode. While learning outcomes will be far better, there is no knowing if such congregations of students will not help the virus spread more easily. The UK experience of putting all students classified as contacts to a stray positive case has been bitter with lakhs of students forced to spend time in cruel self-isolation. A lot depends on when schools can be reopened but the CBSE has used the time well to think of alternatives.

Bollywood's first Khan

Atthespian, a legend, an actor par excellence... Dilip Kumar, the actor and the man, can only be described with adjectives and grand tags because his colossal impact and the overwhelming admiration he commands in the subcontinent remain unparalleled.

Born Mohammed Yusuf Khan in Peshawar, Dilip Saab was a devout Muslim, a steadfast secularist and a method actor who died in Mumbai on Wednesday after a prolonged illness.

Though his last film was released 23 years ago, in 1998, Dilip Kumar remains a daunting, revered presence in the Indian film industry not just because of the awards and accolades he received for his acting, but because with almost every role he played, he created a template for that character.

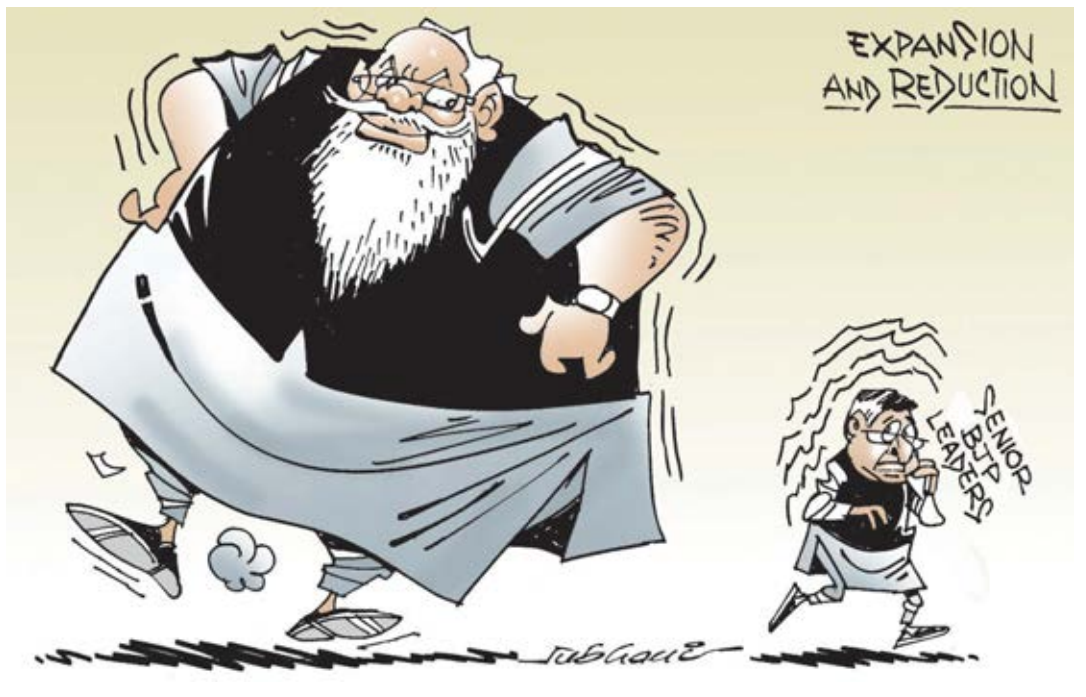
And because he embodied the idea of Nehru's secular India, both on screen and off it, he was also regularly called upon to assist in politics and fund raising and was recognised in his lifetime not just for his contribution to cinema, but also social causes in India and across the LoC.

At home he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, given a Rajya Sabha nomination, and in Pakistan he was accorded a state welcome and graced with the highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz, in 1998 that he accepted after consulting the then Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Dilip Kumar's passing is truly the end of an era. It's a day to bid a mouthful goodbye to that black and white world of young men on bicycles, railway stations with tongas parked outside, a modern India under construction that held the pledge to remain secular, but also a world where a Muslim man was known by a Hindu name.

It was apt then, that on Wednesday, Mohammed Yusuf Khan was wrapped in the Tricolour and given a state send-off to the Santacruz Kabrastan. Dilip Kumar, 98, now lies there, with Nehru's idea of India that died before him.

Subhani



India-China peace: Who will take the first step?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

The only reference amidst Beijing's centennial celebrations to Sino-Indian differences — posthumous awards for four Chinese soldiers out of more than 40 believed to have fallen in the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020 — gives no glimpse of the unsmiling President Xi Jinping's "dream" of "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation". For that one must go back 228 years to Emperor Qianlong's haughty rebuff to England's King George III.

Official India is sometimes equally enigmatic. Indians were completely taken aback when Gen. V.K. Singh, who soldiers on in politician's garb, announced that "if China had transgressed (the Line of Actual Control) 10 times, we must have done it at least 50 times". Was it the eternal soldier's boast that no one can beat our jawans in deriding-do? Or flaunting loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who astonished everyone back in June 2020 by exonerating the Chinese of any incursion or encroachment?

Imitation being the best form of flattery, no one was surprised either when, while visiting Ladakh, defence minister Rajnath Singh would not even mention China. He spoke only about our "neighbours" and the "neighbourhood".

Reportedly, the Prime Minister had done so earlier, which was rather like the ancient Greeks, who were as superstitious as today's Hindu stalwarts, calling the Furies the Eumenides or good-humoured ladies to flatter them into being less furious.

