



● Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 ●

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Genome facility opens at Delhi's LNJP Hospital

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday inaugurated the SARS-CoV-2 Genome Sequencing facility at Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) hospital, which will help in identifying and analysing all the subsequent variants of Covid-19. This facility (genetic analyzer machine), which will be helpful mainly for surveillance and public health purposes as identification of Covid-19, would be able to sequence 5 to 7 samples in a day with a turnaround time of about 4 to 5 days, Kejriwal said.

"The facility is being set up to aid and address the larger public interest considering the case fatality and re-emergence of Covid-19 outbreaks due to different SARS-CoV-2 strains," he added.

Trees in UP to be translocated, not felled

LUCKNOW: In another move to save the environment, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has decided to translocate trees which are more than 20 years old, instead of cutting them down to pave the way for developmental projects.

The state forest department on Tuesday successfully translocated a peepal tree to another location on the Mohanlalganj-Gosaiganj route in Lucknow.

The tree was uprooted using a machine as it came in the way of road widening in the area.

Juhi gets a week more to deposit cost

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday expressed shock at the conduct of Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla and two others, who are yet to deposit Rs 20 lakh cost imposed on them for their lawsuit challenging 5G wireless network technology. Justice J.R. Midha said: "The court is shocked at the conduct of the plaintiffs... not willing to gracefully deposit the cost." The court made this observation while hearing three applications moved by the actor seeking court fee refund, waiver of costs imposed and replacing the word "dismissed" in the judgment with "rejected". Chawla's counsel, senior advocate Meet Malhotra, after withdrawing the application for waiver of costs, submitted that the cost would either be deposited in a week or ten days, or legal remedies against it would be taken.

DILIP KUMAR LAID TO REST WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

MUMBAI

SCREEN legend Dilip Kumar on Wednesday was buried with full state honours here, marking the end of an illustrious career as one of Indian cinema's most loved icons. The 98-year-old actor, who passed away following prolonged illness, was laid to rest around 4:45 pm in the presence of family, including actor wife Saira Banu.

Kumar was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the Juhu Qabrastan in Santacruz Mumbai. While not more than 25-30 people were allowed inside the

Qabrastan, the venue was packed with media and fans of the late star. The crowd, of nearly 100 people, was being controlled by the police. Those who could not make it to the funeral stood on their rooftops to catch a glimpse of the late star.

According to the actor's family friend Faisal Farooqui, Kumar's nephew actor Ayub Khan and Saira Banu's nephew among other relatives were present at the cemetery. Post the funeral, megastar Amitabh Bachchan and son Abhishek Bachchan visited the Juhu Qabrastan to pay their respects to Kumar. As per the state funeral protocols, Kumar's body was



draped with the tricolor at his Pali Hill residence, before being moved to the burial ground. More than 60 policemen were present at his residence. Adequate security measures were taken by the police to prevent people to enter the lane leading to Kumar's house.

Born as Yousuf Khan in Peshawar on December 11, 1922, Kumar was known to generations of film-goers as the "tragedy king." Filmmaker Subhash Ghai, who directed Kumar in movies like "Saudagar" (1991) and "Karma" (1986) also came for the funeral but COVID protocols prevented him to go inside.

Earlier in the day, Kumar's friends, colleagues and fans, including Dharmendra, Shah Rukh Khan, Shabana Azmi, Vidya Balan and producer Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ranbir Kapoor paid their respects to the acting legend at his residence. The Hindi cinema veteran, the last of the golden troika with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand and one of India's most venerated stars, was admitted to hospital last month following episodes of breathlessness. The actor had been battling ill health for the last few years, including advanced-stage prostate cancer and lung disease, and had been in and out of the hospital.

36 new Ministers join Modi Cabinet

FOUR HIGH-PROFILE UNION MINISTERS QUIT

NEW DELHI: Thirty-six new ministers joined the government and four high-profile ministers quit on Wednesday in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega cabinet reboot to offset criticism as the country emerges from a fierce second wave of Covid ahead of key elections.

PM Modi now has 77 ministers, nearly half of them new. Anurag Thakur and Hardeep Puri are among 15 new cabinet ministers.

Sarbananda Sonowal, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Narayan Rane, Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav were also sworn in as cabinet ministers.

But the exits of IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar stood out on a day resignations made bigger news than new ministers.

Harsh Vardhan's sacking follows months of firefighting as the second surge of Covid engulfed the nation, exposing its inadequate health infrastructure. Cities ran out of oxygen and hospital beds and burning pyres at crematoriums and bodies floating in rivers became defining images of an unprecedented national crisis.

Javadekar was among the chief



spokespersons of the government, a role he has performed for years.

Ravi Shankar Prasad's resignation was a shock as he was seen to be in the core team of the government's troubleshooters.

A veteran BJP leader, Prasad, like Mr Javadekar, is among the few who were ministers even in the previous BJP government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr Prasad's last few months in the IT ministry were taken up by a legal fight with social media giants including

Twitter and Facebook, especially a relentless back-and-forth with Twitter over new IT rules. All three were seen at the oath ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan this evening.

The government said "20 per cent" ministers - a fifth of the council of ministers -- had been dropped and the message was performance-linked.

The vacancies in major ministries signal a shake-up that could see ministers shedding extra portfolios and some being downgraded.

Average age of Ministers down to 58 years from 61 years

NEW DELHI

THE average age of the new council of ministers has reduced to 58 years from 61 years previously following a cabinet reshuffle.

Nisith Pramanik (35), the Lok Sabha MP from West Bengal's Cooch Behar, is the youngest minister to be sworn in, while the oldest member in the council of ministers is 72-year-old Som Parkash. There are 77 members in the council of ministers now. Other ministers below 50 years of age in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet are

-- Smriti Irani (45), Kiren Rijiju (49), Man-sukh Mandaviya (49), Kailash Choudhary (47), Sanjeev Balyan (49), Anurag Thakur (46), Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar (42), Anupriya Singh Patel (40), Shantanu Thakur (38), John Barla (45) and Dr L Murugan (44). The average age of the newly-sworn in 43 ministers is 56 years while the average age of the new council of ministers is 58 years. Previously, the average age of the council of ministers was 61 years. The 43 ministers took oath in a major cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle on Wednesday evening.

Former Union Minister Kumarmangalam's wife murdered in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Wife of late former Union minister P Rangarajan Kumarmangalam was found dead at her residence in Delhi on Tuesday. Kitty Kumar Mangalam, 67, was allegedly murdered by three people who entered her house at Vasant Vihar in southwest Delhi last evening. Based on preliminary investigation, it is suspected that attempted robbery was the motive behind the killing as there were opened briefcases at the scene of the crime, the police said.

A 24-year-old washerman of the area, identified as Raju, has been detained by the police in connection with the case while a search is on to nab the other two suspects. "Kitty Kumaramangalam, the wife of late former Union Minister P Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, was murdered at her residence in Vasant Vihar last night.



CBI registers case in Prajapat encounter case

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday registered a case on the request of the Rajasthan government in the Kamlesh Prajapat encounter case.

A CBI official said that the agency registered a case on the request of the Rajasthan government and further notification from central government for transfer of investigation in the case registered on April 23 this year at Sadar police station in Rajasthan's Barmer.

The official said that it was alleged that police conducted a raid at the residence of Prajapat at Barmer in connection with a case of attempt to murder on SHO Pali in Barmer. Prajapat, a notorious smuggler and wanted in a hit-and-run case was killed on April 22. Police claimed they had gone to nab him following a tip-off but he tried to escape while trying to kill a police personnel.

In self defence, they were forced to fire back, which killed Prajapat.

Lekhi represents today's urban hardworking women

NEW DELHI: Second term BJP Lok Sabha member from New Delhi, Meenakshi Lekhi, is a prominent lawyer who has been a familiar face of the party on television, even before 2014 when the BJP-led NDA stormed to power at the Centre under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

On Wednesday, Lekhi was included in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet, which witnessed a major reshuffle.

Before being elected from New Delhi in 2014, Lekhi was the national spokesperson of the party and had impressed everyone with her oratory skill. In 2019, she managed to get a ticket to contest the Lok Sabha polls despite strong opposition from a senior party leader.

In 2019, she had moved the Supreme Court seeking contempt action against then Congress chief Rahul Gandhi for his 'chowkidar chor hai' jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Supreme Court had



closed the case, saying that Rahul Gandhi needs to be more careful in future for attributing his remarks to the court.

Lekhi, a law graduate from Delhi University, was also a national vice-president of the BJP's women's wing before being appointed as the national spokesperson.

The party leadership believes that Lekhi represents today's urban hardworking women.

She will be one of the prominent women leaders in the Modi government in the

coming days.

The cabinet expansion has set the roadmap for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh next year.

The selection of names inducted in the Union Cabinet from Uttar Pradesh, clearly indicates the priorities of the BJP for the UP elections.

Of the seven ministers from the state inducted into the cabinet on Wednesday, six are non-upper caste.

Four of the newly-inducted ministers belong to various OBC caste groups.

Anger, shock: Netizens react to petrol price crossing ₹100/litre

NEW DELHI

AS the price of petrol crossed an all-time high of Rs 100 per litre in Delhi and several other cities on Wednesday, netizens flooded microblogging site Twitter with varied reactions -- some coping with the unfortunate news with humour and others just expressing plain, simple shock.

Hashtags like #petroldieselpricehike and #petrol100notout are being used in large numbers since the fuel prices were increased in line with firming international oil trends. Humour seems to be the key to coping with the news as memes and jokes started doing the rounds soon after the price hike. Sharing a picture of a bicycle that has been

made to look like a motorcycle using cardboard, a Twitter user said this was the kind of bike that Indians would be able to ride following the fuel price hike. "Desi bike...after petrol, diesel price hike," the user tweeted.

Taking a dig at Narendra Modi's 2014 poll pitch of "acchhe din aayenge" (good days would come), a Twitter user shared a caricature depicting a man saying, "Kaash woh bure din he wapas atay" (I wish the bad days could return). A photograph of a petrol bill from 1963 when petrol cost 72 paise per litre has emerged as a favourite among the Twitterati. Reposting the image of the cash memo, a social media user wrote, "Petrol cash bill on 02/02/1963... 1 litre = 0.72. If I had #Timemachine i'll go



back and fill my vehicles." According to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers, petrol price was increased by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 23 paise a litre. In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 100.21 a litre and diesel is priced at Rs 89.53 per litre. Delhi is the last of the metro cities to see petrol rising above the Rs 100-a-litre mark. Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune already have prices above that mark. Kolkata also saw petrol prices climbing over Rs 100 per litre on Wednesday.


According to a social media user, the fuel prices were being jacked up so frequently that waking up to a price hike had become a way of life. "No stoppage to hike in price for diesel and petrol. Every morning wake up with this news.

Feels like it is no more a news now. Now only elections can relieve us middle class people(sic)," the user wrote. For others, the unprecedented hike in fuel prices simply reinforced their disappointment and anger at the current dispensation. "Masterstroke by Modi government. Petrol in Delhi crossed ₹100 and Modi is celebrating the occasion by expanding his cabinet..." a Twitter user posted. "Situation of inflation in Delhi and other parts of India is really worrisome. These are times when the government should be with people of India, helping them...but instead they are asking people to pay Rs 100 a litre," another user wrote. Reactions on the social media are a reflection of the frustration that is boiling up beyond the

internet. The fuel price hike has added significantly to Delhi-based Sayan Kundu's expenses. "I purchased my only car in August 2017. Due to this reckless rise in fuel prices, according to my calculations, my last round trip to Lucknow from Delhi cost me nearly Rs 3,000 more than what it would have been in 2017. A nearly 30 per cent increase!" the 32-year-old said. Now, 28-year-old Ankit Gautam has to think twice before deciding to take out his car. Unless it is for an essential purpose, a car is a big no. "I used to get the tank full as soon as my salary arrived every month. Now, I take my car out only when it is absolutely necessary. Need the same frequency of hikes in my salary too," he said.

