



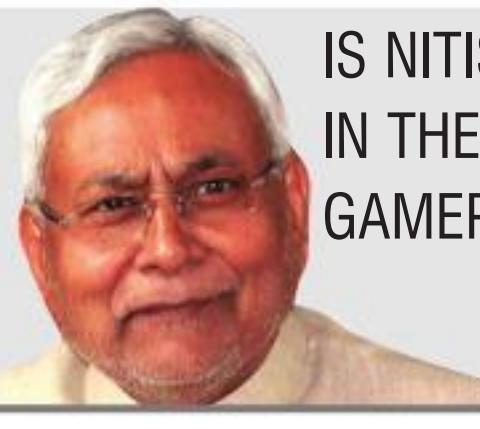
The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



EX-S.AFRICAN PREZ
HANDS HIMSELF OVER
TO JAIL AUTHORITIES

P9



IS NITISH CAUGHT
IN THE POLITICAL
GAMEPLAN OF BJP?

P5



4 SUSPECTED KILLERS
OF HAITI PREZ SLAIN

P10



IS EURO CUP
COMING BACK
HOME TO ENGLAND?

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with light rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 39 and 29 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 59% Min: 35%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 41.8°C (+5) Min: 30.6°C (+3)

SUN RISES

05:31 hrs

MOON RISES

05:26 hrs

SUN SETS

19:23 hrs

MOON SETS

19:03 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Farmers carry LPG cylinders during a protest against fuel price hike, at their agitation site at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Thursday. IANS

Four killed in LoC encounter: Two Army troopers, including a junior commissioned officer, were martyred on Thursday and an equal number of Pakistani terrorists killed in an encounter in the Dadal village near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu.

P5

Teacher's recruitment: West Bengal Central School Service Commission (WBCSSC) on Thursday published the detailed lists of all candidates who appeared at the 2016 TET (Teachers Eligibility Test) along with their scores for recruitment of teachers in upper primary schools.

India trashes Pak's claim on Lahore blast: India on Thursday strongly trashed as "baseless propaganda" Pakistan's claim that it was behind a bomb blast near the house of JUD chief Hafiz Saeed in Lahore last month, and asked Islamabad to take "credible and verifiable" action against terrorism emanating from its soil instead. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that the Pakistani leadership continues to "glorify terrorists like Bin Laden as 'martyrs'".

Global Covid toll hits 4 mn

WASHINGTON, 8 JULY

The global death toll from Covid-19 eclipsed 4 million on Wednesday as the crisis increasingly becomes a race between the vaccine and the highly contagious delta variant.

The tally of lives lost over the past year and a half, as compiled from official sources by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the number of people killed in battle in all of the world's wars since 1982.

With the advent of the vaccine, deaths per day have plummeted to 7,900, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January. AP
MORE ON P10

46K new Covid nos; uptick in active cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA,
8 JULY

India recorded 45,892 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, along with 817 deaths, while the number of active cases increased slightly after being on a consistent downward trend for nearly 55 days, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday.

An increase of 784 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, with the figure now standing at 4,60,704, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 a.m. The country's death toll due to Covid has reached 4,05,028.



Beneficiaries wait in queues to receive Covid-19 vaccine dose at a vaccination centre in Jabalpur on Thursday.

Kerala, which has been reporting a significant rise in Covid cases over the past several weeks, accounted for one-third of the new infections with 13,772 cases added overnight, while Maharashtra had 9,558 new cases. The cumulative Covid-19 vac-

cine doses administered in the country has reached nearly 37 crore while daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.42 per cent.

Delhi cases: The national capital recorded 93 fresh COVID-19 cases, and three deaths due to the disease on Thursday.



PM pitches for higher tech, flexible education models

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday interacted with directors of centrally-funded technical institutions and stressed on the need to adapt higher and technical education to the changing environment and emerging challenges.

Modi noted that technological and R&D institutions will play a major role in the upcoming decade, which, he added, is also being called as "India's Techade".

Interacting with over 100 heads of institutions via video-conferencing, Modi highlighted the need to focus on developing futuristic solutions in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, defense, and cyber tech-

nologies. He also lauded the research and development work done by these institutions towards meeting the challenges posed by the Covid-pandemic and appreciated the efforts of young innovators towards providing quick technological solutions.

Modi later tweeted, "Had an enriching interaction with Directors of leading IITs and @iiscbangalore during which we exchanged thoughts on a wide range of subjects including making India a hub for R&D, innovation & popularising science among youth."

Modi stressed that the country's higher educational and technical institutions need to prepare the youth for continuous disruptions and changes, keeping in mind the fourth industrial revolution, the PMO said.

HC: Centre free to take action against Twitter for any breach of new IT Rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The Delhi High Court on Thursday told the Centre it was free to take action against Twitter Inc in case of any breach of the new IT Rules and no interim protection was granted, even as the new IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said those who live and work in India will have to abide by the rules of the country.

Locked in a stand-off with the Central government over the new Information Technology (IT) Rules, Twitter Inc, meanwhile, informed the High Court it has appointed an interim chief compliance officer, who is a resident of India, and said it will make an "endeavour" to fill the regular position within eight weeks

Twitter Inc informed the Delhi High Court it has appointed an interim chief compliance officer, who is a resident of India, and said it will make an "endeavour" to fill the regular position within eight weeks

as per the rules. The court granted two weeks time to the microblogging platform to file an affidavit on compliance with the new rules.

It is made clear that since this court has not passed any interim order, this court has granted time to Twitter Inc to file affidavit, no protection is granted. It is open to Centre to take action against the Twitter Inc in case of any breach of the rules, a bench of Justice Rekha Palli said while listing the matter for fur-

"Those who live and work in India will have to abide by the rules of the country."

ASHWINI VAISHNAW
NEW MINISTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ther hearing on 28 July.

Vaishnaw while responding on the issue of Twitter not adhering to the IT rules said whosoever lives and works in India will have to abide by the rules of the country.

Twitter has been in the eye of a storm over its alleged failure to comply with the new IT rules in India, which mandates the appointment of three key personnel-chief compliance officer, nodal officer and grievance officer.

'No-fan' Olympics as Tokyo under emergency

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, 8 JULY

Fans were banned from the pandemic-postponed Tokyo Olympics which will open in two weeks, following a state of emergency imposed on Thursday, Olympic Minister Tamayo Marukawa announced on Thursday.

The ban was announced by the International Olympic Committee and Japanese organisers, reducing the games to a made-for-TV event.

Overseas fans were banned several months ago, and these new measures announced by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga could clear venues indoor and outdoor of any fans at all. This emergency declaration made for



arude arrival in Japan for IOC President Thomas Bach, who landed in Tokyo on Thursday just hours before the new measures were announced. Suga said the state of emergency would go in effect on Monday and last through 22 August. This means the Olympics, opening on 23 July and running through 8 August, will be held entirely under

emergency measures. The Paralympics open on 24 Aug.

Taking into consideration the impact of the delta strain, and in order to prevent the resurgence of infections across the country, we need to step up virus prevention measures, Suga said.

Suga, who had long favored fans, hinted at a no-fan Olympics in announcing the

and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the games on TV from home.

How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue, Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

The present state of emergency ends Sunday. Tokyo reported 896 new cases on Thursday, up from 673 a week earlier. It's the 19th straight day that cases have topped the mark set seven days prior. New cases on Wednesday hit 920, the highest total since 13 May. The no-fan atmosphere could include the opening ceremony at the \$1.4 billion National Stadium, traditionally the most watched event during the Olympics.

Entities like Facebook have to remain accountable: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Delhi Legislative Assembly and its committee have the power to compel attendance of members and outsiders on grounds of its privilege, the Supreme Court held today while observing that digital platforms like Facebook have become power centres with ability to influence opinions and will have to remain accountable.

Entities like Facebook, which has around 270 million users in India, have to remain accountable to those who entrust them with such power, the apex court said.

It dismissed the plea filed by Facebook India Vice President and MD Ajit Mohan and others challenging the summons issued by the Delhi

Top court dismissed the plea filed by Facebook India V-P challenging the summons issued by Delhi Assembly panel in 2020 Delhi Riots case

Assembly's Peace and Harmony committee for failing to appear before it as witness in connection with last year's north-east Delhi riots.

The bench delivered its verdict on the plea filed by Mohan, Facebook India Online Services Pvt Ltd and Facebook Inc which contended that the committee lacked power to summon or hold petitioners in breach of privileges for failing to appear before it and had exceeded its constitutional limits. (SEE P2)

Former Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh passes away at 87



Virbhadra Singh, the longest serving chief minister of Himachal Pradesh and ex-Union minister, passed away on 6 July 2021 at the age of 87 at Indira Gandhi Medical College Shimla after battling post Covid complications for over two months.

Singh, fondly called 'Raja Sahab' by many, had contracted Covid infection twice, first in April and then in June, but had successfully recovered.

The second longest serving CM of the country after Jyoti Basu, Singh was put on ventilator support after he developed breathing problems on 6 July and passed away at 3.40 a.m. on Thursday.

The six-time CM was elected to the state Assembly nine times in 1983, 1985 from Jubbal Kotkhai constituency, 1990, 1993, 1998, 2003 from Rohru, 2007, 2012 from Shimla (Rural) and 2017 from Arki constituency.

He was also a five-time MP and was the youngest member of Lok Sabha when he was elected in 1967 at the age of 27. Singh was born on 23 June 1934 in the royal family of erstwhile Bushahr princely state at Sarahan in Shimla. A staunch Congressman, Singh was a loyalist of former PM Indira Gandhi.

Centre's reply sought on pleas against conjugal rights law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The Supreme Court on Thursday termed "important" the pleas challenging Constitutional validity of the matrimonial law provisions which empower courts to ask estranged spouses to cohabit and take part in sexual intercourse to restore conjugal rights

matter deals with a pure question of law with regard to the validity of section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), Section 22 of the Special Marriage Act (SMA) and certain provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).

The top court was hearing pleas including one filed by the students of Gujarat National Law University at Gandhinagar, challenging the validity of section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA). Section 22 of the Special Marriage Act (SMA) and certain provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).

Delhi Assembly panel chief hails SC verdict

SC rejects Facebook India VP's plea against summons issued by Assembly's panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee Chairman Raghav Chadha on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court dismissing Facebook India official Ajit Mohan's plea challenging the summons by the panel, and said proceedings of the committee will continue after studying the decision.

The committee had issued the summons to Facebook India Vice President and MD Ajit Mohan for failing to appear before it as a witness in connection with last year's northeast Delhi riots.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on Thursday termed Mohan's plea as premature saying nothing has happened against him before the Assembly panel.

The top court said the option of not answering before the committee cannot be disputed and the representative of the petitioner can deny answering the question if it falls within the prohibited domains.

Reacting to the apex court's decision, Chadha, in a statement, said, "The Supreme Court, while dismissing the petition... recognised that the privileges and power of the Delhi Legislative Assembly's Committees are on par with Parliamentary privileges and those of other Legislative Assemblies."

"Significantly, the court has also reaffirmed that as part of these privileges the Committee



of Peace and Harmony is entitled to summon 'non-members' to appear before itself in order to assist it in matters of governance that lie within its remit and terms of reference," he said.

The SC opined that since no coercive action has been taken against Mohan and the notice issued to him was to seek his assistance in examining larger social issues concerning the wellbeing of the citizens, therefore "any representative of Facebook India must appear before the committee", Chadha said.

"The full copy of the judgement is awaited. We will study the judgment and shall thereafter continue the proceedings in terms thereof," he said.

The peace and harmony committee, like other legislative panels of the Assembly, is keen on continuing a genuine "deliberative" process on issues of concern in Delhi with the full participation of all concerned,

Chadha said.

The Supreme Court delivered its verdict on the plea filed by Mohan, Facebook India Online Services Pvt Ltd and Facebook Inc which contended that the committee lacked the power to summon or hold petitioners in breach of privileges for failing to appear before it and had exceeded its constitutional limits.

The petitioners had challenged last year's September 10 and 18 notices issued by the committee which sought Mohan's presence before the panel probing the Delhi riots and Facebook's role in the spread of alleged hate speeches.

In October 2020, the Centre had told the top court that proceedings of the Peace and Harmony committee are without jurisdiction as the issue pertained to law and order that squarely fell under the domain of Delhi Police which is accountable to the Central government.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

COURT NOTICE
(U.O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
SH. SHAMPY CHAUDHARY
Additional Civil Judge
(Sr. Division),
Anil Chopra
CNR No. PBPGAO-000286
2019

Next Date: 07-08-2021
M/s. Kisan Casting (India) Ltd. Guru Ni Kali, Bhadla Road, Mandi Gobind Garh, Tehsil Amloh, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib, Through its Director/ Authorised Person Sh. Kuldeep Goel (Mobil No. 9216110000, Aadhar No. 278954483413 —Plaintiffs Versus

M/s. Shree Parasnath Re-Rolling Mills Ltd. 3511-Part, Dr. B.C. Roy Avenue, Durgapur-713201-WB, 0343-2550537, Through its Director/Manager and Director/Incharge and Responsible Person of M/s. Shree Parasnath Re-Rolling Mills Ltd. 3511-Part, Dr. B.C. Roy Avenue, Durgapur-713201-WB, 0343-2550537, Mobil No. 0816090929.

In above fitted case, the defendant(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 17-08-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

6. Pawan Kumar Jain, Director, 7. Shalini Aggarwal Director, All 3 to 7 Director/Incharge and Responsible person of M/s. Shree Parasnath Re-Rolling Mills Ltd. 3511-Part, Dr. B.C. Roy Avenue, Durgapur-713201-WB, 0343-2550537, Mobil No. 0816090929.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=Fatehgarh sahib Dated, this day of 16-06-2021. Additional Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Amloh (P) Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF
SH. ASHOK KAPOOR
Principal Judge
Family Court
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
CNR No. PB01-002988-2018

Next Date: 14-07-2021
Kirandeep Kaur, wife of Jaskaran Singh Kalirai, residing at VPO Laksihai, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur.

— Petitioner Versus Jaskaran Singh Kalirai, son of Ajmer Singh, residing at Village Lakhpur, Banga, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar at present of 77 Broaday Road Leicester, England LE5 5TB UK.

— Respondent Petition under Section 13 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1956, as amended up to date for dissolution of the marriage by decree of divorce.

Notice to: Jaskaran Singh Kalirai, son of Ajmer Singh, residing at

on 17-08-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

SITUATION VACANT
B E R H A M P O R E
Municipality — Berhampore
Murshidabad
Notice No. 1744 / 1E/
Health / 53 / 2020 / BM
(Recruitment), dated
08.07.2021
Seal of the Court

Honourable Rs. 62,000/-
monthly. For further details
please visit
www.berhamporerumuni-
pality.org.in

Sd/-
The Chairperson
Board of Administrators
Berhampore Municipality

2021
CALCUTTA HIGH COURT
LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Corrigendum to earlier
Employment Notice, bearing
No. CHCLSC / EMP / 01
dated 2nd July, 2021, being
Employment Notice, bearing
No. CHCLSC / EMP / 01
dated 9th July, 2021 inviting
applications from eligible
candidates for filling up 01
post of coordinator (purely
contractual basis) has been
uploaded on the website of
High Court at Calcutta.
Application for such post
must reach the office of the
undersigned within 45 days
from or before 26.07.2021.
For details visit this
Court's website: www.cal-
cuttahighcourt.gov.in

Sd/-
Secretary
Calcutta High Court
Legal Services Committee
Dated the 8th July, 2021

TENDERS
BENFISH
G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V
Salt Lake City
Kolkata-700091

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Ref. No. BENFISH/MD/
NIT-09(e)/2021-22
Memo No.: 585/IV-291/11
Date: 7.7.21

MD. BENFISH invites the e-
Tender for 15 Nos. of
Concrete Road works at district of Paschim Medinipur,
Jhargram and Purulia, from
the reliable, reputed companies.
Publishing Date:
06.07.2021. Details at Notice
Board (<https://wbtenders.gov.in/>) / benfish.co.in/Tenders

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The Statesman

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Hitendra Rathore
hitendra.rathore@gmail.com
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Ishan House (2nd floor)
A-90, Sector II, NOIDA,
UP 201 301
Tel: (010) 4171421
Email:
delhistratesman@gmail.com
delhistratesman@gmail.com

BHUBANESWAR

Plot 3A, Zone B, Sector A, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751 010.
Tel: (0674) 2588060/61/62/ 2586371,
Telefax: 0674-2588061

Email:
bhubaneswar@thestatesmangroup.com
statesmanbbsr@gmail.com

SILIGURI

Spencer Plaza, 18/19, 1st Floor
Burdwan Road
Above Vishal Mega Mart
Siliguri-734005, West Bengal
Ph: 9832082429

Email:
sil_statesman@yahoo.co.in

SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P.C. Chambers
Near Jodha Niwas
The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.
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shimla@thestatesmangroup.com

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Re. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
All other stations in India - Re. 1



The communal rhetoric and the threat and intimidation politics of the BJP leadership only helped Mamata Banerjee

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
CLAIMING THAT MISS BANERJEE WAS AN 'INCIDENTAL BENEFICIARY' OF HIGHLY POLARISED BENGAL POLLS

Capital

Maximum temperature rises to 41.8 deg C on Delhi's 4th 'heat wave day' in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The national capital's fourth "heat wave day" of this month on Thursday saw the mercury soaring to 41.8 degrees Celsius, five notches above the normal, according to the weather department.

