

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 8 JULY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 36.5°C
Min: 24.5°C
RH: 95%
Rainfall: 11.6mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Light to moderate rains.
Max/Min temp. 35/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyeshtha Bahula Chaturdasi till 5.16 am (Friday)
Star: Mrigasira till 8.55 pm
Variyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 10.11 am to 11.03 am; 3.23 pm to 4.15 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 am to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Zeeqad 26,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.38 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm
Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrib: 7.01 pm
Isha: 8.17 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.53 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.44 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.44 AM
MOONSET TODAY 5.58 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

EX-MINISTER'S WIFE MURDERED IN DELHI

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

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

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

■ Full report on Page 4

SC asks status of info commissions

New Delhi: The SC directed the Centre and states to file status reports in four weeks on compliance with its 2019 verdict for time-bound filling up of posts of Information Commissioners at CIC and state panels under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The SC said the process must start two months before they arise.

Nandigram: Judge imposes ₹5L cost

Kolkata: Justice Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta High Court recused 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 ₹5 lakh.

■ Report on Page 4

IT rules: Portals not immune

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant any interim protection from coercive action to digital media portals as it adjourned their challenge to the new IT rules after being informed that a plea has been moved by the Central government to transfer them to the Supreme Court.

NATION | 4

Jaishankar meets new Iranian Prez



WORLD | 5

Haiti president assassinated at home

SPORTS | 8

Federer falls in Wimbledon quarters



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Kishan elevated to Cabinet rank

● Reddy is culture, tourism minister ● Cabinet rejig guided by UP elections

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

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

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

Later in the evening portfolios of ministers were announced with Mr Mandaviya getting the health portfolio, Anurag Thakur getting I&B as

● **ANURAG THAKUR** got I&B as well as sports and youth affairs, Hardeep Puri got petroleum, urban and housing, G. Kishan Reddy got culture, tourism and development of North-east, and Kiren Rijiju got law and justice.

● **JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA** got civil aviation ministry, which his father once had.

well as sports and youth affairs, Hardeep Puri got petroleum, urban and housing, G. Kishan Reddy getting culture, tourism and development of North-east, and Kiren Rijiju getting law and justice.

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

■ Page 4: Cooperation ministry for Amit Shah



Union minister G. Kishan Reddy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi on Wednesday.

12 ministers quit posts ahead of Cabinet rejig

New Delhi, July 7: Four senior Union ministers — Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — were among 12 ministers who resigned on Wednesday ahead of the cabinet reshuffle in the evening.

Besides them, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda, Labour Minister Santosh

Gangwar, Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Debasree Chaudhuri, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo also resigned.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaaarchand Gehlot had resigned after he was made Governor of Karnataka on Tuesday.

President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignations of 12 Union ministers, a Rashtrapati Bhavan Spokesperson said.

■ Page 4: Ex-ministers change Twitter bio

VARDHAN OUT DUE TO POOR COVID SHOW

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first big Cabinet shakeup in his second term government saw the departure of three big names — health minister Harsh Vardhan, I&B minister Prakash Javadekar and information technology and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The apparent mishandling of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic finally cost the "good doctor", Harsh Vardhan, his portfolio. Dr Vardhan submitted his resignation from the Union council of ministers ahead of Wednesday evening's swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The second wave of the pandemic, that claimed over one lakh lives, damaged the image of the Prime Minister and his government both nationally and internationally. The second wave also exposed simmering cracks in the health infrastructure and the failure of the administration to provide basic healthcare like oxygen cylinders.

■ Page 4: Vax crisis also hit Vardhan hard

Revanth vows to bring Congress back to power

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Amid much fanfare, Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy assumed charge as new Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president from outgoing president and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy here at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday.

Uttam symbolically assigned the charge to the new chief by handing over a flag. Revanth Reddy reached the state Congress headquarters in a huge rally after performing special pujas and special prayers at Nampally dargah.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy called upon the civil society to liberate the state from the clutches of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) government led by



A. Revanth Reddy takes charge of the Congress in TS. — S. Surender Reddy

Kalvakuntla family, which destroyed liberty and social justice of people.

"Only four members of Kalvakuntla family — Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, his son and minister K.T. Rama Rao, daughter and MLC K. Kavitha, nephew and minister T. Harish Rao — are dictating four crore people of Telangana state," he said.

Revanth Reddy came down heavily on Prime

● **UTTAM** symbolically assigned the charge to the new chief by handing over a flag. Revanth Reddy reached the state Congress headquarters in a huge rally after performing special pujas and special prayers at Nampally dargah.

● **HE CALLED** upon the civil society to liberate the state from the clutches of the TRS

Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and said misrule of BJP at the Centre and the TRS in Telangana adversely affected people. There was no concern about the life of common man for the BJP government, which increased the process of petrol and diesel making lives miserable, he said.

■ Page 2: Modi, KCR more dangerous than Covid-19

Special court sentences Danam to 6 months in jail

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The special court trying criminal cases against MPs and MLAs found on Wednesday that TRS MLA from Khairatabad, Danam Nagender and his driver Chutny Raju were guilty of voluntarily assaulting a man and convicted and sentenced them for six months' jail and a fine of ₹1,000.

If they default in paying the fine, they should undergo another month's imprisonment, said special court judge Varaprasad, who convicted the accused under section 323 of IPC.

On April 4, 2013, a case had been registered at Banjara Hills police station against Nagender, who was then a minister in the Congress government and his driver on a complaint from one Subba Rao.

According to Rao, he



Danam Nagender

stopped his vehicle before a traffic signal. Raju came in another vehicle had an altercation with him over stopping at the signal. Both went to the police station. Nagender came to the police station where the driver attacked Rao.

Based on Rao's complaint, a criminal case under sections 323 (assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC was registered against them.

● **IF THEY** default in paying the fine, they should undergo another month's imprisonment, said special court judge Varaprasad, who convicted the accused under section 323 of IPC.

● **AFTER TRIAL**, the judge held both guilty under section 323 of the IPC. They were acquitted of the charge under Section 506.

Driver Raju was mentioned as the first accused and Nagender the second accused.

After trial, the judge held both guilty under section 323 of the IPC.

They were acquitted of the charge under section 506.

However, the judge suspended the sentence for one month, giving them time to file an appeal against the conviction.

NEW PORTFOLIOS

● **NARENDRA MODI**, Prime Minister, All important policy issues; and portfolios not allocated to any minister

CABINET MINISTERS

● Rajnath Singh, defence
● Amit Shah, home affairs and cooperation
● Nitin Gadkari, road transport and highways
● Nirmala Sitharaman, finance; corporate affairs
● Narendra Singh Tomar, agriculture, farmers welfare
● S Jaishankar, ext Affairs
● Arjun Munda, tribal affairs
● Smriti Irani, women and child development
● Piyush Goyal, commerce & industry; consumer affairs, food and PDS; textiles
● Dharmendra Pradhan, education; skill development
● Pralhad Joshi, coal, mines, parliamentary affairs
● Narayan Tatu Rane, MSME
● Sarbananda Sonowal, Ports, shipping; and AYUSH
● Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, minority affairs
● Dr Virendra Kumar, social justice and empowerment
● Giriraj Singh, rural development, panchayati raj
● Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, civil aviation
● R.P. Singh, steel
● Ashwini Vaishnav, railways, communications; electronics and IT
● Pashu Pati Kumar Paras, food processing industries
● Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, jal shakti
● Kiren Rijiju, law & justice
● Raj Kumar Singh, power
● Hardeep Singh Puri, petroleum; urban affairs
● Mansukh Mandaviya, Health and Family Welfare; and chemicals & fertilizers
● Bhupendra Yadav, environment and labour
● Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, heavy industries
● Parshottam Rupala, fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying
● G. Kishan Reddy: Culture; tourism; development of North Eastern Region
● Anurag Singh Thakur I&B, youth affairs and sports

MoS (INDEPENDENT)

● Rao Inderjit Singh, Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning; and Corporate Affairs
● Dr Jitendra Singh, Science and Technology;

MINISTERS OF STATE

● Shripad Yesso Naik, Ports, Shipping; Tourism
● Faggansingh Kulaste, steel; rural development
● Prahalad Singh Patel, jal shakti, food processing
● Ashwini Kumar Choubey, consumer affairs, food and PDS; and environment, forest and climate change
● Arjun Ram Meghwal, parliamentary affairs, culture
● General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, road transport and highways and civil aviation
● Krishan Pal, power and heavy industries
● Danve Raosaheb Dadarao: Railways; Coal; and Mines
● Ramdas Athawale, social justice and empowerment
● Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, consumer affairs, Food and PDS; and rural development
● Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying
● Nityanand Rai, home
● Pankaj Chaudhary, finance
● Anupriya Singh Patel, Commerce and Industry
● S. P. Singh Baghel, Law and Justice
● Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Electronics and IT
● Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, agriculture
● Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, MSME
● Darshana Vikram Jardosh, textiles and railways
● V. Muraleedharan, MEA and parliamentary affairs
● Meenakshi Lekhi, MEA and culture

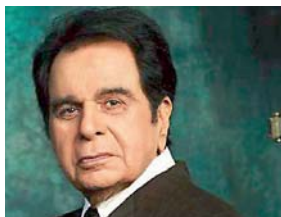
LEGENDARY | JOURNEY 'Tragedy king' given stately sendoff

Dilip's death 'unites' India, Pak

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

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

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



Dilip Kumar

and is survived by his wife, Saira Banu.