Womenia


TWEET PATROL



MADHURI DIXIT NENE

@MADHURIDIXIT

Every now & then some individuals come along who single-handedly alter the present & write history... One such legend was Dilip saab for the world of cinema.



Dietary Do's and Don'ts for Hypothyroidism



Naini Setavad

Your thyroid gland is responsible for secreting hormones that are important for controlling your metabolic rate. Thus, a disorderly production of thyroid hormones, slowdown metabolism and other body changes such as weight gain, hair loss, and lack of energy. This condition is called Hypothyroidism.

In my past 21 years of experience, my diet has helped regulate many client's thyroid hormone levels, from lowering the elevated Thyroid Stimulating Hormone to even going off medications!

When I get new clients with hypothyroidism, I tell them to not fear. If you have been recently detected with hypothyroidism, do not worry. Read my Dietary Do's and Don'ts below to better understand how diet plays a prominent role in reversing hypothyroidism.

Starting with the Dietary Don'ts are foods that naturally slow our metabolism. They are



known as goitrogens as they prevent the uptake of nutrient Iodine by the thyroid gland. Limit these foods in your diet to support proper functioning of the thyroid gland.

Cruciferous Vegetables

Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Cauliflower

Leafy greens

Fenugreek (methi), Spinach, Kale

Dairy Products

Milk, Paneer, Cheese, Curd

Fruit:

Peach, Plum

Soy Based foods

Edamame, Soya, Tofu, Lima Beans

Grains and grain substitutes

Wheat, White Flour (Maida), Oats, Rawa (semolina), Barley

(Jav), couscous, Dalia (broken wheat), Pearl millet (Jowar), Sweet potatoes, Maize (Makai)

Processed foods

Foods high in Sugars, Salts, Fats

Other

Almonds, Peanuts, Eggs, Red meat

Drinks

Alcohol, Caffeine

While this list may seem quite intensive, I don't want you to wonder now what will you eat? My extensive Dietary Do's list covers all the other local Indian foods that you can include in your diet. Remember to make seasonal choices to get the best nutrition for yourself.

Vegetables

Tomatoes, Onions, Carrots,

Eggplant (Baingan), French Beans, Broad Beans (Papdi), Amaranth Leaves (Chauli), Cluster Beans (Gubar), Red, yellow, Green Capsicum, Bottle Gourd (Doodhi), Bitter Gourd (Karela), Pointed Gourd (Parval), Pumpkin (orange and white), Ridged Gourd (Turai), Cucumber, Zucchini, Mushroom, Ivy Gourd (Tindli) and Drumstick (Shinghi) to name a few.

Fruits: Banana, Chickoo, Guava, Strawberries, Pear, Papaya, Pineapple, Sweet Lime (Mosambi), Mango, Watermelon, Musk Melon, Orange, Grapes, Grape Fruit, Pomello, Litchi, Black Jamun, Amlas, Custard Apple, Apple, Cherries, Kiwi and Plum.

Grains: Rice, Amaranth (Rajirah), Waterchestnut (Singhara), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi, Nachni) and Verghu (Samo).

Nuts and Seeds: Brazil Nuts (highest in selenium), Cashew nuts, Pistachios, Flax seeds, Pumpkin Seeds, Watermelon Seeds and Sesame Seeds.

Pulses: Kidney Beans, Chickpeas, Black beans, Pigeon peas, peas, Moong (green and yellow), Bengal Gram Dal, Toor Daal. All pulses and legumes in any form.

Animal Products: Fatty Indian fish like Rawas, Surmai, Paplet or Prawns.

Remember to keep a check on your Vitamin D3 as low levels impair thyroid functioning.



Almonds improve blood glucose control and cholesterol in young people

Researchers find that almond snacking may help improve HbA1c and blood lipids in young adults and adolescents with prediabetes. Over the last 40 years, the number of people living with diabetes globally has quadrupled and this upward trajectory is especially steep in India. In fact, Indians have the highest

annual progression to type 2 diabetes from pre-diabetes (about 14-18%), which calls for lifestyle interventions to help reverse this trend.

When it comes to snack choices, almonds may be one easy - and tasty - dietary strategy. A new study showed that almond snacking helped improve glucose metabolism in adolescents and young adults in India with prediabetes.

This randomized controlled clinical trial aimed to determine the effect of almond consumption on factors of metabolic dysfunction including blood glucose, lipids, insulin, and selected inflammatory markers in adolescents and young adults (aged 16-25 years old) with prediabetes, who resided in Mumbai, India. The study was a randomized, parallel trial of 275 participants (59 male, 216 female) with impaired glucose metabolism (prediabetes). At the start of the study, participants' weight, height, and waist and hip circumferences were measured and fasting blood samples were taken. Participants also underwent a glucose tolerance test and their lipid profiles were assessed.

There were no changes in measures of weight, height, waist or hip circumferences or biochemical markers nor macronutrient intake between the almond group and the

control from the start to post-intervention. Inflammatory markers (TNF- α and IL-6) decreased in the almond group and increased in the control group, but this was not a statistically significant result. Fasting blood glucose levels were significantly reduced in the control group compared to the almond group post-intervention. In the almond group, FG:FI ratio (fasting glucose: fasting insulin) decreased while it increased in the control group but was not statistically significant.

"Lifestyle changes including improved nutrition and exercise targeted at teens and young adults have the potential to halt the progression from prediabetes to type 2 diabetes. Results from this study show that the change does not have to be a major one - simply including a twice-daily snack of almonds can make a difference. The study results are very promising in showing how almonds improved total and LDL-cholesterol levels and reduced HbA1c levels in just 12 weeks of consumption," said principal investigator, Dr Jagmeet Madan PhD, Professor and Principal, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science (Autonomous), SNDT Women's University (Mumbai). Limitations of the study include that participants could not be blinded. Further, nutritional intervention studies can also trigger behavioral changes in both groups as the participants are made aware of their risk during the recruitment process. Further research is needed to investigate the effects of almond consumption on the same measures in other age groups and of different ethnicities.



Female actors have equal pay on small screen, says Arshi Khan

EKATMATA SHARMA

"Big Boss" sensation Arshi Khan opened up about equal pay on the small screen, saying it proves the medium is ruled by females.

"I feel the small screen is ruled by females. Female actors' pay cheques are equal to the male actors' on the small screen. We shouldn't discriminate and pay should be depending upon working hours," says Arshi Khan.

She has had quite a roller coaster journey from being a physiotherapist to an actress. "I got to learn a lot from that profession, too," she recalled.

Arshi spoke about senior actors not

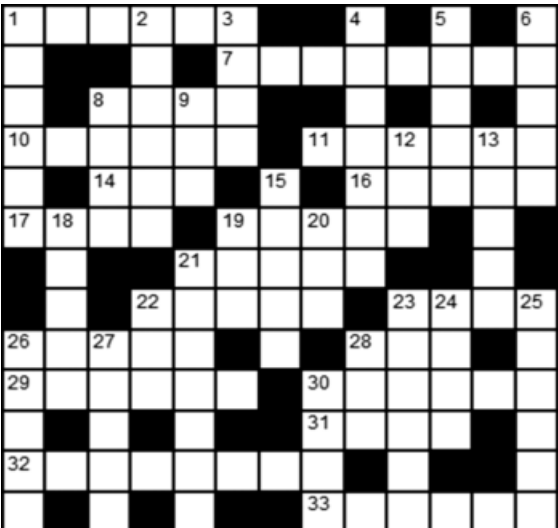
being given their due on the small screen. "I believe senior artistes who have been working for a long time in the industry are not paid enough according to their experience. When an actor ages and does a side role, he or she must be paid at least a notable amount. It hurts when we read about people we have seen in so many projects facing financial crisis in their aging time," the actress said.

She returns to the screen with her swayamvar show "Ayenge Tere Sajna".

"I'm really excited for 'Ayenge Tere Sajna'. Earlier I wasn't sure about doing it but gradually I'm feeling excited about the show. I just hope makers bring a man who is worthy to be a life partner. I'm just busy trying to pen all

the qualities I need in my to-be husband," said Arshi.

"He should be a gentleman who can handle my mood swings, guide me, pamper me and care for me like a baby. He should love my family more than me. His behaviour and nature must be somewhat like Salman Khan's," said Arshi. She said she would like Salman to help her find a suitable groom. "I wish Salman sahab to help me find a groom as he is never wrong. He has always guided me. Whatever I am today is because of Salman Khan. I got 'Ayenge Tere Sajna' show because of Salman Khan," she signed off.



SOLUTION TO JULY 7

CROSSWORD

Across

- Breakfast food (6)
- Deterioration of intelligence (8)
- Small bottle (4)
- Scrappy (6)
- Capital of Rwanda (6)
- Owed (3)
- Had a row? (5)
- Pace (4)
- Excited (3,2)
- Former capital of Nigeria (5)
- Illuminated (3,2)
- Cowardly terror (4)
- Small fish (5)
- Golfer's score (3)
- Cajoled or beguiled (6)
- One that attracts (6)
- Looks over (4)
- Rustic home (3-5)
- Not artificially coloured (6)

Down

- Untidy states (6)
- Mistake (6)
- Without purpose (4)

- Underhanded (7)
- Fragrant essential oil especially from rose petals (5)
- Lacking interest (5)
- See (4)
- Man like creature ? (3)
- Breach (3)
- Citrus fruit (5)
- Transition (5)
- Speed at which music is to be played (5)
- A head covering (3)
- Summit (3)
- Word for word (7)
- Slack (3)
- At the ___ : at the very last, especially after much waiting, colloquially speaking ? (3,3)
- Vessels for ashes (4)
- Supplied with proper equipment (6)
- Burn with hot liquid (5)
- Tall and slim (5)
- Wages (3)
- Carte du jour (4)

SUDOKU



Chocolate With Almonds Day

Chocolate is a delicious substance that has been loved and lauded by every tier of society from the poorest to the richest. Kings have traded for it, and men have killed for it, and even Gods have bowed for it. The almond is equally revered, referred to in the Bible as being "among the best of fruits." Chocolate With Almonds Day celebrates the coming together of these two substances.

History of Chocolate With Almonds Day

Let us begin exploring its history in alphabetical order, shall we? The almond was spoken highly of in the Bible, and finds its origins in the Middle East. There it has been used as a source of food, medicine, and decoration for time out of mind. They are easily harvested from within the almond fruit, and are now grown extensively in California, and is the subject of the largest managed cultivation in the entire world of agriculture. That's how important this humble tree nut is.

Chocolate is easily one of the most popular substances to every enter the world. It has been seen as a solution for sorrow and a great compliment for joy, and literally contains the stuff of love, at least chemically. Chocolate is used as a way to demonstrate your love for another and has been used in just about every culinary combination you could imagine. Its diversity is well loved, as well as its adaptability. Chocolate With Almonds Day celebrates what happens when these two fantastic ingredients come together into one mind-bendingly delicious whole.