The city had reeled under heat wave on July 1 (43.1 degrees Celsius), July 2 (41.3 degrees Celsius) and July 7 (42.6 degrees Celsius) also.

For the plains, a heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature is more than 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above the normal.

The minimum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for Delhi, settled at 30.6 degrees Celsius. The relative humidity was recorded at 40 per cent.

The India Meteorological Department predicted thunderstorm with light to moderate rain accompanied with winds of speed 20-40 kmph in and around South Delhi, Haryana's Gohana and Rohtak, Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, Chandausi, Sahaswan, and Rajasthan's Nagar later in the evening.

It has also forecast thunderstorm with rain on Friday and the maximum and minimum temperatures hovering around 40 degrees Celsius and 29 degrees Celsius



Visitors brave the heat wave on Thursday in the Capital.

SUBRATA DUTTA

respectively.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board showed that the hourly air quality index (AQI) at 6.05

pm stood at 166.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate',

201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

BJP workers protest over poor water supply in some city areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Delhi BJP leaders and workers on Thursday staged protests against the AAP government at different places across the city over alleged water crisis in the city.

At the main protest venue near the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) headquarters at Jhandewalan, party leaders by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta staged a sit-in alleging lack of water supply in some areas of the city.

Arvind Kejriwal has no right to remain the chief minister of Delhi if he cannot provide clean, drinking water to people of the city, Gupta said. Some other party workers led by senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Vijay Goel, bathed a portrait of Kejriwal with dirty water at Ajmeri Gate Chowk, alleging supply of smelly water.

"There is an atmosphere of angst against Kejriwal over water supply issues. He should solve the problems faced by the people instead of keeping mum," Goel said. Addressing the protesters near DJB headquarters, Gupta said, "More than half of the colonies and settlements in the city are devoid of water supply. Arvind Kejriwal should answer why there is no water supply even as his government claimed pipelines were laid in 93 per cent colonies."

Leading a protest near the chief minister's residence, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the AAP came to power promising round-the-clock water supply but people are craving for each drop of water.

LG reviews action plan on Jal Shakti Abhiyan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Baijal reviewed the action plan on the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (Urban) on Thursday and directed officials to keep the catchment areas of water bodies free from encroachment, official sources said.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a campaign inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on "Jal Sanchay" (water conservation). It was launched by the Centre focussing on the conservation of rainwater and groundwater recharge and regeneration.

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दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

DELHI GOVERNMENT IS WITH THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES TO COVID

Chief Minister's COVID-19 Family Financial Assistance Scheme

Chief Minister's COVID-19 Family Financial Assistance Scheme has been launched by the Delhi Government for the families who lost their loved ones due to COVID-19.

Both the parts of the scheme are as mentioned below

- a) **Monthly Financial Assistance:** An assistance of ₹2,500/- per month will be given to families residing in Delhi where earning member died due to COVID-19.
- b) **One Time Ex-Gratia Assistance :** An assistance of ₹50,000/- will be given to every family living in Delhi on each death of any family member due to COVID-19, whether or not they were earning members.

For more information and to apply visit- edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in





A housekeeping worker cleans a photograph displayed at Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Chennai, on Thursday.

AGENCIES

Mangubhai Patel takes oath as MP Governor: Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Gujarat minister Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel took oath as the governor of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. He is the 30th governor of MP, Raj Bhawan sources said. Madhya Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq administered the oath to Patel at a function in the Raj Bhawan.

PTI

Uttarakhand HC rejects govt's contention: The Uttarakhand High Court has refused to accept the state government's contention that live streaming of the rituals at Char Dham is not permitted by the scriptures. The bench said if the Devasthan Board decides not to permit live streaming of the rituals on this ground, it will have to quote a line from the scripture in support of the argument.

PTI

Covid deaths: Owaisi slams Yogi

Says UP CM Adityanath's 'fight' in next year's Assembly elections will be with widows and orphans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BAHRACHA, 8 JULY



Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath's "fight" in the Assembly elections next year is with widows and orphans, said AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday attacking the state government over the deaths during the second coronavirus wave.

He said during the second wave of Covid, lakhs of people died "due to the UP government" as bodies of the poor were seen floating in the Ganga and dogs found dragging these on the river banks. People were not getting oxygen and beds in hospitals, he said addressing party workers while inaugurating its office in Bahraich city.

"Yogi's fight in the coming

elections will be with the women made widows and children left orphan by his government," he said, adding that mothers and sisters of UP have expectations from Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, a coalition of smaller parties.

The Hyderabad MP also called upon opposition parties to join the Morcha, saying, "We are entering the electoral fray with the resolve not to allow Yogi to become the chief minister again in the 2022 elections."

Those (opposition parties) who are afraid of us

today should not forget that we did not contest the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, yet they could not defeat Narendra Modi, he said. Owaisi further said they are going to contest the Assembly elections with a bigger motive.

"We are fighting for our share in power and not to become mere vote bank. Now, we will send our representatives to the Legislative Assembly with our votes. We have also proved this by winning five Vidhan Sabha seats in Bihar," he said in an apparent reference to the Muslim community.

Owaisi said all political groups understand that there is no voice of the oppressed and minorities.

"The drama of those who make us happy by feeding diets during iftars, organise mushairas and qawwalis will now come to an end," he said.

Violence erupts during filing of blockhead nominations in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANNAUJ, 8 JULY

One person was injured in a clash between supporters of rival candidates during the filing of nominations for the election of block panchayat head in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district on Thursday.

District Magistrate Vishal Bharadwaj said some of the workers opened fire during the filing of nominations for the head of Kasmanda block. The man injured in the incident was referred to Lucknow for treatment, he said.

A similar case was reported in Kannauj and SP made allegations of misuse of state machinery by the Bhartiya Janata Party.

Earlier in the day, nominations were filed for the election to the posts of chairperson, who are elected from among appointed members of zila panchayats of districts.

The nomination process for blockhead elections was held in all 19 blocks of Sitapur.

District Magistrate Vishal Bharadwaj said some of the workers opened fire during the filing of nominations for the head of Kasmanda block. The man injured in the incident was referred to Lucknow for treatment, he said.

As of now, four people have been arrested in connection with the case, the DM said.

SP former MLA Mahendra Singh alias Jheen Babu said that his party candidate was prevented by police from filing nomination in the Ramapur Mathura block by police on behest of the BJP-led government in the state.

Will toe party line on ties with BJP, says Shanmugam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VILLUPURAM, 8 JULY

AIADMK leader C Ve Shanmugam on Thursday said he was bound by the party leadership's decision on continuing the alliance with Assembly poll partner Bharatiya

Janata Party.

After the AIADMK brass asserted that the alliance formed by it with the BJP and others for the 6 April Assembly polls continued, Shanmugam said he and others were bound by that decision of the leadership.

TENDER

E-TENDER NOTICE- 20/2021-22				
MAHA GENCO Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.				
1. C&I/e-tender 98/RfxCode-3000020534 :- Up-Gradation of Maxina DCS System (HMI) of Unit-3 & Unit- 4 at Paras TPS under Capex scheme. (Esti. Cost :- Rs. 589.68 Lacs , EMD :-Rs.593181/-)				
Selling period for above tender Sr. No.1 from 09.07.2021 to 29.07.2021 Submission on dated 30.07.2021 at 16.00 Hrs				
Note :- For detail please see our web site :- https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in				
CHIEF ENGINEER MAHAGENCO TPS PARAS				

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms. The bidder shall have to fulfil the criteria as specified in Technical Qualification Criteria (TQC) contained in Form -8 page 53 available online in tender document.

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time of form	Cost of form
1.	Construction of phase-I Educational and Amenities block of Govt.polytechnic at Kalpa Distt.Kinnaur(SH:Prov.fire fighting system therein)	29,75,700	53,000	1 year	500/-NR

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htenders.gov.in>.

Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs may use the same in this tender

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	15.07.2021	17:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	15.07.2021	17:30 HRS up to 24.07.2021 17:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	15.07.2021	17:30 HRS up to 24.07.2021 17:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	26.07.2021	up to 11:00 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening: Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	26.07.2021	11:30 HRS

4. Tender details:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:

Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".

Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 as specified in Key dates under SR. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid opening details: The bids shall be opened on 26/07/2021 at 11:30 Hrs in the office Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders.

7. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer-inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

10. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

11. Registration with HP Sales Tax is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the sales tax paper to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

2249/2021-2022 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
Elect. Division No-II
HPPWD Shimla-2.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No.1, HPPWD, Shimla-9

Web.www.hppwd.gov.in E-mail: ee-eled1-hp@nic.in Phone/Fax No.0177-2621398

"Notice Inviting Tender"

Sealed percentage rate tenders on form No. 6 & 7 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No.1, HPPWD Shimla-9 for the following works on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD Electrical, so as to reach in this office on or before 14/07/2021 up to 10.30 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) up to 01.00 PM on dated 13/07/2021.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit Account in any of the Post Office in duly pledged in favour of undersigned must accompany with each tender at the time of issue of tender form. Conditional tenders and the applications for tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The undersigned reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason. It is further added that the rates be quoted both in words and figures for proper checking and to avoid any complications. No tender form will be issued to those contractors who are not registered under HP GST Act 1968. The contractors shall show their registration/renewal of enlistment to the undersigned before issue of tender forms. If the date of opening of will be holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time	Cost of Tender	Class of contractor Eligible
1	Providing Special Repair to E.I and replacement of old CFL light with energy efficient LED lights in Ground floor of administrative Block of state institute of Health and family welfare, Parimahal Shimla-9.	Rs. 2,57,497/-	5200	Three Months	350/-	C&D
2	Providing Special Repair to old CFL light with energy efficient LED lights in 1st floor of administrative Block of state institute of Health and family welfare, Parimahal Shimla-9.	Rs. 3,92,347/-	7900	Three Months	350/-	B&C
3	Providing special repair to E.I in the office of Director Youth services & Sports gaig garden Chotta Shimla-2.	Rs. 1,95,436/-	3900	Three Months	350/-	C&D
4	Providing special repair to E.I in Room No: 103,312,G/Floor control room,218,213, PWD elect. Plant 321,212,112,224 , main gate Ellerslie G-9,G-7, HCM Pantry, 3rd floor ladies toilet F/wing 331, 1st/Floor toilet, 313 in Ellerslie Bldg. HP Sec't Shimla-2.	Rs. 1,28,840/-	2600	Three Months	350/-	C&D
5	Providing Energy recovery ventilation (ERV) system in the office of Hon'ble Chief Minister's office at Oak Over Shimla (HP).	Rs. 1,45,469/-	2900	Three Months	350/-	Others
6	Providing additional plug Points, LED Battens in Male & Female ward (4,5,6,&7th floor) in Regional Ayurvedic Hospital at Brockhurst, Chotta Shimla (HP).	Rs. 2,13,463/-	4300	Three Months	350/-	C&D
7	Providing and installation of Electric water heater (geysers) in Armsdale Phase-I & Ellerslie Building HP Sec't Shimla-2.	Rs. 1,85,861/-	3700	One Year	350/-	C&D
8	C/O Panchkarma & Ksharutra building at Ayurvedic Hospital at Nalagarh, Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan	Rs. 2,55,778/-	3200	Three Months	350/-	C&D
9	Replacement of damaged cable and covering of surface wiring to underground in the chambers of Chairman and member No-1 in HPPSC at Nigam Vihar Shimla-2 (H.P.).	Rs. 1,				



Wrong policies of the Centre have set the petrol-diesel prices on fire, which is leading to inflation. People want to know when this fire will be extinguished

RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

SAYING PARTY'S PROTEST AGAINST HIKE IN FUEL PRICE WILL CONTINUE TILL 17 JULY

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 09 JULY 2021



Army Chief General MM Naravane (L) with Italian Army Chief Lt-General Pietro Serino, in Rome on Thursday.

Defence pension: The Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.

Voice sample: A Jaipur court has directed that voice samples of Union jal shakti minister Jajendra Singh Shekhawat and alleged middleman Sanjay Jain are collected in connection with audio clips leaked last year purportedly of conversations about toppling the Rajasthan government.

NCP backs Khadse: The NCP on Thursday came out in support of its leader Eknath Khadse, who is facing an inquiry by the ED in connection with a Pundeal deal case, with the party saying that although he was innocent, the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, was wrongfully targeting him.

India asks OIC not to allow Pakistan misuse its platform

NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

India has firmly asked the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to ensure that its platform was not misused by Pakistan to pursue its anti-India propaganda.

Responding to questions on a meeting between Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Aasif Sayeed and OIC Secretary General Yousef Al Othaimeen on 5 July, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it took place in response to an earlier request made by the OIC.

"A wide range of issues were discussed. Our ambassador conveyed the need to correct some of the misperceptions about India that are perpetrated by vested interests in the OIC. Further, the OIC should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by these vested interests for comments on internal affairs of India or for anti-India propaganda through biased, one-sided resolutions," the spokesperson said.

A OIC statement, meanwhile, said the secretary general discussed with the Indian envoy the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, among other issues. He conveyed the OIC's desire to deplore a delegation to Kashmir. He asked about the possibility of a meeting between India and Pakistan, stating the secretary general was ready to assist if the two parties would request.

On Pakistan blaming India for last month's Lahore blast, Bagchi said it was not new for Islamabad to engage in baseless propaganda against India.

Judicial sys exists for 'common man': SC

Expresses concern over lengthy arguments that too during Covid times; suggests precis writing must be adopted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The judicial system exists for the common man, the Supreme Court observed on Thursday while expressing concern over lengthy arguments by litigants that too during the Covid times, and said restricting time for oral submissions needs to be enforced.

The apex court also said it was aware of "equal responsibility of this side of the bench" and suggested that "Wren & Martin principles of precis writing must be adopted" for clear and short judgments which litigants understand.

However, there are hours-long submissions and vast amounts of material placed before the courts, it added.

The crucial observations over prolonged arguments, submission of lengthy docu-

ments and case laws by counsels came in a judgment by which the apex court which dismissed the plea of Facebook India vice-president and MD Ajit Mohan challenging the summons issued to him by the Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony committee for failing to appear before it as witness in connection with the north-east Delhi riots which broke out last February.

A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said: "The purpose of our post script is only to start a discussion among the legal fraternity by bringing to notice the importance of succinctly framed written synopsis in advance, and the same being adhered to in course of oral arguments to be addressed over a limited time period and more crisp, clear and precise judgments so that the common man can understand what is the law being laid down. After all, it is for 'the

common man' that the judicial system exists.

The top court said that as on 1 May, 2021 it had 67,898 pending matters and the time spent on routine matters leaves little time to settle legal principles pending before larger benches that may have an impact down the line on the judicial system.

This is the reason it is said that we have become courts of interim proceedings where final proceedings conclude after ages - only for another round to start in civil proceedings of execution, said the

bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy.

The apex court said there needs to be clarity in the thought process on what is to be addressed before the court and the lawyers must be clear on the contours of their submissions from the very inception of the arguments.

This should be submitted as a brief synopsis by both sides and then strictly adhered to. Much as the legal fraternity would not want restriction of time period for oral submissions is an aspect which must be brought into force.

We really doubt whether any judicial forum anywhere in the world would allow such time periods to be taken for oral submissions and these be further supplemented by written synopsis thereafter. Instead of restricting oral arguments it has become a competing arena of who gets to argue for the

longest time, the bench said. The apex court said that in this particular case saga of the hearing lasted 26 hours which is a lot of judicial time.

Apart from pleadings, there were written synopses, additional written synopses, rejoinders and replies filed liberally by both parties. The convenience compilations were voluminous, in contradiction to their very purpose.

Our concern is if this is how the proceedings will go on in the future, it will be very difficult to deal with the post Covid period, which is likely to see a surge in the number of cases pending adjudication, it said. The bench said Covid times have been difficult for everyone and the Judiciary and the Bar are no exception.

It has been a contributing factor in there being a period of four months between reserving the judgment and pronouncement of the order,

but that is not the only reason, it said.