Khan, known simultaneously and, perhaps, prophetically, as India's Tragedy King and Nehru's hero, was given a solemn, stately send-off. Before his body was consigned to the earth, the Tricolour was draped around him.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and several Bollywood stars, including Shah Rukh Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Karan Johar and Vidya Balan, visited the actor's Bandra residence to pay their last respects.

Amitabh Bachchan attended the burial ceremony as a tearful Saira Banu looked on at the cemetery. The passing of Dilip Kumar, who was born in 1922 in Peshawar and named Mohammed Yusuf Khan, leaves yet another solemn milestone in the history of India.

It marks the end of an idea that died on the celluloid and off it long ago, but

whose aura and promise lingered in the life and works of Dilip Kumar, and in the hearts of many Indians. It was the idea of an India that was shaped on ground by Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar, but celebrated and reinforced on screen by India's film industry whose directors, writers and stars carried the sunshine and bounce of a newly-independent India with the pledge of a secular, socialist state when they hummed, *Suhana safar aur ye mausam haseen...*

■ Page 4: Bollywood's first Khan found at age of 19

TS owes tax worth ₹678 cr to GHMC

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has a big headache — to recover over ₹678 crore pending property taxes — that too from a defaulter against whom the civic body cannot do anything — the government of Telangana!

Officials of the property tax wing of the GHMC said a whopping ₹678.64 crore, out of a total ₹714 crore property tax dues, is owed by the government.

The Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief Minister's official residence, has pending dues worth ₹25,49,914 for the financial years

2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

The demolished Secretariat building was in default of a sum of over ₹100 crore property tax since 2014-15.

The prestigious D Block alone was a defaulter to the tune of ₹42 crore. According to official data collected from the GHMC sources, the state government has been allocating less than ₹32 crore per annum at a time when the actual property tax demand was ₹102 crore, on about 2,500 government buildings in the civic body limits.

■ Page 2: CM's office has to clear dues

SHORT TAKES

MANOJ NAMBURI,
BOMMIREDDY REAL
ESTATE LEADERSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Alliance Group & Urbanrise chairman and managing director Manoj Namburi and vice-chairman Suneel Bommireddy have been adjudged as among the top six real estate leaders in Hyderabad for the year 2020-21.

According to research findings of Asia One International Media House, the net worth of Manoj Namburi is ₹2,175 crore and his associate Suneel Bommireddy is worth ₹2,150 crore. They were placed at fifth and sixth ranks in terms of their net worth.

As the real estate sector played a major role in the nation's economy and GDP, Asia One conducted research to identify the top 50 movers of the real estate industry in India. The company, which is based in Bengaluru, is building 42 million square feet projects worth ₹24,000 crore. The projects, which at different stages of completion, are spread across Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mysore.

UNION CABINET
REJIGGED

FROM PAGE 1

- Ashwini Kumar Choubey: Consumer, PDS; and Environment
- Arjun Ram Meghwal: Parliamentary Affairs; Culture
- General (Retd.) V.K. Singh: Road, Highways and Civil Aviation
- Krishan Pal: Power and Heavy Industries

- Danve Raosaheb Dadarao: Railways; Coal; and Mines
- Ramdas Athawale Minister: Social Justice and Empowerment
- Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti: Consumer Affairs, Food and PDS
- Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry
- Nityanand Rai: Home Affairs
- Pankaj Chaudhary: Finance
- Anupriya Singh Patel: Commerce and Industry
- S.P. Singh Baghel: Law, Justice
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar: Skill Development; and Electronics, IT
- Sushri Shobha Karandlaje: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma: MSMEs

- Darshana Vikram Jardosh: Textiles; and Railways
- V. Muralaiah: MEA and Parliamentary Affairs
- Meenakshi Lekhi: MEA; and Culture
- Som Parkash: Commerce, Ind.
- Renuka Singh Saruta: Tribal
- Rameswar Teli: Petroleum and Natural Gas; Labour and Employment

- Kailash Choudhary: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Annpurna Devi: Education
- A. Narayanaswamy: Social Justice and Empowerment
- Kaushal Kishore: Housing and Urban Affairs

- Ajay Bhatt: Defence; and Tourism
- B.L. Verma: Development of North Eastern Region
- Ajay Kumar: Home Affairs
- Devusinh Chauhan: Communications

- Bhagwanth Khuba: New and Renewable Energy; and Chemicals and Fertilisers
- Kapil Moreswar Patil: Panchayati Raj

- Pratima Bhoumik: Social Justice and Empowerment
- Dr Subhas Sarkar: Education
- Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad: Finance

- Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh: MEA; and Education
- Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar: Health and Family Welfare
- Bishweswar Tudu: Tribal Affairs; and Jal Shakti

- Shantanu Thakur: Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai: Women, Child and AYUSH
- John Barla: Minority Affairs
- Dr. L. Murugan: Fisheries, I&B
- Nisith Pramanik: Home Youth Affairs and Sports

Heavy downpour floods many areas, disrupts power supply

IMD predicts cloudy sky throughout the day with rains in parts of Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

As rains, accompanied by heavy winds, continued to lash Hyderabad on Wednesday night, which went on till early Thursday morning, the state capital witnessed waterlogging, uprooting of trees and electricity poles being damaged, leading to massive disruption of power supply across the city for over 24 hours in many parts of Hyderabad.

Madhapur area experienced a total of 65.8 mm of rain, whereas the normal rain expected was 4 mm. On Wednesday morning, pleasant weather prevailed across most parts of the city. It remained sunny throughout the day with light rainfall in some parts of the city.

Several localities including Trimulgherry, Secunderabad, Kukatpally, Amberpet and Himayatnagar received maximum rainfall of 65.8 mm, followed by Moula Ali, which witnessed 59.5 mm rain. Serilingampally and Kapra areas too witnessed heavy rainfall.

According to the forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad, the city will witness cloudy sky throughout the day, accompanied by moderate to heavy rain at isolated places, for the next few days.



Roads in Secunderabad were inundated following heavy rain on Wednesday night. The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad saw continuous downpour which led to flooding of low-lying areas and power cuts.

— GANDHI

Rains could be more intense and widespread in some areas of the state with IMD forecasting very heavy downpours on July 11, July 13 and July 14. These showers may be vigorous enough to complete the monthly normal quota of rainfall. This will also break the jinx of making a poor start of monsoon in the July first week.

July and August are the rainiest months for Hyderabad with normal rainfall of 179.2mm and 207mm respectively. Telangana received a surplus of 45 percent rainfall so far in this season and the week ending June 30

recorded an excess of 33 percent. Hyderabad also received 17 percent above normal rainfall so far. A relatively poor start in July is likely to be compensated for in the wet spell between July 8 and July 14. Heavy rains are expected in some parts in the next 24 hours and followed up with a peak spell between July 11 and July 14.

The weather department also issued a three-day thunderstorm warning for several districts of Telangana. According to the IMD, heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in the dis-

tricts of Komaram Bheem - Asifabad, Mancherla, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Warangal (Rural) and Warangal (Urban).

According to TSSPDCL officials, heavy rain and winds damaged 686 feeders, out of which power supply has been restored in 708 feeders. Restoring power supply from the rest of the 15 feeders will be completed shortly, a senior official said late Wednesday night.

The primary reasons for the large-scale power

blackouts were floodwaters entering the 15 33/11 KV sub-stations, forcing the electricity authorities to shut them down to prevent any accidents. In some cases, the waters also reached up to the transformers in the sub-stations.

Yapral, Baghlingampally, Madhapur, Uppal and Charminar were among the worst affected areas, TSSPDCL officials said. During the past 24 hours, on Wednesday, officials said their control room received around 15,346 complaints. The other areas of the city that were also affected include Mehdiapatnam, Malakpet, Punjagutta, Indira Park, Ameerpet, and Sainikpuri.

"A total of 189 section wise disaster management wings consisting 25 members each are working on resolving the issues," a TSSPDCL official said.