Punjab BJP gave Centre incorrect feedback on farm laws: Anil Joshi

CHANDIGARH

A day after the Punjab BJP issued a show-cause notice to him for his "anti-party" activities, former minister Anil Joshi on Wednesday slammed the state unit alleging that it did not give correct feedback to the Centre on farm laws.

He claimed that initially, farmers protesting against the farm laws had a few demands that could have been handled had the BJP's Punjab unit not projected that all was hunky-dory in the state.

He also said state BJP president Ashwani Sharma should admit his failure and resign rather than issuing him notices. Speaking to reporters in Amritsar, Joshi alleged, "The state unit (of the BJP) was giving the feedback (to the Centre) that farmers were happy and only a handful were unsatisfied. When central ministers held virtual meetings, they presented fake farmers in those meetings and claimed they were happy with the laws."

"The state unit led by Ashwani Sharma lied to the party's senior leadership by telling them that they had made farmers in villages understand the benefits of the farm laws by holding programmes and functions, whereas the truth was that farmers were sitting on toll barriers and railway tracks to protest these laws," he claimed. Joshi said initially, farmers protesting against the farm laws had only a few demands.

According to the farm laws, the sub-divisional magistrate's court is the final authority for dispute resolution. The farmers were demanding that they be allowed to approach the higher courts. Besides, they were demanding a guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) for their crops, he said. "These demands were not so big that they could not have been handled. Punjab already procures wheat and paddy at MSP while the provision of approaching higher courts in case of dispute could have been agreed to," he added.

Joshi said this issue could have been limited to Punjab and resolved in the state itself. It



could have been prevented from spreading to Delhi borders and the rest of the country. "Protests (against farm laws) have been held

not only in the country but elsewhere in the world, affecting the party's image," he said. Scores of farmers have been camping at

Delhi borders since November last year demanding that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee MSP for their crops.

Joshi said Sharma "should admit his failure and resign rather than issuing notices to me". He claimed he had told Sharma, who was appointed as the Punjab BJP chief in January 2020, to take feedback from the party's sitting and former MLAs on farm laws and other issues but he never called a meeting. Joshi said the BJP's state unit should have stood in support of the agitating farmers. This way, it wouldn't have faced protests from farmers and other sections supporting them in the state as is the case now. "More than 500 farmers died in this agitation but not even once they (BJP state unit) say anything," he said.

Centre robbed people of their savings: Pilot

JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday took on the Centre over the issue of inflation, alleging that it is not bothered about people's problems and robbed them of their savings.

Pilot said people are stressed due to price rise but the Union government has failed to control it. During the coronavirus period in other countries, money was put into people's pockets so that they could run their homes whereas the Centre robbed people of their savings, the former Rajasthan alleged addressing a sit-in organised by the Mahila Congress here.

"We will continue to agitate till the Centre does not take steps to reduce inflation," Pilot said, adding that the government is acting stubborn and has nothing to do with the problems of the common people. The state Congress is holding protests against the Centre from July 7 to 17 over the issue of inflation in the coun-



try. On Wednesday, protests were organised by the Mahila Congress at each district headquarter.

Meanwhile, the Rajasthan government has approved Rs 717.40 crore this year for providing over 3.63 lakh water connections in the state under the Jal Jeevan Mission, according to an official statement on Wednesday.

The mission aims to provide pure drinking water to people in

rural areas. In the 2021-22 budget, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced to provide 20 lakh houses with drinking water connection in a phased manner. Under this, works worth Rs 1,793.50 crore are proposed to be done over the current and the next financial year. The Chief Minister has given approval to spend an amount of Rs 717.40 crore for 2021-22, the statement said.

Two more held for 'indecent' sloganeering against Minister

BALLIA

TWO more people were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly indulging in "indecent" sloganeering against Uttar Pradesh minister Upendra Tiwari and his family members, police said.

The police also said charges of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have been added in the FIR. "With two more arrests, the number of those arrested in the case reaches nine," a senior police official said here. After the initial probe, charges of the POCSO Act have been included in the FIR, he said.

Tiwari's family had demanded that the accused be booked under the POCSO Act as the slogans targeted the minister's two minor daughters aged nine and 11 along with his mother. Those arrested in the case on Wednesday included Rajendra Yadav alias Raju and Shahi Bhushan Yadav.

The Uttar Pradesh Police had on Jul 4 registered a case against 10 people, including newly-elected chairperson of zila panchayat Anand Chaudhary and his father Ambika Chaudhary, who was a minister in the Samajwadi Party (SP) government, and hundreds of others unidentified people for allegedly indulging in indecent sloganeering against Tiwari, the minister of state for Sports.

'Agitating farmer unions should contest Punjab polls'

CHANDIGARH

OUTFITS involved in farmers' agitation against the new agri laws should contest the Punjab assembly elections as it will "present a model on how the system can be changed", Haryana Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said on Wednesday.

Chaduni, a key leader of the Samyukt

Kisan Morcha (SMK) which is spearheading the farmers' stir, said, "What I want to say is that we should not run 'Mission UP, but Mission Punjab'. SKM has planned a 'mahapanchayat' in September and other activities in Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls next year. "Now, we are moving for Mission UP.

A Mahapanchayat will be organised on September 5. Other activities will happen. Then polls will come and we will work to defeat the BJP. "If we assume BJP gets defeated, will the Centre then agree to our demands. Don't take it otherwise," said Chaduni in a video message, and cited the ex-

ample of West Bengal, where the farmer bodies campaigned against the BJP. "The BJP was defeated there, but did the Centre then accept our demand," he asked. Chaduni said that even the opposition has not categorically stated that if they come to power these laws will be scrapped and a law to guarantee MSP will be framed.

In the video message, Chaduni said that "we say that we want to change the system,



but don't apply enough thought to what has to be done to realise this." He said that BJP and the Congress have not been able to change the system, "then from whom should we expect to do this?" "If we have to change the system, then we will have to formulate a plan. And that plan should be 'Mission Punjab'," he said.

Mathura court rejects bail plea of journalist Siddique Kappan

MATHURA

A court rejected the bail application of journalist Siddique Kappan, who was arrested in October last year while on his way to Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

The Uttar Pradesh police had arrested Kappan along with three others, claiming they had links with the Popular Front of India and its affiliate in Mathura. They were on their way to a village in Hathras to meet the family of a Dalit woman who was allegedly gang-raped and killed.

"Rejecting the arguments of defense counsel, and giving weightage to the arguments presented by the government counsel...learned Additional District and Sessions Judge (first) Anil Kumar Pandey turned down the bail application of accused Kappan," District Government Counsel Shiv Ram Singh said.



He said the accused claims to be a correspondent of Tejas News even though it has been non-functional since 2018.

It was alleged that the accused, while claiming himself to be a journalist, was involved in wrongful activities for which he was getting adequate funding. Defense counsel Madhuban Datt Chaturvedi said the court has not considered the plea that there is no evidence in support of the allegation. Seeking bail, the defense counsel also said since the investigation has been completed, there is no apprehension of Kappan tampering with the evidence or influencing the witnesses.

Uttar Pradesh to allow Kanwar yatra this year

LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh government will allow the annual Kanwar Yatra in the state from July 25 and officials have been asked to coordinate with neighbouring states to ensure Covid guidelines are followed, a senior official said on Wednesday.

'Kanwariyas' (devotees of Lord Shiva) collect water from River Ganga at Haridwar to offer at Shiva temples in their areas as part of the yatra. Uttarakhand has cancelled the yatra this year citing the pandemic. Uttar Pradesh Additional Chief Secretary, Navneet Sehgal told PTI that "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked to coordinate with neighbouring Bihar and Uttarakhand and ensure Covid guidelines are

following during the yatra," Sehgal said that detailed guidelines regarding the Yatra will be issued soon and a meeting of senior officials will be held to discuss the matter.

Uttarakhand has appealed to officers of neighbouring states to ask devotees not to come to Haridwar this month for the annual pilgrimage to collect water from the Ganga. The Kanwar yatra was not held in Uttar Pradesh last year due to Covid restrictions.



MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED attaches 3 Unitech Group plots

NEW DELHI

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has attached a clutch of land parcels in Haryana worth over Rs 106 crore in connection with its money laundering probe against realty firm Unitech Group and its promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra.

The federal investigative agency said in a statement that a provisional order for attachment of the three immovable properties located in Gurugram near here has been issued under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The total worth of these land properties is Rs 106.08 crore. "These parcels had been purchased by two dummy entities of the Chandras, namely Erode Projects Pvt Limited and Kore communities Pvt Limited, from



the companies of Unitech Group," it said. The agency said its probe found that the land parcels were "purchased by the two companies from the proceeds of crime generated out of scheduled offence."

"Both these companies are controlled by the promoters of Unitech Group and proceeds of crime have been transferred to these companies after substantial layering in Singapore and the Cayman Islands," the ED alleged. The ED early this year filed a criminal case under various sections of the PMLA against the

Unitech Group and its promoters over allegations that the Chandras illegally diverted over Rs 2,000 crore to Cyprus and the Cayman Islands.

The case was booked after the ED studied some FIRs filed by the Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on the complaint by a number of homebuyers against the Unitech Group, including an instance where the company failed to complete a housing project on time in Gurugram. "Total proceeds of crime in this case is Rs 5,063.05 crore as determined till now," the agency said.

SC directs Centre to submit panel report on aircraft fumigation

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court has directed the Centre to submit the report of an expert committee which was asked to ascertain whether spraying insecticides or fumigation to ward off mosquitoes in aircraft was harmful for passengers.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud passed the order after Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed that as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the expert committee which was to submit its report in pursuance of the November 29, 2019 and February 7, 2020 orders could not complete its work.

"Additional Solicitor General has sought two months' time to complete the exercise. The proceedings shall now be listed on September 7, 2021. The Union of India shall apprise the Court of



the report of the Expert Committee in the meantime," the bench, also comprising Justice MR Shah, said.

The apex court, which was hearing pleas against the National Green Tribunal's ban on spraying of disinfectants and pesticides in aircraft, had earlier said that it was not in favour of a blanket restriction and may allow it on some routes where mosquito problem was prevalent after the committee submits its report.

The ministry of health and family welfare had told the top court that spraying of disinfectants was not harmful and it was in accordance with guidelines of

World Health Organisation. The apex court had directed the expert committee to enquire into all relevant aspects bearing upon the need for disinsection of aircraft as a measure designed to control the spread of vector borne diseases. "The committee shall look, if any, for disinsection of aircraft.

The recommendations made by WHO and the best practices followed internationally. The impact of disinsection on the health and safety of passengers and crew. "If disinsection is necessary, the modalities to be followed for disinsection and the steps which are required to be taken to ensure that adequate safeguards are observed to protect the health and safety of passengers and crew who may be exposed to disinsection, if disinsection is required," the apex court had said.

The green tribunal had initi-

ated proceedings on an e-mail written by a US-based neurologist Dr Jai Kumar. Kumar had contended that spraying of pesticides on planes with chemicals like phenothrin, an organo-phosphorus neurotoxin, was injurious to human health as their use carries risk of causing cancer and auto-immune diseases like lupus, Parkinson's disease and memory loss. He had claimed that while all other airlines have stopped spraying of pesticides, this practice is prevalent in Indian airlines. Indigo Airlines, which has moved the apex court after NGT refused to accept its several pleas for fumigation of aircraft, has contended that the airports which are most affected by mosquito problems are -- Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow, Delhi, Guwahati, Raipur, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Jaipur, Pune, Bengaluru, Dehradun and Bhubaneswar.