The Wren & Martin principles of precis writing must be adopted. But then how is this to be achieved if the submissions itself go on for hours on end with vast amounts of material being placed before the Court; with the expectation that each aspect would be dealt with in detail failing which review applications will be filed, the bench said.

In a technological age like ours, all that is required is to instruct the junior counsel to take out all judgments on a particular point of view and submit it to the court in a nice spiral binding, it said.

Another matter of concern is prolonged interim proceedings. In criminal matters, even bail matters are being argued for hours together and at multiple levels. The position is no different in civil proceedings, the bench said.

Centre reviews Covid-19 situation in NE

GUWAHATI, 8 JULY

The Centre emphasised on effective test-track-treat-vaccinate and corona appropriate behaviour among the people in all the northeastern states and Union Territories. Chairing a meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, the Union home secretary reviewed the Covid-19 situation in NE states and UTs, and pointed out over 45 northeastern districts needed strict corona containment measures.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was appreciated for allocating five ministers from NE in his Union Cabinet. For the first time, five BJP leaders were offered berth in the Cabinet.

Kiren Rijiju from Arunachal Pradesh and Sarbananda Sonowal from Assam were made Union Cabinet ministers in the council of minister.

Rameshwar Teli from Assam, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh from Manipur and Pratima Bhaumick from Tripura were offered MoS in different departments. Teli retained the post of minister of state and has been allocated the petroleum & natural gas ministry and in labour & employment ministry.

First-time parliamentarian Singh, more popular as an environmentalist, got MoS portfolio in external affairs and education ministry.

Another first-time parliamentarian, Bhaumick is made MoS in social justice & empowerment ministry. She becomes the first politician from Tripura to get a Central ministry berth and second women leader from the region (after Bijaya Chakravarty from Assam) to get the responsibility of an Union minister.

Rijiju, serving as the sports and youth affairs minister in PM Modi's Cabinet, now takes charge as the Cabinet minister of law & justice. After assuming the charge, he said it was a huge challenge for him.

Creating a robust legal system in the country is a part of PM Modi's vision of making Atmanirbhar Bharat.

SNS

2 soldiers, 8 terrorists killed across J&K



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 8 JULY

Two Army soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer, were on Thursday martyred and an equal number of Pakistani terrorists killed in an encounter in the Dadal village near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu. With this, the number of terrorists killed across J&K in the past 24 hours has increased to eight.

An Army source said based on information regarding the presence of a small group of suspicious armed persons near Dadal search operations were launched last evening. During the night exchange of fire two soldiers - Naib-Subedar Sreejith M and Sepoy Maruprolub Jaswanth Reddy - were killed.

In a separate operation, troops of Panzgam-based Rashtriya Rifles, J&K Police and CRPF laid cordon around a built up area in Puchhal, Pulwama. At 12.30 am, terrorists lobbed grenades on the cordon party and tried to escape. However, the troops retaliated and foiled the escape bid.

The terrorists were asked to surrender, but they retaliated by firing and lobbing grenades at the security forces. In the gunfight, two LeT terrorists - Kifayat Sofi and Inayat Ahmad Dar of Pulwama district - were killed.

All of these terrorists were involved in threatening civilian population and extortion of money, according to police.

Two AK 47 rifles and ammunition was recovered from killed terrorists.

Four terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfits were neutralized in back-to-back two separate overnight operations in Pulwama and Kulgam districts of South Kashmir on Thursday.

Guj govt nod to Rath Yatra with Covid protocol

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, 8 JULY



tre of third wave of the pandemic hitting the state any time soon is a reality.

Keeping in view the relapse of the pandemic soon after

BEATING THE HEAT



AGENCY

Jaishankar delivers Modi's message to Raisi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

External affairs minister S Jaishankar made a transit halt in Tehran on his way to Russia yesterday and called on Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi, a month before the latter assumes office. He handed over a personal message to the President-elect from PM Narendra Modi. He also met Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif.

"Appreciate (Mr Raisi's) warm sentiments for India. Deeply value his strong commitment to strengthen our bilateral ties and expand cooperation on regional and global issues."

Jaishankar tweeted after his

meeting which was the first such call on Raisi by a foreign dignitary since he won the presidential election last month.

Raisi, presently the country's Chief Justice, will be sworn in as Iran's eighth President on 5 August. "I am sure this visit will be the basic basis for Iran-India relations during the Presidency of Ayatollah Raisi," said Rasoul Mousavi, a senior diplomat in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, describing Jaishankar's meetings.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi today said the two sides discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan, particularly the deteriorating security situation there. The two countries stressed the need to strengthen the intra-Afghan dialogue, leading to a comprehensive political solution.

Jaishankar's visit to the Islamic nation comes at a time of deepening concern over the security situation in Afghanistan after the pullout of US troops as the Taliban make rapid advances over various districts around the country.

Significantly, his visit coincided with the visits of a senior Taliban team led by Taliban political bureau head Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai and Afghanistan's former Vice-President Yunus Qanooni, where the Iranian government is hosting for the first intra-Afghan dialogue between them.

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY



Najreen

General Public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo) namely Najreen W/o Munshaad R/o H.No. 300, Gali No. 17, Phase-07, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, **Aged- About 28 Years** has been reported missing since 18.06.2021 from her house vide **DD No. 56-A Dated 20.06.2021** lodged at Police Station Karawal Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue coloured suit, blue coloured printed salwar and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Cue about this missing lady, may inform SHO, Karawal Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Karawal Nagar, Delhi

FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel: 011-9205832616 DP/868/NE/2021 Mob.: 8750870728

D/296/NDD/2021

Sd/- SHO

P.S: Connaught Place, New Delhi

Tel.: 011-23747100

DP/296/NDD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Anshu Dahlia

The general public is hereby informed that a girl named **Anshu Dahlia D/o Ravinder Singh R/o H.No. D-355, Nawada Housing Complex, Dwarika More, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 12.06.2021 from the area of PS Mohan Garden, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 253/2021 dated 13.06.2021** has been registered at P.S. Mohan Garden, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Anshu Dahlia, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 17 years 11 Months, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Black colour pant, who was found unconscious condition in front of 14 Hanuman Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi and admitted in LHMCH Hospital, New Delhi where he died during treatment. In this regard a case DD No. 07-A Dated 05.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO

P.S. Mohan Garden, Delhi.

Ph. No. 011-25635178

Is Nitish Kumar completely caught in the political game-plan of BJP?

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 8 JULY

Is Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, once seen as a potential challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, completely caught in the politics of BJP? Kumar's volte-face in his stand to join the Union Cabinet despite being given only one berth - an offer he had summarily rejected barely two years back - has not only earned him scorns but left his party in danger as this may cause revolt in JD-U, experts say.

JD-U insiders say the party leadership had been pressuring for at least four berths in the Modi Cabinet, citing its num-



ber of seats in the Lok Sabha. Till last afternoon, the names of several JD-U leaders continued making rounds for their possible induction. They included RCP Singh, JD-U's national president Lalit Singh, JD-U parliamentary party leader in the LS Dilleshwar Kamat, Chandeshwar Chandrahan and Ramnath Thakur. But the final result was a big shocker - only RCP Singh was allotted the Cabinet berth and the party agreed!

Political experts say the move could prove suicidal for the party since it has virtually established JD-U as the party more cares about Kurmi and Koeri only - veg-

esh Kushwaha hail from Koeri. According to experts, it would have conveyed a good message for JD-U voters if the leader other than these heavily-represented castes would have been given the berth. Lalit Singh, upper caste Bhumihi and associated with Kumar for long, could have been a better choice. As per the

Digital debate

Even as a Twitter storm rages in India with the Central government and the social media giant locked in a legal battle over the latter's alleged non-compliance of recently notified IT rules, the land of the original sin, as it were, is in considerable turmoil over the sway of big tech. In the USA, a recent federal district court judge's dismissal of the Federal Trade Commission's antitrust lawsuit against Facebook is seen as having provided clear evidence that antitrust laws are not sufficient to protect consumers and competition in the digital age. Calls for an agile regulatory plan rather than relying on antitrust enforcement as the principal solution have gathered pace. This is not to undermine the importance of antitrust legislation (and its enforcement), whether in America or India, but to flag the danger of overreliance on it as the panacea for all the abuses in the digital marketplace. According to Tom Wheeler, one of the most respected voices on the issue, there are three broad reasons why depending solely on antitrust solutions is a mistake. First, it is backward-looking and after-the-fact. Secondly, enforcement focuses on a specific occurrence rather than creating a general set of behavioural expectations for dominant digital companies. Third, it is slow, uncertain, and has been systematically diminished at least in the USA by 40 years of conservative court decisions. It is a fact that antitrust law everywhere is written to stop ongoing abuses, which means that it must wait for the harm to occur. For example, Facebook's acquisition of Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014 had been taking a toll on fair market competition for years before the US government finally felt it had enough examples of abuses to bring the matter to court. But even then, as the federal court verdict underlined, because antitrust enforcement is problematic it is possible to profit from abusive behaviour for a long time before there is a basis for action and, even then, its ability to stop the activity is questionable. Additionally, the key point to keep in mind is that antitrust law is focussed more on harm to competition rather than harm to consumers and is, as such, insufficient to address all the abuses emanating from Facebook and its ilk. Antitrust laws cannot ameliorate the damage caused by digital platforms which have, say, stolen and then sold access to consumers' personal data or hosted a flood of misinformation and/or defamatory content. These are behavioural problems with big tech beyond the scope of antitrust legislation. But, as in India, when governments attempt to define acceptable digital behaviour, social media behemoths that have got used to making up their own rules start crying foul. The government's IT rules which aim to establish regulatory oversight by laying down broad behavioural expectations for digital platforms may not be ideal but in the absence of such rules social media companies will continue to prioritise their private interests over the broader public interest. The meaningful debate going forward ought to be on ensuring robust checks and balances on regulatory agencies charged with overseeing the digital world to prevent state overreach, and not on the urgent need for regulation which is self-evident.

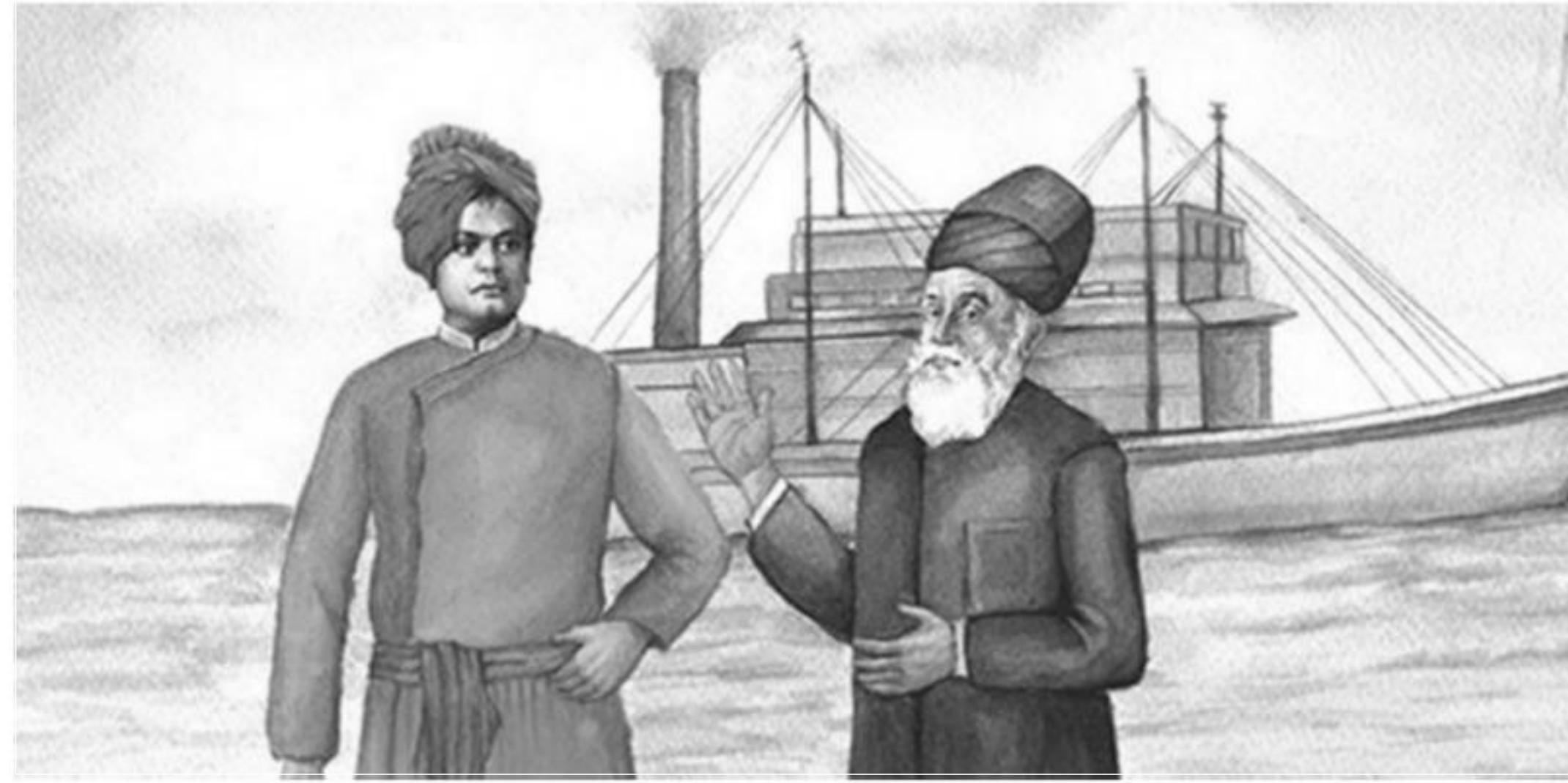
Outrage on healthcare

Myanmar is in crisis, ignited by the Rohingya predicament and exacerbated by the military's coup against Aung San Suu Kyi in February. It has now escalated beyond measure by the surgical strike, so to speak, on the healthcare system - a cruel exercise by the military and the police. The country bears witness to three-pronged turmoil and it shall not be easy for the Tatmadaw (military) to shore up its image in the perspective of the world. The embattled country is gradually sliding towards anarchy. A clandestine clinic was under fire, and the medics inside were in tears. Hidden away in a monastery, this safe haven had sprung up for those injured while protesting against the military's overthrow of the government. Security forces have now discovered its location. This is but one grievous example of an attack on healthcare. A bullet struck a young man in the throat as he defended the door, and the medical staff tried frantically to stop the hemorrhaging. The floor was splattered with blood. In Myanmar, the military has declared war on healthcare, pre-eminently doctors, who have been fierce opponents of the takeover. The calibrated offensive lends a hideous dimension to man's inhumanity to man, that has been brutally manifest since February. Security forces are arresting, attacking and killing medical workers, dubbing them as "enemies of the state". With medics driven underground amidst the global pandemic, the country's already fragile healthcare system is crumbling. The junta is purposely targeting the whole healthcare system as a weapon of war, said a Yangon doctor who has been on the run for months. His colleagues at an underground clinic were arrested during a raid. "We believe that treating patients, doing our humanitarian job, is a moral job. I didn't think that it would be described as a crime," said the doctor. Inside the clinic that day, the young man shot in the throat was fading. His sister wailed. A minute later, he was dead. Such heartrending stories abound.

The suffering caused by the military's takeover of a country with a population of 54 million has been relentless. Security forces have killed at least 890 people, including a 6-year-old girl they shot in the stomach, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors arrests and deaths in Myanmar. Around 5,100 people are in detention and thousands have disappeared. The military and police have returned mutilated corpses to families as tools of terror. Amidst all the atrocities, the military's attacks on medics, one of the most revered professions in Myanmar, have sparked outrage. Myanmar is now one of the most dangerous places in the world for healthcare.

Bengal and Japan ~ I

Swami Vivekananda's first-hand reports about Japan through his letters, lectures, etc. had only one message for the young students of India - 'Look East', go to Japan and learn from them about the development strategy of the Meiji Government and how they implemented their plans



Though Buddhism is often cited as the oldest civilizational connect of India with the larger Asia whose influence remains as relevant today as it was centuries ago, one remarkable trend in the past 100+ years or so is Bengal's special affinity with Japan. His first-hand reports about Japan through his letters, lectures, etc. had only one message for the young students of India, "Look East", go to Japan and learn from them about the development strategy of the Meiji Government and how they implemented their plans. He conveyed to the Indians also his impressions about other traits of the Japanese, their discipline, their cleanliness, etc. Vivekananda admired Japan's emphasis on compulsory universal education. Vivekananda's call to the youth led to many Indian students going to Japan for higher education to learn about advances made in science and technology.