Meanwhile, authorities advised people to be vigilant about power poles, transformers and wires where rain water is stored. TSSPDCL should be notified immediately if wires are found cut on roads or buildings or anywhere. In case of fluctuations in voltage, or power outages, it can be reported to the Special Control Room over 7382072104, 7 3 8 2 0 7 2 1 0 6, 7382072106, 7382071574 along with the 1912/100 / local Fuse Off Call office.

2 foreign firms to invest \$100 million in TS life sciences

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

In a big boost to the Telangana government's focus on the life sciences sector, Ivanhoe Cambridge, a subsidiary of the Canadian institutional fund manager Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) and Singapore-based asset management firm Lighthouse Canton, have committed to invest \$100 million (around ₹750 crore) to develop about 1 million sq-ft of lab space in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.

Genome Valley is India's first and largest cluster for life science research and development and clean manufacturing cluster housing over 200 life sciences companies. Telangana government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the cluster further.

A team from the firms — Leadership of Ivanhoe Cambridge and Lighthouse Canton — Chanakya Chakravarti, MD and head, Ivanhoe Cambridge India, Hare Krishna, senior director, Ivanhoe Cambridge India, Shilpi Chowdhary, CEO, Lighthouse Canton and Sanket Sinha, head, Asset Management, Lighthouse Canton; and head,

MN Park Portfolio — met Telangana Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao in virtual mode on Wednesday and made this announcement.

Ivanhoe Cambridge and Lighthouse Canton aspire to contribute to the growth of the R&D sector in Hyderabad, thereby creating more life sciences infrastructure over a period of time. The MN Park portfolio will receive investment from Ivanhoe Cambridge and Lighthouse Canton in an 80:20 ratio respectively.

Industries minister KT Rama Rao said, "I'm delighted to announce the entry of Ivanhoe Cambridge, Canada, in Genome Valley through MN park with an investment commitment of \$100 million for creation of about 1 million SFT lab space."

"This new investment in MN Park, Hyderabad allows us to reinforce our conviction in life science real estate, a key focus area of our diversification strategy into high growth, innovation-focused sectors", commented Chanakya Chakravarti, MD, India, Ivanhoe Cambridge.

"We anticipate that India and Hyderabad will further cement its position in the global life science

TS has no clue of sanctuaries

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The ongoing battle between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over sharing of Krishna river water has seen a flurry of letters from the two sides, each state pressing its case and accusing the other of wrongdoing.

At the heart of the latest dispute between the two states is AP going ahead with the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS) and expansion of the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator project, both downstream of the Srisailem dam.

Apparently having decided that anything that could be used as ammunition for stopping AP from going ahead with the projects, Telangana has accused AP of violating the wildlife and environment protection laws by pressing ahead with the two projects.

But in the process, and in a possible act of apparently misplaced enthusiasm that could well leave many in the Telangana government red faced —including Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao who is leading the battle to save TS interests in Krishna river — a letter written by Dr Rajat Kumar, the special chief secretary (irrigation) to the member secretary, expert appraisal committee, (river valley projects) in the ministry of environment and forests, indicates that the TS irrigation department has no clue about wildlife sanctuaries that belong to it.

The letter, written on July 5, pointed out — with a lengthy attachment (Annexure I of the letter) — how AP was in violation of wildlife and forest protection by taking up the two projects.

The letter pointed out how "several wildlife sanctuaries namely Rolapady, Gundla Brahm-eshwaram, Sri Lanka-malleswara, Sri Penusilla Narasimha (sic), Sri Rajiv Gandhi National Park (sic), and Sri Venkateswara exist within a 10km radius of the canals of the (RLIS) project" It included a newspaper report about a proposal to for a uranium mining project for Amrabad Tiger Reserve, which lies wholly in Telangana and is no way impacted by the two irrigation projects taken up by the AP government.

Inquiries with the Telangana government revealed that the uranium mining proposal in Amrabad Tiger Reserve report was possibly included as the irrigation officials might have been under the impression that Amrabad Tiger Reserve was still part of the Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Reserve (RGTR) of united AP.

After the bifurcation of the two Telugu states, RGTR was divided into two tiger reserves, with the part of the reserve that lies on the right bank of River Krishna going to Andhra Pradesh and becoming the Nagarjunasagar Tiger Reserve, while the portion of the reserve on the left bank of River Krishna came to TS and was renamed Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

MODI, KCR ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN

From Page 1

They (Modi and KCR) were more dangerous than Coronavirus, which damaged the lives of people, he added. Referring to some mythical characters in the Ramayana, Revanth Reddy accused Chandrashekar Rao of abducting "Telangana Talli" and keeping her in his farmhouse. "It is the need of the hour to free Telangana Talli from the clutches of KCR," he said. Though Chandrashekar Rao came to power by giving several promises to people, suicides by farmers, and fake encounters continued in his rule. Government job vacancies increased from 1.07 lakh at the time of formation of new state to 1.91 lakh now, he said.

Revanth Reddy said the Congress would work unitedly under the able leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and come back to power in 2023. "Congress activists should work hard for the next two

years reaching people at all villages, thanandas and towns to explain the ideology of the party," he said. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is looting the state in all fronts, destroying the lives of all including SC/ST, BC and minorities," he alleged. "People of Telangana fought against the Nizams' rule and Razakars for liberty, but we continued to experience misery in the united Andhra Pradesh," Revanth Reddy reminded, adding that Congress chief Sonia Gandhi granted Telangana state realising the decades-old dream of people.

Revanth Reddy thanked Sonia Gandhi for giving him the chance to serve that party as TPCC president and to work for the aspirations of four crore people in Telangana state. He suggested party activists not to raise slogans in favour of any individual leader, but all should work under Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to bring back the party into power.

19 minors rescued from factories

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Continuing the crackdown on child labour as part of Operation Muskan-VII, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Rachakonda police, along with Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Telangana, on Tuesday night rescued 19 minor children employed as labour in two manufacturing companies.

In a late night operation, police, BBA, and other stakeholders rescued 16 children, including 14 girls, employed as child labourers by Venkateshwara traders, which manufactures paper egg cartons at Damara village near Choutuppal mandal under Rachakonda police commissionerate.

All these children are from Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh.

● ALL THESE children are from Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh. Police shifted them to Bless Worth Christian Association premises for shelter.

After producing them before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairperson Jayasree of Yadadri district, police shifted them to Bless Worth Christian Association premises for shelter.

In another rescue operation, Rachakonda police and other stakeholders traced three minor girls working in godowns manufacturing sweets at Srinivasa Nagar in Abdulapurmet mandal of Hyderabad. Enquiries revealed that the girls are from Devarakonda village in Nalgonda district. They

have been produced before the area CWC and provided shelter in Don Bosco, Rangareddy district.

Cases have been booked under sections 370(5) IPC (Trafficking of persons), 374 IPC (Unlawful compulsory labour) and several sections of JJ Act.

Rachakonda commissioner of police Mahesh M. Bhagwat appealed to public that wherever they notice children employed in hazardous occupations, they must inform Child line number 1098, Dial 100 or message WhatsApp App No. 9490617111.

CM'S OFFICE
HAS TO CLEAR

From Page 1

During the financial year 2014-15, the first year after the formation of Telangana, the state government allocated ₹20 crore in its annual budget and released ₹20 crore. In 2015-16, the government allocated ₹22 crore and released only ₹11 crore.

In 2016-17, the amount provided was ₹24.20 crore but no amount was released, while in 2017-18, the amount provided was ₹29.04 crore and the amount released was ₹4.36 crore. Though the government allocated ₹31.94 crore in 2018-19, ₹10 crore in 2019-20 and ₹7.50 crore in 2020-21, it has not released a penny.

When asked about the year-wise individual property tax dues pertaining to government buildings within the GHMC limits, civic body authorities surprisingly said "it does not have any details". They advised this correspondent to file an RTI to get the information. However, this newspaper independently found out that the total property dues was about ₹714 crore.

The state government has paid only ₹35.36 crore property tax due and is yet to clear the remainder of ₹678.64 crore in the financial year 2020-21.

The GHMC data also revealed that the Pragathi Bhavan, with a property tax identification number 1170668303, door number 6-3-870/A, at the Khairatabad corporation office, has to clear ₹25,49,914.

TS to impose Clinical Establishments Act

VUJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 07

On repeated insistence from the Telangana High Court for stringent steps against private hospitals collecting exorbitant charges for Covid-related services, the state government on Wednesday informed the court it will soon invoke the Central Clinical Establishments Act 2020.

The law allows imposition of huge penalties and fines on hospitals that crossed the lines.

Director for Telangana state public health, Dr Srinivasa Rao explained before the court the steps taken by the government to manage the

Covid-related issues. He said the state would extend the central law for Telangana.

