

# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 1 JULY 2021

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## WEATHER

Max: 34.7°C  
Min: 24.2°C  
RH: 46%  
Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Moderate rain. Max/Min  
temp. 34/24°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Jyeshta Bahula Saptami till 2.06 pm  
Star: Uttarabhadra till 3.49 am (Friday)

Varijyam: 12.22 pm to 2.05 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 10.09 am to 11.01 am; 3.22 pm to 4.14 pm

Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 19,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.36 am

Zohar: 12.30 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm

Maghrub: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.17 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.45 AM

MOONRISE TODAY NA

MOONSET TOMORROW 11.50 AM

COUNTER POINT



I will surely get a Cabinet berth this time... my state goes to polls!

## SHORT TAKES

**3 more drones**  
spotted in J&K

**Srinagar:** Three more flying objects, possibly drones, were spotted over strategically important areas of Jammu on Wednesday. Security forces opened fire at them following which they withdrew, officials said. The unnamed officials quoted by news agencies said the drones were seen hovering over Miran Sahab, Kaluchak and Kunwanji in Jammu where several military bases and sensitive installations are located.

■ Full report on Page 4

**Ex-US def secy**  
Rumsfeld dead

**Washington:** Donald Rumsfeld, controversial US defence secretary and architect of the Iraq war, died on Wednesday, days before his 89th birthday, his family said. Rumsfeld, who served in the Republican administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford and George W. Bush, oversaw the Pentagon's response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He oversaw the Pentagon's response and its initial attack on Al-Qaeda bases in Afghanistan.

**CA candidates**  
can opt out: SC

**New Delhi:** Observing that the scheme provided by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is not enough, the Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted candidates scheduled to appear for the upcoming CA exams to opt out if they or their family members have suffered from Covid-19. A three-judge bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Aniruddha Bose made it clear that a candidate need not produce RT-PCR test.

## SC seeks ex gratia for Covid-hit

### Asks NDMA to frame guidelines on fiscal help to virus victims

New Delhi, June 30: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the Central government must pay compensation to the families of those who succumbed to Covid-19, but said the amount of compensation will be decided by the government.

The court directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to issue fresh guidelines for providing minimum standards of financial help to families of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 while keeping various aspects in mind.

The bench also rejected the argument of the Centre for reading "shall" in Section 12 of the Disaster Management Act for grant of ex-gratia amount to victims of disaster as "may", and said that the NDMA

and M.R. Shah said that the court cannot direct the Centre to fix a particular amount of financial help but the government can fix the minimum standard of amount to be paid as ex-gratia to family members of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 while keeping various aspects in mind.

The Supreme Court also asked the Centre to consider formulating an insurance scheme for cremation

has failed to perform its statutory duties.

The Supreme Court directed the Centre and the NDMA to issue fresh guidelines within six weeks for the minimum standard of relief to be granted to families of victims of Covid-19. It also directed the authorities to issue appropriate guidelines for simplification of the process of issuance of death certificates for Covid fatalities.

The Supreme Court also asked the Centre to consider formulating an insurance scheme for cremation

workers as proposed by the Finance Commission.

The top court's verdict came on a batch of pleas seeking ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh to the dependents of those who died of Covid and formulation of uniform guidelines for issuance of death certificates for Covid fatalities.

A few days ago, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that ₹4 lakh compensation cannot be paid to all those who died due to Covid-19 as it would exhaust the disaster relief funds. — Agencies

### Farm clash



BJP workers show a sword on a damaged vehicle after a scuffle broke out between local party workers and protesting farmers at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border at Ghazipur on Wednesday. The farmers objected when they saw the BJP men, carrying party flags, gathering at the protest site at around noon. They showed black flags to the BJP men, setting off an altercation which turned violent. — PTI

## Brazil suspends Covaxin deal

Hyderabad, June 30: The Brazilian government on Wednesday announced suspension of its 20 million doses Covid-19 vaccine contract with Bharat Biotech following allegations of irregularities in the deal. The \$324-million contract has become a headache for President Jair Bolsonaro after whistleblowers went public with alleged irregularities. A health ministry official said he alerted the President about his concerns.

Mr. Bolsonaro, whose popularity has faded as Brazil's Covid-19 death toll climbed past 500,000, has denied any wrongdoing, saying he was not aware of any irregularities.

Brazil health minister Marcelo Queiroga said his team would probe the allegations during the suspen-

sion. "According to the preliminary analysis of the CGU, there are no irregularities in the contract but, for compliance, the health ministry chose to suspend the contract," the ministry said.

Brazilian federal prosecutors have opened an investigation into the deal, citing comparatively high prices, quick talks and pending regulatory approvals as red flags.

The Hyderabad-based Indian drug maker Bharat Biotech insists that it has not received any advance payments and nor has it supplied any vaccines to Brazil. The company said

it has followed a "similar approach" in Brazil towards contracts, regulatory approvals and supplies as in several countries, where Covaxin is being supplied successfully.

In his testimony before

Brazil's Senate committee last week, Luis Ricardo Miranda, the chief of the health ministry's import division, said he faced pressure to greenlight the import of Indian pharmaceutical Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine and that there were irregularities in the invoices — particularly a \$45 million upfront payment to a Singapore-based firm. — Agencies

### BJP members stage dharna in front of Mayor's office seeking physical meeting of GHMC Council

## Mayor faces heat from corporators for virtual meet

**MADDY DEEKSHIT | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi, who made headlines for all wrong reasons from day one of her taking charge, has once again drawn criticism not only from the Opposition corporators but also from Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) high command as well.

Her unilateral decision to conduct the virtual meeting of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) council seems to have stirred up the TRS corporates expressing their dissent over the way she had held the meeting without giving prior intimation to the ruling party.

They strongly objected to

They raised slogans against the government and asked why a virtual meeting of the civic body council was held while a physical meeting was held for the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) on the same day.

The corporators even questioned why there was Covid-19 protocol in place only in the GHMC council while Chief Minister K.T. Rama Rao and municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao had been participating in a series of inaugurations and physical review meetings post lockdown.

The corporators also questioned why the media persons were not allowed in the GHMC headquarters if the administration was

transparent as the TRS corporators claimed.

Official sources said Vijayalakshmi did not even give time to prepare an agenda to hold the virtual meeting and they were forced to hold the meeting without a proper agenda which drew criticism from all walks of life.

Out of 156 members present in the virtual GHMC Council meeting, only 10 members were allowed to speak, that too only on two subjects — sanitation and health.

Sources said though the corporation had a good four months' time, the Mayor did not give prior intimation to them to prepare on the topics.

■ Page 4: Dasoju accuses Mayor of muting Oppn



BJP corporators confront Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi at the GHMC head office on the issue of virtual meeting of GHMC Council on Wednesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Huzurabad is set for bypoll in Sept.

### Panel to club Uttarakhand, WB bypolls too

**SRIRAM KARRI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Sources have revealed that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has made up its mind to conduct the bypoll to the Huzurabad Assembly constituency in the state and declare its results before September 10.

The ECI, which will make its announcement in due course of time, will conduct bypolls in three states — and each one of them is crucial for the respective Chief Ministers.

The decision, and timing, is crucial for Tirath Singh Rawat, who was made the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, replacing Trivendra Singh Rawat on March 10. Rawat was a member of the Lok Sabha from Pauri, when he took oath as the Chief Minister, and as per the Constitution, he has to get elected as a state legislator before six months.

The ECI will also in high

elections were announced on May 2, and Banerjee took oath as Chief Minister on May 5. Though the EC and Banerjee have time till November 5 to conduct this election, they may be completed by the end of first week of September, in a bunch.

Along with the bypolls in Uttarakhand and West Bengal, where incumbent CMs would be contesting, the Election Commission is nearly certain to club the election for Huzurabad in TS.

Along with the bypolls in

Uttarakhand and West Bengal, the ECI is nearly certain to club the election for Huzurabad versus KCR's vindictiveness.

Eatala Rajendar resigned from the TRS and as an MLA days after he was removed unceremoniously, first from his health ministry portfolio, and then as a minister from the Telangana state Cabinet by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

Though Banerjee led her party to a thumping win in the state against the BJP, and took oath as Chief Minister for a third term, she lost her battle to become a legislator to Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigam by a narrow margin of 1,957 votes.

The results of Bengal

likelihood club the bypolls in West Bengal, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has to win her own election as an MLA.

Though Banerjee led her party to a thumping win in the state against the BJP, and took oath as Chief Minister for a third term, she lost her battle to become a legislator to Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigam by a narrow margin of 1,957 votes.

The results of Bengal

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The Telangana government has decided to intensify its fight against the Andhra Pradesh government's 'illegal projects' on river Krishna. The government will write letters to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and the Union Jal Shakti ministry, complaining against AP's Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme and expansion of Pothireddy padu project.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao will also write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this issue, according to official sources.

This follows AP's Cabinet decision on Wednesday to complain against the Telangana government taking up hydel power generation in Srisailam, Nagarjunasagar and Pulicintala projects ignoring the KRMB and the Centre's orders.

The Chief Minister reviewed Krishna water issue with senior officials

learnt to have expressed concern over water dispute between both the AP and Telangana State.

During the Cabinet meeting, he reportedly said that he would not tolerate any injustice being meted out to AP farmers.

He reportedly said that he was maintaining composure despite being provoked by critical remarks from Telangana ministers to ensure that people from Andhra Pradesh living in Telangana does not face any problem.

The AP Chief Minister asked his ministers to find out ways to safeguard the state's interests.

compromise on utilising its due share of river waters.

■ Page 4: KCR calls Jagan's remarks unnecessary



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Hyderabad - Guwahati**	18:15	20:45	Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun
Guwahati - Hyderabad**	11:00	13:45	Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun
Hyderabad - Kochi**	14:15	15:45	Thu, Sat & Sun
Kochi - Hyderabad**	16:15	17:45	Thu, Sat & Sun