Two held for taking bribe in Ajmer

JAIPUR

AN Anti-Corruption Bureau team on Wednesday arrested two people in Ajmer for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh.

It is alleged that the amount was taken for the husband of a councillor of the Ajmer Municipal Corporation, an official said. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had received a complaint that Ward No.

41 councillor's husband Ranjan Sharma had demanded Rs 50 lakh in bribe through his middlemen Kishan Khandelwal and Devendra Singh in lieu of getting the approval for construction work at the complainant's ancestral land. The ACB took action after getting the complaint verified and arrested Kishan Khandelwal and Devendra Singh for taking a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from the complainant. The ACB has registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Four held for duping people by promising jobs

SHAHJAHANPUR

FOUR men were arrested in this Uttar Pradesh district on Wednesday for allegedly duping people to the tune of more than Rs 1 crore on false assurances of getting them jobs in the Army, police said.

"Bhupendra Singh, Kamlesh Singh, Prabhat and Kuldeep Singh were arrested after a complaint against them. They duped people to the tune of over Rs 1 crore in the district," Superintendent of Police (SP) S Anand said. He said on June 30, one Nabe Hasan gave a complaint at the Tilhar police station alleging that Bhupendra Singh had taken Rs 3.70 lakh from him for a job in the Indian Army. The complainant alleged that when there was no recruitment in the Army, he asked the accused for his money, which he had arranged by selling land, but the latter re-

fused to oblige.

An FIR was lodged on the basis of the complaint at the Tilhar police station on July 4 and the four accused were arrested, the SP said. The police have seized fake appointment letters, caste certificates, laptops and fake walkie-talkie sets from the possession of the accused. The SP said during interrogation, the accused told the police that one Abhishek of Bhind was the kingpin of the gang and had appointed them as his agents in Shahjahanpur. They used to take Rs 5-6 lakh from a candidate promising him a job in the Army and sent Rs 3 lakh from it to Abhishek, who used to arrange for the candidate's fake physical test, the SP said.

A detailed probe in the matter is on and the police are trying to arrest Abhishek and five other members of the ganga.

Shifting power equations, a constant

DOES power change a person? Yes. It is the ready refrain of a commoner. But how much it does so is best known to those close to the person who is undergoing the process of change soon after acquiring power. Listen to all those close to power centres initially but fall out with their leader sooner or later and try to understand the psychology behind the change. All of us have seen how even the smallest dose of power could change a person.

This is more so in politics. It has also become common for those who fall out and those who are disgruntled or unhappy with the leadership of the ruling parties in the country to switch

loyalties to the opposite camps singing their litany of complaints against the former bosses. Even the best of friends have become the worst of enemies, having fallen out.

Several leaders in the country could be seen facing music from their friend-turned-foe nowadays. Their number is only increasing because of the authoritarian ways of individuals. Psychologists who studied the subject deeper tell us that the leaders simply get too busy to listen to their colleagues and cabinet members. As they don't have time to fully attend to their less powerful counterparts a gap tends to grow between them and it keeps only increas-

ing by the day.

Narendra Modi, Mamata Banerjee, Amit Shah, Amarinder Singh, Kejriwal, Thackeray, Yediyurappa...it is a long list and each of these tell us that power breaks equations, sometimes at least. Psychologists and neuroscientists point out that power fundamentally changes how the brain operates. Studies show that the mirror system in the brain is at full play.

The mirror system is important because it contains neurons that become active in both the persons, the powerful and the less powerful. The researchers found that the empathy factor was higher when peo-

ple were powerless and people feel powerful, it is far lesser. This may be the cause that some leaders get sidelined because, as the research points out, those in higher power positions lose the capacity to understand what the less powerful are thinking. So people get sidelined. However transparent a leader might be in his/her actions, those who beg to differ with them say that they were witness to systematic dismantling of the Cabinet powers that is mandated in our Constitution.

The leader's choice is automatically implemented. Only when they come out, such less powerful leaders often claim that the priority of the govern-

ments was not to work for the poor and the oppressed but to fix political opponents by hook or by crook. We also have an interplay of investigative agencies around this time leading to charges of misuse of power. Of course, words of a disgruntled ally, spoken when the relationship is breaking down, need to be taken with a pinch of salt. But complaints of autocratic behaviour have not just come from disgruntled allies, but from within the parties.

Party colleagues who are forcibly retired feel compelled to issue public statements against their leaders. The benefit of doubt always goes to the more powerful in such cases and it is the credibility of those levelling allegations that gets dented. None of this is in the public interest anyway. Alas!



Dubai gurdwara continued to serve humanity even in pandemic times

JOY CHAKRAVARTY

THE imposing double-storied Gurunanak Darbar gurdwara, the first building as soon as one enters what is now known as the Religious City of Dubai, wore a forlorn look on a Wednesday morning. Apart from the gurdwara, there are seven churches in the vicinity, and a temple that is in the final stages of construction. In normal times, the place would be teeming with the faithful.

But this is the 'new normal'. The strict UAE government's Covid-19 guidelines means that people can only come in for half-hour 'paaths' in the morning and evening.

The Gurunanak Darbar community kitchen, or langar, which fed almost 1,500 people on a usual day and up to 50,000 on special days, has been stopped ever since the country went into the first lockdown in April 2020.

But there has been no rest for Surender Singh Kandhari, and his men at the gurdwara. His thinking is simple - if the devotees can't come to the gurdwara, the gurdwara will go to the devotees.

"When the first lockdown in the UAE was announced and we could not have our langar, we went to labour camps in different Emirates and distributed 150,000 kilos of raw food. There were many blue-collared workers desperate to get back, so we organised 15 chartered flights to India free of cost," says the 78-year-old Kandhari, a resident of Dubai since 1976.

"When vaccination started, we managed to source it and conducted a camp in February this year to inoculate 5,000 people. This was inclusive and open to all: people from all religions and social strata were vaccinated free of charge."

The gurdwara became even more active when the deadly second wave hit India.

"We wanted to do something useful, and everyone told us that we should do something with oxygen, given the paucity back home. Using my business connections in China, we managed to procure a total of 770 concentrators and shipped them to various parts of India. We sent them to Punjab, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand," adds Kandhari.

"We sent them to various gurdwaras. There were places where we did not have a connection to any gurdwara. In Bengaluru, I tied up with a church, and in Chennai, we sent 25 concentrators to Loyola College, my alma mater, and requested the Principal to give it to those who needed it."

Kandhari, who now has a sprawling business empire of tyres and batteries in over 65 countries, has slowly handed over the reins to his two sons, and spends a majority of time in his capacity as chairman of the gurdwara.

His wife of 53 years, Bubbles, is the vice-chairman and equally involved in social work.

"I always saw this place as a centre of humanity and not just as a temple for the Sikh. I was guided by the one thought of Guru Nanak Dev ji that we need to promote humanity. We can only be the best Sikh, or Hindu, or Muslim, if we are the best human being," says Kandhari, who has also been a popular member of various UAE government delegates in promoting inter-faith harmony and tolerance in conferences around the world.

Every year since it was established in 2012, to 2019, the gurdwara has hosted iftar throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

"We put up separate partitions for men and women inside the gurdwara. We have a Maulvi and hundreds of people break their fast after he leads the prayers. We could not do it the last two Ramadans because of the pandemic and so many people wrote to me how much they missed it," adds Kandhari.

In a city known for its glitzy malls and numerous things to do for tourists, Gurunanak Darbar has its own power of attracting people.

"We are probably the most popular gurdwara outside India. Every year, we have more than a million visitors. Off these, nearly 30 per cent are visitors to the UAE. We have had over 300 marriages, most of them coming from places like India and the UK," says Kandhari.

The land for the gurdwara is given free by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

The total construction area is 120,000 square feet, spread over a 25,400 square feet plot in Jebel Ali.

When completed, the total cost was 65 million dirhams (Rs 13.23 crore). "The year 2008 was probably a bad year to start the construction as the world faced a severe economic downturn. Even though people were extremely generous in their offering, it took four years to be completed," recalls Kandhari.

"People would ask me how I'd get it built and if we should reconsider the size. I had read a story of Mother Teresa's when she started building the Missionaries of Charities in Kolkata. It seems she had no money and would tell others: 'It's not my house. It's God's house. He will make sure it is completed'."

"It's remarkable how we got the funds. People were so generous across religions and nationalities. I once had a Pakistani friend who visited the construction site. When he found out that we were struggling for funds, he immediately gave me a cheque of 100,000 dirhams.

"We have been extremely blessed with the generosity of people. Now, we are just trying to pay it forward."

Animals deserve to be treated better



TALKING OF MANY THINGS

Dr Mohan Kanda

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Mahatma Gandhi

'Virtus sola nobilitat' is the motto of my school, the All Saints' High School, Hyderabad. Virtue alone, to translate, ennobles. After years of search for the true definition of sin and virtue I have, in this evening of my life, come to the conclusion that whatever act brings a smile to another person's face is virtuous, and causing suffering or pain to man or animal, a sin.

Even in conducting a crusade, such as the Indian Independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi firmly adhered to the path of non-violence or 'ahimsa'. He also was a passionate advocate of vegetarianism.

I am halfway through watching a Telugu movie, about a person who succeeds his ambition to become cine villain. After achieving considerable success, he suddenly loses his natural psychopathic tendencies, on account of the grievous injury caused to a person in an accident caused by his driving in a drunken state. The plot, like so many others in the so called 'Bollywood' and 'Tollywood' movies today, is spun around a good theme, but interspersed liberally with scenes involving sex and violence. Apparently, that is the stuff which the audiences like not only in the Telugu speaking States, but elsewhere in the country and also abroad too.

History is replete with accounts of gruesome and cruel pastimes involving the abuse of animals as a means of entertainment. While most of these activities have long been made illegal, they are by no means gone for good.

No animal should be forced to perform tricks in order to earn money for their human captors.

As far as circuses are concerned, animal rights activists say that animals have a right to be free of human use and exploitation. In 2009, Bolivia became the first country in the world to ban all animals in circuses. China and Greece passed similar bans in 2011 and 2012, respectively. The United Kingdom has banned the use of "wild" animals in circuses but allows "domesticated" animals to be used. Animals in circuses are often beaten, shocked, kicked, or cruelly confined in order to train them to be obedient and do tricks. Lions and tigers for instance, are beaten, starved, and confined for long periods of time in order to get them to co-operate with what the trainers want. African elephants in the wild live more than three times as long as those kept in zoos.

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) said in 2007 that member zoos were being actively encouraged to kill unwanted animals, including tigers, if other zoos did not want them and if they were hybrids. It said that such animals take up space and keeper time. One solution, it seems, is to go vegan, boycott circuses with animals, and support animal-free circuses, such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Dreams!

My father was a keen punter. I went once for the Governor's Cup and made 28 rupees! Still the sport has its gory side as well. Horse racing has a reputation for elegance and attracts many wealthy owners and audience members. Horses are abused by trainers and others in order to make them run as fast as possible, no matter the consequences to their health and happiness. If you thought the deaths during races were staggering, you will be horrified to know that over 10,000 thoroughbreds from the US are sent to slaughter, every year usually to Mexico, when they are no longer "of use."

Bullfighting is a traditional European and Latin American sport that involves bulls being publicly baited, taunted, lanced and eventually stabbed to death by bullfighters inside a ring. Fights often result in severe injuries for the fighter, and always end in death for the animal. Despite its blatant cruelty and violence, the sport is considered by many to be a cultural tradition, and even an art form, and has thus evaded scrutiny in Spain.