He said the state government had recovered around ₹1.05 crore from private hospitals that had charged more than what was allowed under the guidelines set by the government.

"We have received 593 grievances against 231 private hospitals for excess charging and most of the complaints have been resolved," he said.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Vijayen Reddy was dealing with PILs on Covid-related management. Senior counsel Ravich-

ander and Chikkudu Prabhakar brought to the notice of the court that the Telangana government had ended the services of 1,640 nurses working on outsource basis.

Ravichander also said the state government had promised to fill around 35,000 posts in various categories of medical and health departments. A counter-affidavit filed by the government was clueless about vaccination to the differently-abled persons, who are in the high-risk group.

On an earlier occasion, the Director of Health had given a word to the court that he would come with all the details about the vaccination.

DEADLINE | PROJECT

State government gets six weeks' time to reach conclusion

HC asks TS to take final call on OGH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

A division bench of Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy directed the state government to take a decision on construction of new buildings to house the Osmania General Hospital (OGH), in the present location.

The court gave the last chance of six weeks to the government to come up with the decision as to whether the existing structures within the OGH complex required to be razed,

fresh construction to be undertaken or the medical and health department would retain the existing structure and take up new construction.

The bench sought to know the government several times earlier. It also asked for the blueprint of the new OGH building along with Google maps. But it was not complied so far, other than seeking more time to take the decision.

On Wednesday, the bench decided to issue a show cause notice to the principal secretary of medical and health as to why the contempt of court proceed-

ing shall not be taken against him, for non-compliance of its orders.

Advocate General B.S. Prasad persuaded the court to give some more time to the health secretary as the entire health department was busy round-the-clock to ramp up medical infrastructure and health facilities in view of the rampant Coronavirus cases prevalent in the state. Taking note of the submissions of advocate general, Justice Hima Kohli dropped her decision of issuing show cause notice.

"The government does not believe in taking decisions

on time and if that be so, this court will pass an order directing it to take a decision on this issue," observed Justice Kohli. Adjourning a batch of PILs seeking a direction to the government to construct a new multi-storied building to house the OGH with all super speciality facilities in place of existing old dilapidated building, the court directed the Telangana government to take a final decision and share the blueprint of the site plan along with Google map of the hospital complex thereof with the court and file an affidavit to

this effect.

Some PILs were filed seeking to direct the government to not demolish the existing building of the OGH, which is a heritage building which has been protected under the provisions of the Telangana State Heritage (protection, preservation, conservation and maintenance) Act. However, the court told these petitioners, who raised objections to raze the existing buildings to let the government take a stand first and then the issue of whether to demolish the structure or not would be decided.



IN BRIEF

MLA Bajireddy bereaved

Nizamabad: Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan wife Bajireddy Shobha Rani died on Wednesday. She has been suffering from health problems, while undergoing treatment she was succumbed. The last rites will be conducted on Thursday 8.45 am at Sarojini Smashana vatika near IV town police station. Minister for roads and buildings V. Prashanth Reddy consoled the bereaved family members. MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha and other leaders will participate in last rites of Bajireddy Shobha Rani.

Farmers stage protest for money

Khammam: The farmers of Patharlapadu, Sitampet and Nagulavancha in Chintakani mandal staged dharna in front of the house of Kappala Upendar in Sitampet, who is not paying money to the maize lifted by him. The farmers sold maize worth ₹24 lakh to Upendar, who in turn supplied to Korlapati Vamsi.

HUZURABAD WIN A PRESTIGE ISSUE FOR BANDI, BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has a huge task ahead with the bypoll to Huzurabad is around, which also happens to be one of the Assembly segments in his Lok Sabha constituency.

After he was appointed as president of the state unit of the party, the BJP won Dubbak byelection and created a history in state politics. With the same spirit, the party fought Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections and grabbed 46 divisions out of the total 150 divisions. It was the second victory of the BJP after Sanjay took charge as president.

However, the party was defeated in Huzurnagar and Nagarjunasagar Assembly bypolls and it could not even retain its deposits. In the recent graduate MLC elections for Hyderabad and Nalgonda segments, the party was defeated and it lost its sitting seat of Hyderabad.

CM TO VISIT VASALAMARRI AGAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is all set to visit his adopted village Vasalamarri in Bhongir district again this week. Official sources said Rao was expected to visit the village in the next two or three days.

Accordingly, Bhongir district collector Pamela Satpathy on Wednesday visited Vasalamarri and reviewed the arrangements to be made for the Chief Minister's visit.

Rao visited the village three weeks ago on June 22 and hosted lunch for villagers. He had then directed officials to conduct door-to-door surveys of each house in the village and keep the survey reports ready by the time he visits the village next time. Rao will hold grama sabha with villagers and discuss the findings of the survey reports, it is learnt.

Elderly poor cheer Aasara at 57

7,171 applications for the scheme pending in Warangal Urban

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, JULY 7

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's announcement to give Aasara pension to those above the age of 57 from August this year is bringing cheer to the poor elderly. He had made the promise during the 2018 Assembly elections and it is finally turning into a reality after three years. About 20 thousand are going to benefit from this change in Mulugu and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts alone.

● The state is implementing the existing criteria to choose the eligible persons.

● The beneficiaries are going to be picked based on their date of birth on the voter ID card or the Aadhar card. The officials are working towards identifying the genuine beneficiaries and finalise the list by the end of this month.

Currently, 35,947 in Mulugu and 52,680 in Bhupalpally are benefiting from this scheme.

The state is implementing the existing criteria to choose the eligible persons. The beneficiaries are going to be picked based on their date of

birth on the voter ID card or the Aadhar card. The officials are working towards identifying the genuine beneficiaries and finalise the list by the end of this month.

The officials have worked on the list in 2019 itself but the scheme did

not come into effect during that year. No new beneficiaries were included in the scheme since 2018.

In the Warangal Urban district, 7,171 applications for the pension scheme are currently pending clearance. Once all the eligible persons are identified, the number of beneficiaries in this district could reach 1.5 lakh.

As the officials speed up the process to identify the beneficiaries, the poor elderly are looking forward to being able to find "Aasara" in their lives.

An elderly woman Parvathamma of Bhattupally village in Warangal Urban district expressed happiness over the development and thanked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for implementing the scheme. "Several poor people are going to benefit from this scheme. The pension amount will be useful to purchase my medicines without relying on my sons. I am very thankful to CM KCR for giving pension to those over the age of 57," she said.

LAYOUT PERMIT WITHIN 21 DAYS, SAYS COLLECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, JULY 7

Collector R.V. Karnan said that the real estate venture companies can get all permissions in 21 days after the submission of application. He said that the developers, who want to sell legal plots to their customers, can apply for permission for its layouts.

"There will be a district level committee headed by district collector and the developers can get permissions to all of its layouts in the limits of Sthambadri Urban Development Authority (SUDA), Khammam Municipal Corporation (KMC) and municipalities and gram panchayats," he said.

The illegal layouts will be considered seriously and stringent action will be taken against such developers. He said that the developers should not erect flexis and boards at the place of layouts without getting all permissions.

The developers should follow all the norms while venturing their layouts such as mortgage of some portion of land to the government, leaving open place in the layout and social infrastructure facilities like roads, drainage and drinking water provision and others. No permission will be given to the layouts near to the tanks and other water sources. No permission will be given to the layouts that were in assignment lands.

used to extend all possible help to the villagers following a procedure. Farmers have stored the fertilizers to apply to the plants but they lost them in havoc that was caused by the small tornado.

HELP MSME IN TS: KTR URGES CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Industries minister K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday urged union government to support the MSME sector in Telangana.

In a letter to union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, he said while incidence of Covid-19 is declining sharply in the country and there are chances of a modest economic recovery towards Q4 of this year, the MSME sector still requires support.

Rama Rao observed, "Looking at serious loss of business and declining revenues of MSMEs, it will be justified if there is a moratorium on loans availed by MSMEs till March 31, 2022; without accrual of any interest during the moratorium period."

He said such a support will provide a big relief for MSMEs and can help them get back to normalcy.

The minister pointed out that Hyderabad and its surrounding districts have been major hubs for manufacturing since past five decades, with a pre-dominance of MSME industries. But due to pandemic induced restrictions and disruptions since last year, MSMEs have been badly affected.

"Though Telangana government has not placed any restrictions on industrial activities during the second wave of pandemic, curbs in surrounding states have had a major impact on functioning of MSME industries in Telangana," he pointed out.

Green Telangana



Mayor Y. Sunil Rao distributing saplings to women at 59th division as part of Haritha Haram in Karimnagar on Wednesday. — YELABAKA RADHAKRISHNA

3 PERSONS DIE IN LIGHTNING STRIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 7

Three persons died after being struck by the lightning in separate incidents while they were working in the agriculture fields and taking shelter under trees in old Adilabad district on Wednesday.