**\*\*Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.**

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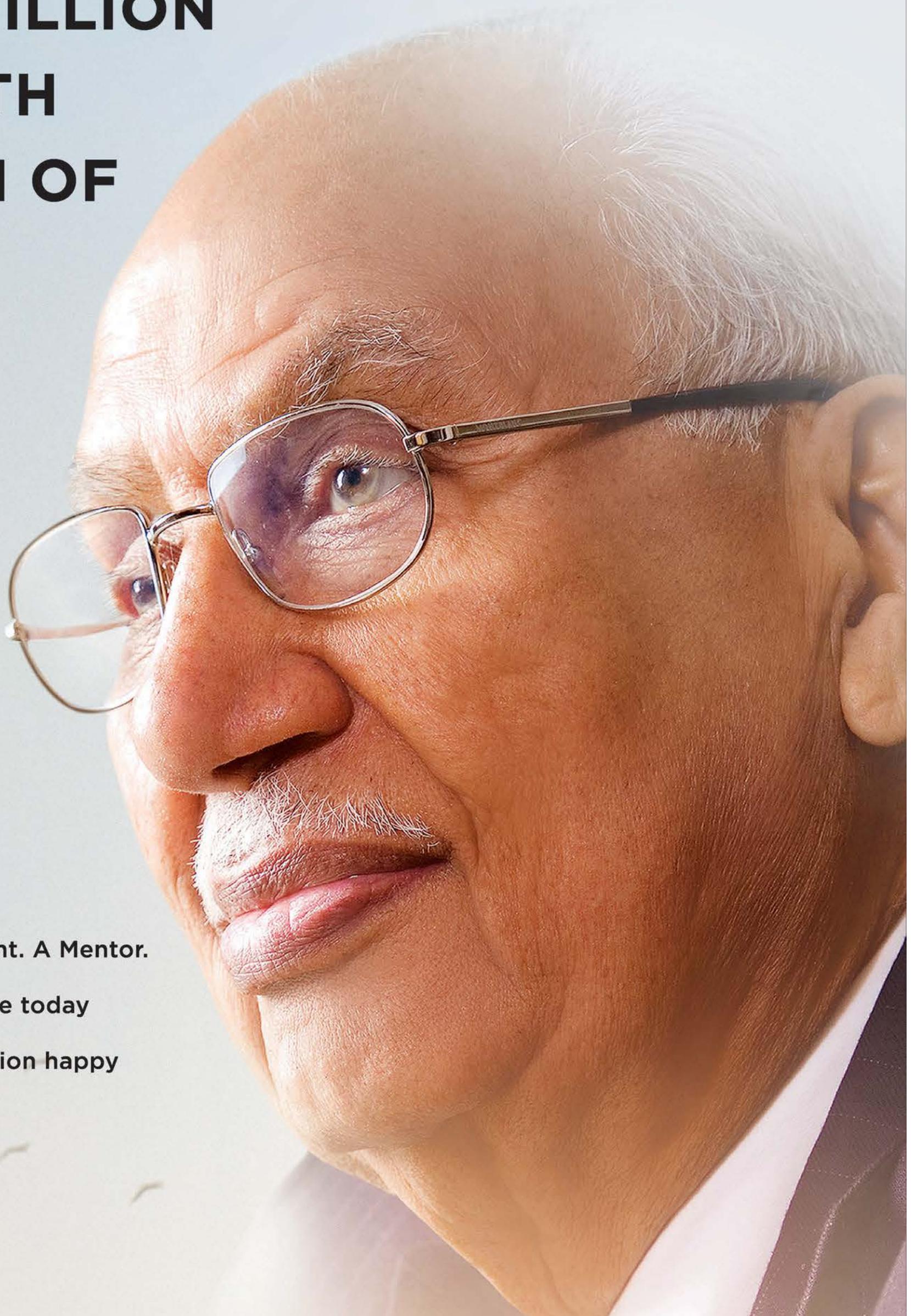
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**I. R. LAXMI** W/o. Mr. Mohammed Abbas R/o: 8-2-293/3/B/2, Gayatri Hills, Shaikpet, Hyderabad, T.S., do hereby change my name as "Hajira Siddiqua" (HYCL/2122/C00631)

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**WOMEN FORM  
30% OF ALL  
POLICE STATIONS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar felicitated Afzalgunj police personnel for being adjudged as the fourth best police station for the year 2020-21. He greeted them and honored the police station staff with mementos.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said, "Reward to the police station is a tribute to team work. A police station will work perfectly if everyone works together as a cohesive unit." He said the department was doing a good job in monitoring peace and security. Women account for 30 per cent of staff in every police station.

**MEET ON OP.  
MUSKAN TO  
RESCUE KIDS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Cyberabad police held a coordination meeting with the child welfare committee and labour department with regard to Operation Muskan.

Cyberabad is witnessing the highest number of rescue operations from child labour and bondage.

The meeting was held to discuss on how to trace the missing children, those engaged in child labour units, bonded labour, micro-industries, beggars and trafficked children. They also dwelt at length about possible rescue operations and restoring them to their respective families, rehabilitation centres, rescue homes besides duly compensating them.

Officials from Cyberabad Police Women & Children Safety Wing (W&CSW), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), labour and medical departments participated in the discussion.

**PAN SHOPS TO  
PROTEST POLICE  
HARASSMENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Members of the Hyderabad unit of Pan Shop Owners' Association of India have unanimously decided to shut down pan shops, including wholesalers in the city from Thursday. They are protesting against alleged harassment by police, who were also 'foisting false cases' against them.

"We have a total of 5,000 members including traders, retailers and panwallas. We will close the shops from Thursday and hoist black flags to express our displeasure," said Alfa Daini, a member of the association. Several families are dependent on pan shops, which also sell non-tobacco products, he said.

"Police have been filing cases against us, which, incidentally, are being thrown out by the courts," he added.

Daini clarified that although they were not selling gutka, many pan shop owners were arrested. He demanded the immediate release of those arrested and an immediate end to the harassment, failing which they would launch a massive protest against the state government at Indira Park.

# Food SEZs to come up in TS

**KTR wants submission deadline of EOIs to be extended for more firms**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The state government has expedited the process of setting up 'special food processing zones' on the lines of SEZs (special economic zones) in all districts barring Hyderabad to make agriculture more profitable for farmers.

The state government has received 350 applications in response to Expression of Interest (EOI) called by it for setting up food SEZs. Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday directed the officials to extend the last date for submission of EOI so that more companies

could join the process. Rama Rao chaired a meeting on setting up food SEZs. Agriculture minister Niranjan Reddy, civil supplies minister Gangula Kamalakar, chief secretary Somesh Kumar and senior officials from TS Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and other departments concerned attended the meeting.

Rama Rao stated that the state Cabinet had recently approved to set up food SEZs on a large scale, which would be based on agriculture produce in a particular area. The industry department had prepared a "Telangana food map" in

● **K.T. RAMA RAO** pointed out that the agriculture sector had seen tremendous growth across the state including in drought-prone districts like Mahabubnagar.

this regard to help entrepreneurs identify which unit was suitable to set up in a particular district, he said.

The meeting decided that each food SEZ should come up over not less than 225 acres. These zones would have infrastructure like water and power supply, roads, drinking water availability and common effluent plants.

The food processing

zones will cater to the needs of farmers who are raising not only paddy but also chillies, turmeric, pulses, edible oils, fruits and vegetables. The facilities at every zone would include processing, storage units and marketing infrastructure.

Rama Rao pointed out that the schemes and projects taken up by the government and completion of several irrigation projects had led to a massive increase in agriculture production. For this, food SEZs, and not just processing units, should be set up, he said.

He pointed out that the agriculture sector had seen tremendous growth across the state including in drought-prone dis-

tricts like Mahabubnagar. He claimed that Telangana started the second green revolution in the country. In addition, the meat, milk and fisheries sectors had grown at a rapid pace. He said there was a need to strengthen the food processing sector in the state to create demand and marketing facilities for increased agriculture production. For this, food SEZs, and not just processing units, should be set up, he said.

He said though paddy was the main crop in Telangana, the food SEZs would be created while keeping in view the future requirements of new crops like oil palm.

## Small hosphs 'no' to costs set by TS

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Small private hospitals in Warangal expressed their inability to treat Covid-19 patients from June 30 onwards. In a letter submitted to the district medical and health officer and the collector, the hospitals stated that they had opted for a July 5 deadline to stop taking Covid-19 patients for treatment.

Dr V. Rakesh, vice-president of the association, says, "In Warangal, we have expressed our inability as it is not possible to take up treatment at the costs given by the government. We are also going to file a case in the court against the government order. We have clearly

explained in scientific terms that the pricing is not feasible to us. Our representation is very clear."

Others say that they too are going to approach the district medical and health officer in their districts and follow the same procedure.

Those patients who are undergoing treatment will be continued till that time and after that there will be no new admissions.

Private hospitals say that they have sent their representations to the government twice. There

has not been any response from the office of the director of health and family welfare, the say.

With no communication from the government, private hospitals feel that the authorities are not interested in taking their services for Covid-19 treatment. Hence, they have decided that they will not admit new patients. The director of health and family welfare Dr Srinivas Rao has not responded to queries about this action by private hospitals.

## SC ALLOWS SLP AGAINST HC'S ORDER ON HAFFEEZPET LANDS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The legal battle over the controversial Hafeezpet lands has further intensified with the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowing a special leave petition (SLP) filed against a Telangana High Court order favouring film producer C. Kalyan.

A division bench of the apex court comprising justices Navin Sinha and Sanjiv Khanna admitted the SLP filed by one Sahibzadi Hameedunnisa Begum and tagged it with other SLPs filed on the Hafeezpet lands either by the state government or private individuals. The petitioner challenged the High Court order in WP No 4311 of 2020 in which the latter dismissed her implead petition claiming ownership of the land which is also claimed by Kalyan.

According to Begum, she had filed a civil suit against Cyrus Investments Private Limited and two others to cancel the registered sale deed executed by her in favour of Nizam of Hyderabad and Nawab Khasim Nawaz Jung who were defendants 156 and 157 in CS No 14 of 1958. The civil suit, however, was dismissed on the ground of limitation in 2017 but the same was challenged in an appeal which is pending in the High Court. Cyrus Investments Private Limited is one of the predecessors-in-title of film producer Kalyan.

Dr Kiran M from Government Medical College in Nizamabad explains, "Sporadic spikes will be noted but there will not be a wave, as such. That will take at least two to three months."

With delta and delta plus variant around, the concern and worry is more.

Senior general physician Dr Kishan Rao explains, "Nearly half of the people roaming around on streets and out in the open are without masks. They do not realize that they are endangering lives of others."

Dr Kiran M from Government Medical College in Nizamabad explains, "Sporadic spikes will be noted but there will not be a wave, as such. That will take at least two to three months."

With delta and delta plus variant around, the concern and worry is more.

## Covid micro CZs rise to 85 in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The total number of micro-containment zones for Covid-19 in the state is now at 65 with 18 in Mahabubnagar and 16 in Bhadravati Kothagudem getting added.

Bhadradri Kothagudem has had approximately 50 new cases every day in the last fortnight. One of the reasons being attributed to this is that the district shares borders with Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh and there is a heavy movement of people.

General physicians and those from government

### DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA



Highest New Cases	
GHMC (Hyderabad)	108
Nalgonda	71
Karimnagar	66
Mancherlai	61
Khammam	58

Lowest New Cases	
Jogulamba Gadwal	1
Adilabad	2
Narayanpet and Nirmal	4
Kamareddy, Komaram Bheem-Arifabad	5
Medak, Sangareddy, Nagarkurnool, Vikarabad	7

hospitals have noted a slight increase in cases

and they state that this is due to inappropriate

behaviour of people. Senior general physician Dr Kishan Rao explains, "Nearly half of the people roaming around on streets and out in the open are without masks. They do not realize that they are endangering lives of others."

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## MMTS to resume additional services from today

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The Multi-Modal Transport Service (MMTS) suburban transport service in Hyderabad-Secunderabad will see additional services being introduced from Thursday, the South Central

Railway said on Wednesday.

When the MMTS services were reintroduced from June 23 following the lifting of the Covid-19 lockdown, SCR started with 10 services with six services between Falaknuma and Lingampalli starting at 6.35 am from Falaknuma, while from Lingampalli, the first train will leave at 8.10 am. The last trains from these two stations, will leave at

9.55 pm and 9.45 pm, respectively. One service from Ramachandrapuram to Falaknuma will leave at 5.40 am while on the return journey, the train will leave Falaknuma at 9.20 pm.

The services between Nampally station (Hyderabad) and Lingampalli will begin at 5.40 am from Nampally, and at 6.40 am from Lingampalli, while the last service will leave Nampally at 7.05 pm, and Lingampalli at 11.45 pm.