China's disdain for verbal gymnastics recalls Deng Xiaoping's advice to hide your strength and bide your

time. Unlike Indian politicians, Deng abjured any hankering for superpower status. So do his successors. What they assert instead is that although they have suffered oppression and exploitation by European nations and their colonial lackeys (India?) for a century, they will overtake the United States economically in 10 years. Mr Xi called this "xiaokang", "basically well-off", the term Deng used in a display of humility that was as ostentatious as Mahatma Gandhi's poverty. China knows that the gun out of whose barrel power grows rests on a booming economy.

Although Deng was the unaggressive architect of China's modernisation, there really isn't much fundamental contradiction between his legacy and that of Mao Zedong. The difference is mainly of style. Deng ousted Mao's designated successor, Hua Guofeng, launched and guided the *Boluan Fanzheng* (literally "eliminating chaos and returning to normal") and the Four Modernisations movements, and suppressed the Democracy Wall and the Beijing Spring.

His only designation may have been "Most Honorary President of the Chinese Bridge Association", but his word was law. The quaintly named "June Fourth Incident" — when tanks and troops massacred thousands of unarmed young democracy supporters — bore his imprimatur. He could obfuscate his purpose with aphorisms like "A market economy is not necessarily capitalist, and a planned economy is not necessarily socialist".

Chairman Mao's singular ability was to draw on the past even while dismantling its legacy. Thus, he told his commanders on the eve

of the 1962 war that India and China had fought "one and a half" wars in ancient times. The first was during the Tang dynasty (618-907), when Chinese troops helped an Indian monarch suppress a pretender. The "half" was Timur's sacking of Delhi seven centuries later, which Mao included because the Mongol Yuan dynasty, founded by Kublai Khan, ruled China at the time. Had Mao known that Emperor Babur was Timur's great-great-great-grandson, he would undoubtedly have laid claim to the Delhi *masnad*; perhaps the ambition did stir in his subconscious as he ordered his commanders to be "restrained and principled", unlike Timur who massacred more than 100,000 Indian prisoners.

Mao must have enjoyed the 2,893-word letter in which Qianlong projected himself as the Son of Heaven, the whole world his vassal. He regarded envoys as supplicants, gifts as tribute, politeness as submission, and diplomatic relations as a plea for protection. Asked for trading ties, he ordered King George III to "tremblingly obey and show no negligence!"

The Great Helmsman, who swam in the Yangtze river at 62 to demonstrate his fitness, was blamed for the miseries of the Great Leap Forward when millions of people died, the anarchic violence of the Cultural Revolution, and the depredations of the Gang of Four. But millions of Chinese truly believe that it was only because of Mao that they could stand up. All Under Heaven acknowledge that Deng could not have built what he did if the feared, reviled and worshipped Mao hadn't

As Mao rides again, his successor should not forget that the point of his tale about the one-and-a-half wars was that India and China are not doomed to perpetual enmity

laid the foundations. Even Deng admitted that Mao was seven parts good and only three parts bad.

On July 1 Mr Xi, whose own Mandate of Heaven will soon be renewed for yet another five-year term, announced from the same balcony where Mao had proclaimed the born-again Middle Kingdom in 1949 that 1.4 billion Chinese were "marching in confident strides" toward the "goal of building China into a 'great modern socialist country' in all respects". As Mao rides again, his successor should not forget that the point of his tale about the one-and-a-half wars was that India and China are not doomed to perpetual enmity.

It was a point that had been made eight years earlier during Mao's last conversation with Jawaharlal Nehru. Discussing their "differences", Mao referred to the old Chinese saying, "to seize somebody's pig-tail". He and Nehru agreed that India and China would not do that. "Sometimes we have differences, but we do not quarrel", Nehru responded. That is something for Mr Xi to remember, no matter how deeply he might resent the new map of the now downgraded Jammu and Kashmir state that New Delhi belatedly released last November.

Unless he does, India and China will stand like two goats with locked horns on a narrow bridge, as Liu Shuqing, a former Chinese vice-foreign minister, warned Bhutan's Dawa Tsering. Prime Minister Modi gave a new twist to the stalemate with the slogan "Inch towards Miles" on the eve of Mr Xi's first visit to India in 2014. If the Prime Minister has forgotten what he said, Beijing can jog his memory by reiterating the old Chinese saying: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

Someone has to take that first step.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

LEGEND NO MORE

The death of veteran actor Dilip Kumar, whose career in Hindi cinema had spanned six decades, is sad news. Whatever role was assigned to him he had acted with aplomb. His performances in *Andaz*, *Aan*, *Azaad*, *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Ganga Jamuna* and *Ram Aur Shyam* (just to name a few) were remarkable. In fact, lyricist Shakeel Badayuni, music composer Naushad, playback singer Mohammed Rafi and actor Dilip Kumar were a great combination which old film buffs can ill-afford to forget. In the passing away of Dilip Saab, Bollywood has lost a legend.

P.G. Menon, Chennai

WELCOME MOVE

The new evaluation scheme for classes 10 and 12 for the academic year 2021-22 planned by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is no doubt a welcome move. It's going to be a semester pattern, a 90-minute question paper covering 50 per cent of the syllabus in November and 2 hour paper for the remaining 50 per cent in April. A sort of flexibility is also infused into the system. This is indeed better than awarding marks for the batch of students in questions based on a school's performance in the immediately preceding year (which the CBSE did in 2020-21). Be that as it may, now the teachers will be on their toes to do justice to students. They will not mind working harder as they want to see some real examinations happening and students getting marks/grades they deserve. One can only pray that there is no third wave of the pandemic to throw a spanner into the works of the schools and CBSE.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

WTC POINTS CHANGE

This refers to ICC statement that during the next WTC there will be a change in the point system. Each Test match winner will get 12 points, the 6 points and draw 4 points. This is a thoughtful change as the inaugural WTC tournament point system proved to be faulty. Likewise, the number of Test matches, per series, should be equal to all teams, say 3-match series. The last edition series of 5, 4, 3 & 2 matches proved to be beneficial to some teams. Moreover, a 3-Test match series would enable each team to play at least six to 7 series within the next two years, to select the worthy two teams to meet in the finals. Finally, the WTC finals should be best of 3 matches and the same should be played in a neutral venue on a rotation basis.