The first in my list is the role played by Swami Vivekananda. Born in January 1863, he died at the young age of 39 in July 1902 but not before leaving his influence on the human consciousness. Born as Narendra Datta, Vivekananda was a Hindu monk and a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. It was he who raised interfaith awareness and brought Hinduism to the status of a major world religion in the eyes of the West.

Being an advocate of the Hindu reform movement, his concept of nationalism in colonial India stirred up the human consciousness at a time when India was seeking a voice of its own and clamouring to be free from the colonial yoke. His best-known speech began with the words "Sisters and brothers of America", in which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

Vivekananda was inclined

towards spirituality and soon assumed the status of a patriotic saint. His birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day.

His visit to Japan on his way to the World Congress of Religions in 1893 opened a great vista to the people of India about Japan and the Japanese. His first-hand reports about Japan through his letters, lectures, etc. had only one message for the young students of India, "Look East", go to Japan and learn from them about the development strategy of the Meiji Government and how they implemented their plans. He conveyed to the Indians also his impressions about other traits of the Japanese, their discipline, their cleanliness, etc. Vivekananda admired Japan's emphasis on compulsory universal education. Vivekananda's call to the youth led to many Indian students going to Japan for higher education to learn about advances made in science and technology.

The Indian students under the aegis of the Oriental Young-men's association also hoped that Japan would become the hub for Asian students to exchange ideas, provide mutual encouragement and that on finishing their studies they would be the pioneers in bringing about development and enlightenment for Asia. Thus knowledge gained in Japan seemed to give opportunities and hope for the bright future of Asia.

The second Bengali at the intellectual level with a Japan connection is none other than Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore (1862-1941). His friendship with Japanese art historian and curator Tenshin Okakura (1862-1913) was path-breaking in the context of Asian renaissance and a new awakening in asserting Asian identity. They met for the first time in Calcutta in

1902. Okakura became an overnight celebrity in Japan at the outbreak of the Pacific War. The first line of his 1903 publication The Ideals of the East ~ "Asia is one" was celebrated posthumously as the most powerful expression of Japanese wartime aspirations, and Okakura was considered a visionary of Japanese political ascendancy in Asia.

Though the two distinguished friends met only a few times, their friendship endured and the ramifications of their friendship involved the artistic and intellectual movement of the early 20th century. Rustom Barucha's magisterial work on this friendship is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of India-Japan relations. The book weaves through an intricate tapestry of ideas relating to pan-Asianism, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and friendship, and positions the early modernist tensions of the period within - and against - the spectre of a unified Asia that concealed considerable political differences. Okakura's The Ideals of the East and The Awakening of the East positioned well with Tagore's radical critique of Nationalism, the matching of which provided deep insights into how the Orient travelled with and beyond Asia.

Despite the Tagore-Okakura friendship being widely talked and written about, the two had differences on a host of issues regarding their views. The word "nationalism" carried different meanings for them. While Tagore's focus was mainly on India, Okakura looked more to the West and helped build the Boston Museum as curator by acquiring artifacts mainly from Japan and China but hardly anything from India, which troubled Tagore.

Tagore started viewing and

re-examining what exactly Okakura meant when he said in the opening sentence of his book that "Asia is one". When Tagore visited Japan in 1916 on a lecture tour, he was critical of its preoccupations with material progress and did not mention Okakura in his lectures.

There were other differences between Tagore's and Okakura's lifestyles. While Tagore dressed in flowing robes and expressed his views eloquently particularly in his native Bengal, he used English as an appendage and as a mere additional tool, Okakura presented himself as a Japanese in traditional costume but communicated mainly in English and scarcely wrote in his own language.

While Okakura enhanced a marvellous museum collection in a country other than his own, Tagore established a university to continue his legacy in Bengal.

The differences between the two friends became too glaring when Japan, after defeating two great powers, Russia and China, and which temporarily resonated with Asian awakening against the imperial West and seeking its own identity, chose a militaristic adventurous policy to colonize Asia. Tagore disapproved of this but it was endorsed by Okakura. In particular, Tagore was critical of Japan's Great Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere definition.

From admiration, Tagore turned into a critic, particularly after Japan chose to adopt an aggressive foreign policy. Though the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-95, the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5 and then Japan ousting China from Korea caught the attention of Indian intellectuals and the people in general, Tagore was troubled by Japan's aggressive behaviour. Also, Indian businessmen engaged in the cotton and textile trade became very apprehensive of Japan ousting them from the Chinese markets.

Thus there were both expectations and also a sense of disquiet with regard to Japan.

(To be concluded)

pointed out by Ms. Dasgupta, go abroad because there is a complete disconnect between jobs and education in India. The first and last are a result of deep-rooted problems with our society and economy, the prime reason for which is our callous neglect of excellence in all walks of life.

However, the fact remains that most foreign colleges, which face a shortage of paying students, would not even glance at your marksheets, if you are willing to shell out their atrocious fees.

Also, low birth rates have resulted in a grave shortage of workers in all Western countries, particularly for manual jobs. Go to any affluent English-speaking country and you are sure to find a disproportionate number of Indians and Pakistanis working at low-paying jobs - like store clerks and taxi drivers.

Many of these persons came to their host countries as students with stars in their eyes but do not make

ENERGY USE

SIR, In almost all places, the price of petrol has touched Rs 100 per litre. The middle class is in dire straits as a result of this unprecedented rise in prices. Petrol prices have been going up for a long time. But no one thought that the nightmare of the century would come true so soon. Protests will continue in various ways. But what is most needed at the moment is the emphasis on the use of unconventional forces. A lot of solar energy, wind energy and water energy is being wasted due to lack of use. Emphasis should be placed not only on the lack of use, but also on the method of use and making it easily available to the people. The Union government has promised to use 225,000 MW of unconventional energy for solar power generation by 2030. The extent to which this goal has been met should be discussed.

Scientists say that without unconventional, renewable energy, civilization will not be able to move forward. In this situation, we need to think more about electronic vehicles. New initiatives need to be taken to increase the use and production of e-buses, e-scooters and e-taxis. Above all, all state governments should feel the need for this. The reserves of petrol are not inexhaustible.

Yours, etc., Shankha Adhikary.

Bankura, 6 July.

the cut. Even as a mature and low level workers - now for the entire world.

Yours, etc., Devendra Saksena,

Ahmedabad, July 6.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Producing low level workers

SIR, This is with reference to "Quest for Excellence" (Letters to the Editor, July 6) which was a comment on my article "Pursuit of Excellence" (July 2). I would like to thank Ms. Sanjukta Dasgupta for suggesting another motive for awarding excessive marks by examining boards viz. facilitating the admission of Indian students to foreign colleges.

Such a view is not implausible; we have the Delhi University experiment of introducing a four-year undergraduate course that was designed for facilitating the admission of DU graduates to US universities. It is quite another matter that no worthwhile syllabus could be designed for the fourth year of the four-year course, which was discarded shortly

after its inception.

Indian students go abroad for many reasons; some genuinely meritorious and committed students go abroad in the pursuit of knowledge, given the fact that Indian universities fare poorly against their foreign peers. Some rich brats are sent abroad to acquire a cultured sheen and have a good time in anonymity. Some, as



A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Weakening posture

Discussions are underway between South Korea and the US on details of their annual summertime joint military exercise, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry. A ministry spokesperson told a press briefing Monday that the timing, scale and exact manner of the upcoming drill had not yet been finalized.

Attention is being drawn to whether and how the allies will stage the exercise at a time when Seoul and Washington have been working to resume long-stalled talks with North Korea. Pyongyang has reacted sensitively to South Korea-US combined drills, branding them as a rehearsal for an invasion.

The allies usually stage major joint exercises twice a year - in March and August, along with smaller-scale drills throughout the year. The biannual major exercises have been skipped or reduced to computer-simulated war games involving no massive outdoor maneuvers since then US President Donald Trump held his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018.

Sources here familiar with the ongoing discussions between the allies say the upcoming drill is expected to kick off in the second week of August for a three-week run and take the form of a computer-simulated command post exercise without field training. Seoul seems to be persuading Washington that conducting a full-scale exercise would irk the North and hamper efforts to reopen dialogue

The Korea Herald

with the recalcitrant regime.

President Moon Jae-in's administration, which is preoccupied with inter-Korean reconciliation, remains reluctant to put the allies' combined drills back on track. It is hoping to make a breakthrough in stalled ties with Pyongyang before Moon leaves office next year.

During their first in-person summit at the White House in May, Moon and US President Joe Biden agreed to strengthen the joint defense preparedness of the allies. Biden's pledge to provide coronavirus vaccines for all 550,000 South Korean troops was seen as paving the way for Seoul and Washington to resume the full-scale field training despite the protracted pandemic.

But after returning home, Moon backpedaled on the issue, saying it would be difficult to carry out a massive military exercise in the near future. A group of ruling party lawmakers last week issued a statement calling for putting off the drill, with a senior presidential adviser on unification going so far as to propose shelving it.

GHOSE-MITRA — Sunil and Mina of Wedderburn Road, Samadrita ECTP, relive togetherness of 60 glorious years July 9, 1961-2021 Diamond Jubilee.

PERSONAL

NOTICE — Calcutta National Medical College Alumni Association invites all members for Special General Body Meeting on August 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. in the office of Alumni Association to discuss about 70th Reunion 2022.

The New Education Policy 2020 of the Government of India identifies education and institutional capacity building as two programmes that could support the implementation of sustainable development of the country and also make it self-reliant (*atma nirbhar*).

The profound changes needed for implementation of the goals set forth are challenging but attainable. The Government is committed to providing the necessary resources, expertise and building of infrastructure. It is fully seized of the kind of society a majority of Indians live in and the kind of individuals, institutions and communities that must emerge to help learners, both children and adults, to step out of their cultural realities to develop holistic vision and approaches to the problems at hand and make amends for an *atma nirbhar Bharat* capable of meeting the challenges of a 21st century global society.

My focus is on two issues - education for global citizenship and the role of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. The New Education Policy tackles these goals by making schools participants in the social transformation processes of the entire country. The revised curriculum and its multi-disciplinary approach aim to impart not only relevant knowledge and skills but also develop the vast potential inherent in every citizen - women, men, youth and children.

This is aptly reflected on page 6, of the New Education Policy document under 'Vision of this Policy'. Thus, right up front, it talks about children "reflecting truly global citizens". On page 15, under the heading of "Curricular Integration", again it talks about Global Citizenship Education (GCED). In the last paragraph of Chapter 6, it talks about promoting respect for diversity and again talks about including global citizenship in the school curriculum: "The school curriculum will include, early on, material on human values such as respect for all persons, empathy, tolerance, human rights, gender equality, non-violence, global citizenship, inclusion, and equity. It would also include more detailed knowledge of various cultures, religions, languages, gender identities, etc. to sensitize and develop respect for diversity. Any biases and stereotypes in school curriculum will be removed, and more material will be included that is relevant and relatable to all communities."

The New Education Policy emphasises global citizenship in the context of Value-based education - not only in school education but also in Higher Education. Paragraph 11.8 on page 37 states: "Value-based education will include the development of humanistic, ethical, Constitutional, and universal human values of truth (*satya*), righteous conduct (*dharma*),

Thoughts on the New Education Policy



Stock

peace (*shanti*), love (*prema*), nonviolence (*ahimsa*), scientific temper, citizenship values, and also life-skills; lessons in service (*seva*) and participation in community programmes will be considered an integral part of a holistic education. As the world is becoming increasingly interconnected, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), a response to contemporary global challenges, will be provided to empower learners in their mother-tongue to become aware of and understand global issues and to become active promoters of more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure, and sustainable societies..."

The amalgamation of vocational training with everyday education in the school covers the concept of work, arts and craft, and the appreciation of beauty. India's rich ancient and modern cultural heritage is naturally embedded in the curricula whereby education would not only be cognitive development but would build character and create holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st Century skills.

The policy advocates "full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions to ensure

assistance. Therefore, making learning-teaching a participatory activity has great relevance and has proved to be very effective in providing moral empowerment to children, teenagers and youth. Another subject of significance is paragraph 3.7 pertaining to the contribution of alumni. Ex-students can play a vital role in learning gaps and assisting the less fortunate children and their families. It would inculcate the spirit of sharing and service to the community.

The challenge of 21st Century education is to recognize the interdependence and oneness of all who live on the planet and strike the right balance between 'love for the world' and 'love for one's own country'.

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah / Sarve Santu Niraamayaah / Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu / Maa Kashcid-Dukhha-Bhaag-Bhavet (May all

be happy, May all be free from illness. May all see what is auspicious, May no one suffer.)

My suggestion for extending the idea of true patriotism as defined in the Constitution of India would be to introduce in a healthy atmosphere the concept of 'loyalty to the Government' so that the overall hierarchy of school administration is reconstructed to minimize political interventions of any kind. Another extra-curricular activity could be exposure to various national/international events like ICSQCC, Macfair, Olympiad, and Model United Nations Forums (MUNs) to name a few. Introducing a global student exchange program is recommended just as the initiatives in recent years for "Ek Bharat and Shreshth Bharat" have given ample exposure to appreciate the diversity of cultures and languages in the country.

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Government that doles our hogwash

DEEPAK THAPA

to stop taking whatever he says with any modicum of seriousness.

Harry Frankfurt, a philosopher at Princeton University, captured such a trait very well in his 1986 paper, 'On Bullshit'. He writes: 'It is impossible for someone to lie unless he thinks he knows the truth. Producing bullshit requires no such conviction. A person who lies is thereby responding to the truth, and he is to that extent respectful of it. When an honest man speaks, he says only what he believes to be true; and for the liar, it is correspondingly indispensable that he considers his statements to be false. For the bullshitter, however, all these bets are off: he is neither on the side of the true nor on the side of the false. His eye is not on the facts at all, as the eyes of the honest man and of the liar are, except insofar as they may be pertinent to his interest in getting away with what he says. He does not care whether the things he says describe reality correctly. He just picks them out, or makes them up, to suit his purpose.'

Perhaps nothing stands out so starkly on this front than the fraudulent promise made to the people of Nepal by Oli's party during the last parliamentary elections. The slogan of a prosperous Nepal was too enticing

for people not to be taken in. But CPN-UML should have stopped at that somewhat vague proposition and not get caught up with peddling the impossible dream of raising the per capita income of Nepalis to \$5,000 within 10 years. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has intervened to provide the government with the fig-leaf to excuse its failure to make any substantive progress towards a goal that would have required sustained growth of nearly 20 per cent in each of those 10 years.

The unfortunate fact is that for nearly half the time this government has been in power, Oli has simply taken the backseat in terms of actual governance and been obsessed with staying in power. No matter how adept anyone is, and Oli certainly thinks he is, it is clearly impossible to be both preoccupied in political skulduggery and governing a country. Hence, we are treated to gratuitous spells of Oli's supposed encyclopaedic knowledge about any and everything under the sun.

Since it is pertinent to this discussion here, we can go back to Frankfurt again as he writes further with the likes of Oli in mind: 'Bullshit is unavoidable whenever circumstances require someone to talk with-

out knowing what he is talking about. Thus the production of bullshit is stimulated whenever a person's obligations or opportunities to speak about some topic are more excessive than his knowledge of the facts that are relevant to that topic. This discrepancy is common in public life, where people are frequently impelled — whether by their own propensities or by the demands of others—to speak extensively about matters of which they are to some degree ignorant.'

All the while the plight of common Nepalis continues to be heart-rending. Two recent news reports suffice to demonstrate how things are far away from the realm of politics. One is the haphazard vaccine rollout which saw elderly folks forced to stand for hours under the July sun for their second dose, but without any certainty that they would get the jabs. Having made a hash of vaccine distribution the first time around and been roundly criticised then, one would have expected the government to have found a more effective way of ensuring that getting vaccinated would not turn out to be a dreaded ordeal. But that would assume a government looking out for all the people.

As Nepal's migrant workers are finding out, the absence of such a government is going to cost them dearly. The title of one news report said it all: 'Have to slog for one year to pay for the ticket and quarantine.' Not having received vaccinations in Nepal, workers are being forced to quarantine themselves in expensive hotels in destination countries. Taken together with the steep ticket prices due to the limited number of flights, their migration sojourn now begins with a huge loan burden that will take them months to pay off. The same is true for those returning home with a mandatory 10-day hotel quarantine.