The South Central Railway appealed to all MMTS users to act responsibly and follow all Covid-19 safety protocols.

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Dr Kiran M from Government Medical College in

## SHORT TAKES

## NTR TRUST STAFF FAVOUR KCR TAKEOVER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

A letter that is being widely circulated across social media states that the staff of Telugu Desam Party (Telangana) have shot a missive to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, urging him to take over NTR Trust Bhavan as employees from Andhra Pradesh were using prime space for commercial purposes.

They contend that as the Telangana unit has no power, Andhra Staff was harassing them and using the office to serve their own business interests. Those, who ostensibly wrote the letter, have alleged that the Trust increased the salaries in Andhra but was not even paying them their salaries on time. They also stated that L. Ramana, who is the party's Telangana unit president, is also not coming forward with any favours.

The staff urged Chandrasekhar Rao to cancel the lease and utilise the place for activities that can benefit Telangana purpose. They also sought his intervention in getting their salaries and PF dues. Meanwhile, Ramana condemned the allegation and stated that two persons had conspired to write the letter. He said that hundreds of people have meals in Trust Bhavan on a daily basis and they are involved in several social services programmes in coordination with the Trust.

## MADRASA VOLUNTEERS DEMAND DUES

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Madrasa Vidya Volunteers alleged that they had not been paid their honorarium since April 2020, and feared that their services might not be continued.

More than 200 Vidya Volunteers are rendering services in Deeni Madrasas in Telangana states on a monthly honorarium of ₹12,000 per month. They worked under a scheme of Support to Madrasa Education Programme of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. Ninety per cent of them are women. These Vidya Volunteers teach basics of mathematics, science, second language and English to students who are pursuing religious education. Due to complications, Deeni Madrasas of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts are unwilling to obtain benefits from this scheme. Vidya Volunteers complained that though the finance department had accorded administrative sanction for an amount of ₹3.28 crore towards the payment of honorarium to them in last December, they were not paid so far. Afia Sultana, who teaches in Anwar ul Uloom, Warangal district, said they were working without remuneration since last April. "When we approached the officials of school education, they informed us that the budget amount was not released," she said.

## NO BUDGET DISCUSSION, BJP PROTESTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Corporators belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday staged a protest opposite the chambers of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation mayor Vijayalaxmi Gadwal over passing of ₹5,600 crore budget of the civic body without a full-fledged discussion.

They carried placards that the municipal authority has not given them any chance to discuss people's problems. They wondered where the money is going when nadas within the twin cities have not yet been fully cleaned.

They maintained that ruling party is scared of BJP raising questions and hence passed the budget without any comprehensive discussion.

Demanding cancellation of the budget, the 46 BJP corporators wondered why Mayor Vijayalaxmi is not conducting public meetings like other municipalities and corporations are doing.

The corporators said they had been forced to protest as officials have not responded to any of their doubts raised over the budget.

At the same time, the ruling party got the ₹5,600 crore budget forcibly approved without a detailed discussion.

## BJP weighs its Huzurabad bid

**Party to strengthen itself from ground level with new covenors for segments**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

● THE PARTY plans on discussing Andhra Pradesh projects where the state is constructing projects on Krishna River.

The BJP state leadership will hold its executive committee meeting to take important decisions about strengthening the party from ground level to state level and appointing new covenors for segments.

It is learnt that initially, the party decided to conduct the state executive committee in virtual mode, but several leaders wanted to discuss the issues in a physical meeting and hence, cancelled the online meeting. The BJP will hold the meeting in July first week in the party state office, sources said.

The meeting will discuss the latest political developments in the wake of Huzurabad bypoll and party president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's district tour. It will also prepare plans for Sanjay's proposed padayatra before the notification of Huzurabad bypoll. It is learnt that Sanjay will take out padayatra in the last week of July or the first week of August. The BJP is planning to end the padayatra in Huzurabad.

Moreover, the state BJP is focussing on its organisational structure. It has decided to appoint covenors to 119 Assembly constituencies, 17 covenors of Parliament segments, joint covenors, Council members, affiliates like legal cell and medical cell to fill 400 party posts.

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## HC calls for report on SI 'threatening' tribal

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

husband and father-in-law over the ownership of a six-acre land in the village.

Though her family had absolute rights over the land as per a decree of a civil court, the police were acting at the behest of the family's opponents, the woman stated.

She has also stated that her family had been called to the police station "unnecessarily" and the cops were detaining them for long hours there.

As per her complaint, the SI threatened the family at gunpoint to forcibly take signatures for relinquishment of its rights over the land.

The governor took note of the matter and referred the complaint to the high court, which converted it into a writ petition and appointed senior counsel Prakash Reddy as an amicus curiae to look into the issue and assist the court.

The court and amicus curiae felt that the allegation of threats from police seemed, prima facie, to be true.

Amicus curiae also submitted to the court that there were serious discrepancies between the facts of the case and the contents in the general diary of the police.

The court also pointed out that the SP, who initially was disinclined to interfere in this dispute, which is civil in nature, later did interfere. The case was posted to September 1 for further hearing.

## Hyd's eminent educator Gregory Reddy dies at 87

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 30

Udumula Gregory Reddy

backgrounds.

After starting his career as a teacher, he started St Anthony's High School in Himayatnagar in 1971 and went on to establish several education

al institutions, that have on their rolls, more than 800 teachers. He served as Secretary, AP Region, ICSE/ISC schools and besides being a prominent educationist, was active in charity work for Christian minority communities through St. Joseph's Social Service Society.

His mortal remains will be kept for viewing and paying last respects between 11 am and 2 pm at St Joseph's Public School, King Koti.

## 36 passengers arrested, old tickets seized

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

South Central Railway (SCR) conducted special raids at various locations to track-down unauthorised agents and ticket sellers. They managed to seize used and unused tickets, which together were worth ₹16,32,643.

Most of them were booked by sellers on a commission basis. Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel arrested 36 persons involved in the racket.

In a press release here on Wednesday, SCR

officials said that RPF is committed to take stringent action against touts. They urged passengers to purchase tickets from reservation counters and authorized travel agents.

They urged passengers to purchase tickets from reservation counters and authorized travel agents. They said such drives would be further intensified and efforts would be made to put an end to the menace because of which passengers were subject to needless ordeals.

## Revanth sees mid-term polls

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Rao showed that he left the Telugu Desam Party midway. Congress governments as Assembly Deputy Speaker and Union minister posts and also went for early polls for the Assembly last time, he explained.

The TPCC chief addressed the district Congress committee (DCC) presidents' meeting here at MLA quarters on Wednesday. TPCC working presidents Anjan Kumar Yadav, Azharuddin, senior vice president Mallu Ravi, AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Shrawan and Youth Congress state president Shivasena Reddy were also present. Speaking at the meeting, Revanth Reddy said the KCR government had ignored to fill 1.90 lakh government

jobs, resulting in heavy loss to the unemployed youths for the last seven years.

Revanth Reddy said that BC, SC, ST and minorities were cheated by the Chief Minister on different welfare schemes. Chandrashekhar Rao had never responded to atrocities against Dalits, he said. "I will prove the irregularities of the TRS government along with evidence at appropriate time," he said. Welfare schemes or developmental works were being taken up, where any TRS MLA died or left from the party, he said.

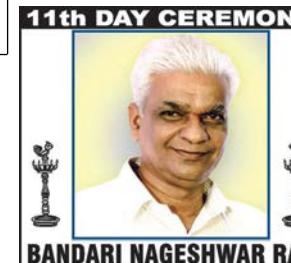
People of TS have simultaneously been suffering from Coronavirus and misrule of Chandrashekhar Rao, TS Congress president said.



**YERRA NAGESWARA RAO, I.R.S.E.**  
Commissioner of Railway Safety (Retd.) S.C. Circle, 05-08-1935 - 01-08-2020

Remembered by: Wife - Jayaprada Children:

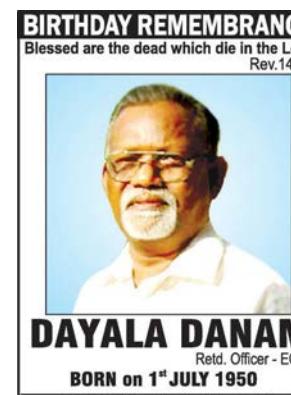
Srilakshmi IAS, Mythili IAS, Dr. Vanama MBBS, Soujanya M.S., Subbarao, Rama Devi Araza (Sister) and Children. Sons-in-law, Grand Children and Friends. (S/2122/D00363)



**BANDARI NAGESHWAR RAO**  
Chief office Supdt. (Retd.) S.C. Railway Sec-hd, S/o Late B. Venkat Rao & Sakkuvali DOB: 16-08-1950 DOD: 21-06-2021

11th Day Ceremony on Thursday 01-07-2021, at H.No.6-1-304/201, Padmarao Nagar, Secunderabad,

Inserted by: Wife - Bandari Uma Devi Son and Daughter in law, Daughter Brothers & Sisters in law Sisters & Brothers in law, Phone: 9110355192



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord Rev.14:13

Those of the righteous will be long remembered. Psalm 112:6

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

Mr. BALLEM JOHN WESLEY DEEVENAMMA D.O.B. 01-07-1922 D.O.B. 13-04-1927 D.O.B. 14-11-1997 D.O.B. 02-01-2007

Even though death has torn us apart, Your love lives forever inside of our hearts. Ballem and Ganta Family, Chikkalguda, (S/2122/D00394)



**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
BORN on 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 1950 ...And I Will Dwell in the House of the LORD Forever... Ps. 23:6

Inserted by: Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, & Grand Children Ph: 9951055880

**OBITUARY**

The founder Secretary of St. JOSEPH'S EDUCATION SOCIETY, HYDERABAD, breathed his last today leaving behind his family, an ocean of students, an army of dedicated employees in grief. A noble soul who will find peace in God's abode. He will be immortalized for his service to education and for his philanthropic work.

His mortal remains will be kept for viewing and paying last respects between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Public School, King Koti, Hyderabad.

**Tributes from :**

Family members & Employees of St. Joseph's Education Society's, St. Anthony's High School, Himayatnagar, St. Joseph's Public School, King Koti, St. Joseph's Public School, A.G. Palace, St. Joseph's Public School, Habsiguda.

PS : Every one is requested to follow Covid Protocol at the venue tomorrow. Telecast of Legendary Tribute to Udumula Gregory Reddy YouTube Link https://youtu.be/9gihsUnBFsw

1<sup>st</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**SRI SURAJ PRASAD AGARWAL**

(S/o. Late. Sri Dalchand ji Agarwal)

DOD: 01-07-2020

"Your sweet memories shall always be cherished in our hearts".

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal & Family Domalguda, Hyd. Ph. 9177040480, 040-23435125/126

LANDMARK BUILDERS, Begumpet

ANAPURNA BUILDERS, White House

SUMMER GREEN RESORTS, Shamirpet

(CA-3651)

(S/2122/D00363)

# Develop industries in TS districts: KTR

Units should not be only around Hyd: Minister

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Industries and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao has advised officials to decentralise industrial development in the state by encouraging the setting up of industries in various districts. Officials must ensure that indus-

tries are not concentrated in and around Hyderabad, he said.