N.V. Krishnan, Chennai

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Groups of babus play smoke and mirrors ahead of 2022 polls in UP

Sensing the current popular mood against the UP government due to the Covid crisis, the party and the Narendra Modi sarkar are keen to ensure the party's success in the upcoming Assembly elections. A lot of that worry has to do with the perceptions about Yogi running the government with handicapped but clearly inadequate babu support.

When the trusted PMO aide Arvind Kumar Sharma was air-dropped in Lucknow, he was no regular Gujarat cadre babu or just another BJP vice-president in Uttar Pradesh (after taking voluntary retirement). He was reportedly sent to rein in Yogi who has caused considerable discontent within the state unit of the party, and he remains the PMO's eyes and ears within the Yogi Adityanath government.

Yogi too has gathered around his own trusted band of babus. It is this team that steered Yogi's Covid management. Hovering over these

exercises like Banquo's ghost is a familiar presence, Navneet Sehgal. This consistently powerful 1988-batch IAS officer is once again chief firefighter, in-charge of the state information department as additional chief secretary and leading the perception battle against Covid failure. His dominant presence in the state government, over the last six months has not enthused too many other babus in UP. Yet, it is this larger cohort of babus who will matter more, going ahead and how they manage their last lap briefs, that will be crucial in the months ahead.

CBDT APPOINTMENT RAISES MORE QUESTIONS

The spate of appointments in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) seem to have raised more questions than answers among babu-watchers. After the end of CBDT chairman P.C. Mody's extended tenure, the finance min-

istry has given additional charge of the post to J.B. Mohapatra, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. With Mr Mohapatra as ad hoc chairman, the CBDT now has three 1985-batch board members, the other two being Anu J. Singh and Anuja Sarangi.

Sources say that there is also much speculation about why Mr Mohapatra was named the interim chairperson of CBDT and why the government chose to ignore the claim of K.M. Prasad, the senior-most board member. Mr Prasad who has about three months to go before retirement could easily have been given additional charge of interim chairman.

Besides his ad hoc position, Mr Mohapatra is the first regular member for investigation since 2019. The post of member, investigations, now seems to lead to the top post at CBDT, given that the current CEC Sushil Chandra held the same post before he was elevated to CBDT chairperson.

Interestingly, the CBDT board is likely to see more changes in the days ahead. Of the three new members, S.K. Gupta will complete his tenure in July while Anu Singh will retire in August this year as will K.M. Prasad. Will the government draft new members on the board or give extension to the current ones? Let's wait and watch.

CAUGHT BETWEEN CM AND HM, DGP WANTS OUT

Walking a tightrope can get tiresome after a while. Haryana's director general of police Manoj Yadava has sought repatriation to the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for "personal reasons", in a bid to end the war of words between chief minister Manohar Khattar and home minister Anil Vij over his tenure extension.

Mr Yadava was sent to Haryana on the recommendation by a UPSC committee for appointment as the state police chief. He had returned to his home state cadre after spend-

ing 15 years with the IB. The 1988-batch IPS officer has apparently written to additional chief secretary (home) Rajeev Arora seeking repatriation to IB and resume his old post of additional director.

While the move took some by surprise, those in the know believe that Mr Yadava's inability to get along with his boss, the state home minister Anil Vij, may have been the last straw for the top cop. Earlier this year when chief minister Manohar Khattar had given Mr Yadava a year's extension as DGP, the home minister had vehemently objected but Mr Khattar stuck to his guns and had his way.

It's no secret that Mr Khattar and his home minister do not see eye to eye on several issues. Mr Yadava may be about to pay the price of their political rivalry if his request for repatriation is accepted.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	53054.76	0.37
Nifty 50	15879.70	0.39
S&P 500*	4,353.03	0.22
Dollar (₹)	74.62	-0.08
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.04	0.16
Euro (₹)	88.26	0.002
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,903.29	0.06
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	72.92	-2.16
IN 10-Yr T-bill yield	6.164	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.331	-0.039

* As of 8:30 PM IST

RBI notifies retail inclusion in MSME category

The Reserve Bank notified the inclusion of retail and wholesale trade under the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) category. This will help retail and wholesale trade benefit from priority sector lending under the RBI guidelines. Earlier on July 2, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises had decided to include retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs for the limited purpose of priority sector lending.

Chinese nationals step down from Paytm board



All Chinese nationals on the board of Paytm have been replaced by US and Indian citizens, the firm said. Alipay representative Jing Xiandong, Ant Financial's Guoming Cheng, and Alibaba representatives Michael Yuen Jen Yao (US citizen) and Ting Hong Kenny Ho have ceased to be directors. US citizen Douglas Feagin has joined the Paytm board on behalf of Ant Group. It now has no Chinese nationals on its board.

Piramal Capital's NCDs to offer 8-9% interest

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises, announced a Rs 1,000-crore public issue of secured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) opening on July 12. The NCDs of Rs 1,000 face value carry coupon rates of 8.10-9 per cent for 26 month to 10-year tenures. The public issue will allocate 40 per cent of the NCDs to HNIs, 40 per cent to retail investors and 10 per cent to QIBs.

Nucleus Software to hire over 500 engineers this yr

Nucleus Software, which provides lending and transaction banking solutions, said it is planning to hire 500 engineers by the end of the year. Nucleus has set a target to hire 500 fresh young engineers from non-metro cities and towns across India till December, a statement said. This will be undertaken through tie-ups with engineering colleges across various states and through direct hiring, it said.