Ram fighting is a blood sport



History is replete with accounts of gruesome and cruel pastimes involving the abuse of animals as a means of entertainment. While most of these activities have long been made illegal, they are by no means gone for good. No animal should be forced to perform tricks in order to earn money for their human captors. As far as circuses are concerned, animal rights activists say that animals have a right to be free of human use and exploitation

between two rams held in a ring or open field common in Africa, Asia, Europe, Nigeria, Uzbekistan and Indonesia, categorized as a blood sport and an act of animal cruelty.

The dog racing industry is notorious for committing some of the most heinous and egregious forms of animal cruelty including neglect, starvation, mutilation, drugging, abuse and abandonment.

Cockfighting, for instance, is a blood sport that has been around for hundreds of years and is one of the most atrocious events imaginable for the poor birds involved, yet in many countries around the world, it is still considered to be a mainstream activity and an integral part of the culture.

The position of animal welfare activists is that humans have a right to use animals, but cannot harm animals gratuitously and must treat them "humanely." What is considered "humane" varies greatly. Many animal welfare advocates con-

sider fur, foie gras, and cosmetics testing to be frivolous uses of animals, with too much animal suffering and not much benefit to humans. Some animal welfare advocates would say that eating meat is morally acceptable as long as the animals were raised and slaughtered "humanely."

In order to assist in the prevention of cruelty to animals, rehabilitation of maltreated and unwanted animals Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals was first founded in England in 1824. There is now a worldwide network of such organisations.

The Blue Cross of India was started in 1964 essentially to ensure that all animals, whether domesticated or wild, are protected from cruelty by human beings. Maneka Gandhi and Amala Akkineni are well-known crusaders of this movement.

Unfortunately, enjoying watching the inflicting of pain or cruelty is not confined to animals alone as the objects of entertainment. Even in ancient

times the Roman 'gladiators' fought each other to entertain crowds. They lived violent and dangerous lives and were subject to the whims of their superiors while having no rights in society and hardly considered as people at all. What is more, there were female gladiators too.

And, in current times, sports such as wrestling and boxing are still patronised all over the world. I remember having watched a series of wrestling bouts in Hyderabad city in the early 60s when legendary figures such as King Kong, Dara Singh and Flash Gordon were very popular.

It is, no doubt, also true that in sports and games essentially meant for entertainment and wholesome enjoyment such as, for instance, football cricket or hockey, the possibility of being hurt, or even grievously injured, cannot be ruled out. But the important point is that such incidents are accidental and not built into the design of the game or sport.

In the stress-filled environment we all live in, in this age of intense competition and largely materialistic pursuits, it is essential that avenues for relaxation and entertainment are provided for. The point being made is that the architecture of such activities can always be such as to preclude the need, either for accidental, or intentional, harm, either to the participants or, for that matter, to the spectators!

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

III

DILIP Kumar's film career, spanning more than five decades, had become a legend in his own lifetime. Memorable are his films with still memorable are the tunes rendered by Md. Rafi under the baton of the music wizard Naushad Ali. "Jaha Badla wafaa ki bewafai" (Jugnu-1947) "Yeh Zindagi ki meele" (Mela-1948), "Tu Kahe agar" (Andaz-1949), "Dil me chupake" (Aan-1952) to name a very few among his several classics.

Apart from a plethora of awards, including the Padma Bhushan award and prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award, he earned the rare distinction of conferment of Pakistan's highest civilian award of "Nishan-e-Imtiaz". As ways of providence had it, death is bound to catch every mortal sooner or later and the legendary thespian Dilip Kumar at the ripe age of over 98 had to fall in-line. "As long as Hindi films are remembered, Dilip Kumar remains ever cherished in the film annals of Bollywood,"

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

Power politics

RESHUFFLING of cabinet ministers ahead of elections can be justified citing performance of respective ministers but there is no logic to reallocate

constitutional posts of governor (Probables arrive in Delhi amid Cabinet reshuffle, July 7). Further, it is well known that increasing number of ministers from 53 to 81 is just to accommodate MPs with the aim of gaining politically in poll bound states. Same is against Modi government's principle of "minimum government and maximum governance", which is very much relevant in this pandemic that ruined the financial position of many people as also governments.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

Fascinating final

ARGENTINA will lock horns with Brazil in the Copa America final. In an enthralling fixture that went the distance, Lionel Messi's brigade got past luckless Colombia 3-2 on penalties. Goal-keeper Emiliano did the star turn for the victors as he produced a hat-trick of diving saves. Argentina, who won the last of their 14 Copa America titles in 1993, have their best chance to upset the Selecao at the iconic Maracana Stadium on Saturday.

N.J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

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LETTERS



The first Khan breathes his last

DILIP KUMAR, the name needs no introduction. Be it as a smuggler in "Duniya" and Mashal or as a dacoit, a rustic character in "Ganga Jamuna", a prince with a doomed loved story in "Mughal-E-Azam" or a man who takes up the path of self destruction as he hits the bottle past a heart break in Devdas, or as a freedom fighter in Kranthi, the legendary actor brought every character of life on the big screen like never before. Dilip Kumar has been bestowed with so many names like Tragedy King of Bollywood, first original super star of Hindi cinema or ultimate method actor.

From Amitabh to Shah Rukh Khan every Bollywood star is a fan of the thespian.

Amitabh a great performer himself says "He is a mile stone for every upcoming actor. We have been influenced by his dedication and versatility". Dilip Kumar's diction dialogue (oh those killer pauses) fluid body language and face capable of limitless expressions are unchallenged. Dilip Kumar is one of versatile actor who will be remembered for his super performances in many films. A great loss to Indian cinema. The void cannot be filled. May his soul RIP

Zakir Hussain, Kazipet

II

ONE of the most celebrated trio Dilip Kumar ruled the Bollywood for decades alongwith Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand, breathed his last at last at the full ripe age of nearly hundred years. His majestic movies like Devadas, Kohinoor, Mughal-e-Azam, Leader, Ram Aur Shyam, Shakti and many more have been reminiscent forever in the realms of his ardent fans. His dignified acquiescence that he could not compete with Akkineni Nageswara Rao in Devadas has further raised his effulgence to Himalayan heights.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad



Elevated Kishan expresses gratitude to Modi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SENIOR BJP leader from Telangana and Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy has been elevated as the Union Cabinet minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government. Perhaps, Reddy is the first BJP leader from Telangana reached to the level of the Union Cabinet Minister in the BJP-led Union governments in the country.

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya was another senior Telangana BJP leader who could hold the position of Union Minister (independent charge) in the previous BJP-led governments.

Born in middleclass farmers' family in Rangareddy district, Kishan Reddy started his political career as a Yuva Karyakartha

(youth worker) in Janata Party. He joined the BJP on its inception in 1980. In BJP, he started his career as an ordinary party worker and grew step by step in the ruling national party. He was appointed as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (Youth wing of BJP) in 2002, when BJP was in power at the Centre. Reddy contested as an MLA from the Himayatnagar Assembly constituency in 2004 for the first time and won from the same segment three consecutive terms. In 2018 election, he lost the election. He won as MP from the Secunderbad Parliamentary constituency first time in 2019 general election and was inducted as Union Minister of State for Home in the Modi cabinet.

Reddy said, "I express my deep sense of gratitude to Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi for the trust reposed in me. I will sincerely make an endeavour to live up to his expectations and that of my people. I thank Amit Shah for his guidance and support. Training under Shah has given me focus and discipline for which I am indebted to him. I thank all the senior leaders and president of BJP JP Nadda."

Kishan Reddy said that he would now have a two-fold strategy to strengthen the hands of Modi to contribute to his dream of building a New India and also contribute to the development of Telangana in a manner that the aspirations, vision and dreams of our martyrs are realised. He also thanked people of the Secunderabad Lok Sabha Constituency, for giving him an opportunity to be their representative.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to direct the Telangana State to stop the indiscriminate drawal of water solely for power generation when there is no need for irrigation and to follow the established norms and protocols and directions of the Krishna River Management Board.

The Chief Minister in his letter requested the Prime Minister that the jurisdiction of KRMB be notified immediately and all the

CM WRITES TO PM TO STOP INDISCRIMINATE DRAWAL OF WATER BY TELANGANA

oftakes which include water for irrigation, power and drinking water on common reservoirs of both the States be kept under the control of KRMB with CISF security for effective operation and maintenance in the interest of both the States and in compliance with the provisions of AP Reorganisation Act 2014. He urged the Prime Minister to protect the interests of Andhra Pradesh for utilising right share of water from the projects of the Krishna river.

The Chief Minister stated that Telangana started the construction of new projects of Palamuru Ranga Reddy LIS to lift 90 tmc feet per day at 800 feet level and Dindi LIS to lift 30 tmc feet at 0.5 tmc ft per day at 800 feet. It is further enhancing the scope of Kalwakurthy LIS from 25 to 40 tmc ft at 0.4 tmc ft per day at 800 feet, SLBC from 30 to 40 tmc ft at 0.5 tmc ft per day at 825 feet to utilise total 200 tmc ft at 3 tmc ft per day. Apart from this Telangana

is drawing 4 tmc ft of water for power generation at 796 feet level itself. He said in spite of repeated complaints before the Ministry of Jal Sakthi and KRMB to prevail upon the state of Telangana to stop execution of its illegal projects no effective steps have been taken so far. The above facts clearly exhibit the whimsical acts of Telangana state and its attempt to deprive Andhra Pradesh of its due share of allocated water. He said the KRMB may be directed to account for all these unauthorised drawals by Telangana against the agreed allocations of 299 tmc ft to Telangana state.

KRMB new chief gets ready to solve AP-TS row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH the new KRMB (Krishna River Management Board) Chairman MP Singh assumed charge as the Board head at Jala Soudha (Telangana Irrigation department head office) here on Wednesday, the Board hastened the exercise to address the issues raised by two Telugu States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on utilisation of Krishna river water.

While the Telangana Government is getting ready to pitch for justice by submitting required documents with evidence on water utilisation by Telangana and excess water released to Andhra from Krishna since the formation of the T state, the Board was finalising a schedule to hold a series of meetings with AP and Telangana governments to resolve the issue. The board already issued instructions to the two States to submit the DPR (detailed project reports) of the new projects taken up by the



two states on Krishna. The Telangana government strongly objected to the enhancement of Pothireddypadu head regulator capacity and the construction of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS). The AP also questioned Telangana for the construction of Palamuru Rangareddy project with specific water allocations.

Officials said that the Board is planning to visit the RLIS

project and also Srisailem power house to ascertain the ground level situation and verify the objections raised by the two States against each other. As the Telangana government already informed the board that the officials would not attend the meeting convened on July 9 on water disputes, the newly appointed board chairman would take a call on finalising the agenda for the next meeting to be

held in July last week.

The board was studying all the letters submitted by Telangana to NGT, Union Ministry of Jal Sakthi and Central Water Commission against the AP government on RLIS and Pothireddypadu head regulator.

Meanwhile, the KRMB Chairman asked the two States to release adequate funds to function the board actively. As per the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh should contribute funds to run the board. Official sources said that the AP government did not release its share of funds and the board was facing big difficulty to function regularly. "KRMB is in dearth of funds to take up the essential works telemetry phase-2 and conduct surveys. The board already instructed the irrigation chiefs of the two States to release the pending Rs 9 crore immediately," officials said that the new Chairman would sort out the fund crisis shortly in consultation with the two States.