Rao on Wednesday reviewed the proposals submitted to the government in this connection. He went through the details of the proposals received by the industries and IT departments. Officials informed the minister that

● **OFFICIALS INFORMED** that proposals have come for setting up of units in food processing, IT, aerospace, pharma and life sciences sectors.

several proposals have come for setting up of units in food processing, IT, aerospace, pharma and life sciences sectors.

"The government has asked them to negotiate with companies to start their ventures in these areas," he said.

## CARCASS OF LEOPARD FOUND IN CHITTOOR

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
TIRUPATI, JUNE 30

The Tirupati wildlife division has ordered a probe into the death of a fully-grown female leopard, whose carcass was found in the forest reserve area near Vemulawada village in Kotakadapalem area of Yerravaripalem mandal on Tuesday.

According to forest officials, the 10-11-year-old leopardess got entangled in a snare set up by poachers.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

## Get well soon



Senior Congress leader J. Geetha Reddy visited senior party leader V. Hanumantha Rao at Apollo Hospitals in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

## TS govt releases ₹11.46cr ex gratia for toddy tappers

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

The state government on Wednesday released ex-gratia amounting to ₹11.46 crore for toddy tappers, who have accidentally died or suffered permanent or temporary disability while tapping toddy from trees during the period from April 2019 to April 2021.

The ex-gratia being given for death has been increased from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

Excise minister V. Srinivasa Goud has thanked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for releasing the ex-gratia. He

asked officials to collect within 24 hours details of tappers who have died or suffered injuries while tapping toddy and complete the process of distributing ex-gratia within a week.

He said as per a preliminary estimate, 90 tappers have died while tapping toddy, 109 of them have suffered permanent disability and 225 have been temporarily disabled.

The government will be giving ₹5 lakh ex-gratia to families of toddy tappers who have died or have been permanently disabled. ₹10,000 will be given to those who have been temporarily disabled.

## Ashok Goud to head TS HC advocates body

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 30

Ponnam Ashok Goud was elected as president of Telangana High Court Advocates Association on Wednesday.

Elections for the panel's new executive committee were held online after two years because of Covid-19. Meanwhile, elections were not held for two posts in the 15-member panel.

### Office-bearers:

**President:** Ponnam Ashok Goud; **Vice-president:** Mohmmad Mumtaz Pasha; **Secretaries:** Chengalwa Kalyan Rao and T. Srujan Kumar Reddy; **Treasurer:** Kanchani Lakshmaiah; **Joint secretary:** Dhana Lakshmi Dontha; **Sports and cultural secretary:** Mangal, R; EC members: Vishala, Jaya Krishna, RP Raju and Murali Krishna; **Female EC member:** Sravya Katta; **15-year EC member:** Bandari Shanker.

● **ELECTIONS FOR** the panel's new executive committee were held online after two years.



Ponnam Ashok Goud,  
President



Kalyan Rao Chengalwa,  
Secretary



T. Srujan Kumar Reddy,  
Secretary

## AP generated huge Covid waste

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh generated total 1,098 tonnes of biomedical waste during the last four months at government and private hospitals designated as Coronavirus treatment centres in the state.

## TS speeds up Jurala power generation

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KURNool, JUNE 30

Leveraging the first fall advantage of Krishna waters near the Priyadarshini Jurala Project, the Telangana State government is harnessing the water resource to fullest utility.

Unusually, with the protection of police force at

the power generation site, Jurala hydroelectricity has produced 4.5 million units of power in the last 24 hours. So far during the season, the Upper Jurala hydro unit produced 20 million units while the lower Jurala generated 24 million units. Jurala power project received inflows of 29,809 cusecs and outflows stand at 25,307 cusecs.

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice No.: RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-201-WT-08, Dated: 29.06.2021  
On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director (Engg.), Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites E-tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors, to be opened on 22.07.2021.

1. Name of the work & its Location : Providing supporting bracket arrangements for erection of OHE inside tunnel T-1 at Km 147.494 to 148.094, tunnel T-2 at Km 150.520 to 151.600, tunnel T-3 at Km 160.592 to 161.192 and cut and cover tunnel at Km 158.200 to 159.950 between Sidhwar & Shanki station and bridges of Gr. 201 of Dhanbad division in E.C. Railway, 2. Approximate Cost of the work : Rs. 2,05,88,193.38, 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 0.00, 4. Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender : For submission :- From 08.07.2021 & Up to 11.30 Hours on 22.07.2021. Tender will be opened after 11.30 Hrs. on 22.07.2021, 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender issued etc., website https://ireps.gov.in Notice board location & address of the office :- Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg.), Railway Electrification, Danapur, (Near Jagjeet Singh Stadium), PO:-Khagaul, Patha - 801105, (Bihar) Chief Project Director (Engg.) Railway Electrification, Danapur PR/0442/RE/ENG/7T/21-22/44

### CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR DRYLAND AGRICULTURE

#### AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed Bids in prescribed format are invited for the auction/sale of Wooden/rubber/plastic/Metal/Iron scrap items etc. on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". Tender forms along with terms and conditions may please be downloaded from CRIDA Website: <http://www.crida.res.in> The last date for submission of bids is 08-07-2021 10.30 hrs.

Chief Administrative Officer

### Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

#### e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&S), HRPSU, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

1. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/1123A (b) Description Four Head Belt Grinding Machine for NFC, Kota - Qty. 1 No. detailed Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries: 18/07/2021 upto 5:30 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 18/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
2. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-8896/PT/CAP/11347 (b) Description: Compact Stacking System for NFC, Kota - Qty.1 No. detailed Specifications as per Annexure c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 30/07/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
3. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-14143/UPT/CAP/11380 (b) Description: Multiprobe Dimension measuring System for NFC, Kota - Qty.1No. detailed Specifications as per Annexure c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 02/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
4. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-10831/TPT/CAP/11386 (b) Description Supply of 25 Ton Hydraulic Power Press - Qty. 1 No. detailed Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries: 13/07/2021 upto 5:30 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 13/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
5. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-15999/PT/TPT/CAP/11390 (b) Description Decontaminating Facility for Radioactive Solid Waste Materials for NFC, Kota - Qty. 1 set. detailed Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries: 23/07/2021 upto 5:30 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 23/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
6. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-16999/PT/TPT/ENG/17281 (b) Description SS317 Flanged SS310S Reduction Retort Welded with 310MO for 750 Kg - Qty. 25 Nos. (15Nos. for NFC & 10 Nos. for ZC) detailed Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries: 10/07/2021 upto 2:00 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 10/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
7. (a) Tender Enquiry No. DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-15452/UPT/MTL/7810 (b) Description Stainless Steel Strip in Coil Form as per IS 6911 - Qty. 50MT detailed Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 04/08/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.

Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/2122/09]

### HAPPY RETIREMENT



**Sri PATTI VENUGOPAL**  
Worl Manager  
Ordnance Factory, Medak.  
Congratulations on your retirement on  
30-06-2021, have a Healthy & Prosperous life  
From: Puli Suryaprakash & Family  
ADE/TSSPDC  
(A/2122/D00020)

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 23/2021-2022 Dated: 30.06.2021  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01 0921219	YODE PIN SUPPORT WITH WEAR PLATE	1053 NOS	26.07.2021
02 0921210	STRIKER CASTING (BG) WITH WEAR PLATE	674 NOS	26.07.2021
03 07210086	TWO PIECE GLASS SHUTTER COLOUR STAIN BLUE	9431 NOS	30.07.2021
04 07211488	DISTRIBUTOR VALVE WITH RELAY VALVE	341 NOS	30.07.2021
05 07210089	INJECTION MOULDED THERMOPLASTIC POLYESTER ELASTOMER	6782 NOS	30.07.2021
06 07210447	SET OF SIDE BUFFER ASSEMBLY	20 NOS	02.08.2021
07 09212116	KNUCKLE PIVOT PIN WITH WASHER	11307 NOS	02.08.2021
08 07210305A	WHEEL SET EARTHING EQUIPMENT	1760 NOS	05.08.2021
09 07210087	SINGLE PIECE FRP LOUVE SHUTTER	18696 NOS	06.08.2021
10 07210108	HANGER FOR BOLSTER SPRING SUSPENSION	20620 NOS	06.08.2021
11 07211024	THERMOPLASTIC POLYESTER ELASTOMER	44250 NOS	06.08.2021
12 19210740	GAUGE FOR AIR FLOW INDICATOR FOR 3-PHASE	158 NOS	11.08.2021
13 19212286	BOW ASSEMBLY FOR PANTOGRAPH TYPE IR-03H	78 NOS	16.08.2021
14 19214450	BEARING FOR HITACHI TRACTION MOTOR TYPE HS15250A	217 NOS	17.08.2021
15 07213486	SEALED GLASS UNIT FOR LHB FIXED WINDOW	3727 NOS	18.08.2021
16 07211857	NON ASBESTOS BASED ORGANIC BRAKE	5810 SET	01.09.2021
17 09212507	OUTER SPRING	3767 NOS	01.09.2021
18 09212218	BRAKE CYLINDER 355MM.	526 NOS	01.09.2021
19 07211583	203MM AIR BRAKE CYLINDER	479 NOS	03.09.2021
20 07210208	CONTROL ARM ASSEMBLY	233 NOS	06.09.2021

NOTE:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details.  
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

1457/2021

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

### STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (Code-05172)  
2nd Floor, TRTC Commuter Amenity Centre, Bus Terminal Complex, Koti, Hyderabad-500095, T.S., E-mail: [sbi.05172@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.05172@sbi.co.in), Ph. 040 24651352

#### (RULE-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE

(For immovable properties)

WHEREAS The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated: 05.10.2019 calling upon the borrower(s): Mr.Mahesh Kumar, S/o, Laxminarayana, Flat No. 704, C Block, Jalayav Towers, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad-500036 A/c No.: Housing Loan (TL): 3763978306 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 88,78,492/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Four hundred and Ninety two Only) as on 05.10.2019 and interest from 05.10.2019 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

# DECCAN Chronicle

1 JULY 2021

## Courts, not govt, uphold security for daily wagers

The most disturbing scenes India witnessed in recent times were those of lakhs of guest workers walking hundreds of kilometres on their way back to their village homes from the cities when India got into a national lockdown last year. Bereft of their means of sustenance and livelihood, they had little reason to stay back in the cities. With no government aid coming their way either, they took the hardest course of the long walk. Dozens of them died on the way. That the Supreme Court of India fought shy of intervening and offering them help despite pleas completed the picture of governmental apathy then.

The guest workers are lucky this time around, thanks to a resolute intervention by the apex court. As per its direction to the Union government on Tuesday, no guest worker should go hungry after being denied their statutory ration. The government must speed up its own policy of "one nation one ration card" by July 31 so that an Indian citizen covered under the National Food Security Act can purchase his/her share of ration from any shop in the public distribution system anywhere in the country. The court also reminded the government that the right to food is one of the basic necessities of life and that it was an intrinsic part of the right to live with dignity.

Setting the deadline, the court reminded the governments at the Centre and in the states that they have a bounden duty to ensure that none among the estimated 38 crore guest workers goes hungry during the pandemic. It was perhaps for the first time that a bench of the apex court put on record the contributions they have made to the economic development of the country, which could act as a basis for further extending economic and social aid to this class of people.

In the process of reaching succour to one of the most vulnerable sections of society invoking constitutional protection available to every citizen, the court also bared the chinks in the armour of the government of a country which prides itself as the software hub of the world. It took note of the fact that the court's order in 2018 to complete the work the National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal, which could be a powerful tool to identify and cover all the eligible workers, has not yet been complied fully. The government, on its part, had no compunctions in blaming software problems for the delay. The court now set a new deadline of December 31 this year for the completion of the work.