Khamam Laxman, 35, and two cows died after being struck by lightning while he was taking shelter under a tree while it was raining in Kuchulapur in Boath mandal. Two persons were injured in the same incident and were shifted to hospital.

While Moharle

Purushotham, 23, died after being struck by the lightning in Sanghi village in Kerameri mandala in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

Madhavarao, 60, died after being struck by the lightning in Koloru village in Tanur mandal in Nirmal district.

Ten goats died after being struck by the lightning in Paradi village in Bela mandal. While two women suffered injuries after being struck by the lightning in Bharampur village in Talamadugu mandal in Adilabad district. The injured women were shifted to RIMS for treatment.

ITDA DISTRIBUTES UREA, DAP

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 7

The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Utnoor has extended help to the villagers of Mallapur in Indravelli mandal who lost everything in the small Tornado that struck the village a few days ago.

Along with other officials, ITDA Project officer Bhavesh Mishra visited the Mallapur village and distributed two bags of Urea and also two bags of DAP each to 95 families on Wednesday evening. Bhavesh Mishra prom-

● Villagers of Mallapur in Indravelli mandal lost everything in the small Tornado that struck the village a few days ago

● Two bags of Urea and also two bags of DAP each distributed to 95 families on Wednesday evening.

Podu land issue haunts TRS MLAs

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 7

The ruling TRS MLAs are grabbing on to the issue of podu cultivation as it seems to be great political fodder, and a potential vote bank, particularly in parts of old Adilabad district, apart from other areas of Telangana.

The TRS MLAs don't wish to forego the opportunity to grab votes and therefore, are supporting podu cultivators.

Meanwhile, forest officials are facing heat not just from cultivators but also political leaders who are supportive of the podu system.

Podu cultivation and issuance of pattas to genuine, eligible cultivators under the Forest Rights Act is a political decision, to be taken by the government in power.

It may be recalled that TRS leader and zilla parishad vice chairman Koneru Krishna was jailed, for allegedly attacking forest officials. BJP leader Palvai Harisha Babu was also jailed for 'provoking the podu land cultivator' and supporting them in Sirpur (T) Assembly constituency.

The podu land issue, however, seems to be haunting the ruling TRS MLAs and ministers as

the state government had delayed issuing pattas to such lands. To add to the pressure, opposition parties and its leaders were agitating against TRS MLAs and forest ministers Allola Indrakaran Reddy.

Some frustrated TRS MLAs are expressing their disappointment towards forest officials and have even criticised them for obstructing Adivasis and other tribals from cultivating podu lands at various places.

Godam Ganesh, district president of Thudumdebba, appealed to the state government to issue pattas to the podu lands which have

been cultivated for a long time by Adivasis, and apply Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima schemes and provide crop loans to podu cultivators. He said thousands of applications submitted by Adivasis requesting issuance of pattas to podu lands were pending with ITDA and forest officials in old Adilabad district.

While some TRS MLAs have been trying to project themselves as allies of podu cultivators, they have been unable to digest demands by opposition leaders, asking the government to issue patts to podu lands.

This issue has become a

TOP COP HOLDS MEET AHEAD OF BAKRID

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Hyderabad city Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar has organised a coordination meeting with other departments to discuss the preparatory arrangements with tri-commissioners in the city and concern department officials in view of the Bakrid Festival on July 20 and 21.

"There is more enthusiasm and public participation for the upcoming festivals. Bakrid is to be celebrated on July 21 and it is expected to be celebrated in a big way by the people. Proper coordination of Police, Road Transport Department are utmost important in all the Commission-nates and their neighbouring districts," said the police official.

Direct sowing is beneficial: Ajay

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, JULY 7

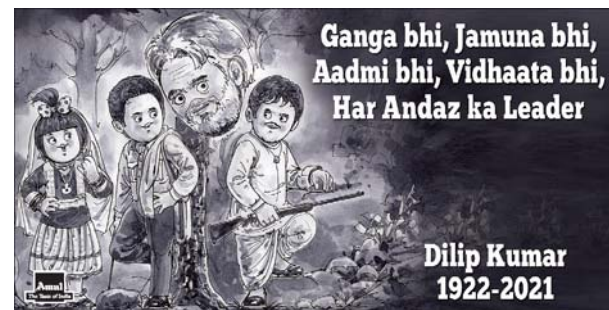
Minister for transport P. Ajay Kumar said that the farmers can reap more benefits from the direct sowing of paddy (DSP) instead of the present method of nursery plantation.

Firstly, they can reduce the use of paddy seeds by 18 kg per acre. The usage of paddy seeds per acre in the sapling plantation system is 25 kg and it is only 8 kg in direct sowing of seeds.

The minister said that the scientists proved that productivity is also high in the direct sowing system. The paddy can be produced three to five quintals more per acre in the DSP system. He said that in the conventional system the usage of

water is more like in raising nursery beds and plantation period. He said that many of the farmers are going to the new system and the government wants to encourage the system.

Ajay participated in the DSP system in Lalapuram in Wyra mandal on Wednesday. He said that the labour component in cultivating the crop will be reduced drastically in the system. Nearly eight to 10 labourers need to plant saplings in one acre. Only two labourers per acre are enough in the DSP system. It is a best method when agriculture facing labour scarcity. The problem will be more in the coming days when all the state governments introducing employment schemes.



GWMC waits for its commissioner

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, JULY 7

It has been three weeks since the former Commissioner of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC), Pamela Satpathy has been transferred and a full-time commissioner is yet to be appointed.

This is a challenging stage of the year for the GWMC with a lot of work-related to sanitation, flooding, measures to avoid seasonal diseases as it is the monsoon season.

The officials need to be alerted from time to time and the situation reviewed at every stage. In addition, several projects related to AMRUT, HRIDAY and Smart City Mission are ongoing.

At present, the Pattana Pragathi and Haritha Haram programmes are going on across the state.

Even though Warangal Urban Collector Rajeevgandhi Hanumanthu has been appointed as the

FAC commissioner, he is busy with his own duties. The lack of a full-time commissioner is evident in Greater Warangal.

During this time there is a need for a full-time officer to monitor the affairs of the municipal corporation which is the biggest in the state after GHMC.

The previous GWMC council's term has ended on March 14 this year. The former Commissioner Pamela got affected by Covid-19 during the GWMC elections. Just a few days after her return to duties, she got transferred. As a result, the development works have come to a halt for several months.

During the visit of municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao to Warangal before the GWMC elections, the foundation stones for several development projects were laid. All those need to be expedited. In addition to these, the works that were taken up by the new corporators also need to be executed.

Despite curbs, Hyd air rife with NO2

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The city's air is rife with Nitrogen dioxide (NO2). This is contrary to popular belief that the lockdown has helped improve the air quality, an analysis conducted by Greenpeace India Society has found.

Nitrogen dioxide pollution is known to cause damage to the human respiratory tract, cause asthma and make a person vulnerable to other respiratory infections. The study said there was growing evidence that polluted cities suffered disproportionately from coronavirus cases. Increased concentrations of NO2, Greenpeace said, were found not just in Hyderabad but across several cities in India during the current Covid19 pandemic.

The report published on Wednesday said: "In Hyderabad, nitrogen dioxide air pollution was 69 per cent higher in April 2021 than in the same month the previous year. A part of this difference is attributable to changing weather conditions. After removing the effect of weather, there is still an increase of 38 per

cent which is attributed to an increase in emissions."

After a year since the initial Covid lockdown went into effect, NO2 pollution has increased in eight Indian cities —Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Lucknow.

According to satellite observations, NO2 pollution in Hyderabad increased by 69 per cent between April 2020 and April 2021. The weather had only a little of the contribution to this change. 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 the previous year.

While there was an opinion that the weather conditions would abate the pollution, the result drawn out in the study showed that despite taking the weather conditions into account, NO2 pollution occurred. This was primarily due to changes in emissions, while weather influence was only of secondary importance in most places," it said.

FORMER HYD MAYOR MAJID HUSSAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Former Hyderabad mayor Majid Hussain, who is now a corporator from the Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mehdiapatnam division, was booked by the Banjara Hills police on Wednesday for obstructing police officials from doing their duty.

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SHORT TAKES

BOLLYWOOD'S
FIRST KHAN FOUND
AT AGE OF 19

From page 1

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

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

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

Kumar, who had impeccable Urdu and Hindi diction, remains a daunting, revered presence in the Indian film industry not just because of the awards and accolades he received for his acting, but because with almost every role he played, he created a template for that character.