■ Pre-quarterly updates cheer market Sensex closes above 53K pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JULY 7

The Sensex closed above the 53000-mark for the first time in history on Wednesday. The benchmark index gained 193.58 points, or 0.37 per cent, to close at 53,054.76 after touching a high of 53,105.41, but below an all-time intra-day high of 53,129.37. Foreign portfolio investors turned net buyers after recent selling by Rs 532.94 crore, which seemed to have triggered buying, though domestic institutions remained net sellers by Rs 231.80 crore. "Sentiments were positive on account of receding fresh Covid cases, vaccination progress, strong May core sector data, improved traction in overall economic momentum in June indicating healthy

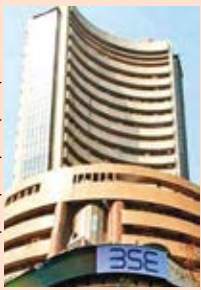
SENSEX TRENDS IN 2021

Jan. 21	Touches 50000-mark intra-day
Feb. 3	Closes above 50000 points
Feb. 5	Crosses 51000-mark intra-day
Feb. 8	Ends above 51000 points
Feb. 15	Rallies above 52000-mark
May 24	M-cap of BSE-listed companies touches \$3 trillion
June 22	Touches 53000-mark in intra-day trade
July 7	Closes above the 53000-mark for the first time; M-cap of BSE-listed firms at record ₹ 2,32,21,148.16 crore (over \$3 trillion).

GAINS 5305.43 POINTS, OR 11.10 PER CENT, SO FAR THIS YEAR

corporate earnings for Q1," said Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Moti-lal Oswal Financial Servi-ces. "Robust pre-quarterly updates from Sobha, Titan, RBL Bank, Equitas among others also

cheered the market. Fresh buying was seen in metals...Realty stocks too surged led by signs of recovery for demand in residential real estate as unsold inventory declined further in Q2 of calendar year 2021," Khemka said.



Property sales, supply pick up in June

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JULY 7

Despite a slump in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY22), the real estate sector saw signs of recovery in June, with sales and supply rising. About half the sales in Q1 took place in the month of June, as states started opening up after the localised lockdowns, says a report by PropTiger.com. "Both demand and supply were hit during the first two months (of Q1)

when most states put in place various restrictions and lockdowns to curb the spread of the virus. However, some ground on both the numbers was covered during the month of June, when states started to open up," said Dhruv Agarwala, group CEO, Housing.com, Makaan.com and PropTiger.com.

Anarock Property Consultants says residential sales, during the quarter, dropped by 58 per cent. Around 24,570 units across the top 7 cities were sold in

the June quarter against 58,290 units in the preceding quarter.

"We anticipate residential demand to see steady growth in the upcoming quarter. The previously-noted structural shift in housing demand continues—many current homeowners seek to upgrade to larger homes and the previously purchase-averse millennials remain very active property buyers," said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Property Consultants.

IPO rush: Firms seek to mop up ₹80,000 cr

K. J. BENNYCHAN
MUMBAI, JULY 7

The primary market is set for a bumper Rs 80,000-crore bonanza with 30 companies already filing IPO papers to raise Rs 55,000 crore, while around 10 more are lined up for this month itself, seeking to mop up another Rs 25,000 crore, say investment bankers. The market has been on a non-stop rally, hitting new records almost every week, on the back of an influx of investors—a vast majority of them first-timers—coupled with a flood of liquidity.

The year saw over 20 million new investors coming to the market. Having already raised Rs 27,426 crore from 22 issues so far this year, 2021 is set to be a record year for fundraising through initial public offerings (IPOs).

In 2020, 16 issues had mopped up Rs 26,628 crore, and a similar number of IPOs had collected Rs 12,687 crore in 2019, but 2018 was the best year so far for the primary market as 25 companies had raised Rs 31,731 crore.

Some of the leading issues in the March quar-

ter of the year included IRFC (Rs 4,633 crore), Indigo Paints (Rs 1,176 crore) and Railtel (Rs 819 crore).

Companies that are likely to hit the market this month include Glenmark Lifesciences, Zomato (roadshow for the Rs 8,500-crore issue is from Thursday), Windlas Biotech, Medi Assist TPA, Tatva Chintan Pharma, Paras Defence and Seven Island Shipping, together looking to raise about Rs 13,650 crore.

That apart, about 10 companies are also expected to file IPO documents with the Sebi this month.

These include Star Health & Allied Insurance, Sapphire Foods, Northern Arc, Fino Payments Bank, Paytm, Ixigo, VLCC, Sahajanand Medical Technologies, Lava International, and Veeda Clinical Research, seeking to mop up Rs 25,000 crore.

Digital payments leader Paytm is planning an over Rs 18,500 crore issue and is likely to file the papers this month. If closed successfully, this will be the biggest issue in the country. —PTI

DARK EDITIONS OF ALTROZ, NEXON LAUNCHED

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, JULY 7

Tata Motors on Wednesday launched the Dark Range of its popular Altroz, Nexon and Nexon EV range priced at Rs 8.71 lakh, Rs 10.40 lakh and Rs 15.99 lakh, respectively.

Priced up to Rs 45,000 more than the standard versions, the Dark Edition models feature a blacked-out theme inside and out.

The Dark Edition of Harrier, launched in 2019, was a popular choice amongst buyers.

The new vehicles will get dark alloy wheels and the interiors will also be black.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MOVES TO FINANCE MINISTRY

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The government has merged the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) with the Ministry of Finance to give it greater control over state-owned companies and facilitate the privatisation programme.

With the DPE taken away from its fold, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises will now be called the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The finance ministry will now have six departments.

The Disinvestment Ministry, created under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, was earlier merged with the finance ministry and is made a department under it.