The intervention of the Supreme Court and several high courts in the country to come to the aid of the citizen, hit hard by the pandemic, is the second best option a democracy can choose

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## Stop trolling Twitter

The IT minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad, has been leading the battle against Twitter, which had temporarily blocked his account while dealing with a copyright complaint against one of his tweets regarding the use of a photograph of A.R. Rahman's national song. Governments run by the national ruling party have also gotten into the thick of it in registering complaints against wrongful portrayal of the India map on the microblogging platform. The misrepresentation of Ladakh in one such map was subsequently corrected, which is the general norm when such mistakes are committed except if it is done in bad faith by countries inimical to India.

What the pattern of action against Twitter suggests is harassment of the platform with a global presence, exacerbated perhaps by Twitter's reluctance to follow the new Indian IT law by which a grievance officer needs to be residing in India. While social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have been accustomed to being treated as service provider "intermediaries" which carry content posted by third parties, they have not shied away from taking editorial decisions. For instance, the banning for life of former US President Donald Trump by Twitter and the filtering of content by Facebook when it came to theories on a possible laboratory source of the Covid virus.

It stands to reason that Twitter must follow the amended Indian law regardless of its problems in adhering to rules in various jurisdictions in which it has a major presence in terms of users. Its services are available to resident Indian citizens and it operates in this country earning revenue and it must be held to account. The government should let its laws rule rather than overreach to the extent that the sum of its actions looks like persecution because a certain segment of people has been offended. Actions taken must be within reason too, unless official India is so offended that it can ban Twitter like Nigeria has done. Ironically, the same people were not averse to using Twitter to further their political aims. The situation has the contours of a Mexican standoff.

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Dilip Cherian  
**Dilli Ka Babu**

## Will Centre have to re-hire MTNL & BSNL staffers it laid off earlier?

No one's willing to bell this cat! The dramatis personae are still largely the same, but a stealthy turn was in the works, say those in the know at Sanchar Bhavan. The question that isn't being asked yet is whether the government acted in haste when in 2019 it chose to give VRS to thousands of employees of BSNL and MTNL. Two years later that decision has come back to haunt the babus in the department of telecommunications (DoT). The two financially troubled state-run telecom companies are currently struggling to remain operational after this rather drastic surgery which did not work.

There is growing desperation in Sanchar Bhavan and murmurs hint at a section of babus who now want to rehire as consultants the very babus who were retired with a golden handshake! It is now up to

the very punctilious telecom secretary Anshu Prakash to take a view on this rather critical call. For now, some sources suggest that it's caution that's the leitmotif.

Prakash has directed that no ex-staffer should be rehired until the matter is "examined thoroughly". But if BSNL and MTNL have to survive he may not have the luxury of too much time. Of course, there are some whispers about how this situation might actually spur the government to hive off its now not so valuable stake in these telecom behemoths of the past and be able to justify it too. That would however be yet another acrimonious debate in the making.

Remember, the government has just announced recently a further restructuring of another state-owned organisation — the Ordnance Factory Board — which is being split into seven corporate

entities despite it having been strategically inviolable for long. Few are likely to question that move as this was an old pending demand of the armed forces.

But at Sanchar Bhavan the issues are different. After all, BSNL and MTNL are a rather different case. Which may partly explain why the telecom ministry is walking on eggshells on this subject.

### BAD TIMING FOR EXPANSION OF MOEF, REPRIEVE FOR NATURE

Last year when environment minister Prakash Javadekar green-lit the setting up of 19 integrated regional offices of his ministry across the country, his stated aim was that the ministry's expansion would lead to better coordination and monitoring of the work, without stretching his ministry's staff. His babus had been complaining apparently that they were under-

staffed and overworked. A rather unusual babu logic for geographic spread.

Months later, the plan is being implemented at a painfully slow pace, which far from improving efficiency has actually led to key proposals piling up, many now found to be still pending. Informed sources say that the ministry has not even managed to fill the staff positions for the newly created regional offices. Given the scramble for jobs of this variety, the only explanation that former staffers can proffer is that the efforts were only half-hearted.

Some new offices in Jaipur, Shimla, Jammu, Kolkata and Gandhinagar have not made even a single appointment so far, after all the initial fanfare! With the plan barely moving, the ministry's workload has now actually increased. The delay in appointing

new staff has created more work for the old staff officers, who now have been saddled with work of the new offices that were to have been set up. Only half of the around 500 proposals submitted since last year that require the ministry's approval for projects on forest land are still pending. While this may be a good thing, there's danger lurking on the edges.

But the bigger question is, whether all this rearrangement was really necessary at a time when the nation is reeling under the Covid pandemic and the economy needs a big lift? Those proposals pending with Javadekar's babus could have been a big help, some insist, though nature may have unwittingly got a brief reprieve.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian)

Subhani



## CPC: Party is the State and State is the Party

Abhijit Bhattacharyya

The Communist Party of China (CPC), which begins its centenary celebrations on July 1, is vastly different now from the revolutionary force it was at its inception, when its mission was to liberate its homeland from the morass it had sunk into. Today, the CPC has all but forgotten the revolution and transformed itself into the establishment in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Many would say it's the PRC's real government — a role into which it has grown for the past 72 years of Communist China's existence, ever since Mao Zedong's Red Army swept into power in 1949, overthrowing Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang, relegating them to the island of Taiwan, targeted by Beijing as a "separatist province" but in the eyes of the rest of the world a thriving, flourishing democracy.

All those who regard the CPC as a political party, perhaps the biggest one in the world, miss the point. It is anything but a party, it is just another name for the Chinese State. Just consider this. The People's Liberation Army (PLA), which has been locked in a standoff with the Indian Army in eastern Ladakh for the past one year and more, is just another wing of the CPC, and supreme authority over the PLA as well as the Chinese Air Force and Navy is wielded by China's Central Military Commission, which too is subordinate to the party.

Through such trials and tribulations was born the PLA in the mid-1920s, with Mao taking command after considerable friction within. Farmers transformed into fighters under the CPC to "liberate and give political emancipation to the people", giving birth to Mao's politico-military doctrine: "The Party commands and controls the gun, not the other way around". Here were sown the seeds of the CPC assuming control of the PLA and by extension to the future Chinese State.

The firman of Mao's military mind continues till this day: "The basic principle of war is to preserve oneself and destroy the enemy." (May 1938)

Also: "The CPC should pay great attention to the study of military matters." (November 1938). This politico-military interface ensures that at the slightest provocation, the CPC had absolute right to mobilise and deploy the PLA to crush any situation or what it sees as opposition to its absolute control. This was evident

in the June 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, when the mighty party felt threatened by a small assembly of students and dissenters; it is seen now with the massacre of Uighurs in Xinjiang and the crackdown in Hong Kong. The first CPC-PLA murder, however, took place at Xizang (Tibet) in 1950, where the operations to "cleanse" Buddhist seminaries continued for years, eventually leading to the Dalai Lama's flight to India in 1959.

In most external matters, though, the CPC-PLA largely operated through deceit, rather than direct force, with the major exceptions of Korea in 1950, India in 1962 and Vietnam in 1979. It is evident for decades that the CPC-PLA holds India in unalloyed contempt, as it is convinced this country's messy, raucous democracy and its multiple political parties cannot be a match for authoritarian Beijing. For reasons best known to them, some Indians appear determined to ignore this reality.

In several stages since 1949 with interruptions during the Cultural Revolution and the brief promise of the Deng Xiaoping years — this CPC-PLA monolith has grown today into an oversized, overweight and over-centralised system, which will be overburdened in the foreseeable future as China's global ambitions takes the world head-on via multi-pronged and multi-forked fangs, through land, air, water and cyberspace.

India got a direct taste of the CPC's meddling in the late 1960s, after the 1962 war, when poison was injected into our body politic through the Naxalbari movement starting May 1967; and the creation of a brigade of a few thousand young

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## LETTERS

### RAIN DELUGE

The cycle of destruction is continuing every time it rains (*Rain floods city roads, DC, June 30*). Why is the GHMC repeatedly failing to contain this after spending huge money on implementing their plans? Development was going to be a big expense of the present government.

P. V. Tirumala Rao  
Hyderabad

### BIZMEN HIT

From July 1, all businesses are either required to go in for tax deduction at source (TDS) from suppliers' invoice or charge tax collected at source (TCS) from customers, depending on different criteria that includes previous year turnover, transaction amount, etc. There is a lot of chaos in the business community. Our policy-makers seem to be infected by myasthenia gravis, a condition where antibody immune system works against our own body. Policies need to be such that they get their revenue and businessmen can comply swiftly.

Amit Agrawal  
Hyderabad

### FOLLOW RULES

While we are better-placed as Covid cases are decreasing daily, we are still in a critical situation. We are yet to learn the lessons taught by the pandemic. It is time to show discipline and unity. If not we will pay for it. The government can't control everything when lockdowns are eased.

Aravind Pagudala  
Hyderabad

I salute Apollo Hospitals for the initiative to free India from Covid-19. If private and public hospitals take up such drives in the next two months, we can vaccinate all of India by January 2022.

Naveen  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Imports from West decline

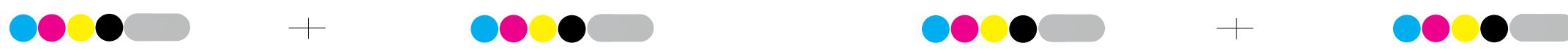
NEW DELHI, June 30. Imports from western countries have declined progressively since 1967-68. Mr. L.N. Mishra Minister of Foreign Trade, told the Lok Sabha today

In reply to Mr. P. Gangadeb, he said that these imports declined from 67 percent in 1967-68 to 56 percent in 1968-69 and 53 percent during 1969-70.

He said that the main reason for this was that there had been a "structural change" in India's pattern of imports. India was now importing more from African and Rupee payment countries.

The writer is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court.

The views expressed are personal.



## SHORT TAKES

**3 ULTRAS KILLED,  
2 JAWANS HURT  
IN J&K GUNFIGHT**DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Three unidentified militants have been killed and two Army jawans injured in a fire fight raging in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district since Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier, a soldier was injured in a barrage of gunfire that came from behind scrub in Daddal village of Sunderbandi belt close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district after the security forces on noticing suspicious movement launched an operation in the vulnerable area.

The police and Army sources said that fighting broke out in Kulgam's Chimmer village after the security forces mounted a cordon-and-search operation to take on a group of militants hiding there. The exchange of fire was on when reports last came in.

**ANIL KANT IS  
NEW KERALA  
POLICE CHIEF**

**Thiruvananthapuram, June 30:** Senior IPS officer Anil Kant will be the new chief of Kerala police, succeeding incumbent DGP Loknath Behera who retired on Wednesday, government sources said.

A 1988 batch officer, Kant is presently serving as the Road Safety Commissioner in the state. A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan picked Kant for the top post from the list of officers recommended by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), they added.

The government also promoted him to the grade of Director General of Police from the present ADGP rank in the vacancy arising due to the retirement of Behera.

"The government has examined the recommendations of the Committee (UPSC) carefully along with the service records of the empanelled officers," an order issued by the Chief Secretary said.