From prince Salim defying his father for a *kaneez* (in K. Asif's *Mughal-e-Azam*) to the dacoit Ganga (*Ganga Jamuna*, which he wrote), from the despairing, alcoholic lover Devdas to the trade union leader Sagina (*Sagina Mahato*), from the principled cop in *Shakti* to the role of separated-at-birth twin brothers *Ram Aur Shyam*, there is little left in that he hasn't covered.

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

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

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

Kumar, who worked with the stalwarts of Indian cinema — from Mehboob Khan and Bimal Roy to B.R. Chopra and K. Asif, giving Indian cinema its stunning magnum opus (*Mughal-e-Azam*) that remains unrivalled to date in its grandeur, scale and perfection — ended his acting career playing angry old men disappointed over crime passing without punishment.

A devout Muslim, and amongst those who chose to stay in India after Partition, Dilip Kumar was well-read, eloquent, played chess and bridge, played the sitar, the violin and took active part in the building of Nehru's India.

Along with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand, he would participate in fundraising drives for war widows and flood relief where, often, along with money, fans would hand him a comb to tame his incorrigible *zulfain*.

He was also called upon to campaign for V.K. Krishna Menon in the 1962 Lok Sabha elections, and was later appointed the Sheriff of Mumbai, a stint marred by his long absences from Mumbai. Amul went to town with “The Sheriff is out shootin” posters.

On and off screen Kumar carried the idea and ideals of Nehru's modern, secular India with impeccable grace and candour, and that's why the news of his secret second marriage to Asma Rehman was shattering for many. What was even more shocking was that when the story broke in 1981, his wife Saira, 22 years his junior, was clueless, though Asma had been living with Kumar's sisters across the road from his and Saira Bano's house on Pali Hill.

This, however, was not the first time his personal life had made it to the gossip columns. Kumar's affair with a married Kamini Kaushal was much talked about, as was his romance with Madhubala that began with her presenting a rose to him on the sets of *Mughal-e-Azam* and ended in a courtroom drama where he declared his love for her.

But all these scandals faded from public memory and Kumar's demigod stature was resurrected, in some part because of his wife's unstinting support, but mostly because of the love of fans for the thespian.



President Ram Nath Kovind, First Lady Savita Kovind, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in a group photograph with the newly sworn-in Council of Ministers, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

Newly set up Cooperation ministry for Amit Shah

NDA has 27 OBC ministers, 12 SCs, 8 STs, 11 women, 5 minorities, 21 other castes

From page 1

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

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

Minister Modi to end battles on a thousand fronts that were leading to more criticism than serving any purpose.

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

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

Ally Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel, who was an MoS in the last government and whose meeting with the Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi ahead of last Lok Sabha polls is

said to be the reason for keeping her party out of the NDA government till now, also made it to Team Modi as an MoS. But her inclusion has left another ally from UP, Nishad Party, agitated. Another significant induction is that of Udupi-Chikmagalur MP, Shobha Karandlaje, who is considered close to Karnataka Chief Minister and Lingayat strongman B.S. Yeddiurappa. The Karnataka BJP is abuzz with rumours of a leadership change as voices of dissent are growing against the 78-year-old CM.

With Nishank resigning, Uttarakhand, another state that's going to have polls soon, has been represented by Naintal-Udhamsingh Nagar MP, Ajay Bhatt in Team Modi. In the current Council of Ministers, defense minister Rajnath Singh and minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi are the only two who had also served in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Five representatives fr-

om Northeast, including Sarbanand Sonowal from Assam, Kiren Rijiju from Arunachal Pradesh, Ramswar Teli from Assam, Pratima Bhoumik from Tripura and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh from Manipur are now part of the NDA government.

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

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

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

From West Bengal, which earlier had two ministers — Debashree Chaudhuri and Babul Supriyo — now four members (Nishiith Pramanik, Shantanu Thakur, John Barla and Subhash Sarkar) are part of the NDA government. While Shantanu Thakur is from the Matua community, Mr Pramanik is from the Rajbangshi community.

Former ministers change Twitter bio

From page 1

In all, six Cabinet Ministers, one Minister of State (Independent Charge) and five Ministers of State have resigned.

After resigning, some of them changed their social media profile to reflect the change in status with Prasad's Twitter bio, saying 'Member of Parliament from Patna Sahib Lok Sabha, Bihar' and 'BJP worker', while Javadekar's profile stated 'Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha'.

Law and IT minister Prasad's resignation comes amid a row between micro-blogging platform Twitter and the government over various issues, including compliance with the new IT rules.

The resignations come after Prasad and I&B minister Javadekar announced sweeping regulations for social media firms like Facebook and Twitter, OTT

players as well as digital media.

Health Minister Vardhan, whose handling of the Covid-19 crisis had drawn flak from the opposition parties, resigned from the Union Council of Ministers, official sources said.

Vardhan, a doctor himself, had been in charge of the health ministry as well as the science and technology ministry as the Covid pandemic broke and then India worked to develop vaccines.

However, his various comments in the middle of the crisis were slammed by many as insensitive and ignorant of the ground reality, even as he strongly defended the government's handling of the situation.

Vardhan had also hit out at the Opposition for its criticism of the government on the handling of the pandemic, often accusing former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi of politicising the pandemic crisis.

HC judge imposes ₹5L cost on Didi

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 7

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

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

He observed: “The calculated psychological offensive and vilification adopted to seek recusal need to be firmly repulsed, and a cost of ₹5 lakhs is imposed upon the petitioner. Such cost should be deposited with the Bar Council of West Bengal

within two weeks from date, and upon such deposit, the Bar Council shall set aside the amount for the families of the advocates who had succumbed to the Covid-19.”

The judge noted: “I have no personal inclination to hear out the case of the petitioner. I had no hesitation in taking up the case either. It is my constitutional obligation and duty to hear out a case assigned to me by the Chief Justice neutrally and dispassionately. I have, however, decided to recuse myself from this case for a different reason. The imbroglio stemmed from the inception of the litigation was due to the assignment of this case before this bench.”

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

Vax crisis hit Vardhan hard

from page 1

The vaccine crisis in the early phases of the second wave also hit Dr Vardhan hard. If the devastating Covid-19 second wave cost Dr Vardhan his job, the Twitter controversy over the new information technology rules sealed Mr Prasad's fate.

Sources also said that the attempts to regulate the OTT platforms boomeranged for Mr Javadekar. While Dr Harsh Vardhan was reportedly told to put in his papers a day before the reshuffle, the move to drop him caught Ravi Shankar Prasad by complete surprise. The sources said Mr Prasad was sitting with some people in his office when he received “the call” at around 12 noon today. The mood in the room immediately changed and Mr Prasad swiftly “left for home”.

Armed with the new IT guidelines, Mr Prasad had set out to discipline the social media, particularly Twitter.

Following the farmers' movement and the alleged “misuse” of the so-called toolkit, the Indian government had virtually locked horns with Twitter. The situation with the micro-blogging platform led to Mr Prasad's account being temporarily blocked for a few hours, allegedly over complaints of a violation of the US Digital

● WHILE DR HARSH Vardhan was reportedly told to put in his papers a day before the reshuffle, the move to drop him caught Ravi Shankar Prasad by complete surprise.

Millennium Copyright Act.

Speculations is rife that information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar had to go as complaints from the film industry poured in after he tried to regulate OTT platforms. Mr Javadekar had claimed that he received complaints that two Amazon Prime shows — *Tandav* and *Mirzapur* — had “hurt religious sentiments”. However, sources close to Mr Javadekar denied that this was the reason for his removal but did not give any further details.

As the Covid-19 situation worsened in India, the health ministry kept getting embroiled in controversies one after another. Dr Harsh Vardhan came under severe criticism from within the party and outside when he went after former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. On April 18, the former PM had written a letter to Prime Minister Modi suggesting a few changes to the country's vaccination strategy.

Remembering Stan Swamy



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

SHOCKING | CASE

Kitty Kumaramangalam was 67 years old and a lawyer

Wife of late Union minister murdered

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

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

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

Affairs on contract basis.

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

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

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

Based on preliminary investigation, it is suspected that the washerman had come to the house around 9 pm on Tuesday night, and when the house help opened the door, he overpowered her, dragged her to a room and restrained her.

He also tried to loot her ring. During the process, she was also beaten up while trying to restrain and sustained bruises on her neck, knees and face, they said. Rakesh and Suraj entered the house in the meantime and smothered Kumaramangalam with a pillow, the police said.

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

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

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh said, “We

received a PCR call at around 11 pm on Tuesday. Teams were formed and the washerman was arrested from his residence. Based on his disclosure, one of his associates, Rakesh Raj, has also been arrested while our teams are working to nab the third accused in the case.

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

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

The body has been handed over to the family.