Also, Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was abolished and administration of foreign investments was given to the finance ministry.

The shift of DPE to the finance ministry will help in efficient monitoring of the capital expenditure, asset monetisation and financial health of the Central Public Sector Enterprises, the government said.

Hitherto, the finance ministry had, under it, the departments of economic affairs; revenue; expenditure; investment and public asset management (Dipam) and financial services.

With the addition, the ministry will get its sixth department.

Buyers seek full Saudi oil supply despite price hike

SHARON CHO
JULY 7

Some Asian oil refiners are planning to ask for full contractual crude volumes from Saudi Arabia, despite the kingdom jacking up prices for August, as there are few cheaper alternative sources of supply.

Saudi Aramco raised the official selling price for its key Arab Light crude to Asia next month by the most since January after the breakdown of Opec+ talks to boost output. Alternative grades from the US or the North Sea are currently more expensive, leaving refiners without many options to curb rising costs.

At least five processors are requesting normal contractual volumes for August-loading cargoes, according to refinery officials who asked not to



be identified. One will seek more of the lighter Saudi grade to replace spot purchases from the Atlantic Basin, they said. Buyers are asked to submit so-called nominations by Wednesday, and will be informed of allocated amounts by early next week.

The collapse of the Opec+ talks means that the group's output limits will remain in place for August, depriving buyers of extra barrels as the demand rebound from the pandemic accel-

ates. The physical oil market is showing signs of strength, with the prompt Dubai time-spread at the widest backwardation since January 2020.

The premium of Oman crude to Dubai swaps has also widened, signalling a bullish outlook for Middle Eastern oil in the Asian spot market. Light-sweet crude from the US that can be delivered to Asia in October is now about \$2 a barrel more expensive than similar Middle Eastern cargoes, meaning the arbitrage trade is shut, according to traders.

Other official selling prices from major Middle Eastern producers such as Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq will be released in the coming days. Those suppliers typically follow Saudi Arabia in their pricing strategy.

—Bloomberg

Goyal pitches for Indo-Pacific services pact

New Delhi, July 7: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday called for a services trade agreement among friendly nations of the Indo-Pacific region as it can help liberalise domestic regulations and build capacity in sectors like e-commerce and IT.

Speaking at special plenary with the trade ministers of the Indo-Pacific region, Goyal said India's trade with select Indo-Pacific economies increased to \$262 billion in 2020 from \$33 billion in 2001.

However, he said, non-tariff measures act as a major trade barrier in the region.

"Given the prospects of services trade, an Indo-Pacific wide services trade agreement should also be considered amongst friendly nations. It can help liberalise domestic regulations and build capacity on e-commerce and IT-enabled services and other areas



Piyush Goyal

such as artificial intelligence," he said.

Indo-Pacific region countries include Sri Lanka, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand and Singapore.

Goyal also invited businesses of the region to avail incentives under India's production-linked investment schemes, which cover 13 sectors and aim at creating global manufacturing champions.

He said trade facilitation can ease the cross-border movement of goods. —PTI

Covid claims 22 million jobs in major economies

LIBBY CHERRY
JULY 7

Labour markets in developed nations have recovered only half of the loss of employment they suffered in the pandemic, with the young and low-skilled hurt the most.

That's the conclusion of a 400-page study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which found that about 22 million jobs disap-

peared by the end of 2020 in industrial nations. The Paris-based institution said a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels of employment won't come until the end of next year.

The findings indicate that the coronavirus crisis accelerated a number of trends that started over the past decade, including growing income inequality, a shift toward more technically demanding jobs and fewer secure employment

opportunities for lower-skilled workers.

"Failing to address inequality and exclusion now is likely to result not only in deeper social divisions," said Stefano Scarpetta, the OECD's director for employment, labour and social affairs.

The OECD found a "rapid buildup" of long-term unemployment, with each wave of pandemic restrictions making it increasingly difficult for people to

find their way back into the workforce.

"There could be a growing mismatch between the skills and competence of the workers who have lost their jobs, and actually the skills which are in demand in the jobs which are being created," said Scarpetta at a press conference.

It warned about a "particularly worrisome" increase in inactivity among young people in most countries.

—Bloomberg

CAPITALAND EYES LOGISTICS PARKS, SETS ASIDE ₹2,250 CR

New Delhi, July 7: Singapore-based diversified real estate group CapitalLand on Wednesday announced a fund worth Rs 2,250 crore to develop logistics parks in India.

CapitaLand is one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups. Headquartered and listed in Singapore, it owns and manages a global portfolio worth about Singapore dollar (SGD) 137.7 billion as on March 31, 2021.

"CapitaLand has launched its second logistics private fund of SGD 400 million (Rs 22.5 billion) to expand in India's logistics sector," it said. —PTI

UpGrad earmarks \$250 mn for deals

SARITHA RAI
JULY 7

Online education provider UpGrad is allocating \$250 million for acquisitions in the coming months to speed up global expansion, one among a slew of India-born edtech startups setting their sights on international markets.

The company will target digital learning providers with mentors and coaches as well as immersive short-form learning startups in markets like Indonesia and Vietnam and across Africa, it said on Wednesday in a release. Two acquisitions will be announced in the next 60 days.

UpGrad, which specialises in higher education and upskilling courses, is near-

ing \$4 billion in valuation, Indian newspapers have reported. That would be a jump of nearly seven times from April, when it first got external funds, raising \$160 million from Singapore-based Temasek Holdings Pte and IFC Corp.

UpGrad representatives declined to comment on its valuation or fundraising plans.

India's edtech firms are expanding to new markets as the pandemic led to a boom in online learning from regular school classes to specialised professional courses. Mumbai-based UpGrad said it has over two-thirds of the online higher-education market in India for working professionals.