The selection of Kant, who always chose to keep a low profile throughout his career, came as a surprise for many as the media had pointed out vigilance director Sudeesh Kumar and fire and rescue services director general B. Sandhya as the main contenders for the post.

**NO HONEST  
TAHSILDAR IN  
INDIA: RAJ MIN.**

**Kota (Raj), June 30:** A Rajasthani minister has claimed that there are no honest tahsildars in the county and even the upright ones take 2 per cent kickback. Rajasthan industries minister Parsadi Lal Meena said taking 2 per cent bribe is a practice among the tahsildars, naib tahsildars and patwaris across the country.

Nowhere in India, one can find an honest tahsildar, naib tahsildar and patwari. I have been a six-time MLA and thrice held ministerial posts several tahsildars, naib tahsildars were deputed, they always take 2 per cent (bribe), he said during a public hearing in Bundi on Tuesday.

The minister's response came after Pradesh Congress committee member Satyesh Sharma raised the issue of tahsildar (revenue officer) Pritam Kumari Meena getting an Awarded Posting Order (APO).

Meanwhile, Congress workers led by the party's Bundi city president Devraj Gochar raised slogans against the minister for allegedly not hearing their complaints against district collector Ashish Gupta.

## COVID | CURBS

**Officers told to dispose of bodies of Covid victims in a dignified manner**

**AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 30**

The Odisha government on Wednesday extended the partial lockdown till July 16 as the Covid-19 test positive rate (TPR) hovered around 5 per cent in several districts.

The government, however, attempted to ease restrictions in 20 out of the 30 districts which reported below 5 per cent TPR. In these 20 districts, the government allowed inter-district bus and taxi services and opening of the business establishments for 12

**Long wait for the vax**

Beneficiaries not adhering to social distancing norms wait in queues to receive Covid-19 vaccine dose at a government school at Fazilpur village in Gurugram on Wednesday. — PTI

**India to EU: Accept Covishield, Covaxin****India to follow reciprocal policy for EU digital certificate**DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

India has asked European Union member countries to either accept Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin or face mandatory quarantine for its citizens upon their arrival in India.

"We have noted that the European Union (EU) Digital Covid Certificate framework, to facilitate free movement during the Covid pandemic, is to come into effect from 1 July. Under this framework, persons vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will be exempted from travel restrictions within the EU. Individual member states have the flexibility to also accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by the World Health Organisation. We have requested EU member states to individually

consider extending similar exemption to those persons who have taken Covid-19 vaccines in India, i.e. Covishield and Covaxin, and accept the vaccination certificate issued through the CoWIN portal. The genuineness of such vaccination certification can be authenticated on the CoWIN portal," highly placed sources in the Indian government said on Wednesday.

"We have also conveyed to EU member states that India will institute a reciprocal policy for recognition of the EU Digital Covid Certificate. Upon notification of Covishield and Covaxin for inclusion in the EU Digital Covid Certificate and recognition of Indian CoWIN vaccination certificates, Indian health authorities would reciprocally exempt the concerned EU Member State for exemption from mandatory quarantine of all those persons carrying EU Digital Covid Certificate," sources

added.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is yet to clear the inclusion of Covishield in the (EU) Covid vaccination passport. Until it is approved, anyone who has been fully vaccinated with Covishield won't be able to travel to Europe during the pandemic.

Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla said on Wednesday that the European approval for its locally manufactured vaccine is "just a matter of time" and is expected in about a month.

He said that SII has applied for the inclusion of Covishield through its partner AstraZeneca. "The EMA is absolutely correct in asking us to apply, which we have through AstraZeneca, our partners, a month ago, and that process has to take its time. An approval process even with UK MHRA, WHO took its time and we have applied to the EMA," Poonawalla said at India

Global Forum 2021.

On Tuesday, an EU official had said that EMA has not received any request for approval of Covishield.

The Pune-based company had earlier urged the Indian government to take up the matter with the European Union and other countries. It said that non-inclusion of Covishield will affect students and business travellers.

Currently, only four vaccines — Comirnaty by Pfizer / BioNTech, Moderna, Vaxzervria by AstraZeneca-Oxford and, Johnson & Johnson's Janssen — have been approved by the EMA.

India on Wednesday recorded 45,951 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 817 deaths due to it. This is the third consecutive day when less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported. Country's Recovery Rate has increased to 96.92 per cent and the daily positivity rate has come down to 2.34 per cent.

**Khattar: Farmers adamant on repeal of farm laws, won't serve any purpose****Chandigarh, June 30:**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said the protesting farmer unions should not remain adamant on repeal of the new central farm laws, adding that making it a precondition for talks with the government does not serve any purpose.

He also claimed that only a "handful of people" were opposing the farm laws and that "common farmers are happy". Those spearheading the agitation are in reality not farmers. Real farmers have no objection with the farm laws, they are happy, he said.

The Chief Minister further alleged that those opposing the farm laws

are only doing so due to political reasons.

Their Punjab team is doing so because polls are approaching there. But there are no polls due in our state. Here the agenda is to defame the government using political angle. And the Congress is also supporting them in this, he said.

Khattar said the word *kisan* (farmer) is a sacred one, but some incidents like the alleged sexual exploitation of a woman from West Bengal at the Tikri border last month have "prompted people to raise questions".

On Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar's appeal to the protesting farmers to end their agitation and

his invitation for talks, Khattar said, "The farmer unions are adamant on only one thing — repeal of the farm laws — without being able to pinpoint at any shortcomings of the laws."

It does not serve any purpose if they remain adamant on just one thing and making it a precondition for talks with the government, he said at a press conference here.

"What I feel is that *kisan* word is a very pious word. Everyone, including me, the government, common people, believe those leading this agitation have faith and respect towards farmers. But the sad part which has come out of

this agitation is that some incidents have happened prompting people to raise questions," he said in an apparent reference to the sexual exploitation incident at Tikri border.

The Haryana Police had last month launched a probe into allegations by the father of the victim woman, who died after showing Covid-like symptoms, at a hospital in Bahadurgarh in Jhajjar district, that she had been raped by two men she had accompanied to the farmers protest site at Tikri border.

The CM also referred to the death of a 42-year-old man whose family members alleged that he was set on fire by four people in Bahadurgarh. — PTI

## Odisha extends partial lockdown till July 16

hours — from 6 am to 6 pm.

In 10 coastal districts where the Covid-19 situation is slowly improving but the TPR is above 5 per cent, transport services will remain suspended as before. The government, however, extended the time for movement of the public and business activity by one hour till 2 pm, instead of the previous deadline of 1 pm.

Announcing the 'unlock guidelines' in the afternoon, chief secretary Suresh Mohapatra said the Covid-19 situation has improved in 17 western and southern Odisha districts along with three districts

— Angul, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar — in the central part of the state.

The chief secretary announced a withdrawal weekend shutdown in 'Category A' districts. Mohapatra said small hair salons are allowed to operate in 'Category A' districts. Outdoor and indoor film shooting can resume while daily markets and weekly haats have also been permitted in these districts.

Weekend shutdown will continue in Category B districts. Similarly, bus transport will remain suspended in these districts. Malls, Cinema halls and jatras have

not been allowed and curbs on marriages and funerals will continue as usual in Category B districts.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government on Wednesday directed all district administrations and civic bodies like municipality, municipal corporations and notified area councils to dispose of the bodies of the Covid victims in a dignified manner in consultation with the bereaved families.

The government also asked the district administrations and civic bodies to hand over the corpses to the family members if the deceased tested Covid negative

at the time of their deaths.

In a letter to the district collectors, municipal commissioners and chief district medical officers (CDMOs), additional chief secretary P.K. Mohapatra stated that all Covid protocols as per the guidelines of the Central government be followed during the disposal of bodies.

He further directed that bodies of the deceased be handed over to their family members in case they tested negative for Covid-19 at the time of their deaths. The body must be covered in a sealed bag for the safe disposal, he stated.

**3 'drones' spotted over strategically vital areas in Jammu**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

at these objects," said an official.

On June 27, the sensitive Air Force Station at Jammu had come under a terror attack when two low-intensity bombs believed to have been dropped by drones hit a barracks and an open space in quick succession, leaving two IAF personnel were injured in the explosions that took place within a gap of 5-minutes.

A day later, the Army averted two separate drone activities in Ratnachak Kaluchak belt close to the border with Pakistan in Jammu region and, thereby, as was claimed by it, foiled a possible threat in this extremely sensitive military area. The activity continued on Tuesday when the drone-like objects were seen flying at a couple of places in the same security belt.

The J&K police and Indian Army officials in Jammu had said on Monday that as many as 14 drones were launched reportedly from across the International Border (called Working Boundary by Islamabad) and Line of Control (LoC) in the recent past.

**SON: DRIVE TO  
REPLACE BSY, A  
CLOSED CHAPTER****Mysuru, June 30:**

Karnataka BJP vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday said the campaign by a section of party leaders seeking replacement of his father and Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa from his post is now a closed chapter.

Addressing reporters here, he said, "Absolutely. No one is talking about it anymore."

Vijayendra was responding to a query whether the issue of leadership change in the state is a closed chapter.

He said the national general secretary and Karnataka in charge Arun Singh has clearly stated that Yediyurappa is running good administration and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government will complete its term under his leadership.

"There is no need to raise this issue (of leadership change) time and again when national leaders, state Bharatiya Janata Party president and even the Chief Minister have said that he (Yediyurappa) would continue in his position for the next two years," Vijayendra said. — PTI

**MADHYA PRADESH AGENCY FOR PROMOTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MAP\_IT), BHOPAL**

(Under Department of Science & Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh)  
MAP\_IT, State IT Centre, 47-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)  
Madhya Pradesh Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (MAP\_IT) is a society under the Department of Science & Technology, established to propel the growth of Information Technology in the state of Madhya Pradesh. In this pursuit, MAP\_IT is hiring the following IT professionals for its projects in Bhopal.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR IT PROFESSIONALS IN M.P.**

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1. .Net Developer	8 years	4	Upto 16 lakhs
2. Java Developer	8 years	4	Upto 16 lakhs
3. PHP Developer	8 years	1	Upto 16 lakhs
4. Testing Engineer	6 years	3	Upto 16 lakhs
5. Business Analyst	8 years	1	Upto 16 lakhs
6. Tech Lead - Microsoft Technologies	12 years	1	Upto 24 lakhs
7. Solution Architect	12 years	1	Upto 30 lakhs
8. GIS DBA	8 years	2	Upto 17 lakhs
9. GIS Software Engineer	4 years	3	Upto 6 lakhs
10. Group Manager-GIS	10 years	1	Upto 18 lakhs
11. GIS Data Manager	8 years	1	Upto 24 lakhs
12. Technical Project Manager	15 years	1	Upto 36 lakhs
13. Consultant -Technology Management	6 years	15	Upto 17 lakhs
14. Consultant - Finance Management	8 years	1	Upto 17 lakhs

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M.P. Madhyam/101143/2021

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
28.06.2021	13.07.2021	27.07.2021 / 15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender





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## SHORT TAKES

## WFP WARNS OF BIBLICAL FAMINE WITHOUT ACTION

Rome, June 30: The head of the UN's World Food Programme warned Wednesday there could be "unprecedented famine of biblical proportions" in dozens of countries without further action to address food shortages. Speaking at a G20 event on humanitarian aid in Brindisi, Italy, WFP chief David Beasley said world leaders had stepped up last year with funds to help those already struggling when Covid hit.