Despite Oli's repeated promises on the matter and one such was made just last week, we know it is not entirely the government's fault that the vaccination drive could not take off in Nepal. But surely the government could have subsidised the quarantine costs of those outbound labour migrants while also setting up free quarantine facilities for the incoming ones. That is the least the country could do for this highly vulnerable and desperate group who have propped up the national economy for nearly two decades. Again, that would assume we have a government that cares—cares beyond clinging on to power at all costs.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28967

For fifty years at least efforts have been made in England to bring the treatment of juvenile offenders into line with modern ideas, and much has been done. With the institution of such courts as that just inaugurated at Brixton, described in our special cable service, it may be claimed that this particular reform has been brought well up to date and that there is little left to be desired. The new Juvenile Court, the first of its kind established under the Act of 1920 which provides that children's cases shall be dealt with apart from the police courts, represents an advance on any arrangement yet made for the separate treatment of young delinquents. Instead of a magistrate's ordinary court, in which a small boy as the prisoner looks so pathetically out of place, there is now at Brixton "a spacious room, with white enamelled woodwork, pale blue walls, curtains, and pictures in gilded frames;" the magistrate is accompanied by two justices of the peace of whom one is a woman; and the atmosphere of the court is "altogether homely." There is not much need to fear that the young offender will be spoilt by too much petting; while the complete elimination of all the ordinary associations of a criminal court is only what the most ordinary commonsense and humanity would demand in the cases of children who are beyond the correction of the paternal rod or the maternal slipper.

BOMBAY CORPORATION'S ENTERPRISE

The Bombay Corporation has again been discussing the condition of the roads which, since the monsoon broke, has become worse than ever. Recently it sent its special roads engineer to Calcutta to see if he could learn anything from that city regarding the best method of treating roads. The method has been, according to this engineer, to surface the roads with two inches of asphalt concrete, but the treatment which is now recommended in Bombay is to adopt what is called the two-coat method which consists, in the case of the more important roads, of a 1 and half inch binder course covered by a 1 and half inch wearing surface, the blinding material being in each case asphalt. In coming year eight lakhs will be spent in treating roads of the city.

MOB'S FURY AT ALIGARH

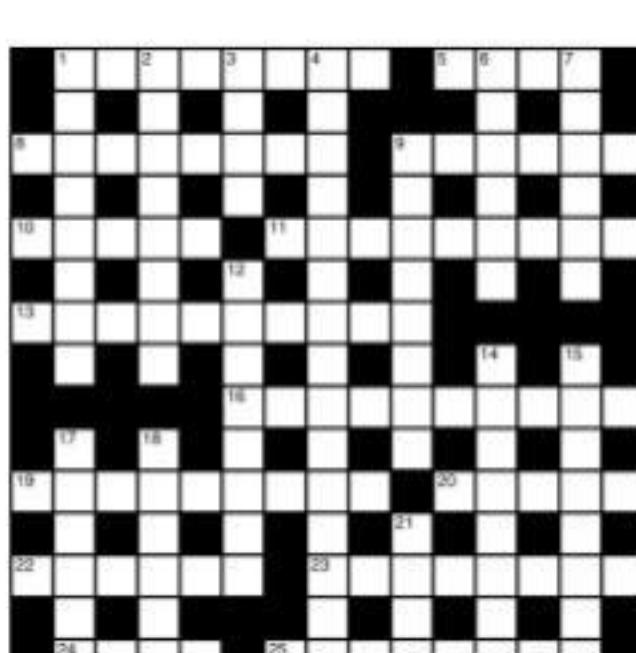
Lucknow, July 8
The crowds collected at the courts composed both of city people and villagers, were probably originally intended for demonstration. Sherwani's entry into the court some time after the case began led to rumours of his arrest. The crowd was already being excited by agitators and this led to an attempt to invade the court. The police only used batons to disperse them after two warnings had been given and after they had been attacked. The magistrate went out with Sherwani to stop the pursuit. The threatened attack on the Reserve Inspector's bungalow led to nothing. After the rescue of this party the magistrate returned to the court and delivered judgment, ordering an inquiry into the incidents so far.

DELHI DACOITY GANG IDENTIFIED

Delhi, July 8
The Delhi police had been busy investigating a case of dacoity which occurred outside Delhi gate on June 2 last, and in which a gang of about 20 dacoits raided the house of one Ganga Sahai, and robbed two women of their jewels. The police have now identified the gang through one of their number who was drowned in the river while trying to escape, and have made 33 arrests. Most of these are reported to be persons with many previous convictions and are implicated in 15 impending Delhi cases, 25 Meerut cases, including 11 dacoities and one Bijnoor case. In 17 cases the actual stolen property has been recovered. Further investigations are proceeding.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY PROPOSALS

Bombay, July 8
At the adjourned meeting of the Senate of the Bombay University to consider the report of their committee regarding the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission, the debate was resumed on Dr. Viegas' motion that the first two years of college instruction should be removed from the present University course; that the last year of the present high school instruction be removed from the high school course and that the first two years of the present college instruction and the last year of high school instruction should be transferred to the intermediate colleges or special schools. After discussion Dr. Viegas' proposition was agreed to by the Senate.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

DADORAIL APLOMB
AAIN UKA
WINDFARM ATTAIN
D GL USRPT
LIEGE IMPRECISE
BRNUFR
ROGUES REISSUE
FUN EMD
INSIDER WASHER
LEOIL
MODERNART CELLO
SRWMNAAR
TIERED BEARTRAP
AGASOAI
ROISTRIA ISOLATED

CROSS

- 1 Copper and friend nabbing fellow in the big match (3,5)
- 5 Russian river passing through Ukraine vaguely (4)
- 8 Very short man of honour mostly receiving a lot of attention after being pushed over (4-4)
- 9 German writer attempts unfinished article (6)
- 10 Film-maker left America after going round California (5)
- 11 Capone, say, unusually wealthy? Completely (3,5,3)
- 13 Skulk around Northern Italian city – it's not very colourful (10)
- 16 Being this? Ergo endless conceit, sadly (10)

DOWN

- 19 Town retailer finally brought in kitchen item (9)
- 20 No opening for compassion – it keeps church irritated (5)
- 22 Exclamation about core component of lunch being like rubber (6)
- 23 Setter's supporting person showing vulgarity (8)
- 24 Nobleman cut round square in the twilight (4)
- 25 Plane having no place going backwards? Ditch (8)
- 4 Entirely (4)
- 6 Energy and source of change bypassing a cricket team (6)
- 7 Remains with member of flock in religious retreat (6)
- 9 Is avenged, providing information about Steve misbehaving (4,4)
- 12 Liberal legislator upset when wrapped in your old wool? (5-3)
- 14 Numerical data about one working in transport centres (8)
- 15 Majority rule's ending, e.g. in the riots (8)
- 17 Canadian writer at court finally exonerated (6)
- 18 Cakes and small servings of ice-cream (6)
- 21 Getting upset first – notice? (4)
- 3 Murdoch, perhaps, is fairish? Not

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



We need to empower and enable MSMEs to play an even stronger role in the Indian economy going forward.

VIJAY RUPANI
GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

Tyre exports grows: Tyre exports from India grew by 10 per cent in value terms in 2020-21 to touch Rs 14,097 crore, industry body Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) said on Thursday. Citing the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce, ATMA said in volume terms tyre exports went up by 8 per cent and reached 3.64 crore units in the last fiscal. PTI

Tata Motors & J&K bank: Tata Motors said it has tied up with Jammu & Kashmir Bank for retail finance. The auto major has inked a two-year MoU with J&K Bank, the largest commercial vehicle financier in the union territory of J&K, in a collaborative effort to offer financing options to its customers. PTI

Renault rolls out website with Hindi option: Automaker Renault India on Thursday said it has included the Hindi language on its website in order to cater to its growing customer base in the country. PTI

Hiring activity bounced back 15 percent in June: Report

The IT-Software and Software Services sector grew five per cent in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 8 JULY

Hiring activity in the country, which was hit by the second Covid wave, bounced back with a 15 per cent growth in June compared to May, according to a report. The activity was led by the IT-Software/Software Services sector. The latest Naukri JobSpeak report on Thursday said that India's hiring trends grew 15 per cent in June with 2,359 job postings from 2,047 in May.

This is an indication of resilience and recovery of hiring activity across the country, especially after a 15 per cent fall in April and then flattening out in May, primarily due to the pandemic, the report noted.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com website.

Buoyed by the demand from organisations to use IT to overcome business challenges, the IT-Software and



Software Services sector grew 5 per cent in June compared to the previous month. This sector achieved an all-time high growth of 52 per cent compared to pre-Covid levels in June 2019, as per the report.

Tech hiring has remained relatively insular to the effects of the pandemic, an impact of rapid digitisation of organisations, it added.

Meanwhile, sectors that were severely hit by restrictions showed growth, including

pharmaceuticals and biotech (22 per cent) have also shown recovery.

Other sectors like FMCG (22 per cent), education or teaching (15 per cent) and BPO/ITES (14 per cent) saw positive sequential upswing in June compared to May.

When it came to cities, there was a double-digit growth in hiring activity in almost all regions after near negative growth last month, the report said.

In Pune, hiring activity went up 10 per cent, Hyderabad (10 per cent) and Bangalore (4 per cent), maintaining their recent uptrend as they continue to fulfil the demand for skilled personnel in the IT sector.

Other metro cities like Delhi/NCR and Kolkata, which were negatively impacted in May, have recorded a 26 per cent and 24 per cent growth, respectively.

Among the Tier-II cities, Jaipur with over 50 per cent growth and Vadodara with 29 per cent increase in hiring activity were the best performers, providing further

hope to aspirational job seekers in these areas, the report said.

Hiring demand for roles in marketing, advertising, media research, and public relations saw a growth of 39 per cent while those in sales, business development grew by 32 per cent, and human resource/ administration by 31 per cent. Banking and insurance saw a growth of 31 per cent in hiring activity in June.

The Naukri JobSpeak index showed a 4 per cent increase in demand for tech professionals as IT companies continue to bulk-hire talented professionals in 2021.

Hiring for teaching roles (9 per cent) also saw growth in June compared to May.

The strong recovery of hiring at 15 per cent in June, close on the heels of a decline in May, is encouraging. It is heartening to see sectors such as hospitality and retail responding positively after being impacted by the second Covid wave. Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

Act (LIC Act 1956)," according to a gazette notification issued on July 7.

To facilitate the listing of the insurance behemoth, the government has already approved raising its authorised share capital to Rs 25,000 crore.

Besides, the Department of Economic Affairs under the finance ministry recently amended the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules.

Companies that have a market capitalisation of more than Rs 1 lakh crore at the time of listing can now sell just five per cent of their shares, with the latest amendment in rules, a move that will be beneficial for the government during the LIC initial public offer.

Such entities will be required to increase its public shareholding to 10 per cent in two years and raise the same to at least 25 per cent within five years.

LIC to have CEO and Managing Director



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will now have the post of Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director instead of the Chairman position, with the government making changes to relevant rules ahead of the insurer's initial public offering.

The changes have been made by the Department of Financial Services under the finance ministry by amending Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Rules.

Besides, some other rules under LIC Act, 1956, have been amended.

"Chief Executive and Managing Director means the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director appointed by the Central Government under section 4 of the

Act (LIC Act 1956)." according to a gazette notification issued on July 7.

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Post LVB merger, DBS Bank India reports higher net profit for FY21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 8 JULY

DBS Bank India, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore's DBS Bank, witnessed a surge in FY21 net profit at Rs 312 crore on the merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) but reported a huge spike in dual loans as a result of the amalgamation with the old-age private sector bank.

DBS Bank India, which bailed out LVB and in the process increased its network, had reported a post-tax net of Rs 111 crore in FY20.

The gross non-performing assets of the combined entity shot up to 12.93 per cent, with a bulk of the strain coming from the erstwhile LVB's portfolio. The net NPAs stood at 2.83 per cent with a provision coverage ratio of 84 per

cent.

The bank's managing director and chief executive Surojit Shome acknowledged the pain on the asset quality front and the operating losses and also called it as being on expected lines.

We are confident of realising the long-term prospects of the combined franchise, Shome said.

There has been considerable progress with the integration of LVB since the amalgamation in November 2020 even with the dislocations due to the second wave of the pandemic, he said, adding that the immediate priority is to integrate the operating systems and processes. DBS has been able to revitalise the gold loans business and grow deposits, Shome added.

The bank reported a 44 per cent increase in the overall deposits to Rs 51,501 crore, including Rs 18,823 crore of it from LVB, an official statement said, adding savings deposits grew 207 per cent, current account was up 98 per cent.

The share of low-cost current and savings account deposits after the merger with LVB, which had 563 branches, improved to 31 per cent from 19 per cent earlier, it said.

The net advances grew to Rs 36,973 crore, including Rs 10,685 crore which came from LVB, it said.

With the infusion of Rs 2,500 crore capital into the bank from the parent during the fiscal year, the overall capital adequacy ratio for DBS Bank India stood at 15.13 per cent, with the core CET1 at 12.34 per cent.

FinMin releases ₹9,871 crore grant to 17 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

The finance ministry on Thursday said it has released the fourth monthly installment of post devolution revenue deficit grant of Rs 9,871 crore to 17 states. With the release of this installment, a total amount of Rs 39,484 crore has been released to eligible states in current financial year.

"The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has released the 4th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs 9,871 crore to the states yesterday," an official statement said. The post devolution revenue deficit grant is provided to the states under Article 275 of the Constitution. The grants are released as per

the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post devolution. The Commission has recommended PDRD grants to 17 states during 2021-22.

The eligibility of states to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the state after taking into account the assessed devolution for the financial year 2021-22. The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs 1,18,452 crore to 17 states in the financial year 2021-22.

Out of this, Rs 39,484 crore has been released so far in four installments.

Zomato's ₹9,375 cr IPO to open on 14 July



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Ant Group-backed food ordering platform Zomato on Thursday said it plans to raise Rs 9,375 crore through initial share-sale that will open for subscription from July 14 to 16. The price band for the issue has been fixed at Rs 72 to 76 per share.

Earlier this week, Zomato had received markets regulator Sebi's go-ahead for the initial public offer (IPO).

The total IPO size is Rs 9,375 crore, comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 9,000 crore and an offer-for-sale to the tune of Rs 375 crore by Info Edge (India) Ltd.

Zomato, which filed preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in April, obtained its observation on July 2, an update with the regulator showed on Monday. Going by the draft papers, proceeds from the fresh issue would be used towards funding organic and inorganic

growth initiatives and general corporate purposes. The online food delivery segment has seen significant growth in the last few years with Zomato and Swiggy competing head-on to grab market share.

Zomato's FY20 revenue had jumped over two-fold to USD 394 million (around Rs 2,960 crore) from the previous fiscal, while its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) loss was around Rs 2,200 crore.

TCS Q1 profit up 28.5 pc to ₹9,008 crore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

IT major TCS on Thursday posted a 28.5 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 9,008 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2021.

The country's biggest software services firm had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 7,008 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Consolidated revenue from operations increased by 18.5 per cent to Rs 45,411 crore compared to Rs 38,322 crore in the corre-

sponding quarter of 2020-21. The company's workforce crossed the 5 lakh-mark at 59,058 with the highest-ever quarterly net addition of 20,409 people.

TCS Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Rajesh Gopinathan said the firm's employees have demonstrated phenomenal character in helping each other, being meaningful to the communities and delivering on commitments to clients.

"On that backdrop, our business in North America,

BFSI and Retail all showed an appreciable growth which underlines the resilience of our operating model, relevance of our offerings and above all, the passion and dedication of our associates," he said in a statement.

He added that given the variants of the virus and fears of a potential third wave, the company is watchful of the emerging situation and remains optimistic of the opportunities in core markets and verticals.

In comparison, the equity mutual funds saw a net inflow to the tune of Rs 10,083 crore in May, the highest fund infusion in 14 months, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India showed on Thursday.

Equity schemes saw a net inflow of Rs 3,437 crore in April and Rs 9,115 crore in March. Prior to this, equity schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight straight months from July 2020 to February 2021.

"With net inflows in March, April, May and now in June, clearly investors are gaining their conviction back on the

equity markets," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research at Morningstar India, said.

"However, the lower quantum of net inflow compared to May could also be attributed to profit booking by investors with equity markets witnessing sharp rally in the recent times," he added.

As per the data, inflows into equity and equity-linked open ended schemes was at Rs 5,988.17 crore in June.

"Investors continue to invest in pure equity schemes resulting in positive net sales of almost Rs 6,000 crore, this is slightly lower than last month due to higher redemptions. For now, the trend surely is in favour of Indian equities by domestic investors," Akhil Chaturvedi, Associate Director, Head of Sales & Distribution at Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company, said.

AMFI Chief Executive N S Venkatesh too attributed the decline in inflow in June to profit booking by investors.

Barring Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) and value funds, which saw withdrawal to the tune of Rs 792 crore and Rs 115 crore respectively, all the equity schemes witnessed inflows last month.