Schools to reopen after Aug 15

- CM says vaccination process to all teachers will be completed in the meantime
- Inter Board will consider 30% marks obtained in top three subjects of Class 10, then 70% subject-wise marks in Intermediate first year while assessing marks for senior Inter
- Officials inform the Chief Minister that at least 21,654 new classrooms are to be constructed, in addition to Phase-1 and Phase-2 of Nadu Nedu works for implementation of New Education Policy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said it has been decided in principle to reopen schools after August 15. He reviewed Nadu Nedu (education) and Vidya Kanuka scheme and discussed the steps to be taken for implementation of the new education policy with an aim to provide quality education, teaching and infrastructure at his camp office on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister said the new educational policy will benefit teachers as well as students. He said the expertise of teachers should be used for providing bet-



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy examines a copy of English-English and Telugu dictionary to be distributed to schoolchildren as part of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka during a review at Tadepalli on Wednesday. Education Minister A Suresh is seen.

ter education to the students.

The Chief Minister asserted that Nadu Nedu works, including release of funds should be completed as per schedule. The officials informed the Chief Minister that they have mapped Anganwadi centres according to the proposals of New Education Policy (NEP). They said it is estimated that at least 21,654 new classrooms need to be constructed, which is in addition to Phase-1 and Phase-2 of Nadu Nedu works.

The Chief Minister made it clear that there should be no disruption for Nadu Nedu works due to the construction of additional classrooms. Teachers should be available as per student-teacher ratio. He said no school should be closed and no

teacher should be laid off. The officials said they have planned to start the second phase of Nadu Nedu works in August and complete them by March, 2022 and added that the first phase of Nadu Nedu works will be completed by August. The Chief Minister will dedicate to the nation the schools revamped under the first phase of Nadu Nedu.

The state government has decided in principle to reopen schools after August 15 across the state and planned to complete vaccination process to all teachers in the meantime. Workbook activities will be conducted for the students from July 15 to August 15. Teachers will correct those workbooks and give appropriate instructions for the children in those books.

The Chief Minister inspected the Oxford English to English, Telugu dictionary, which will be provided to the students under Vidya Kanuka Scheme and asked the authorities to check if all the textbooks, bags, uniforms, notebooks, shoes and belts provided under Vidya Kanuka are ready for distribution and added that implementation of Vidya Kanuka scheme would be implemented in August.

The state government has devised a methodology for assessment of marks to Intermediate second year. The board will consider 30 per cent marks obtained in top three subjects of Class 10, then 70 per cent of subject-wise marks in Intermediate first year. The marks for practical exams will be awarded as per the results as tests were already completed.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that Central government officials have lauded the programs being carried out Andhra Pradesh in education sector. Education department officials have presented the work being carried out by the state government at the Samagra Shiksha budget approval meeting organised by the Central government. The officials said they had already discussed with representatives of 34 associations the new education policy and added that they have discussed with the head masters, teachers and parents at ground level in this regard.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A new report from the Greenpeace India reveals that a year after initial nationwide lockdowns due to Covid, nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution has increased in all eight most-populous State capitals studied. Among Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur and Lucknow, Delhi saw the most dramatic increase between April 2020 and April 2021.

NO2 is a dangerous air pollutant that is released when fuel is burnt, as in most motor vehicles, power generation and industrial processes. Exposure to NO2 can severely impact people's health at all ages, including the respiratory and circulatory systems and the brain, leading to increase in hospital admissions and mortality.

According to satellite observations, NO2 pollution in Hyderabad increased by 69 per cent between April 2020 and April 2021. The weather had only little contribution to this change. Whereas, in Delhi, NO2 was higher by 125 per cent, Chennai by 94 per cent, Mumbai by 52 per cent, Bengaluru by 90 per cent, Kolkata by 11 per cent, Jaipur by 47 per cent and Lucknow by 32 per cent in April 2021, than in the same month of the previous year.

As the pandemic continues to have a severe impact on the country and with cases spiking in other countries, there is growing evidence that polluted cities suffer



• Nitrogen dioxide levels increased by 69 per cent between April 2020 and April 2021

• Exposure to NO2 can severely affect people's health at all ages and even cause mortality

disproportionately more corona virus cases. The health impact of fossil fuel-related air pollution is severe and has been reflected time and again in several reports. Yet there has been little change to people's reliance on fossil fuels, including coal, oil and gas. Increased economic activity has largely contributed to toxic air pollution in most cities.

"The air quality levels in these cities are alarming. The cities and the people are already paying a huge price for their reliance on fossil fuels. This business as usual cannot continue. People saw clean skies and breathed fresh air during the nationwide lockdown though it was an unintended consequence of the pandemic," said

Avinash Chanchal, senior climate campaigner, Greenpeace India.

The disruption caused by the pandemic is a case to transition to cleaner, equitable and sustainable decentralised energy sources. The recovery from the pandemic must not come at the expense of returning to previous levels of air pollution, he said.

"Motor vehicles and industries based on fossil fuel consumption are the major drivers of NO2 pollution in cities. The governments, local administration and city planners must initiate the transition from privately-owned vehicles to an efficient, clean and safe public transport system that is run on clean energy," added Chanchal.

Naidu demands clearance of arrears of farmers

MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday slammed the YSRCP government for 'failing' to ensure remunerative prices for crops at a time when the farmers were facing severe financial problems because of the coronavirus crisis.

He said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime threw the farmers' interests to the winds without trying to purchase the farm produce. On the other hand, new burdens were being imposed by fixing meters on the agricultural motors and by mortgaging the river water rights of AP.

In a statement here, the TDP chief demanded that the govern-



ment purchase the crops from farmers to ensure better prices for them. The fixing of meters on motors should be withdrawn with immediate effect. The Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) have turned into dens of YSRCP activists. Over 70 per cent of farmers suffered losses because of negligence in the e-crop bookings, he said. Chandrababu Naidu said the price of food grain was

nearly Rs 1,888 per quintal but the farmers were getting just Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,400. Dues of Rs 3,900 crore were yet to be paid to the farmers. The paddy, oilseeds and pulses were not fetching good prices for the farmers in the market, he added.

The brokers were giving less than minimum support price to the farmers of green gram, black gram, red gram, jowar, maize and groundnut. There were no good prices even for tomato, mango, banana, chilli, coconut and subabul. The former chief minister said that the Jagan regime gave compensation to just 5 lakh acres when crops in over 17.33 lakh acre were damaged in the Nivar cyclone.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PARIGI

EDUCATION Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy along with MLA Koppula Maheshwar Reddy inaugurated the Gram Panchayat building and Palle Prakriti Vanam in Raghavpur village of Parigi constituency on Wednesday. Later, the Minister participated in the 4th phase of Palle Pragathi in the village as chief guest and also inaugurated Vaikunta Dammam, Rythu Vedika and Gram Panchayat building in Gadisingapur village and a check dam in Ibrahimpur village.

Speaking on the occasion,



the Minister said that the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is working for the development

of the villages by giving special directions to sarpanches. Today, the villages of Telangana

are moving towards the village self-government that Gandhiji dreamed of and every village has a dumping yard, Vaikuntha Dammam and Palle Prakruthi Vanam, the Minister added. She said that the government will spend Rs 4,000 crore on school development and Rs 50,000 crore for Rythu Bandhu. The government has provided Rs 8.65 crore as support to the families of 173 farmers in Parigi zone.

ZP Chairperson Sunita Reddy, Collector Pausumi Basu, Additional Collector Chandraiah, ZP Vice Chairman Vijay Kumar, Library Chairman Murali Krishna and others were present.

Nisith youngest face in Modi cabinet



Nisith Pramanik

NEW DELHI

Nisith Pramanik, 35, is the youngest entrant of the Modi cabinet and will take oath as a Minister of State today. He will also be the first-ever Central Minister from his hometown Cooch Behar in West Bengal. Pramanik became an MP from Cooch Behar in 2019 on a BJP ticket. He was in TMC before joining BJP in March 2019.

Nisith was also fielded by BJP in the assembly elections held this year where he won. However, after the election results, Nisith Pramanik resigned from the post of MLA fol-

lowing the party's orders.

Nisith Pramanik was elected BJP MP from Cooch Behar seat of Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. However, this time, he contested the assembly elections from the Din-hata seat of Bengal while being an MP.

Pramanik started his political career as a youth leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). However, in the Panchayat elections in Bengal in 2018, he fielded around 300 independent candidates against the TMC itself and several of them won.

After that, he joined BJP in February 2019 and in the same year the party also gave him

a ticket for the Lok Sabha elections from the Cooch Behar seat. Cooch Behar was one such seat where TMC candidate won the 2016 by-election.

Despite being pitted against the far more experienced TMC candidate Paresh Chandra Adhikari, Pramanik emerged victorious with a margin of about 54,000 votes in the 2019 general election.

Pramanik was born on 17 January, 1986, in Din-hata and went on to attain Bachelors of Computer Applications (BCA). He also worked as an Assistant Teacher in a primary school.

Nandigram poll case

Judge recuses, imposes ₹5 lakh cost on Mamata

KOLKATA

JUSTICE Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta High Court Wednesday re-cused from hearing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's petition challenging the election of BJP's Suwendu Adhikari from Nandigram, while imposing a cost of Rs 5 lakh for the manner in which the recusal was sought. Releasing the election petition of Banerjee, Justice Chanda said that he was doing so in order to thwart at the out-set attempts by trouble-mongers to keep the controversy alive. "A deliberate and conscious attempt was

made to influence my decision before the recusal application was placed before me for judicial consideration on June 24," Justice Chanda observed pointing at social media posts by some TMC leaders. "The calculated psychological offensives and vilification adopted to seek recusal need to be firmly repulsed, and a cost of Rupees five lakh is imposed upon the petitioner," he said. In the 13-page order, the judge said that the im-broglio stemmed from the inception of the litigation due to the assignment of the case before his bench.



A security personnel shows victory sign during an encounter with militants at Kralgund area of Handwara in Kupwara

Top Hizbul commander killed in encounter

SRINAGAR

A top Hizbul Mujahideen commander was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, police said.

"One of the oldest & top commander of HM #terror outfit Mehrazuddin Halwai @ Ubaid got neutralised in #Handwara #encounter. He was involved in several terror crimes. A big success," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet.

Security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation at Pazi-pora-Renan in the Handwara area of the district Wednesday morning following information about the presence of militants there, the police said.

The operation turned into an encounter after the security forces were fired upon. Halwai was killed in retaliatory action by the security personnel, the police added.

Deadlier than Delta

No case of Lambda variant reported in India

NEW DELHI

India has not recorded any Covid-19 infection due to the Lambda variant of the virus until now, reported news agency ANI quoting sources.

The new strain has been detected in more than 30 countries in the past four weeks.

"The Lambda strain was reported to have originated from Peru, the country with the highest mortality rate in the world," said the UK's health ministry earlier this week.

The variant accounts for nearly 82% of the coronavirus cases reported during May and June in Peru, reported news agency ANI, citing the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

The Public Health England in the UK also recently said that a handful of cases caused by the Lambda variant have been detected in the country. It said that the strain has "a potential increased transmissibility or possible increased resistance to neutralizing antibodies".

PAHO's regional advisor on emerging viral diseases, Jairo Mendez, said on 30 June that Lambda had been detected in eight countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, "but sporadically in most coun-tries".