"We thought Covid would be in our rearview mirror by the end of 2020, only to see it recycled, with Delta and other variants taking place, devastating particularly low-income and developing nations around the world," he said.

## SEX ASSAULT: COSBY CONVICTION OVERTURNED

Philadelphia, June 30: Pennsylvania's highest court threw out Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction and opened the way for his immediate release from prison Wednesday in a stunning reversal of fortune for the comedian once known as "America's Dad", ruling that the prosecutor who brought the case was bound by his predecessor's agreement not to charge Cosby. Cosby, 83, has served more than two years of a three- to 10-year sentence after being found guilty of drugging and violating Temple University sports administrator Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Cosby was arrested in 2015, when a district attorney armed with newly unsealed evidence — the comic's damaging deposition testimony in a lawsuit brought by Constand — brought charges against him. But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court said that District Attorney Kevin Steele, who made the decision to arrest Cosby, was obligated to stand by his predecessor's promise not to charge Cosby.

## MIT, Harvard mask can help diagnose infection

Boston, June 30: Researchers at MIT and Harvard University have designed a new mask that can diagnose if the wearer is infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes Covid-19, within 90 minutes.

The mask design, described in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, has embedded tiny, disposable sensors that can be fitted into other masks, and could also be adapted to detect other viruses. The researchers showed that the sensors could be incorporated into not only masks but also clothing such as lab coats, potentially offering a new way to monitor health care workers' exposure to a variety of pathogens or other threats.

We have demonstrated that we can freeze-dry a broad range of synthetic biology sensors to detect viral or bacterial nucleic acids, as well as toxic chemicals, including nerve toxins," said James Collins, a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US. "We envision that this platform could enable next-generation wearable biosensors for first responders, health care personnel, and military personnel," Collins, the senior author of the study, said.

The mask sensors are designed so that they can be activated by the wearer when they are ready to perform the test, and the results are only displayed on the inside of the mask, for the privacy of the user.

As the researchers were finishing up their work on the wearable sensors early in 2020, Covid-19 began spreading around the globe, so they quickly decided to try using their technology to create a diagnostic for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. To produce their diagnostic mask, the



A traditional Thai statue wears a mask as a campaign for travellers to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the departure terminal of Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok on Wednesday. — AFP

## MIX AZ, PFIZER VAX FOR IMMUNITY

London, June 30: Alternating doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines generate robust immune response against Covid-19, according to a study led by researchers from the University of Oxford in the UK. The yet-to-be-

published study found that both mixed schedules — Pfizer followed by AstraZeneca, and vice versa — induced high concentrations of antibodies against the SARS-CoV2 spike protein when doses were administered four weeks apart. — PTI

researchers embedded freeze-dried sensors into a paper mask.

These freeze-dried components are surrounded by silicone elastomer, the researchers said.

The sensors are placed on the inside of the mask, so they can detect viral particles in the breath of the person wearing the mask. — PTI



Vladimir Putin

## PUTIN SAYS U.S. CRAFT INVOLVED IN BLACK SEA INCIDENT

Moscow, June 30: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that a US reconnaissance aircraft was operating in sync with a British destroyer during last week's Black Sea incident in what he described as a "provocation" to test Moscow's response.

Moscow said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of British destroyer Defender on June 23 to force it out of an area near the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014. Britain denied that account, insisted its ship wasn't fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters. Asked if it could have triggered World War III, Putin said that it was hardly possible even if Russia had sunk the British warship because Western powers knew they couldn't emerge winners. Putin said that the US aircraft's mission was to monitor the Russian military's response to the British destroyer. He added that Moscow was aware of the US intentions and responded accordingly to avoid revealing sensitive data. In Wednesday's incident, Britain insisted the Defender had been making a routine journey. — AP

## Lanka: Don't wear military uniform

## Colombo tells Chinese workers to obey

Colombo, June 30: In an unusual move, Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary has asked the Chinese Embassy here to "educate" a Chinese private company dredging a reservoir in Hambantota, the hometown of the ruling Rajapaksa family, not to wear military-style camouflage uniforms in future.

"The Ministry of Defence also informed the local private company to avoid the recurrence of such action henceforth," it said in a press release on Tuesday.

Gunaratne has also directed the Southern Province Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police to thwart any further attempt of such nature, the Ministry of Defence said.

The Chinese embassy has "affirmed" that the said employees are not members of China's People's Liberation Army and it is the respective overseas company's "overall uniform entitled

to the staffers", the press release said. The main Opposition had queried the presence of foreigners working in the Tissamaharama lake conservation wearing clothes similar to the Chinese military uniform.

The Director of Archaeology claimed that his department had not sanctioned the slit cleaning of the lake where these foreigners had been sighted wearing the alleged Chinese military uniforms.

The government spokesman and minister Kehela Rambukwella on Tuesday said that the police's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and the military intelligence had investigated the claims and found that the allegations of the Chinese military uniforms were not true. The clothes were similar to those worn by private security agencies in China. — PTI

## Myanmar frees prisoners

Bangkok, June 30: Myanmar's government began releasing about 2,300 prisoners on Wednesday, including activists who were detained for protesting against the military's seizure of power in February and journalists who reported on the protests, officials said.

Buses took prisoners out of Yangon's Insein Prison, where friends and families of detainees had waited since morning for the announced releases. It is standard practice to take freed prisoners to the police stations where they were originally booked to complete the processing

for their freedom. Most political prisoners are held on a catch-all charge of inciting disorder and public unease, or seeking to disrupt the work of civil servants and members of the military. Depending upon the exact offense, such charges carry a maximum prison term of two or three years. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoner said Tuesday that 5,224 people were in detention in connection with the protests. The group keeps detailed tallies of arrests and casualties.

— AP

LIVE RICH

## FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 1 JULY 2021

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	52482.71 -0.13
Nifty 50	15721.50 -0.17
S&P 500*	4,291.65 0.00
Dollar (₹)	74.33 -0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.99 -0.16
Euro (₹)	88.38 0.008
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,783▼264 0.57
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.16 0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.051 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.441 -0.039

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Amul raises milk prices by ₹2 per litre across India

Prices of Amul milk will be increased by Rs 2 per litre with effect from July 1 across all brands. R.S. Sudhi, MD, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, said the price was being hiked after a gap of one year and seven months. "The new prices will be applicable on all Amul milk brands like Gold, Taaza, Shakti, T-special, as well as cow and buffalo milk," said Sudhi. He said the price hike became unavoidable.

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Fund release conditional under new plan  
CCEA okays ₹3.03 L cr scheme for discoms

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a five-year, reform-based and result-linked power distribution scheme worth Rs 3.03 lakh crore, for strengthening the systems of utilities to improve their efficiency.

The Reform-Based Result-Linked Power Distribution Scheme was announced in the Budget in February this year.

In a briefing post-the CCEA meeting, R. K. Singh, the Union minister for power and new and renewable energy, said, "We have done a lot for power distribution reforms. It needs to be strengthened. Today, the Cabinet has approved the new scheme worth Rs 3.03 lakh crore, including Rs 97,000 crore central outlay."

He said the funds would be given to power distribution companies (discoms) to strengthen their systems. He said, "we need to do back-end strengthening to commensurate with our expansion (of power sector), which is the main objective of this scheme".

He said there is a difference between this scheme and earlier scheme as fund allocation under this scheme is conditional.

Discoms that are in losses cannot get funding under this scheme unless they make a plan to reduce the loss trajectory, get it approved by the state and submit that to the Centre.



Under the scheme, the target is to reduce aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) loss to 12 per cent in the next five years, Singh said. Currently, the AT&C losses are at around 21 per cent, the minister added.

On Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman again announced the scheme as part of the stimulus package to boost the economy.

The revamped reforms-based result-linked power distribution scheme will provide financial assistance to discoms for infrastructure creation, upgradation of system, capacity building and process improvement.

It provides state-specific intervention in place of one size fits all.

For availing this scheme, the states will have to pre-qualify criteria like publication of audited financial reports, upfront liquidation of state government's dues and subsidy to discoms, and non-creation of additional regulatory assets.

## ECONOMY MAY TAKE LONGER TO HIT \$5 TRILLION GOAL: SANYAL



Sanjeev Sanyal

Indore, June 30: India's economy is on the mend after the pandemic-induced shocks but it may take "an additional year or so" to achieve the \$5 trillion-mark, said Sanjeev Sanyal, principal economic advisor to the Union Ministry of Finance, on Wednesday.

The GDP growth rate is expected to be positive in the April-June quarter, he said, speaking to reporters here.

"Of course, disruptions will be there. We had set a target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. It may take an additional year or so to achieve this," he said.

"But given the shocks we went through (due to the pandemic), it's nothing," said Sanyal, here to attend a programme of the Department of Economics of Devi Ahilya University.

The economy has started to recover rapidly after the second wave of the pandemic subsided, and the GDP growth rate is expected to be positive in the April-June quarter, he said. "If no major damage from the (possible) third wave of the pandemic is seen in the country and vaccination continues at the same pace, then you will see growth in the economy in the next three-four months, he added. — PTI

## Four years on, GST is still on road to perfection

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JUNE 30

Despite completing four years, the goods and services tax (GST) system is yet to overcome all the challenges posed by the mammoth project. While steps have been taken by the government to iron out glitches and address unforeseen concerns of the taxpayers, challenges with regard to compensation cess, inverted duty structure, exclusion of certain sectors and divergent ruling state-level advance authorities still remain.

The nationwide indirect tax system was rolled out on July 1, 2017 by subsuming 17 local levies like excise duty, service tax and VAT and 13 cesses.

"Looking at the past four years since the introduction of GST, one can say it has been a challenging but exciting journey.. Various amendments have been brought in to smoothly transit into the vision of 'one nation one tax,' said Abhishek Jain, tax partner EY.

However, a few pain points still remain. The inverted duty structure is a major issue that needs resolution. In this, the tax rate on input used is higher than the rate on the output for sale.

Some of the sectors like oil & gas, electricity and real estate have been kept out of the purview of GST. In the case of oil & gas, five major products, including petrol, diesel, crude, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel, have been excluded from GST. While the sector is

not able to rightly get the input tax credit due to the exclusion, continuous increase in taxes by the Centre and the state governments is a major worry for the customers.

GST compensation for the states has become a major Centre-state issue due to the fall of collections in the face of the pandemic. The Centre had agreed to compensate the states if they do not achieve 14 per cent growth in revenues for five years. With the compensation cess, the Centre was managing to compensate the states witnessing a shortfall. However, the pandemic has made things worse and the Centre has to borrow on the behalf of states to avoid the confusion.

While GST was meant to lower compliance related complications, the services industry now has to make separate registrations in each state and the rates too are higher compared to pre-GST times.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Williamson back on top of ranks**

Dubai: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has reclaimed the number one position in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen after leading his side to the World Test Championship title in Southampton last week. The 30-year-old's knocks of 49 and 52 not out in the low-scoring final against India helped him move above the 900-point mark and he now enjoys a 10-point lead over Steve Smith (891 rating points).