Riding on the recent market rally, Mid Cap Fund category attracted significant investments to emerge as the biggest beneficiary during the month as it received a net inflow of Rs 1,729 crore. This was followed by Sector/Theematic funds which saw inflows of Rs 1,207 crore.

Flexi Cap Funds, with their fluid investment approach that enables them to benefit from investment opportunities across market segments, also attracted Rs 1,087 crore from investors.

Apart from equities, investors put in Rs 12,361 crore in hybrid funds in the

month under review. This included Rs 9,060 crore in arbitrage funds.

Further, Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) witnessed a net inflow of about Rs 360 crore last month compared to Rs 288 crore in May.

In addition, investors infused Rs 3,566 crore in debt mutual funds last month after pulling out Rs 44,512 crore in May.

It was a mixed bag for the segment with categories such as Money Market Fund, Ultra Short Duration Fund, Short Duration Fund and Gilt Fund witnessing significant net outflows whereas categories such as Floater Fund, Low Duration Fund, Overnight Fund and Liquid Fund received good net inflows. Within the debt segment, floater funds attracted Rs 6,319 crore. Besides, investors continued their affinity with Low Duration Funds as they invested Rs 6,273 crore in such funds.

Renewable energy capacity addition to improve to 11GW in FY22: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 JULY

Renewable energy capacity addition in India is likely to improve to 11 GW in 2021-22 though the solar bid tariffs could go up amid rising module prices, ICRA said on Thursday.

"While there is a slowdown in renewable energy (RE) capacity addition to 7.4 GW in FY2021 from 8.7 GW in FY2020 amid the execution headwinds due to COVID-19, ICRA expects the capacity addition to improve to 10.5 to 11 GW in FY2022 led by a strong project pipeline of 38 GW," ICRA said in a statement.

Also, more than 20 GW RE projects are under the tendering phase from various

nodal agencies, providing visibility for capacity addition over the medium-term, it added.

The RE sector is expected to witness



It will take combined efforts of many nations, including Afghanistan's neighbours, to help the Afghan people to build their future

UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON
ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF WESTERN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 09 JULY 2021

09

Johnson confirms most UK troops have left Afghanistan

'Britain remains committed to help achieve a peace settlement in Afghanistan through diplomacy'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 8 JULY

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed Thursday that most British troops have left Afghanistan, almost 20 years after the UK and other Western countries sent troops into the country to engage in what they described as a war on terror.

Johnson stressed that the threat posed by al-Qaeda to the UK has substantially diminished, but he sidestepped questions about whether the hasty military exodus by his country and its NATO allies risks undoing the work of nearly two decades or leaves Afghanistan vulnerable to the Taliban, who have made rapid advances in many northern districts.

The prime minister declined to give details about the troop withdrawal, citing security reasons. But he said that all British troops assigned to



NATO's mission in Afghanistan are now returning home, adding that most of our personnel have already left.

Most US and European troops have also pulled out in recent weeks.

We must be realistic about our ability alone to influence the course of events. It will take combined efforts of many nations, including Afghanistan's neighbours, to help the Afghan people to build their

future," Johnson said.

But the threat that brought us to Afghanistan in the first place has been greatly diminished by the valour and by the sacrifice of the armed forces of Britain and many other countries.

He stressed that Britain remains committed to helping achieve a peace settlement in Afghanistan through diplomacy.

We are not walking away.

We are keeping our embassy in Kabul, and we will continue to work with our friends and allies, particularly our friends in Pakistan, to work towards a settlement, Johnson said.

Britain will continue to fund education, especially girls' schooling, in Afghanistan, he said. The UK will also back the Afghan government with over 100 million pounds (USD138 million) in development aid this year, as well as 58 million pounds for the Afghan security forces.

A total of 150,000 British servicemen have served in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, and 457 have died - a much higher death rate compared to the UK involvement in Iraq.

Britain's last combat troops left Afghanistan in October 2014, though about 750 remained as part of a NATO mission to train Afghan forces.

Britain's Defense Ministry has said the withdrawal of the last troops would be complete within a few months. A small number of UK military personnel will stay on temporarily as part of the transition to the new phase of British support to the country.

US President Joe Biden announced in April that the last 2,500 to 3,500 U.S. soldiers and 7,000 allied NATO soldiers would depart Afghanistan.

On Tuesday the US military said 90 per cent of American troops and equipment had already left the country, with the drawdown set to finish by late August.

Last week, US officials vacated the country's biggest airfield, Bagram Air Base, the epicenter of the war to oust the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

China looks to step up co-op with Pakistan as Taliban makes gains in Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, 8 JULY

China has asked Pakistan to step up cooperation to contain the security risks rising from the US and NATO troops withdrawing from Afghanistan and the latest offensive by the Taliban.

China has also sought a "tri-lateral cooperation" between Beijing, Islamabad and Kabul.

"China, along with Pakistan, is willing to continue support for all parties in Afghanistan to seek a political solution through dialogue and lead to ethnic reconciliation and long-lasting peace," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was quoted as saying by Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Thursday.

Wang made the remarks during a speech marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Wang said: "[China and

Pakistan] need to defend regional peace together. Problems in Afghanistan are practical challenges that China and Pakistan both face."

"To push for the strengthening of communication between countries that have relevant interests would effectively help control the spillover of security risks in Afghanistan, and prevent the expansion of both international and regional terrorism, so that regional stability can be defended," the minister said.

Wang said there should be more push for "trilateral cooperation" by increasing Afghanistan's involvement in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a major portion of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China has stepped up its diplomacy with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the aftermath of the US and NATO troops withdrawing from Afghanistan. While the Western troops have

nearly completed their withdrawal, the Taliban has made rapid advances in many of the country's northern districts.

Beijing seeks to carve out its Afghanistan policy to safeguard its interests, especially the security of the volatile Xinjiang province which shares borders with Afghanistan.

Observers say China's worries stem from Uyghur Muslim militants from Xinjiang - belonging to the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement who joined the Islamic State or Daesh and fought in the Syrian civil war - returning to the volatile province which shared borders with Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan besides Central Asian States, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. China in recent months has been fending off allegations of genocide and atrocities on Uyghur Muslims of Xinjiang by the US, the EU and international human rights organisations.

4th Rajapaksa sibling joins Sri Lankan govt

COLOMBO, 8 JULY

Basil Rajapaksa, the youngest of the four Rajapaksa siblings, was sworn in as Sri Lanka's Finance Minister on Thursday, marking the further consolidation of political power by the powerful clan in the island nation.

Basil, 70, became the fourth Rajapaksa brother after President Gotabaya, 72, Prime Minister Mahinda, 75, and Agricultural Minister Chamal, 78, to enter the Cabinet.

He took the oath before President Gotabaya.

With the entry of Basil in the Cabinet, there are as many as seven family members in the top echelons of the government.

The Finance Ministry until Thursday morning was under Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Mahinda has now been given a new portfolio of economic policy and plan implementation. Namal, the elder son of Mahinda, is the Cabinet minister of sports, while Shasheendra the son of Chamal is a state minister. Nipuna Ranawaka, a government backbencher is the nephew of the big four.

Basil was seen as the livewire and the intellectual pillar in the Mahinda Rajapaksa administration between 2010 and 2015. Basil headed all key task forces from economic management to environment under the current administration.

PUNITIVE ACTION



An Israeli army unit demolishes the house of Palestinian American Muntasser Shalaby using controlled explosions in the West Bank village of Turmus Ayya on Thursday.

Jordan, Israel agree to more West Bank trade

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMMAN (JORDAN), 8 JULY

Jordan reached an agreement on Thursday to purchase an additional 50 million cubic meters of water from Israel and to increase its exports to the occupied West Bank from \$160 million a year to around \$700 million, the two countries announced in official statements.

The agreements, concluded during a meeting between their foreign ministers, signaled improved relations with Israel's new government following years of strained ties under former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for Israel to halt illegal measures that undermine such efforts.

He stressed the importance of maintaining the status quo at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem that is under Jordanian custodianship.

Jordan said technical teams will iron out the details in the coming days, and that talks on implementing the export ceiling will be held among Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

Safadi called for renewed efforts to achieve a two-state solution to the

Gidon Bromberg, the Israeli director of EcoPeace Middle East, a Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmental group, said the deal marks a dramatic increase in water exports from Israel, which he said had not exported more than 10 million cubic metres per year until now. He said Jordan still faces a water deficit of 500 million cubic metres a year and would have to import considerably more to ensure a continuous supply for all its needs. Jordan is one of the driest countries on earth and its water shortages are expected to worsen with climate change.

Explosion at Dubai port causes huge fire

DUBAI, 8 JULY

An explosion inside a container aboard a ship docked at the Dubai port caused a massive fire on the vessel and shook the gleaming commercial hub of the UAE, authorities said on Thursday.

The blast occurred in the container aboard the vessel, preparing to dock away from the Jebel Ali Port's main shipping line at around midnight on Wednesday. There were no reported deaths or injuries and the fire is under control, authorities said.

"A fire has been reported to have broken out in a container within a ship anchored in Jebel Ali Port," Dubai Media Office said in a tweet.

Zuma hands himself over to authorities to start jail term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JOHANNESBURG, 8 JULY



Former South African President Jacob Zuma has handed himself over to authorities to begin his 15-month prison sentence, ending a tense standoff between his armed supporters and the police.

Zuma turned himself over to the authorities on Wednesday just minutes before the midnight deadline ended for the police to arrest him.

He had earlier been found guilty of contempt of court by the country's apex court after he repeatedly refused to return to the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, where witnesses have implicated him in corruption.

On Tuesday, Zuma's legal team put in a last ditch attempt

to get the High Court to rescind the Constitutional Court ruling.

The High Court will rule on the matter on Friday, but law experts concurred that there was a slim chance of any success, as the High Court could not overrule the apex court.

A convoy of vehicles was reported leaving Zuma's rural Nkandla homestead compound about 45 minutes before police was supposed to arrest him despite the blockade, which was led by his son Edward.

Edward had repeatedly told media for the past few days that police would pass the gate and arrest his father only if they killed him first.

In a terse statement just before midnight on Wednesday

day, the Jacob Zuma Foundation confirmed that he was on his way to prison, but did not give any further details except to say that a full statement would be released later.

Police also confirmed this a few minutes later in a tweet: "The Police Ministry can confirm that former President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma was placed in @SAPoliceService custody as in compliance with the @ConCourtSA judgement."

In confrontational scenes at his residence for the past few days, there were tense standoffs from which police had to retreat when scores of armed Zuma supporters blocked the entrance to his home. Some fired shots into the air.

There was huge public outrage that the supporters were breaking current COVID-19 lockdown regulations that prevented public gatherings and required compulsory masks.

Police Commissioner Bheki Cele later said that police had withdrawn to avoid bloodshed.

Zuma is expected to be incarcerated in special facilities due to his old age and having unspecified health conditions.

Legal experts said that he could serve out only three months of his sentence before being allowed out on parole.

Zuma had on Sunday said that sending him to jail during the COVID-19 pandemic at his age would tanta-

mount to a death sentence.

"Sending me to jail during the height of a pandemic at my age is the same as sentencing me to death. The death sentence was declared unconstitutional in South Africa in 1995," he said.

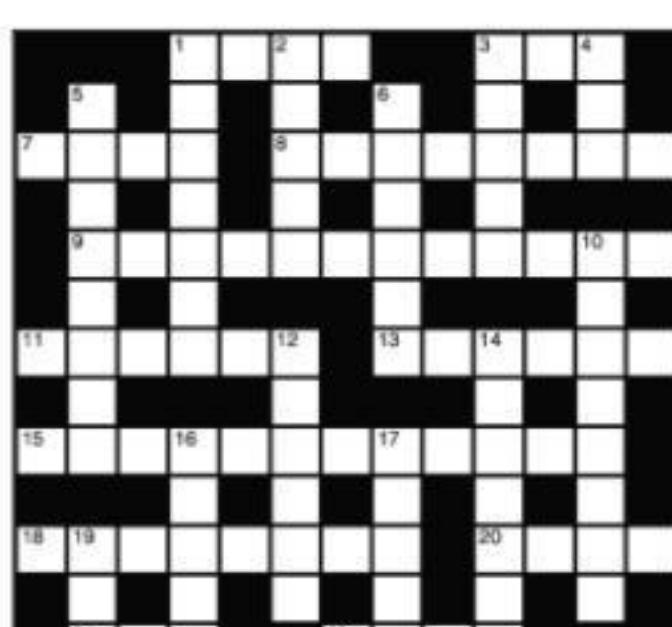
Various witnesses at the commission have implicated Zuma in corrupt activities,

especially because of his alleged close relationship to the three Indian-origin Gupta brothers - Atul, Ajay and Rajesh - who are now wanted for looting the country's state and parastatal coffers of billions of rands.

The Gupta family is believed to be in self-exile in Dubai, with South Africa having initiated the extradition process to return them for trial.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Medicinal tablet (4)
3 Coniferous tree (3)
7 Company emblem (4)
8 Type of painting (8)
9 Manicure tool (4,8)
11 Gloomy (6)
13 Order of business (6)
15 Predisposition (12)
18 Championing (8)
20 Eager (4)
21 Chart (3)
22 Flying insect (4)

DOWN
1 See eye to eye, 10 Wobble, 16 Succour, 18 Novel, 20 Thumb, 21 And so on, 23 Pleat, 23 Peach.
2 Inapt, 3 Examples, 4 Tear (3), 5 Heavy rain shower (8), 6 Dock for pleasure boats
8 Medicinal tablet (4), 9 Concentrate (5), 10 Vegetable (3,5), 12 Sign up (6), 14 Tombstone inscription (7), 16 Sag (5), 17 Stringed instrument (5), 19 Total (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- VidyaSagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 2317473, 23325520

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

• Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

• ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

• Haryana Roadways 23861262

• Himachal Roadways 18001803838, Reservation 43513186, Indigo Airlines Air-

port 011-25671580; Terminal I-

23860626

• Rajasthan Roadways 23671



I only disagree with the fact that people have taken hasty decisions ... when the moment demands a little more serenity and maturity.

HAITI POLITICIAN ARIEL HENRY, WHO WAS NAMED PRIME MINISTER BY THE ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT ASSERTING THAT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN HIM AND INTERIM PRIME MINISTER CLAUDE JOSEPH

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	26 H
HONG KONG	34	29 CL
TOKYO	29	24 H
LONDON	21	15 S
DUBAI	42	34 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	23	16 S
NEW YORK	29	22 H
MOSCOW	30	19 CL

S=sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



Britain's Prince Charles speaks to well-wishers after attending a service for the centenary of the Church in Wales, at St Davids Cathedral, Haverfordwest on Thursday. AP

Heat wave deaths: Oregon's death toll from last weekend's record-smashing Pacific Northwest heat wave has risen to 116. Of the 116 deaths recorded, the youngest victim was 37 and the oldest was 97. In Portland's Multnomah County, where most of the deaths occurred, officials said many victims had no air conditioners or fans and died alone.

HK activists: Hearings in the trial of 47 Hong Kong pro-democracy activists charged under a Beijing-imposed national security law have been extended to September. The activists, aged 23 to 64, appeared in court Thursday.

Tropical storm: Tropical Storm Elsa was carving a destructive and soaking path up the East Coast after killing at least one person in Florida and spinning up a tornado at a Georgia Navy base that flipped recreational vehicles upside-down and blew one of them into a lake. Elsa's winds weakened to 65 kph, but it was dropping torrential rains over the Carolinas. AP

Haiti's future uncertain after brazen slaying of president

Four suspected killers of president slain, two arrested, officers held hostage freed: Haiti interim PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PORT-AU-PRINCE, 8 JULY



Soldiers patrol in Petion Ville, the neighborhood where the late Haitian President Jovenel Moise lived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday.

There is this void now, and they are scared about what will happen to their loved ones, said Marlene Bastien, executive director of Family Action Network Movement, a group that helps people in Miami's Little Haiti community.

She said it was important for the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden to take a much more active role in supporting attempts at national dialogue in Haiti with the aim of holding free, fair and credible elections.

Bastien said she also wants to see participation of the extensive Haitian diaspora: No more band-aids. The Haitian people have been crying and suffering for too long.

Haiti had grown increasingly unstable under Moise, who had been ruling by decree for more than a year and faced violent protests as critics accused him of trying to amass more power while the opposition demanded he step down.

According to Haiti's constitution, Moise should be replaced by the president of Haiti's Supreme Court, but the chief justice died in recent days from COVID-19, leaving open

the question of who might rightfully succeed to the office.

Joseph, meanwhile, was supposed to be replaced by Ariel Henry, who had been named prime minister by Moise a day before the assassination.

Henry told The Associated Press in a brief interview that he is the prime minister, calling it an exceptional and confusing situation. In another interview with Radio Zenith, he said there was no fight between him and Joseph: I only disagree with the fact that people have taken hasty decisions ... when the moment demands a little more serenity and maturity.