6 MIGRANTS FROM PAK GET INDIAN CITIZENSHIP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JULY 7

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

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

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

ROCKETS TARGET
BASE HOSTING US
TROOPS IN IRAQ

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

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

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

POPE HAD SEVERE
NARROWING OF
HIS COLON

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

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

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

27 KILLED IN
PROTESTS, SAYS
ESWATINI MIN

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

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

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

11 HARASSED TEEN
WHO DAMNED
ISLAM, CONVICTED

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

The verdict came in a trial in Paris that was the first of its kind since France created a new court in January to prosecute online crimes, including harassment and discrimination. The court sentenced the defendants to suspended prison terms of four to six months and fined them about \$1,770 each. Social networks are the street. When you pass someone in the street, you don’t insult them, threaten them, make fun of them, the presiding judge, Michel Humbert, said. What you don’t do in the street, don’t do on social media. The teen at the center of the landmark cyberbullying case, who has been identified publicly only by her first name, Mila, testified last month that she felt as if she had been condemned to death.

Europe decries
Iran nuke move

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

Return to Vienna
for talks, says US

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

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

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

Among other things, Tehran has started enriching uranium to well above the purity allowed under the agreement. It has also been spinning advanced centrifuges, producing uranium metal and stockpiling more uranium than allowed.

Uranium metal can also be used for a nuclear bomb, and research on its production is specifically prohibited under the nuclear deal. The IAEA already said in February that its inspectors had confirmed that Iran has begun the production of uranium metal.

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

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

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

— AFP

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

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

— AP

Afghan govt team meets
Taliban in Tehran: Iran

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

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

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

Taliban attacks
provincial capital

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

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

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

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

— AFP

Lanka gold coin on
China party century

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

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

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

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

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

— AFP

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

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

attack was “shocking and inconceivable”.

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

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

Het Parool daily newspa-

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

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

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

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

— AFP

Ever Given cruises Suez Canal



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

— AFP

Haiti Prez Moïse assassinated

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

Claude Joseph, the interim prime minister, confirmed the killing and said the police and military were in control of security in Haiti, where a history of dictatorship and political upheaval have long stymied the consolidation of democratic rule. While

the streets of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, were quiet Wednesday morning, some people ransacked businesses in one area. The country appeared to be heading for fresh uncertainty ahead of planned general elections later this year.

Moïse, 53, had been ruling by decree for more than a year after the country failed to hold elections and the opposition demanded he step down in recent months. Former President Michel Martelly, whom

Moïse succeeded, said he was praying for first lady Martine Moïse, calling the assassination “a hard blow for our country and



Jovenel Moïse

for Haitian democracy, which is struggling to find its way.”

Joseph said Martine Moïse, 47, was shot and in

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

“Democracy and the republic will win.” In the statement, Joseph said some of the attackers spoke in Spanish but offered no further explanation. He later said in a radio address that they spoke Spanish or English. A resident who lives near the president’s home said she heard the attack.

— AP

Career Chronicle

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*Candidates can appear for the Interview on the same day with Application

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Company Secretary/ KRCL

WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION

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

Dutch scribe fighting for his life after shooting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dutch media reported Wednesday that De Vries,

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

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

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

— AFP

DECCAN
Chronicle

8 JULY 2021

Huge relief, reset by CBSE
may help students reboot

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

The idea may be to distribute the stress of exams and to get the students accustomed to taking exams in their stride while also splitting the syllabus to bring down the burden. The continuous recording of internal

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

assessment scores rather than just one annual score is likely to help students get over the vagaries of an academic year. Any number of unknown factors may crop up in a sweeping reform, particularly about the authenticity of exam results if they are to be held in online mode with students taking the exam at home in case the pandemic forces the postponement of operating exam centres. The semester system might also allow students some time to take on additional study for entrance tests to professional courses. The elimination of rote learning that used to dominate student methods in taking the single big exam as a determinant of their marks would be the greatest contribution to the Indian system of assessing student merits in exams. The system is burdened right now with ratifying the marks that schools will be giving their students for the previous academic year. Tackling the anomalies likely to crop up is going to be a challenge, as schools would certainly try to favour their students in internal assessment marks. What the reform promises is a vision that will take everyone beyond last academic year's fiasco in which the exams could not be held at all. All students have suffered from the inadequacies of online teaching and learning for a whole academic year now when the inequities of India's patchy Internet coverage were most evident across the urban-rural divide.

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

Bollywood's first Khan

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

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

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

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

At home he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, given a Rajya Sabha nomination, and in Pakistan he was accorded a state welcome

and graced with the highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz, in 1998 that he accepted after consulting the then Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

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

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
EditorK. SUDHAKAR
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DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswarani Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalpalay Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka BabuGroups of babus
play smoke and
mirrors ahead of
2022 polls in UP

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

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

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

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

CBDT APPOINTMENT RAISES
MORE QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

CAUGHT BETWEEN CM AND
HM, DGP WANTS OUT

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

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

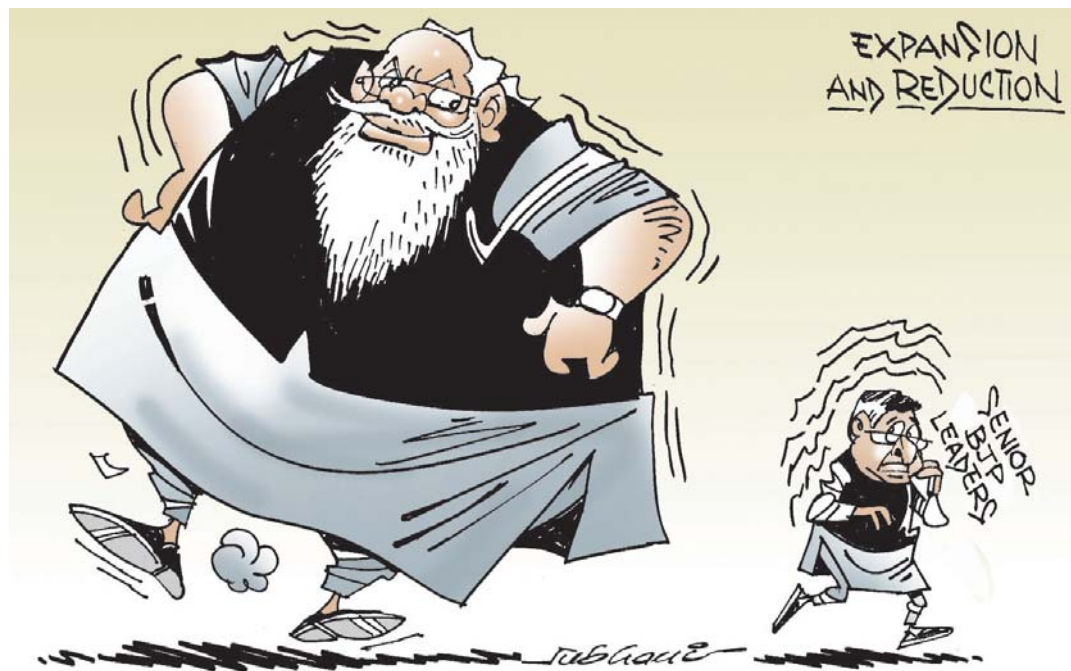
ing 15 years with the IB. The 1988-batch IPS officer has apparently written to additional chief secretary (home) Rajeev Arora seeking repatriation to IB and resume his old post of additional director.

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

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

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani

India-China peace: Who
will take the first step?Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Someone has to take that first step.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

BEER PRICES

Boosting liquor sales will have a negative impact on the health of individuals, especially in Telangana state where almost everyone drinks alcohol (*Beer price to be cut by ₹10 to boost demand, DC, July 6*). This decision during the pandemic when people are immune compromised, may prove detrimental as it will be against individual's right to health. I request the government to cut petrol prices instead by ₹10 per litre, which will improve health.

Dr C. Anjali Devi
Hyderabad

EMERGENCY BAIL

The BJP which was always condemns the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi is silent about the treatment of Stan Swamy. The "Achhe din" of the BJP does not seem less than the Emergency. Fr Swamy's medical condition should have been taken into consideration to grant bail.

Dr Mohammed Abdul Muejeeb Siddiqui
Hyderabad

POWER GAMES

Once again it is proved that party ideologies and loyalty will not help secure positions and power in politics (*BJP leader likely to be inducted into new Modi Cabinet, July 7, 2021*). Jyotiraditya Scindia is being rewarded for backstabbing the Congress. This is the state of affairs in Indian politics.

P.J. David
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN
ChronicleKissinger, PM talk
on 'US arms to
Pakistan'

NEW DELHI, JULY 7.

India's serious concern about the continued arms supply by the United States to Pakistan, even after the revolt in Bangla Desh, was conveyed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to President Nixon's Adviser on National Security affairs, Dr. Henry Kissinger when he called on her today.