UpGrad was founded in

2015 by serial entrepreneur Ronnie Screwvala, who pioneered cable television in India in the 1980s and then built a unicorn acquired by Walt Disney Company.

Screwvala, 64, and his founding team own more than two-thirds of UpGrad. The startup is aiming for "an integrated, connected model in higher education across multiple geographies," Screwvala said in the release.

The company said its target customers are the world's more than one billion knowledge workers and 250 million higher education enrollees. It offers more than 100 courses, including some in collaboration with foreign universities. —Bloomberg

EVER | RICH

Ex-spouse gets in a day more than the \$2.7 bn she gave away in a year

Jeff Bezos hits wealth record of \$211 bn

SCOTT CARPENTER & SOPHIE ALEXANDER
JULY 7

Jeff Bezos is leaving the rest of the world behind when it comes to wealth accumulation.

The world's richest man reached a record \$211 billion net worth on Tuesday after Amazon.com Inc shares rose 4.7 per cent after the Pentagon announced it was cancelling a cloud-computing contract with rival Microsoft Corp. The rally raised Bezos's fortune by \$8.4 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The last time anyone in the Bloomberg ranking neared this amount was in January, when Tesla Inc's Elon Musk briefly hit \$210 billion. The two men spent the first part of the year trading the top spot as the world's richest person, but Bezos has cemented his hold on No. 1 since mid-March as Amazon shares climbed almost 20 per cent during that time.

Soaring stock prices in recent months have boosted the fortunes of a group of tech titans, including Musk. He remains in second place behind Bezos with a \$180.8 billion net



Jeff Bezos

worth even as Tesla shares fell on Tuesday. French luxury goods magnate Bernard Arnault is third at \$168.5

billion. Bezos's record haul is even greater than during a 2020 Amazon stock surge, when his net worth topped out at \$206.9 billion as the pandemic turbocharged the company's price. Bezos, 57, officially stepped down as Amazon's chief executive officer this week after a 27-year run. He still owns about 11 per cent of the company and serves as the firm's executive chairman.

The Pentagon said on Tuesday it was scrapping a \$10 billion cloud-computing contract awarded in 2019 to Microsoft Corp

after several years of wrangling between the government and some of the biggest US tech companies over the deal. The decision indicates it planned to split the work between Microsoft and rival Amazon.

MacKenzie Scott, Bezos's ex-wife and the 15th-richest person in the world, saw her wealth jump \$2.9 billion on Tuesday, eclipsing the \$2.7 billion she's given away so far this year. It's just a reminder that some billionaires can't give their money away faster than they make it. —Bloomberg

After the decision of NCLAT and that the matter has finally been laid to rest. We had already settled with the original claimant but subsequent interveners who were not a party to the case had delayed its closure," said Rohit Kapoor, CEO-Oyo Insea.

The FHRAI said it will continue to find a resolution to the payment issue. According to the association, the insolvency case revealed that around Rs 150 crore worth payments are pending to various hotels. "We had intervened in the interest of our members. We will keep our efforts on," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Hockey icon Datt passes away at 95

New Delhi: A man of many talents but one passion. Keshav Datt was the last of connects to the golden era of Indian hockey which has attained mythical status over the years. A two-time Olympic gold-medallist (1948, London and 1952, Helsinki), the 95-year-old Datt died after battling age-related ailments in Kolkata on Wednesday, survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter, all of whom are based outside India. Aside from being excellent with a hockey stick in his hands, Datt was also a badminton player of credible ability and a professional tea taster in his time away from sports. Datt played alongside greats like the late trio of Balbir Singh Sr, Leslie Claudius, and Jaswant Singh Rajput among others. His demise marked the end of a glorious era in Indian hockey's history. — *PTI*

Shafali and Sneha in race for ICC award

Dubai: India's teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and all-rounder Sneha Rana were on Wednesday nominated for ICC women's 'Player of the Month' award for June following their standout performances in the ongoing series against England.

Besides the Indian duo, England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone has also been nominated for the honour in the women's category. The nominees among the men are New Zealand batsman Devon Conway and pacer Kyle Jamieson along with South Africa wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock. The 17-year-old Shafali, who had already impressed everyone in the shortest format of the game, made a stunning Test debut against England and was named Player of the Match in the Bristol match. — *PTI*

KL climbs to 6th position in ranking

Dubai: Indian skipper Virat Kohli retained his fifth position while wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul gained one spot to be in sixth place in the latest ICC T20I rankings. With 762 points, Kohli is behind England's David Malan (888 points), Australia white-ball skipper Aaron Finch (830), Pakistan captain Babar Azam (828) and New Zealand opener Devon Conway (774). Rahul, who has 743 points, and Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell have climbed a rung each to be placed sixth and seventh respectively. Rahul and Kohli are the only two Indians to feature in the top-10 among batsmen. No Indian features in the top-10 among bowlers and all-rounders in the latest T20I rankings. — *PTI*

Test Mace to go on tour in N. Zealand

Auckland: The victorious Black Caps squad will carry their ICC World Test Championship Mace on a week-long, nationwide tour of the country, starting July 26, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday. Kane Williamson and company won the inaugural WTC final, beating India by eight wickets in Southampton in a thrilling contest last month. The tour is set to start in Whangarei on July 26 and will cover Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill throughout the week. — *PTI*

Goalkeeper Debjit joins Chennaiyin

Chennai: Two-time Indian Super League champions Chennaiyin FC have signed goalkeeper Debjit Majumder ahead of the 2021-22 season. The 33-year-old experienced campaigner inked a multi-year deal with the club. Debjit, who represented SC East Bengal in the last edition of the ISL, pulled off 50 saves including two clean sheets in his 15 appearances. With Debjit's addition, CFC aims to have a strong combination of youth and experience on the goalline, with 24-year-old Vishal Kaith already an established part of the ranks.