Moise had faced large protests in recent months that turned violent as opposition leaders and their supporters rejected his plans to hold a constitutional referendum with proposals that would strengthen the presidency. Hours after the assassination, public transportation and street vendors remained largely scarce, an unusual sight for the normally bustling streets of Port-au-Prince. Gunfire rang out intermittently across the city.

US jobless claims tick up to 373,000 from pandemic low

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 8 JULY



al rate is thought to have reached a sizzling 10 per cent.

And for all of 2021, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that growth will amount to 6.7 per cent. That would be the fastest calendar-year expansion since 1984.

The economy is recovering so quickly that many companies can't find workers fast enough to meet their increased customer demand.

On Wednesday, the government said that U.S. employers posted 9.1 million jobs in May, the most since record-keeping began in 2000.

And in June, employers added a strong 850,000 jobs, and hourly pay rose a solid 3.6 per cent compared with a year ago faster than the pre-pandemic annual pace and a sign that companies are being compelled to pay more to attract and keep workers.

CRUNCH TIME



The pack rides during the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 159.4 kilometers (99 miles) with start in Saint-Paul-Trois-Chateaux and finish in Nimes, France, Thursday.

EU fines 4 German car makers \$1B over emission collusion

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 8 JULY

imposed collusion fines on holding back the use of technical developments, not a more traditional practice like price fixing.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said even though the companies had the technology to cut harmful emissions beyond legal limits, they resisted competition and denied consumers the chance to buy less polluting cars.

Manufacturers deliberately avoided to compete on cleaning better than what was required by EU emission standards. And they did so despite the relevant technology being available,

Vestager said. That made their practice illegal, she said.

According to Vestager, the companies agreed on the size of onboard tanks containing a urea solution known as AdBlue that is injected into the exhaust stream to limit pollution from diesel engines, and also on the ranges that drivers could be expected to drive before the tank needed refilling. A bigger tank would enable more pollution reduction.

Vestager said cooperation between companies is permissible under EU rules when it leads to efficiency gains, such as the faster introduction of new technologies.

36 US states file suit against Google

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 8 JULY

As many as 36 US states and Washington DC have filed a lawsuit against Google, alleging that the search engine giant's control over its Android app store violates antitrust laws.

The lawsuit alleges that through a series of exclusionary contracts and other anti-competitive conduct in the Google Play Store, Google has deprived Android device users of robust competition that could lead to greater choice and innovation, as well as significantly lower prices for mobile apps.

New York Attorney General James and the coalition - led by the attorneys general of Utah, North Carolina, and

Tennessee - also accuse Google of requiring app developers selling in-app digital content through apps purchased via Google's Play Store to use Google Billing as a middleman, forcing app consumers to pay Google's commission - up to 30 per cent - indefinitely.

Google has served as the gatekeeper of the internet for many years, but more recently, it has also become the gatekeeper of our digital devices resulting in all of us paying more for the software we use every day, James alleged.

Once again, we are seeing Google use its dominance to illegally squash competition and profit to the tune of billions. Through its illegal conduct, the company has ensured that hundreds of millions of

Android users turn to Google, and only Google, for the millions of applications they may choose to download to their phones and tablets, she said.

Google is squeezing the lifeblood out of millions of small businesses that are only seeking to compete. We are filing this lawsuit to end Google's illegal monopoly power and finally give voice to millions of consumers and business owners, James said.

The lawsuit alleges that Google imposes technical barriers that strongly discourage or completely prevent third-party app developers from distributing apps outside the Google Play Store.

Specifically, Google builds into Android a series of misleading security warnings and

other barriers that discourage users from downloading apps from any source outside Google's Play Store, effectively foreclosing app developers and app stores from direct distribution to consumers, it alleges. Google has not allowed Android to serve as an open source for many years, effectively cutting off potential competition.

Google's illegal monopoly power and finally give voice to millions of consumers and business owners, James said.

The lawsuit alleges that Google uses its dominance to illegally squash competition and profit to the tune of billions. Through its illegal conduct, the company has ensured that hundreds of millions of

As global Covid-19 deaths top 4 million, a suicide in Peru

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AREQUIPA (PERU), 8 JULY



In this June 25, 2021, file photo, a family member shovels dirt into the grave of Giro Quispe who died from complications related to the coronavirus, at a cemetery, in Arequipa, Peru. AP

tor and three nurses were frantically rushing to treat 80 patients in an overcrowded, makeshift ward while Vilca gasped for breath because of an acute shortage of bottled oxygen.

He promised me he would make it, said Nohem Huancachire, weeping over her husband's casket in their half-built home with no electricity on the outskirts of Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city.

But I never saw him again. The number of lives lost around the world over the past year and a half is about equal to the population of Los Angeles or the nation of Georgia.

It is three times the number of victims killed in traffic accidents around the globe per year. By some estimates, it is roughly the number of people killed in battle in all of the world's wars since 1982.

Even then, the toll is widely believed to be an undercount because of overlooked cases or concealment.

More than six months after vaccines became available, reported Covid-19 deaths worldwide have dropped to around 7,800 a day, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January. The World Health Organization recorded just under 54,000 deaths last week, the lowest weekly total since last October.

While vaccination campaigns in the U.S. and parts of Europe are ushering in a period of post-lockdown euphoria, and children there are being inoculated so that they can go back to summer camp and school, infection rates are still stubbornly high in many parts of South America and Southeast Asia.

And multitudes in Africa remain unprotected because of severe vaccine shortages.

Also, the highly contagious delta variant is spreading rapidly, setting off alarms, driving up case counts in places and turning the crisis increasingly into a race between the vaccine and the mutant version.

The variant has been detected in at least 96 countries. Australia, Israel, Malaysia, Hong Kong and other places have reimposed restrictions to try to suppress it.

The variants, uneven access to vaccines and the relaxation of precautions in some wealthier countries are a toxic combination that is very dangerous, warned Ann Lindstrand, a top immunization official at WHO.

Instead of treating the crisis as a me-and-myself-and-my-country problem, she said, "we need to get serious that this is a worldwide problem that needs worldwide solutions."

While the U.S. missed President Joe Biden's goal of getting at least one shot into 70% of American adults by the Fourth of July, deaths nationwide are down sharply to

around 225 per day, from a peak of over 3,400 per day in January.

And the U.S. economy has been roaring back, with growth this year forecast to be the fastest in almost seven decades. Even cruise ships, an early vector for the virus's spread, are resuming voyages after a hiatus of more than a year.

In Britain, despite persistent fears about the delta variant, Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to lift all remaining restrictions this month. Britain this week recorded a one-day total of more than 30,000 new infections for the first time since January.

Elsewhere in Europe, tens of thousands of soccer fans in several cities were able to watch in person their national teams compete in the European Championship a year after the tournament was postponed, though attendance in some stadiums was severely restricted.

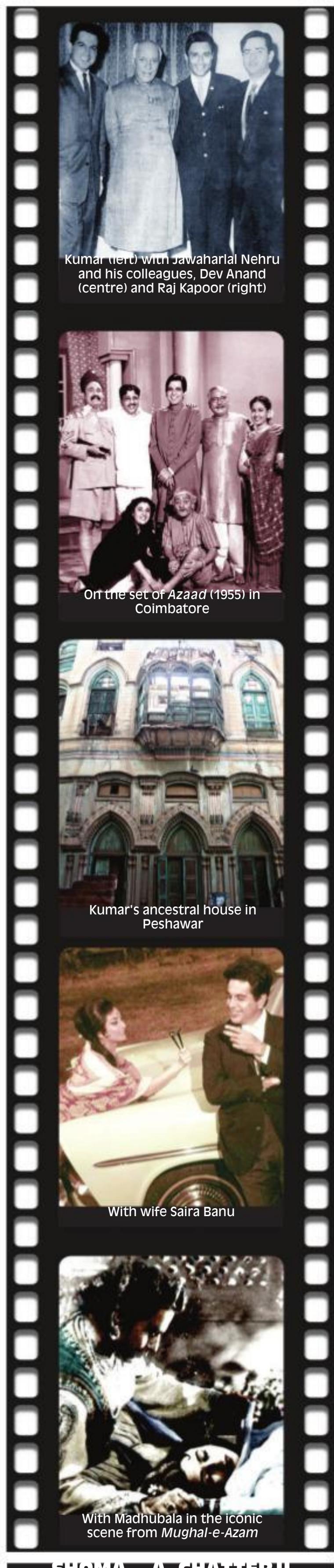
In parts of the developing world, it is a story of desperation.

In Latin America, just 1 in 10 people have been fully vaccinated, contributing to a rise in cases in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay. Meanwhile, the virus is penetrating parts of Africa that were previously spared, contributing to a sharp rise in cases.

Peru has been one of the hardest hit by the virus, with the highest mortality of any country in the world as a percentage of its population.

In Arequipa, Vilca's suicide was splashed across the front pages of the tabloids in the city of 1 million. His widow said his death was a protest against the deteriorating conditions faced by Covid-19 patients.

Nationwide, Peru has just 2,678 intensive care beds for a population of 32 million, a trifling number even by the low standards of Latin America. Nor was Vilca among the lucky 14% of Peruvians who have received a single dose of the vaccine.



Kumar (left) with Jawaharlal Nehru and his colleagues, Dev Anand (centre) and Raj Kapoor (right)

On the set of *Azaad* (1955) in Coimbatore

Kumar's ancestral house in Peshawar

With wife Saira Banu

With Madhubala in the iconic scene from *Mughal-e-Azam*

SHOMA A CHATTERJI

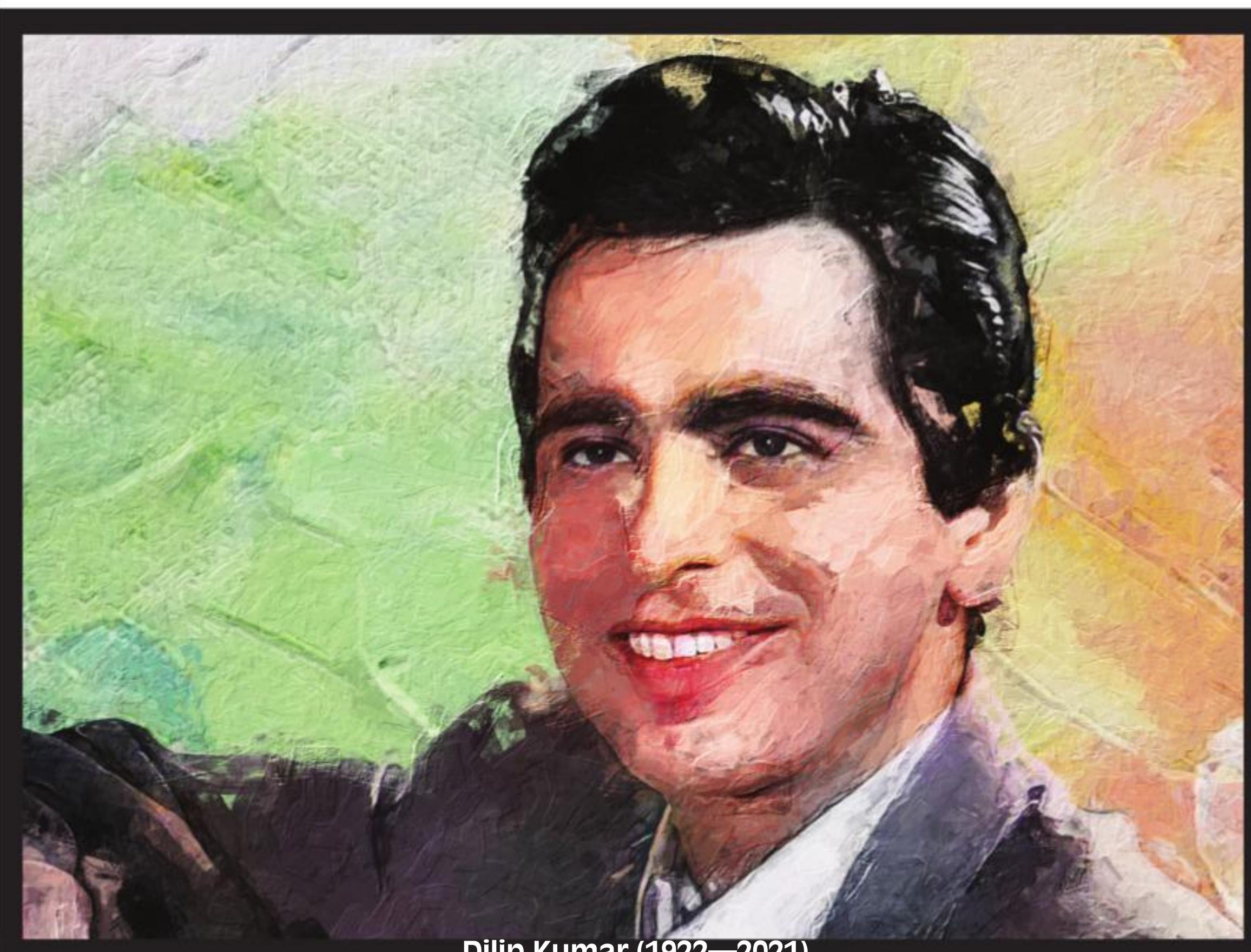
Not many were aware that Dilip Kumar was in an advanced stage of prostate cancer that had spread to different parts of his body and some of his organs were damaged beyond repair. He passed away aged 98 after a long fight on 7 July at around 7.30 a.m.

Kumar has left a legendary legacy in Indian cinema through only 61 films in around 58 years as an actor. He refused to sign more than a film a year and even at the peak of his career, sometimes did only one film in three years. The master believed in dedicating himself to just one character at a time.

Much before others began to mimic his unhurried dialogue delivery, deliberately acquired mannerisms, like rubbing his nose before delivering lines, or his designedly measured movements, Kumar proved his unmatched versatility in every kind of film. He did it all – from a historical yarn

DID YOU KNOW...

- Mohammed Yusuf Khan was born in undivided India's Peshawar in an area called Qissa Khawani Bazaar (Market of Tales and Stories). His father was a fruit merchant with orchards in Peshawar and Nashik.
- Khan studied at Barnes School, Nashik. After running away from home, he started a sandwich shop at the Army canteen in Pune (erstwhile Poona) in 1940.
- Khan was proficient in Urdu, Hindi, Hindko, English, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Pashto, Persian, and the Awadhi and Bhojpuri dialects.
- Khan's father was strictly against movies and show business. He often complained to his good friend Dewan Basheswarnath that his young and healthy boy, Prithivraj Kapoor was in the wrong profession. Scared of his father's beatings and on the insistence of producer Devika Rani, Khan took on a screen name. He wrote in his autobiography, *Dilip Kumar: The Substance and the Shadow* that



Dilip Kumar (1922–2021)

Man, myth & master

With incomparable humility and charm, Dilip Kumar left his golden imprint on the sands of Indian cinema

like *Mughal-e-Azam* (1960) to a literary classic like *Devdas* (1935), from a Robin Hood-in-disguise in *Azaad* (1955) to a fun-loving but stubborn young tongawalla in *Naya Daur* (1957), from a fantasy-filled love story like *Uran Khatola* (1955) to an obsessed wheelchair-bound man in *Aadmii* (1968).

One shouldn't just label Kumar a method actor because that would be too limiting. A sobriquet like "Tragedy King" is redundant because he is much more than that. One shouldn't call him Yusuf Khan also because he left that name behind long ago. He is and will remain the one and only Dilip Kumar.

Kumar was born in Peshawar, then part of British India, on 11 December 1922. He was one among 12 children, born to a fruit merchant father. The family came down to Bombay and his father continued with the fruit business in Nashik. Kumar studied for his graduation at Wilson College in Bombay and had no dreams of stepping into films. He quarrelled with his father and shifted to Poona where he ran a sandwich shop in the Army canteen.

It is said that while Kumar was there, Devika Rani, wife of Himanshu Rai who owned and managed Bombay Talkies, visited the Army canteen. She asked the young man how much he earned a month to which he replied around Rs 150. Rani told him that she would pay Rs 450 a month if he agreed to work in her film. The money was the main attraction for Kumar, and he said yes at once. Thus, began the story of the actor.

Kumar's debut film *Jwar Bhata* (1944) was directed by Amiya Chakrabarty, who later became famous with brilliant films like *Seema* and *Kath Puthli*. Though *Jwar Bhata* became a reasonable hit in Bombay, it did not run well at other centres. The actor didn't manage to make a mark then.