Mrs. Gandhi reportedly pointed out that any argument that "the impact of these supplies will be militarily marginal" was fallacious. She said "the political weight" of any such arms deliveries would be much more than its military significance.

quick BITES

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

* As of 8:30 PM IST

RBI notifies retail inclusion in MSME category

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

Chinese nationals step down from Paytm board



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

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

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

Nucleus Software to hire over 500 engineers this yr

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



Pre-quarterly updates cheer market

Sensex closes above 53K pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JULY 7

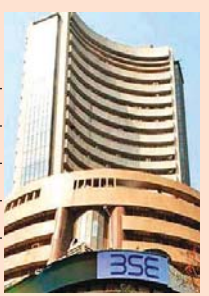
The Sensex closed above the 53000-mark for the first time in history on Wednesday. The benchmark index gained 193.58 points, or 0.37 per cent, to close at 53,054.76 after touching a high of 53,105.41, but below an all-time intra-day high of 53,129.37.

Foreign portfolio investors turned net buyers after recent selling by Rs 532.94 crore, which seemed to have triggered buying, though domestic institutions remained net sellers by Rs 231.80 crore.

"Sentiments were positive on account of receding fresh Covid cases, vaccination progress, strong May core sector data, improved traction in overall economic momentum in June indicating healthy

SENSEX TRENDS IN 2021

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



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

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

Property sales, supply pick up in June

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JULY 7

Despite a slump in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY22), the real estate sector saw signs of recovery in June, with sales and supply rising.

About half the sales in Q1 took place in the month of June, as states started opening up after the localised lockdowns, says a report by PropTiger.com.

"Both demand and supply were hit during the first two months (of Q1)

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

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

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

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

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

K. J. BENNYCHAN
MUMBAI, JUL 7

The primary market is set for a bumper Rs 80,000-crore bonanza with 30 companies already filing IPO papers to raise Rs 55,000 crore, while around 10 more are lined up for this month itself, seeking to mop up another Rs 25,000 crore, say investment bankers.

The market has been on a non-stop rally, hitting new records almost every week, on the back of an influx of investors—a vast majority of them first-timers—coupled with a flood of liquidity.

The year saw over 20 million new investors coming to the market.

Having already raised Rs 27,426 crore from 22 issues so far this year, 2021 is set to be a record year for fundraising through initial public offerings (IPOs).

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

Some of the leading issues in the March quar-

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

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

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

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

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

DARK EDITIONS OF ALTROZ, NEXON LAUNCHED

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, JULY 7

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

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

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

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

DEPT. OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MOVES TO FINANCE MINISTRY

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

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

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

The finance ministry will now have six departments.

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

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

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

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

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

Buyers seek full Saudi oil supply despite price hike

SHARON CHO
JULY 7

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

— Bloomberg

Goyal pitches for Indo-Pacific services pact

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

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

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

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



Piyush Goyal

such as artificial intelligence," he said.

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

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

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

Covid claims 22 million jobs in major economies

LIBBY CHERRY
JULY 7

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

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

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

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

opportunities for lower-skilled workers.

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

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

find their way back into the workforce.

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

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

— Bloomberg

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

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

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

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

UpGrad earmarks \$250 mn for deals

SARITHA RAI
JULY 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

UpGrad was founded in

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

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

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

— Bloomberg

EVER | RICH

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

Jeff Bezos hits wealth record of \$211 bn

SCOTT CARPENTER & SOPHIE ALEXANDER
JULY 7

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

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

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

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



Jeff Bezos

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

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

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

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

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

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Hockey icon Datt passes away at 95

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

Shafali and Sneha in race for ICC award

Dubai: India's teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and all-rounder Sneha Rana were on Wednesday nominated for ICC women's 'Player of the Month' award for June following their standout performances in the ongoing series against England. Besides the Indian duo, England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone has also been nominated for the honour in the women's category. The nominees among the men are New Zealand batsman Devon Conway and pacer Kyle Jamieson along with South Africa wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock. The 17-year-old Shafali, who had already impressed everyone in the shortest format of the game, made a stunning Test debut against England and was named Player of the Match in the Bristol match. — PTI

KL climbs to 6th position in ranking

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

Test Mace to go on tour in N. Zealand

Auckland: The victorious Black Caps squad will carry their ICC World Test Championship Mace on a week-long, nationwide tour of the country, starting July 26, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday. Kane Williamson and company won the inaugural WTC final, beating India by eight wickets in Southampton in a thrilling contest last month. The tour is set to start in Whangarei on July 26 and will cover Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill throughout the week. "It's quickly become apparent that Kiwis want an opportunity to be part of, and to share in this historic achievement," NZC chief executive David White said. — PTI

Paul powers Suns to lead in finals

Phoenix: Chris Paul waited 16 years to get to the NBA Finals, bringing with him a team starving for their first championship. The setting was entirely new. The performance was same of Chris Paul. "Just knew he's ready," Phoenix forward Mikal Bridges said. "He's prepared his whole life for this moment and it shows out there on the court." Paul had 32 points and nine assists in an NBA Finals debut that was well worth the wait, Devin Booker scored 27 points and the Suns beat the returning Giannis Antetokounmpo and his Milwaukee Bucks 118-105 on Tuesday night in Game 1. Paul scored 16 points during a sensational third quarter that had Phoenix fans who waited 28 years to see the NBA Finals again screaming in delight. — AFP



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

— UEFA

THIS IS ITALY

Azzurri in final; slow Spain finally pay penalty

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

Italy were not always on top though, with Spain the better side for long spells of an epic contest before Federico Chiesa, the Juventus forward, gave Italy the lead with a fabulous finish an hour into a match watched by a crowd of almost 50,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is nine years since

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

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

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

WE'LL BE BACK, SAYS BUSQUETS

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

"It's a shame, we

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

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

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

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

— AFP

COPA | AMERICA

Argentina set up Brazil showdown

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

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

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

Two years ago a Brazil team missing the injured Neymar knocked out Argentina in the semi-finals before winning their ninth Copa title on home soil. For Messi, 34, time is running out to win a first major international title with his national team, having previously lost in three Copa finals and the 2014 World Cup final.

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

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

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

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

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

"We said it the first day, we want to play the final and what better than playing Brazil on their pitch." Despite the defeat, Colombia coach Reinaldo Rueda was feeling positive, saying their performance "invites us to dream, to think, we're on the right path."

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

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

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

Sreenidhi in football league



K. Rama Mohana Rao, IAS, chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust releases the team jersey during the launch of Sreenidhi Football Deccan Club (SDFC) flanked by SFC executive director K. Abhijit Rao (left) and Dr K. T. Mahhe, chairman of Sreenidhi Educational Group, in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. SDFC will represent Vizag in the All India Football Federation's I-league.

Roger: Over and out?
Federer crashes out to cast doubt on future

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

Federer, the 20-time Grand Slam title winner who turns 40 next month, lost 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 to a player 15 years his junior.

It was only the eight-time Wimbledon champion's 14th defeat at the tournament in 119 matches and his first straight sets loss since an opening round exit against Mario Ancic in 2002.

Federer turns 40 next month and never was able to summon the serving and shot-making that have carried him to 20 Grand Slam titles overall. Hurkacz is a 24-year-old from Poland who had not made it past the third round at any major tournament until this one.

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

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

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

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

Djokovic became only the third man to capture all four majors more than once with his second French Open victory last month. Now he is halfway to becoming the first man in the Open Era and only the third in history to complete a calendar Grand Slam of all four majors.

"I'm aware of certain stats, I love this sport



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

— Wimbledon

with all my heart, body and soul and have been devoted to it since I was four," he said.

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

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

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

The world number 48, bidding to become the first Hungarian man since 1948 to make the semi-finals at Wimbledon, saved five set points. However, the rear-guard action was too late to prevent the champion edging ahead.

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

Djokovic had spent three hours fewer than the muscular Fucsovics in getting to the last-eight and his freshness showed when he crucially broke in the first game of the third set and then fought off two break points in the sixth.

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

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

SANIA-BOPANNA KNOCKED OUT

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

three-set defeat in the stop-start mixed doubles third round. The contest resumed with the 14th seed pair of Jean-Julien Roger and Andreja Klepac having a one-set lead and they finished on the right side of the result with a 6-3, 3-6, 11-9 scoreline.

Mirza has not played much competitive tennis post her comeback and is struggling to get her serve right. Serving to stay in the match at 5-6 in the decider, Mirza managed to hold after a few anxious moments.

— Agencies

Results: Men: Quarter-finals: Hubert Hurkacz (Pol x 14) bt Roger Federer (Sui, x6) 6-3, 7-6(7/4), 6-0; Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Denis Shapovalov (CAN x10) bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x25) 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

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