Italian players celebrate after beating Spain on penalties in the Euro semifinal at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.

— UEFA

THIS IS ITALY

Azzuri in final; slow Spain finally pay penalty

London, July 6: Italy beat Spain 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in a magnificent Euro 2020 semi-final at Wembley on Tuesday, as Jorginho converted the decisive kick to take the Azzurri through to the final where they will face either England or Denmark.

Italy were not always on top though, with Spain the better side for long spells of an epic contest before Federico Chiesa, the Juventus forward, gave Italy the lead with a fabulous finish an hour into a match watched by a crowd of almost 58,000.

The much-maligned Alvaro Morata, who was dropped from the starting line-up, came off the bench to equalise with 10 minutes of normal time

left. No further scoring in extra time meant penalties again for Spain, who had beaten Switzerland in a shoot-out in the quarter-finals.

They had also beaten Italy on penalties at Euro 2008, but this time misses from Dani Olmo and then Morata saw Spain give up the advantage they had been handed when Manuel Locatelli failed with the first kick in the shoot-out.

The Italians celebrated at the end with a large contingent of their UK-based supporters, and a team that has been rejuvenated under Roberto Mancini continues to dream of winning a first European Championship since 1968.

Italy	1
(Federico Chiesa 60)	
Spain	1
(Alvaro Morata 80)	
(Italy won 4-2 in shootout)	

Now unbeaten in 33 games, they go through to Sunday's final to face either England or Denmark, who meet in Wednesday's second last-four tie.

"I have to thank the players because they believed right from day one that we could do something incredible," said Mancini. "We haven't yet done everything we need to do though, there is still one step to go."

It is nine years since

Spain mauled Italy 4-0 in the Euro 2012 final in Kiev to win a third consecutive major tournament, and this was the fourth successive Euro in which these powerhouses had met.

Spain won the first two of those meetings, but the last two have now gone to Italy.

"It is not a sad night for me by any means," said Spain coach Luis Enrique. "We can go home knowing we competed and were among the best teams."

WE'LL BE BACK, SAYS BUSQUETS

Spain captain Sergio Busquets said the team will return stronger after gaining vital experience during their run to the Euro 2020 semi-finals.

"It's a shame, we

would've have liked for our tournament not to end today but that's football," Busquets told Radio Marca.

"The team was very good, we were the better team for almost the whole match. We can be proud, I feel pride for my teammates. Everyone was making Italy favourites, but we showed we're better."

Alvaro Morata came off the bench to equalise late on for Spain at Wembley and cancel out Federico Chiesa's opening goal on the hour.

But Morata and Dani Olmo missed in the shoot-out after the match finished 1-1 following extra time, with Italy advancing to the final 4-2 on penalties.

— AFP

COPA | AMERICA

Argentina set up Brazil showdown

Brasilia, July 7: Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was the hero as Argentina defeated Colombia on penalties on Tuesday to set up a dream Copa America final against Brazil.

Argentina stopper Martinez saved three penalties in the shoot-out after a bruising 1-1 draw in Brasilia.

Hosts Brazil beat Peru 1-0 in Monday's first semi-final meaning their star forward Neymar will line up against Lionel Messi's Argentina on Saturday at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium.

Two years ago a Brazil team missing the injured Neymar knocked out Argentina in the semi-finals before winning their ninth Copa title on home soil.

For Messi, 34, time is running out to win a first major international title with his national team, having previously lost in three Copa finals and the 2014 World Cup final.

For once he wasn't his country's main hero, although he did create the opening goal for Lautaro Martinez on seven minutes, before Luis Diaz equalized just after the hour mark.

In the shoot-out, goalkeeper Martinez three times dived to his left to save penalties from center-backs Davinson Sanchez and Yerry Mina, as well as midfielder Edwin Cardona.

And although Rodrigo De Paul skied his penalty for Argentina, Messi — who finished with blood seeping visibly from his left ankle — was amongst the scorers to give them a 3-2 victory on spot-kicks.

Saving penalties "is a question of luck and today it was my turn to be the glorious one," said Martinez.

"We said it the first day, we want to play the final and what better than playing Brazil on their pitch."

Despite the defeat, Colombia coach Reinaldo



Argentina's Lionel Messi and Lautaro Martinez celebrate after defeating Colombia in the Copa America semifinal in Brasilia.

— Twitter

Argentina	1
(Lautaro Martinez 7)	
Colombia	1
(Luis Diaz 61)	
(Argentina won 3-2 in shootout)	

Rueda was feeling positive, saying their performance "invites us to dream, to think we're on the right path."

"We should lift our heads, look each other in the eyes and know we have nothing to reproach ourselves about," he added.

Messi produced some early magic to beat three players and cross for Martinez to head wide.

Colombia didn't heed the warning and on seven minutes, Giovanni Lo Celso found Messi in the box, the diminutive star held off the giant Mina and picked out Martinez to fire into the far corner.

After Argentina's fast start, Colombia started to dominate and Cuadrado sent a free-kick just over the bar.

— AFP

Olympic briefs

Keep politics out: IOC chief

Olympics chief Thomas Bach pleaded Wednesday for politics to be kept out of the Games, saying they would otherwise become as divisive as other areas of society. The Olympic movement needs to be kept neutral and cannot be expected to solve civil liberties issues that politics had failed to fix, Bach said in a video message to the UN Human Rights Council. "The Olympic Games are the only event that unites the entire world in peaceful competition," the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said.