While it is clearly the dominant strain in Peru, in Chile, it accounts for more than 31% of the samples from May and June, Euro News reported.

Mendez further stated that there was not yet clear evidence it was a more transmissible virus.

India added 43,733 new cases of coronavirus taking the total infection tally to 3,06,63,665, while the active cases further declined to 4,59,920, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 4,04,211 with 930 daily fatalities.

The active cases have further declined to 4,59,920 and comprise 1.50 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 97.18 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed. Also, 19,07,216 tests were conducted on Tuesday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of COVID-19 in the country to 42,33,32,097.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.29 per cent. It has been less than three per cent for 16 consecutive days, the ministry said, adding the weekly positivity rate has declined to 2.39 per cent.



Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) Chief Pashupati Kumar Paras leaves from his residence for swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in Delhi on Wednesday

1. Devdas (1955): The painful saga of love and romance, which was based on Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel of the same name till date is regarded as one of the finest works of the superstar. The Bimal Roy directorial saw Dilip Kumar nailing the role of a die-hard lover on the road of destruction at hands of love and alcoholism. Kumar's performance as the drunkard who dies without meeting Paro one last time won the hearts of many. His measured portrayal of the lover who drowned his grief in alcohol is still admired.

2. Mughal-e-Azam (1960): The ultimate love story of the Mughal prince Salim and a court dancer Anarkali was one of the most tragic films by the legendary superstar. His epic portrayal of the spoiled, self-indulgent and mad-in-love prince won the film several accolades including the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi in 1961. Dilip Kumar brought a new dimension to the love scenes he enacted with Madhubala who played Anarkali. This iconic piece of cinema was helmed by K Asif and produced by Shapoorji Pallonji.

3. Babul (1960): The musical drama that emerged out as the second highest-grossing film of the year 1950 saw a

tragic love triangle between his character the late dazzling diva Nargis and late actor Munawar Sultana. The heartwarming film that saw Kumar in the role of a postmaster hailing from a rich family was directed by director SU Sunny. Although the film seems like a simple love story of a village postmaster Ashok, who wins the hearts of two diametrically opposite women, the film is an exploration of much deeper issues.

4. Daag (1973): The social drama 'Daag,' produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty, brought Kumar the first ever Filmfare Award in the main category of best actor. The film sees the rise of a poverty-stricken and alcoholic Shankar (Kumar's character) to a wealthy man who again moves towards the path of self-destruction as the family of the love of his life decided to marry her elsewhere. The film, however, ends on a good note with Shankar marrying his love interest and quitting alcohol thereafter.

5. Naya Daur (1957): Directed by BR Chopra, this romantic love triangle about two best friends falling in love with the same woman (Vyjayanthimala) was given a fresh lease in life due to the spectacular performances by the lead

Dilip's 10 iconic Hindi films



pair, led by Dilip Kumar, who sold the movie it with his incredible on-screen charisma. He won his third Filmfare Best Actor Award in a row, for his stellar performance. The film was later even dubbed in Tamil as Pattalyin Sabatham.

6. Deedar (1951): One of the noted tragedies made in early Indian cinema

'Deedar' revolves around the unfulfilled love of Dilip Kumar's character who was separated from him due to class inequalities. The film emerged out as one of the most popular films of the golden era and established Kumar as the 'King of tragedies.' The film starred Nargis and Nimmi alongside Kumar and was based on the book 'A Suitable Boy'. The movie was remade in Tamil as Neengadha Ni-naivu.

7. Madhumati (1958): This Bimal Roy movie, starring Vyjayanthimala and Pran alongside Kumar, is yet another iconic film. Madhumati was the story of reincarnation and eerie haunted mansions, and perhaps for the first time, such tropes, instead of inviting chuckles, made our spines shiver. The movie had a gothic noir feel to it.

8. Ram Aur Shyam (1967): Kumar played the double role of brothers Ram and Shyam in the film and gave audiences a glimpse of his comic timing. This was the first time he had essayed a double role, and in the process, gave Hindi cinema a new genre. Many more double-role films dwelling on the hilarious events that occur when the brothers exchange places, were churned out. From Hema Malini's 'Sita Aur Geeta' to

Sridevi's 'Chalbaaz', even Salman Khan's 'Judwaa', all tried to follow the template of 'Ram Aur Shyam' and recreated the magic.

9. Shakti (1982): It was notable for being the first and only film to feature veteran actors Dilip Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan together on screen. The film is regarded as director Ramesh Sippy's best work and is considered one of the greatest films in the history of cinema. It's regarded as that moment in cinematic history where the past merged with the present and framed our finest actors together for posterity.

10. Karma (1986): In the film, Dilip Kumar played a police officer whose family is killed by the villains, so he hires three convicts (Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff and Naseeruddin Shah) to exact his revenge. It was the first time Kumar was paired with Nutan. The film reunited Subhash Ghai and Kumar after the success of their last film together 'Vidhaata' (1982). Though the actor tried to work in a different genre of movies to do away with the tag of 'The Tragedy King', his epic portrayal in these films has been etched in the hearts of his fans and he will hence, always be remembered with the tag.

How Yousuf Khan became Dilip Kumar

Legend, thespian, tragedy king, god of acting... Dilip Kumar was given several monikers in his illustrious career but how he acquired his screen name is a story unto itself.

He was born Mohammed Yusuf Khan but Devika Rani, who was head of the Bombay Talkies where he joined as an actor, wasn't too happy with the name. Dilip Kumar, she thought, would be in tune with his "romantic image" which he was bound to acquire and would also have a "secular appeal".

And so Dilip Kumar it was. Kumar, who died in a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday at the age of 98, narrates in detail how he went from being Yusuf Khan to Dilip Kumar in his autobiography "The Substance and the Shadow". "One morning, as I entered the studio I was given the message that Devika Rani wanted to see me in her office. I wondered what it could be. I was certain it couldn't be for expressing any displeasure because she was always courteous

and pleasant whenever she met me and enquired how I was doing. So what could it be?" Kumar wrote.

When he walked into Rani's office, she was seated at her desk, smiled warmly and asked him to sit down.

Devika Rani began the conversation with the usual courtesy of asking him whether he would care for some tea made specially for her from leaves she had purchased from an English store in the city, he recounts in great detail.

According to the autobiography, she soon came to the point and said quite matter-of-factly, "Yusuf, I was thinking about your launch soon as an actor and I felt it would not be a bad idea if you adopted a screen name".

"You know, a name would be known by and which will be very appropriate for your audience to relate to and one that will be in tune with the romantic image you are bound to acquire through your screen presence. I thought Dilip Kumar was a nice name," she is



DILIP KUMAR 1922 TO 2021

quoted as saying. She told him the name just "popped up" in her mind when she was thinking

about a suitable name for him.

"How does it sound to you?" she asked.

"I was speechless for a moment, being totally unprepared for the new identity she was proposing to me. I said it sounded nice but asked her whether it was really necessary," Kumar says in the book.

"She gave her sweet smile and told me that it would be prudent to do so. She added that it was after considerable thought that she came to the conclusion of giving me a screen name."

Rani told Kumar that she foresaw a long and successful career for him in films and it made good sense to have a screen identity that would "stand up by itself and have a secular appeal".

Kumar was quick to appreciate her concern, but added that he needed to think about it a bit. She responded, "Fine... come back to me with your thoughts."

"We are now ready to begin prepara-

tions for your debut. So we must hurry up." The actor recalls spending the rest of the day, going about his routine, but with the name 'Dilip Kumar' ringing in his mind's inner recesses.

S. Mukherjee, who was effectively the second in command at Bombay Talkies after Devika Rani, noticed that the actor was rather contemplative that afternoon.

After lunch, when work started on the shooting stage, Mukherjee asked him if there was something disturbing him and if he could share with him.

"I told S. Mukherjee Sahab about the suggestion that had come from Devika Rani. He reflected for a second and, looking me straight in the eye, said: "I think she has a point. It will be in your interest to take the name she has suggested for the screen. It is a very nice name, though I will always know you by the name Yusuf like all your brothers and sisters and your parents," says Kumar in the autobiography.

‘End of an institution’



Bollywood legend **Amitabh Bachchan** described Kumar as an "institution" and said the actor defined Indian cinema forever. He tweeted: "An institution has gone ... Whenever the history of Indian cinema will be written, it shall always be 'before Dilip Kumar' and 'after Dilip Kumar'. My duas for peace of his soul and the strength to his family to bear this loss. Deeply saddened."

Legendary Indian singer **Lata Mangeskar** seemed heartbroken that her beloved 'Yusuf bhai' had left behind her grieving younger sister. The two legends have always shared a close bond and considered each other as siblings from different mothers. On learning about Kumar's death, she tweeted in Hindi which roughly translates to how an era has ended and how she's yet to gain closure from the loss. She thanked him for giving her some beautiful memories to cherish over the years.



South Indian actor and idol **Chiranjeevi Konidela** posted a black and white image of his encounter with Kumar. He tweeted: "An era comes to an END in the Indian film industry. May his soul rest in peace."

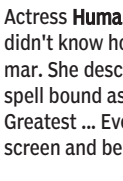


Actor **Ajay Devgn** claimed he was unprepared for Kumar's passing away. Often called the tragedy king of Indian cinema, Dilip Kumar's loss was felt by actors and talents spanning several generations.

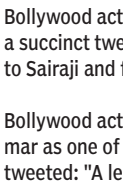
Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** described Dilip Kumar as the 'best actor Indian cinema has ever seen'. He also posted an image of the two where Khan is clutching his arm in an endearing manner.



Sanjay Dutt reminisced about the good times that he spent with Kumar over the years. He tweeted: "So many special moments with Dilip Saab... He was like a father figure in my life. A huge loss for the film fraternity and for all of us, we have lost a legend today. My deepest condolences to Sairaji. May God give her strength in this tough time."

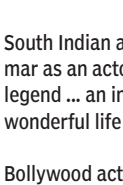


Actress **Huma Qureshi** tweeted about how she didn't know how to mourn the loss of Dilip Kumar. She described him as a hero that left her spell bound as an audience. She tweeted: "The Greatest ... Ever. Grateful to have witnessed on-screen and be spell-bound by your genius."

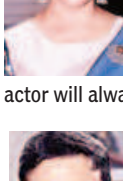


Bollywood actor and director **Farhan Akhtar** put up a succinct tweet and wrote: "Deepest condolences to Sairaji and family."

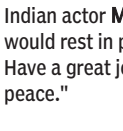
Bollywood actress **Raveena Tandon** described Kumar as one of the kindest souls that she knew. She tweeted: "A legend passes away, a gap that can never be filled. A true giant, a kind loving soul to the very end. #DilipKumar. OmShanti."



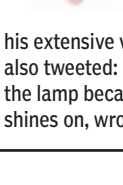
Veteran actor and politician **Raj Babbar** described Kumar as his ultimate "childhood hero". He tweeted: "You were the sole inspiration for me to get into films. From an Actor to an Institution you effortlessly crossed into Immortality decades ago. Today as you start your final journey let me say - never ever will there be another like you Sir. #DilipKumar."



South Indian actor **Prakash Raj** described Dilip Kumar as an actor who lived a full life. He tweeted: "A legend ... an inspiration ... thank you for living a wonderful life #DilipKumar ji. RIP."



Bollywood actress **Madhuri Dixit** paid tribute to the actor by looking back on her encounter with Kumar fondly. She claims that she was fortunate enough to interact with the star personally. She tweeted: "I was fortunate to have spent some time with him both on & off screen and I'll cherish those memories forever. Praying for the peace of his departed soul & my heartfelt condolence to the family."