Three years later, the 1947 drama *Jugnu*, opposite Noor Jehan, became Kumar's break-

through. The highest-grossing Indian film of 1947, it established him as one of Hindi filmdom's best young actors. In 1948, Kumar had five releases including the family drama *Ghar Ki Izzat*, the war drama *Shaheed*, the romantic tragedy *Mela* and the love story *Anokha Pyar*. His last release in 1948 was *Nadiya Ke Paar*, which turned out to be the biggest box office hit that year. In 1949, he acted in *Mehboob Khan's Andhaaz* alongside Raj Kapoor and Nargis in a love triangle. That film became a blockbuster and made Kumar the brightest star of the time alongside establishing his pedigree as a brilliant performer.

Kumar was the first Indian actor to charge Rs one lakh a film, which amounts to around Rs one crore with inflationary adjustments. It was a decision he made to deter producers from queuing up outside his door. His choice to appear in so few films across six decades is proof that he belonged to an era when actors concentrated on their craft and not on the money they could make while the going was good. Second, he headed a group of actors whose stress was on intensity of performance, the quality of input rather than the quantity of output. The industry was not a rat race like today where numbers at ticket counters prove an actor's worth and not the quality of their performance.

Kumar liked soaking in a character but did not believe in rehearsals before a take as he felt it took away spontaneity from a performance. He also wished to allow his viewers to be able to either identify or empathise with the character he portrayed. His emotional depth, voice modulation and self-defined body language to express a particular mood is what made him a legend.

That said, most films Kumar featured in demanded that he play the tragic hero. He internalised characters so deeply that it led him to deep depression, and he had to visit a psychiatrist in

London for relief. He was advised to cut down on such roles and take on lighter ones. Thereafter, he began doing films like *Aan* (1952) and *Azaad* that displayed his magical ability to fluently enact light roles and not just remain confined to tragedies.

Kumar is the only man to have won the Filmfare Award for Best Actor eight times followed by the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. He became a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, received the Padma Vibhushan and the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award. When he was conferred the title of Nishan-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan in 1998, the ruling political party in Maharashtra objected and even questioned his patriotism.

Looking back at the humility with which Kumar wore the crown of the uncrowned emperor of Indian cinema, one wonders whether awards meant much to him. More important was to portray the best *Devdas* among all 18 adaptations of the classic or accept with dignity that Madhubala as Anarkali had the more author-backed role in K Asif's *Mughal-e-Azam*. Interestingly, he lent his voice to a song only once in the Hrishikesh Mukherjee film *Musafir* (1957).

In 1993, director Mahesh Bhatt was asked to choose a few memorable love scenes from Hindi cinema. He had pointed out the scene in *Mughal-e-Azam* where Salim is gently stroking the impassioned face of Anarkali with a white feather, held in extreme close-up for a few minutes, as the best love scene in the history of Hindi cinema. The intense homework he put in for each of his roles, big or small, positive or negative, never mind the director, left its imprint on the sands of time.

The story of Dilip Kumar, the man, actor and myth, will remain immortal and command a golden chapter in the history of Indian cinema.

The writer is a senior film critic

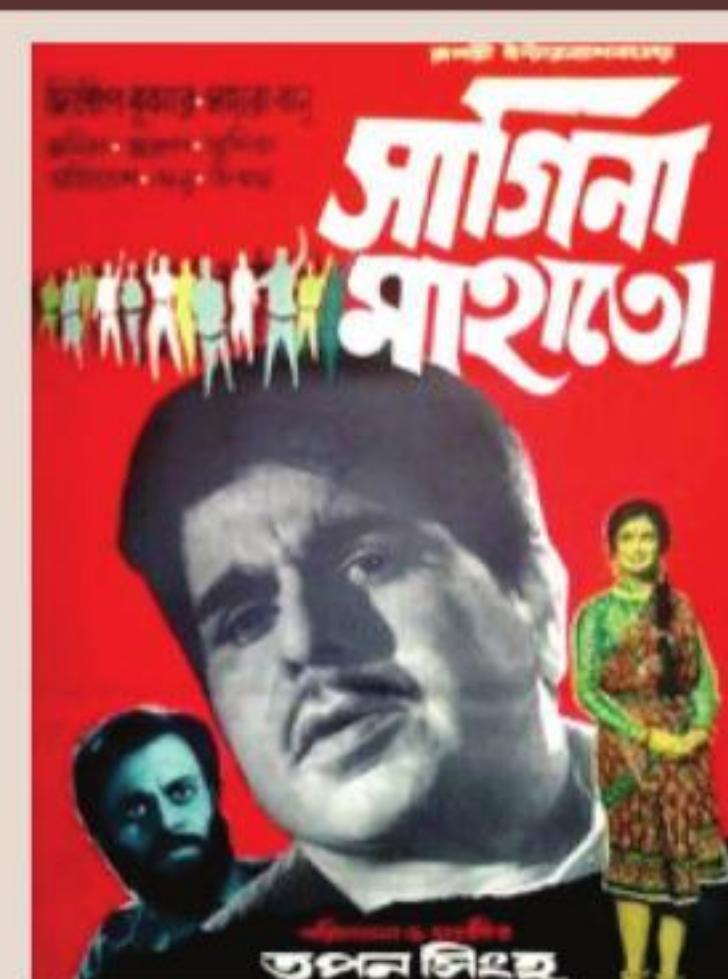
method actor in India". He trained with Ustad Halim Jaffar Khan for six months and learnt to play the sitar, only for the song *Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache* in the 1960 film, *Kohinoor*.

• Kumar was part of the original acting trinity of Hindi cinema alongside Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor, who was also his childhood friend and neighbour in Peshawar.

• Kumar was the Sheriff of Bombay from 1979 to 1982. He was instrumental in developing the city's Bandra area.

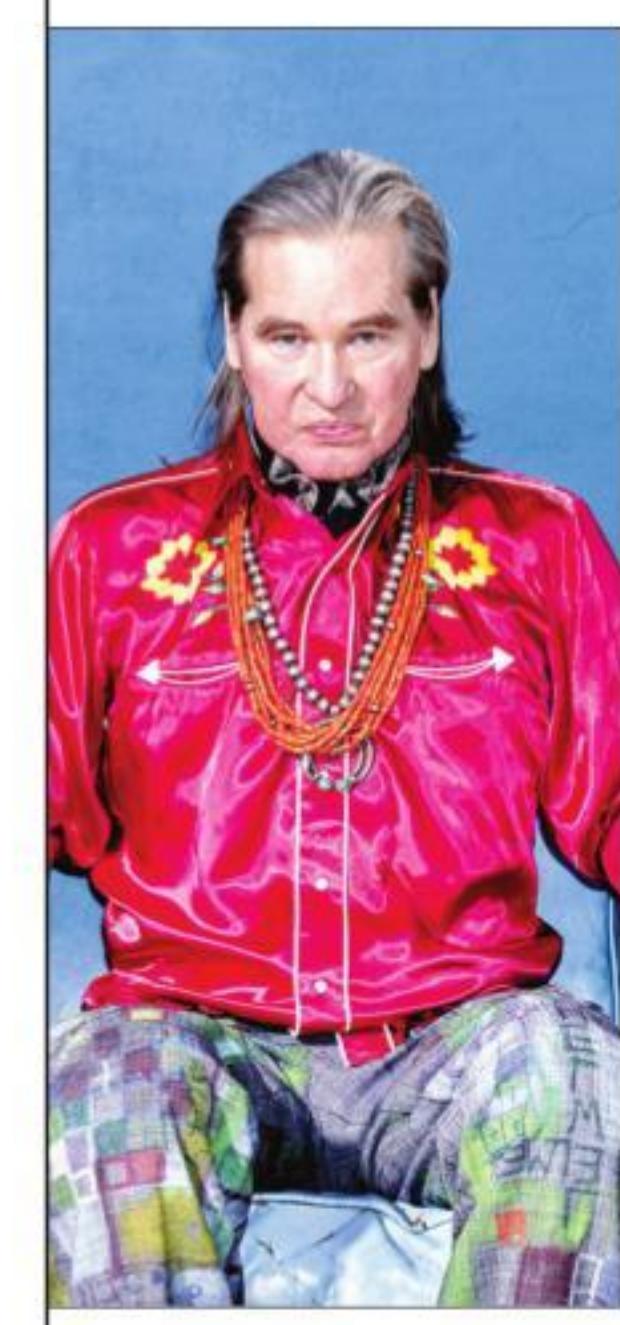
• Kumar was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, in 2015. He is the only Indian recipient of Pakistan's highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz.

• Kumar played the lead role in Tapan Sinha's *Sagina Mahato* (1970), which was his first and only Bengali film. It also starred his wife Saira Banu and Anil Chatterjee.



SNIPPETS

Fans support



Actor Val Kilmer's fans have expressed support for the actor after the trailer was released for a new documentary film about his life.

In the trailer for *Val*, the *Heat* and *Batman Forever* star is seen speaking with the use of a voice box. Kilmer was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2015, and initially kept his condition private. While treating the disease, he underwent a tracheotomy, which affected his ability to talk.

Much of the documentary consists of videos taken by Kilmer himself throughout his life, either at home or while making movies. Directed by Leo Scott and Ting Poo, *Val* will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, which has just started.

Viewers shared how moved they were by the film's trailer on social media.

One person wrote "@valkilmer I just saw the trailer for your movie and wanted to send you massive, love and good vibes. Keep sharing your voice, your struggles, your pain. Through that you inspire others to do the same! (sic)"

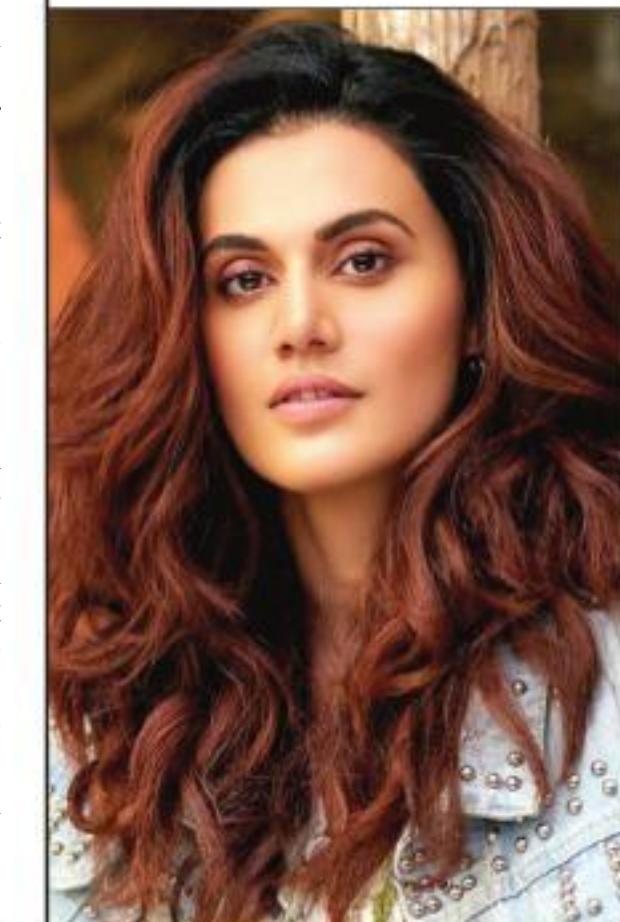
"Val Kilmer has made some classic movies throughout his career. Heart-breaking to see him suffer. A documentary everyone should keep an eye on. Looks outstanding," wrote someone else.

Another person wrote, "Seeing Val Kilmer struggle to talk is heart-breaking. He was a great Batman for me. Wishing him great health."

Val will be released on Amazon Prime Video on 6 August.

—The independent

Part and parcel

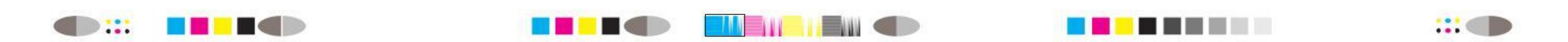


Actress Taapsee Pannu says there is no industry without competition and stress today.

Talking about life in Bollywood being fast-paced and how it takes a toll, Pannu told IANS, "It is a very competitive industry, like other industries. Just that our competition comes in front of the camera for the world to judge. So, it becomes slightly more stressful, but everyone knows about it when they get into it."

Pannu agreed that it is a part and parcel of an actor's life. "It's not like somebody forced us into it. We knew we will be in front of the camera and people would want to know more about us, so we were aware of that when we entered. Something in return of that unconditional love we get from the audience is the price we pay. That attracts stress and it's a part of every competitive industry," the actress said.

"There is competition in every industry," summed up Pannu, whose latest film *Haseen Dillruba* released on Netflix recently.





OSAKA GETS SUPPORT

Naomi Osaka says former first lady Michelle Obama and sports stars Novak Djokovic, Michael Phelps and Stephen Curry were among those who reached out to offer support after she withdrew from the French Open to take a mental health break. "There can be moments for any of us where we are dealing with issues behind the scenes," the 23-year-old Osaka said. "Each of us as humans is going through something on some level."

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Mariners' gain: ATK Mohun Bagan on Thursday announced the signing of Hugoboumou for the Indian Super League. The Mariners said the media, a Frenchman, would sharpen their attack considerably.

Former Maharashtra player Ramesh Borde dead: Former Maharashtra all-rounder Ramesh Borde died on Thursday following a heart attack. Ramesh was the younger brother of former India player Chandru Borde. He was 69 years old and is survived by his son and daughter.

Gambhir's clarification: Former India opener and BJP MP Gautam Gambhir on Thursday clarified that the archery ground at the Yamuna Sports Complex has only been upgraded after some top Indian archers, including world no. 1 Deepika Kumari, raised concerns about it being converted into a cricket field. "To set the record straight, the Yamuna Sports Ground has not been converted but only upgraded. Archery & other sports will continue like before. Being a sportsman myself, will never let anything hamper the growth of any sportsman!" Gambhir clarified.

Hyderabad FC sign Ogbeche: Adding experience to their attack ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League season, Hyderabad FC have completed the signing of Nigerian World Cupper Bartholomew Ogbeche, the club announced on Thursday. The 36-year-old striker, who won the ISL double of the League Winner's Shield and the ISL Trophy with Mumbai City last season, has signed a one-year deal till the end of the 2021-22 campaign.

Thakur takes charge as sports minister: Anurag Thakur on Thursday took charge as the country's 17th sports minister, succeeding Kiren Rijiju and promised to do everything possible to make India a sporting powerhouse. The 46-year-old former Cricket Board President was given responsibility of sports and youth affairs along with the Information and Broadcasting ministry after he took oath as a cabinet minister on Wednesday.

Official dropped from Fiji Olympic team: An official due to travel to Tokyo with the Fiji Olympic team has been withdrawn after testing positive for COVID-19. The Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee confirmed the positive test Thursday but did not say what role the official held.

China slams Olympic boycott call: China on Thursday criticized what it called the "politicization of sports" after British lawmakers urged a boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics unless China allows an investigation of complaints of human rights abuses in its northwest.

Nabi 'chosen'

KOLKATA, 8 JULY

S Rahim Nabi, one of India's finest strikers in the recent past, could be made football secretary if Mohammadan Sporting Club's dissidents win elections now held over because of the restrictions attendant upon the coronavirus pandemic, it was learnt today. The rebels, led by deposed secretary Wasim Akram, met yesterday in the city formally with a number of former players, including Nasir Ahmed and Nasim Akhtar, expressing solidarity.

They were said to have decided on door-to-door campaigning in specific areas to rid the club of their current lot of office-bearers, blamed for the traditional giants' prolonged decline. Akram told The Statesman he felt exhilarated by the response to his faction's electoral initiative. SNS

Euro2020 final: England can finally end 55 years of misery

AGENCIES
LONDON, 8 JULY

All the years of hurt, England fans sing about it. All that sense of entitlement, rival fans are irritated by it.

After decades of embarrassment and moaning at tournaments, the English have a chance to finally back up the bravado just listen to the team anthem, Football's Coming Home with a trophy.

Harry Kane scored a 104th minute goal to give England a 2-1 win over Denmark in European Championship semifinals on Wednesday night and end a 55-year wait for his country to qualify for the final of a major football tournament.

Kane slotted home the rebound after Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel had saved his spot-kick which England earned after Raheem Sterling went down following a slight contact in the Danish penalty area.

It was harsh on Schmeichel, who was magnificent all game, but the result did justice to an England side that totally dominated the second half and extra time of the match, Xinhua reports.

The game got off to a high energy start with England looking to impose themselves and pin the Danes back in their own half.

The nation that lays claim to being the inventor of soccer, but is more fittingly one of the sport's great underachievers, is back in a final against Italy in the European Championships.

The teams will meet Sunday night at Wembley Stadium in London, where England will be going for its first major title since winning the 1966 World Cup on their home field. The