Shooters get 2nd dose of vax

The Tokyo Olympic-bound Saurabh Chaudhary and Rahi Sarnobat on Wednesday received their second dose of Covid-19 vaccines in Zagreb, Croatia, where the Indian shooting contingent is undergoing a training camp. Besides the duo, Deepak Kumar and pistol coach Ronak Pandit were also inoculated on the same day. "Tokyo bound Shooters @SChaudhary2002, @SarnobatRahi, @Deepak_g.arya along with Coach @CoachRonak being administered the second dose of vaccine in Croatia ahead of #TokyoOlympics," the Sports Authority of India tweeted.

No fans allowed for TNPL games

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 7

The fifth season of the Tamil Nadu Premier League got the go ahead from the state government and will commence from July 19. The organisers said spectators are not allowed.

The Twenty20 League featuring eight teams - defending champions Chepaak Super Gillies, Dindigul Dragons, Kovai Kings, Salem Spartans, Tiruppur Tamizhans, Trichy Warriors, Nellore Royal Kings and Madurai Panthers will be a 28-day affair with the final on August 15, 2021.

All 32 matches, including the final, will be played at one venue, MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chepaak. There will be seven double headers in the league phase, which will be held without a break. The first of three rest days will be after the conclusion of the league stage and before the play-

offs. "The Tamil Nadu Government formally approved holding the TNPL 2021 tournament subject to no spectators and strict Covid protocols. After discussions with all the stakeholders, it was decided to start the 2021 edition of TNPL from 19th July to 15th August. Eight teams will play 32 games in M A Chidambaram stadium, Chepaak," Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) secretary, Mr R. S. Ramasaamy said while releasing the schedule here on Wednesday evening.

"Matches will be broadcast by Star India in Star Sports 1 Tamil, One of their English Channel and on Hotstar.

"The teams are starting their practice on 9th July at Chepaak after extensive testing, quarantine and following strict bubble rules. BCCI Anti-corruption team will be in place for the tournament for education and monitoring," he added.

ROGER: OVER & OUT?

Federer crashes out to cast doubt on future

London, July 7: Roger Federer crashed out of Wimbledon in the quarter-finals at the hands of Poland's Hubert Hurkacz on Wednesday, potentially bringing down the curtain on the Swiss legend's All England Club career.

Federer, the 20-time Grand Slam title winner who turns 40 next month, lost 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 to a player 15 years his junior. It was only the eighth-time Wimbledon champion's 14th defeat at the tournament in 119 matches and his first straight sets loss since an opening round exit against Mario Ancic in 2002.

World number one and five-time champion Novak Djokovic reached his 10th Wimbledon semi-final and 41st at the Grand Slams.

Djokovic, chasing a record-equalling 20th major, defeated Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

He will face Canada's 10th seed Denis Shapovalov, who beat Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, for a place in Sunday's final.

It was 34-year-old Djokovic's 100th career grass court victory.

Djokovic became only the third man to capture all four majors more than once with his second French Open victory last month.

Now he is halfway to becoming the first man in the Open Era and only the third in history to complete a calendar Grand Slam of all four majors.

"I'm aware of certain stats, I love this sport with all my heart, body and soul and have been devoted to it since I was four," he said.

"Sometimes things do look surreal for me but I try to live in the moment and take every opportunity I have on the court."

"Going for history is a huge inspiration for me, let's keep it going."



Poland's Hubert Hurkacz celebrates winning a game against Roger Federer of Switzerland in the Wimbledon quarterfinal on Wednesday.

— AP

Djokovic raced into a 5-0 lead in the first set before 29-year-old Fucsovics got on the board.

The world number 48, bidding to become the first Hungarian man since 1948 to make the semi-finals at Wimbledon, saved five set points.

However, the rearguard action was too late to prevent the champion edging ahead.

The top seed broke for the only time in the second set in the ninth game which was enough for a two sets lead.

Djokovic had spent three hours fewer than the muscular Fucsovics in getting to the last-eight and his freshness showed when he crucially broke

in the first game of the third set and then fought off two break points in the sixth.

Shapovalov fired 17 aces and 59 winners past Russia's Khachanov to reach his first Grand Slam semi-final.

The left-handed Canadian will be a huge underdog against Djokovic having lost all six matches against the world number one.

MIRZA-BOPANNA PAIR OUSTED

Rohan Bopanna stayed solid with his service games and net play but Sania Mirza's serve was consistently put under pressure as the Indian team was ousted from the Wimbledon following a

three-set defeat in the stop-start mixed doubles third round.

The contest resumed with the 14th seed pair of Jean Julien-Roger and Andreja Klepac having a one-set lead and they finished on the right side of the result with a 6-3 3-6 11-9 scoreline.

Mirza has not played much competitive tennis post her comeback and is struggling to get her serve right.

Results: Men: Quarter-finals: Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Denis Shapovalov (CAN x10) bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x25) 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4; Hubert Hurkacz (POL x14) bt Roger Federer (SUI x6) 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0.



R. Ashwin

ASHWIN MAY PLAY COUNTY FOR SURREY

London, July 7: Premier India spinner R Ashwin could play a first-class game for Surrey as early as July 11 ahead of next month's Test series against England if he is able to get his work visa in time.

Ashwin, who is on a break in the UK like the rest of his India teammates after the World Test Championship final, has played for Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire in the past.

If he is able to get the visa for Surrey's game against Somerset at The Oval, Ashwin will get valuable match practice before the five-Test series against India starting August 4.

A report in *ESPNcricinfo* claimed that "both parties (Ashwin and Surrey) are confident it will be done in time for the match starting July 11".

After losing the WTC final to New Zealand, India skipper Virat Kohli had said that the team had asked for a first-class match before the title clash but didn't get it for reasons not known to him.

India are hoping to get a warm up match before the England series. The England and Wales Cricket Board has already stated that plans are afoot to have a practice game for India against a combined counties team before the Test series.

— PTI