Bollywood actor **Sunny Deol** described Kumar's absence as the 'end of an era' and said that the actor will always be missed.



Singer **Adnan Sami** posted a series of images where he is seen with Kumar in several stages of his life. He tweeted: "I admired him as an actor & respected him as he was my father's first cousin from Peshawar. Therefore I called him Yusuf 'Lala'. He was very loving to me. 'Khuda Paiman Lala Jan'."

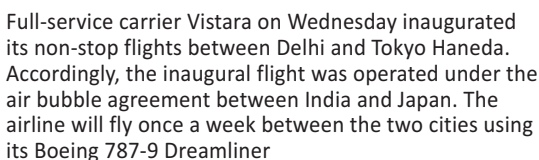
Indian actor **Manoj Bajpayee** hoped that Kumar would rest in peace. He tweeted: "No one like you! Have a great journey from here on Master. Rest in peace."

Suniel Shetty also felt that Kumar's death spelt the end of an era. He tweeted: "Today marks the end of an era, as we lost the brightest star of Indian cinema. You will always live in our hearts Dilip Sahab. Rest in peace."

Indian politician **Shashi Tharoor**, who is known for his extensive vocabulary, wrote that "immortals never die". He also tweeted: "Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only out the lamp because the dawn has come" #Dilip Kumar's work shines on, wrote Tharoor.



--- **Piyush Goyal, Union Minister**

THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021

Jairam Sridharan, CEO, Piramal Retail Finance, said: "The funds will be utilised for growing the retail business. Over the last year, we have launched a lot of new businesses in retail, including affordable housing, digital lending and used car financing."



Italy reach Euro 2020 final after penalty shootout against Spain

LONDON

ITALY qualified for the final of the European Championships after beating Spain in a dramatic penalty shootout at Wembley after 120 minutes of football had ended 1-1.

Although Spain keeper Unai Simon saved the first Italian penalty taken by Manuel Locatelli, Dani Olmo fired over for the Spanish and Alvaro Morata saw his spot kick saved before Jorginho calmly slotted home to send the Italians into the final on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

It was harsh on the Spanish, who played arguably their best football of the tournament and should have won the game in 90 minutes.

The only change made by Italy coach Roberto Mancini ahead of the game was to bring Emerson in at left back for the injured Leonardo Spinazzola, while Luis Enrique brought Eric Garcia for Pau Torres in defence, while Dani Olmo and Mikel Oyarzabal replaced Alvaro Morata and Pablo Sarabia, who has a muscle injury.



The Spain coach was clearly looking for greater mobility and a high line of pressure against an organised Italian defence and after an even opening five minutes, Spain took control by swamping Jorginho and Verratti with their midfield pressure.

Oyarzabal wasted the first chance to open the scoring when he mis-controlled Pedri's pass when clean through on goal.

Ferran Torres then shot wide and Del Olmo saw a shot well saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma, while Italy had a chance only for Barella to be crowded out with Spain keeper Unai Simon out of his ground.

Italy had controlled the ball in their earlier games and were clearly uncomfortable against Spain's pace and aggression.

They failed to manage a single

shot until Unai palmed away Emerson's effort in the 45th minute, while the Spanish will have been disappointed at not working Donnarumma more despite their dominance.

The second half started as the first ended with Di Lorenzo putting Olmo's cross out for a corner with Torres waiting to pounce, before Sergio Busquets fired just over after a pass from

Oyarzabal. At the other end, Unai got down well to save from Chiesa after a rare Italy break, before Oyarzabal's effort went straight at Donnarumma from outside of the area.

Chiesa put Italy ahead with a curling shot into the corner of the net in the 60th minute after Eric Garcia allowed him to cut inside and pick his spot.

Luis Enrique reacted quickly with Alvaro Morata and Gerard Moreno quickly on the pitch, but things looked to be going Italy's way as they took the pace out of the game until the 80th minute when Morata collected the ball in midfield, exchanged passes with Olmo and scored with a low finish.

In extra time, the impressive Olmo almost surprised everyone with a low free kick, with the ball ping around the area before bouncing out. Donnarumma then punched clear as Morata threatened to pounce. The second period of extra time saw little in the way of chances and the game went into the dramatic penalty shootout. (IANS)

Constable Naganathan: No thief can outrun this Olympic-bound athlete

VENKATACHARI
JAGANNATHAN
CHENNAI

NO ordinary thief can outrun this city police constable. If a thief outran this city police constable then one will have to conclude that the former is an Olympic Games material.

Meet the special police constable or 'police express' and the Indian athlete 25-year old P. Naganathan who is bound to Tokyo Olympics as a member of India's 4x400 metres men's relay team who has come up the hard way.

Born into a big and poor family, Naganathan used to work as a construction worker in his native town during weekends and school vacations while studying 10th standard.

"In a way it has helped me in my sporting career as I was able to gain stamina and power by lifting bricks and other construction materials," Naganathan mused.

The young tender shoulders not only bore the weight of the bricks and other materials but also the family that was in dire financial situation.

Naganathan's father Pandi was a construction worker and mother Pan-chavarnam, a homemaker.

During the major part of his school days, Naganathan used to run in races bare foot—even in the 1,500 metres race.

It was after making a mark in the inter-school/district meets he was presented with shoe spikes by his school and he got a shoe on his own.

Speaking about his coaches Naganathan said during his school days he was trained by Veeravel and while in college it was Sivabalan and Senthil.

After joining the police force, Naganathan is trained by coach Prabhakaran.

His sporting career be-

came a bit easy after he joined the PTMTM College where his physical training teacher and others helped.

After he joined the Tamil Nadu police force things started to ease fast.

Queried about his training schedule Naganathan said: "Normally I hit the police grounds in Chennai at 6 a.m. train till 8 a.m. Do the warm-up exercises, weights, running with shoe and other things."

Days before a competition, he does road races, increased weight lifting, full



races with spike shoes and also does power track - running about 80/90 metres pulling a weight plate.

"In movies you might have seen a hero pulling a huge tyre tied to his body before a big fight. Instead of tyres we do the weight plates as it is a synthetic track," he added.

Initially Naganathan would practice during the free time available after police duty. But after winning the medal in the All India Police meet, senior police officials have asked him to focus on his training.

Hopeful of India getting an Olympic medal this time in the 4x400 men's relay event, Naganathan said his next target will be to participate in Asian and Commonwealth Games individual events and think about tying the wedding knot four years latter.

Positive tests in England camp cast shadow on India's possible warm-up

LONDON

SEVEN positive tests in the England limited-overs squad due to play Pakistan from Thursday may cast a shadow on India's chances of getting a warm-up ahead of the five-Test series which begins next month. Both ECB, which was forced to overhaul its limited-overs squad, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told IANS on Wednesday that there is no update, development or change to the current plan with regard to India series following the positive tests in England camp.

It means that the ECB continues to mull India's request of a warm-up game prior to the five-Test series that begins next month -- from August 4 -- in Nottingham.

The Indian team had requested for a warm-up after the loss to New Zealand in the World Test Championship (WTC) final last month. Though initially the ECB had not planned any warm-up for the Indian team due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, it



had last week confirmed to IANS that it is looking into the request made by India.

"We are aware of a request from the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) to play a three-day warm-up match against a County Select XI as part of the Indian Men's Test team's build-up to the five-match LV-Insurance Test series," said an ECB official to IANS last week.

"We are working through the operations and Covid-19 protocols to ensure we are able to deliver

this and will confirm in due course," the official had added. There has been no headway on India's request as of now although it remains to be seen whether ECB will let any first-class player enter the bio-bubble and play practice tie against India especially in the wake of the positive cases in the England camp.

The Indian team is on a three-week rest period before it begins a camp in Durham from July 15. If ECB decides to organise a match for the Indian team against a County Select XI, it could take place within the next fortnight. The United Kingdom government is planning a return to a full house at sports and entertainment venues after the country reopens on July 19. England men's cricket director Ashley Giles had said on Tuesday that it is tough to strike a balance between staying safe amid a situation in which the country is opening and virus is spreading.

"We are seeing an almost-impossible situation as society opens and the virus is still spreading," he had said. (IANS)



Hockey great Keshav Chandra Datt passes away

NEW DELHI

INDIAN hockey great Keshav Chandra Datt, who was part of the country's golden era of the sport post-Independence, died on Wednesday morning. He was 95.

Datt was a formidable halfback and part of independent India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat Great Britain 4-0 in the final at the Wembley Stadium in London.

Before the 1948 Olympics, Datt had toured East Africa in 1947 under the leadership of hockey wizard Major Dhyani Chand.

Datt, born on December 29, 1925 in Lahore, was also part of the Indian team at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki where they beat the home team Netherlands 6-1 in the final to become Olympic champions for the fifth consecutive time.

Having moved to Calcutta in 1950, Datt also represented Mohun Bagan -- the most famous Indian club of that time in multiple sports.

In its condolence message, Hockey India president, Gyanendra Ningombam, said, "We are all very saddened to hear about the legendary halfback Keshav Datt's demise early this morning. He was the lone surviving member of the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games, and today truly feels like the end of an era."

"We all grew up listening to incredible stories of their memorable outings for independent India at the Olympics and they went on to inspire generations of hockey players in the country. Hockey India mourns his demise and on behalf of the federation I extend my deepest condolences to his family," said Ningombam. (IANS)

From the rough Kerala seas to Olympics, Antony has come a long way

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

HE was no kid born with a silver spoon, instead, what made 26 years old Alex Antony is the rough seas of the capital city's coastal village where he grew up in the midst of a tough life when his father, he and his younger brother eked out a living as fishermen.

Anthony will represent India in the mixed 4x400m relay after he clocked 47.83 seconds in the national trials held by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Overcoming all the hardships, Antony is all set to board the flight to Japan to take part in the Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to begin on July 23.

Anthony spoke to IANS over phone from NIS Pattiala and said that it was the passion to work hard and the tough life that has made him what he is today.

"I started as a footballer but when I reached Class X and shifted to the local government school at Kanjiramkulam, football was not available. I thank my first instructor, the school's physical education master Pradeep, who identified my athletic skills. Since then, I had no reason to look back," said Antony.

He soon started to concentrate on 400m and fine-tuned it in school and in college. In 2013, Antony won gold at the junior nationals and at the Inter-varsity athletic meet, he again

clinched the top position.

"Then when I was in the second year of graduation, I got selection in the Air Force as an airman and since then I have been working and hence I could not complete my degree," added Antony.

Since 2019, he has been training at the NIS Pattiala camp.

"I am confident that India will be able to qualify for the finals and we are doing everything towards achieving that. Our training has been going on well and we are doing our best," added Antony.

Antony said his father, a fisherman, took care of the family and right from his early days he and his younger brother, Anil Antony, have been helping their father.

"Today, our father is old and he is unable to go fishing every day... Anil goes fishing now. We all used to go together to the sea and it was a tough time, but that toughness has brought me laurels and hence am very happy," added Antony.

Their home close to the sea suffered extensive damage when strong winds blew away chunks of the tiled roof.

"Now my parents and brother have moved to a rented house and we have taken a small loan to renovate our house," said Antony.

As Antony departs for Tokyo on July 23, the tiny coastal village will pray for their son to do well. They will be glued to their television sets to see the 'fisherman' running, aiming to bring laurels to the country. (IANS)



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