India skipper Virat Kohli remains in fourth position while Rohit Sharma has moved up to the sixth spot. Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant is seventh. Ravinda Jadeja has slipped behind West Indian Jason Holder to second position after a week at the top of the rankings for allrounders. — PTI

**South Africa beat Windies by a run**

**St George's, Grenada:** South Africa's bowlers held their nerve during a thrilling run chase to clinch a win over the West Indies by one run in the third Twenty20 international, giving the Proteas a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Quinton de Kock scored 72 from 51 balls as South Africa made 167 for 8 batting first and Tabraiz Shamsi's 2 for 13 from four overs helped the Proteas defend a total that proved only just adequate.

The West Indies came to the last over, bowled by Kagiso Rabada, needing 15 runs to win with three wickets in hand but Fabian Allen and Dwayne Bravo could not pull it off. — AP

**Brief scores:** South Africa 167 for 8 (D de Kock 72, R van der Dussen 32, McCoy 4/22, D. Bravo 3/25) bt West Indies 166 for 7.

**Mithali, Shafali prop up India**

**Taunton:** Skipper Mithali Raj hit a responsible fifty but England's Kate Cross recorded a five-wicket haul to dismiss India Women for 221 in the second ODI of the three-match series here on Wednesday. The 38-year-old Raj once again stood out with a 92-ball 59, studded with six boundaries but she didn't get any support from the other end as Cross kept chipping away at the wickets. Put in to bat, the skipper Mandhana (22) and Shafali Verma (44) gave India a good start, adding 56 runs in 11.5 overs before the former played one on to her stumps to become the first victim of Cross. Jemima Rodrigues (8) continued to struggle with the bat as Cross induced a leading edge from the batter. — PTI

**Brief scores, 1st innings:** India 221 in 50 overs (Mithali Raj 59, Shafali Verma 44; Kate Cross 5/34) vs England

**Star Son not part of Korea squad**

**Seoul:** Tottenham Hotspur striker Son Heung-min was not included in South Korea's 18-man Olympic football squad named on Wednesday, avoiding a potential club-versus-country dilemma.

Son's new English Premier League campaign with Tottenham is due to begin on Sunday August 15 against champions Manchester City, just a week after the Olympic final in Tokyo.

Valencia midfielder Lee Kang-in, the youngest member of the squad at 20, can avoid military service by winning an Olympic medal.

South Korea requires all able-bodied men to serve for 18 months. But Olympic medallists or gold medalists at the Asian Games are awarded exemptions from service. — AFP

**Atlanta Hawks hunt down Bucks**

**New York:** Giannis Antetokounmpo suffered a knee injury as the Milwaukee Bucks slumped to a series-levelling defeat against the Atlanta Hawks in their NBA Eastern Conference finals clash on Tuesday.

An all-round offensive effort from the Hawks secured a 110-88 victory at the State Farm Arena to square the best-of-seven series at 2-2. Lou Williams, starting in place of the injured Trae Young, led the scoring with 21 points for Atlanta while Bogdan Bogdanovic had 20 points. But the main talking point was the injury to Antetokounmpo in the third quarter. The two-time NBA Most Valuable Player collapsed to the court in agony after landing awkwardly following a tussle near the basket with Clint Capela. — AFP

# SERENA SLIPS

**Champ falls in first round, exits Wimbledon in tears**

**London, June 30:** American legend Serena Williams's dreams of winning an eighth Wimbledon singles title and equaling Margaret Court's Grand Slam singles record of 24 ended in tears on Tuesday.

The 39-year-old was leading 3-1 in the first set of her first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus when she slipped and had to have her left ankle examined.

Serena returned from receiving medical attention but called it a day at 3-3 and walked off Centre Court in tears.

This is the first time that Serena has bowed out in the first round of Wimbledon.

The tears said it all as with the withdrawals of 2019 champion Simona Halep and of Naomi Osaka prior to the tournament the American would have fancied her chances of at last equaling the controversial Court's landmark.

Serena was giving the Olympics a miss anyways giving her time to recover ahead of the US Open in September which she has won six times.

Meanwhile, defending champion Novak Djokovic survived a series of falls on Centre Court to reach the Wimbledon third round on Wednesday with a straight sets win over Kevin Anderson.

World number one Djokovic, chasing a sixth Wimbledon and record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title, won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 over the 102nd-ranked South African. — AFP



Serena Williams of the USA reacts as she pulls-up injured before withdrawing from her women's singles first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus at Wimbledon in London on Tuesday. — AFP

## Reverred courts are under fire

**London, June 30:** Serious questions were being asked of Wimbledon's fabled grass courts on Wednesday following Serena Williams's tearful, tournament-ending injury with Australian firebrand Nick Kyrgios branding them "joke".

Her heart-stopping fall came not long after French player Adrian Mannarino had slipped and hurt himself on the same part of Centre Court. He too had to retire with his match against Roger Federer level at two sets apiece.

"I do feel it feels a tad more slippery maybe under the roof," said Federer. "You do have to move very, very carefully out there. If you push too hard in the wrong moments, you do go down. I do feel it's drier during the day. With the wind and all that stuff, it takes the moisture out of the grass," he added.

However, Federer, who has won eight Wimbledon titles, insists the courts are no different from other years. "I don't think it plays very different. It's always been like this. I feel for a lot of players, it's super key to get through those first two rounds because the grass

is more slippery, it is more soft. As the tournament progresses, usually it gets harder and easier to move on," he said.

Australia's Nick Kyrgios, playing under the roof on Centre Court One, was also dismissive of the conditions. "Guys, for you watching at home, it should be fast here, that's grass court tennis," Kyrgios was overheard saying before his match with Ugo Humbert was suspended for the night at 3-3 in the final set.

"It's a joke. Try watering it. Make it a grass court again," he added.

Despite the criticism, the All England Club insisted that the courts are up to standard.

"The preparation of the grass courts has been to exactly the same meticulous standard as in previous years," the club said in a statement.

"The weather conditions on the opening two days have been the wettest we have experienced in almost a decade,

which has required the roof to be closed on Centre Court and No.1 Court for long periods. This is at a time when the grass plant is at its most lush and green, which does result in additional moisture on what is a natural surface." — AFP

## Seema in, Hima hobbles

**Patiala, June 30:** Veteran discus thrower Seema Punia qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a gold winning effort of 63.72m on the final day of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships here.

The 37-year-old breached the Olympic qualifying mark of 63.50m to become the 12th individual Indian athlete to qualify for the Tokyo Games.

Punia had reached Patiala from Minsk, where she had taken part in Belarus Open Championship last week, in the wee hours on Sunday.

She went past the 60m mark on four of her five legal throws and found the power to breach the Olympic qualifying mark in her fourth try.

Seema Punia will be the second Indian woman to take part in the event in this month's Tokyo Olympics after national record holder Kamalpreet Kaur, who threw the iron disc to a distance of 66.59m in the Indian Grand Prix 4 on Monday last.

Meanwhile, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said its Grievance Committee will look into Olympic-bound Seema Punia's demand for a

hyperandrogenism test on fellow discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur. Seema wrote to AFI raising concerns about improvement in Kaur's performance in a short period and seeking a hyperandrogenism test on her. — PTI

Hyperandrogenism is a condition which causes higher testosterone levels than expected in biological females. It is considered an advantage for affected athletes over the non-affected ones.

Kaur had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a then national record throw of 65.06m during the Federation Cup in March and bettered it with a throw of 66.59m.

In another development, star sprinter Hima Das, who sustained a hamstring injury on Saturday while running 100m heats is set to miss the Tokyo Olympics as the women's 4x100m of which she was a part earlier clocked 44.15 seconds, well outside the targeted time of 43.03 seconds.

Hima also tried to compete in the women's 200m final, chasing 22.80 seconds to qualify for Olympics, but finished fifth in 25.03 seconds.

Tuesday midnight is the deadline of the Olympics qualification period and the World Athletics will publish the list of qualified athletes for Tokyo on Thursday. — PTI

Seema Punia in this file photo.

SEEMA WRITES AGAINST FELLOW THROWER

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## Swimmer Srihari set for Olympic splash

**New Delhi, June 30:** Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj officially booked himself a Tokyo Olympics berth on Wednesday after the sport's world governing body FINA approved his 'A' standard qualification time in the men's 100m backstroke time trial at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome.

Nataraj's feat came on Sunday and was also a new national record besides being enough to achieve the 'A' mark for

the Tokyo Games set at 53.77 (seconds)

swam in the time trial at the Sette Colli Trophy is affirmed by FINA. SFI had put forward its representation to FINA for this. Srihari joins Sajan Prakash as India's A qualification entry to Tokyo, the Swimming Federation of India tweeted.

Nataraj's feat came on Sunday and was also a new national record besides being enough to achieve the 'A' mark for

the Tokyo Games set at 53.77 (seconds)

two Indian swimmers will take part in the Summer Games after achieving a direct qualification.

Sajan Prakash had scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian swimmer to breach the Olympic 'A' standard in the men's 200m butterfly in the same event.

The 27-year-old bettered 2010 Asian Games bronze medallist Virdhawal Khade's previous mark of 1:49.86 seconds.

While it will be Nataraj's maiden Olympics, the Tokyo Games will be Prakash's second appearance at the extravaganza, having represented India in Rio in 2016.

The 20-year-old Nataraj had earlier represented India in the 2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games besides the Youth Olympics the same year. — PTI

## Chhetri in fray for Khel Ratna

**New Delhi, June 30:** Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, football captain Sunil Chhetri, top table tennis player Sharath Kamal, archer Jyothi Surekha Venman, shooters Ankur Mittal and Anjum Moudgil and golfer Shubhankar Sharma have been recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by their respective national sports federations.

The BCCI has decided to pitch in cricketers Ravichandran Ashwin and Mithali Raj for the top sports award, it is learnt.

This is the fourth time Chopra is being recommended for the Khel Ratna since 2018. Chopra has already been conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018 after winning a gold in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

In football, national women's team striker Bala Devi, who is currently playing for Rangers in the Scottish Women's Premier League, has been recommended for the coveted Arjuna Award.

"We have recommended Sunil Chhetri for the Khel Ratna and Bala Devi for Arjuna Award," an official source said, adding, "We have also recommended Gabriel Joseph for Dronacharya Award."

Chhetri is a recipient of Padma Shri (2019), the country's fourth highest civilian honour, and the Arjuna Award (2011).

Sharath Kamal, who is set to compete in his fourth Olympics, had become the first Indian paddler to get the Padma Shri in 2019.

Kamal's former teammate turned coach Soumyadeep Roy has been nominated for the Dronacharya Award.

The national federation also recommended Asian Games team silver medalist Muskan Kirar for the Arjuna Award and renowned compound archery coach Lokesh Chand Pal for the Dronacharya Award this year.

The 49-year-old Indian archery legend Limba Ram has been battling a neurological disease in recent years.

## Olympic cheer



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (centre) poses with shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Rankireddy Satwiksairaj after felicitating them on Wednesday as part of the #Cheer4India campaign to support and motivate athletes bound for the Tokyo Olympics.

## Lankan 'terrible trio' out of Indian series

**Colombo, June 30:** Three Sri Lankan cricket players ordered to leave the tour of England on disciplinary grounds will be dropped from a home series against India in July, officials said on Wednesday.

Dubbed the "terrible trio" by media, vice captain Kusal Mendis, opener Danushka Gunathilaka and wicket keeper Niroshan Dickwella returned home on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka Cricket officials said an inquiry into how they left the team's pandemic isolated hotel in England would start after their mandatory two-week quarantine.

None will be included in the three one day internationals and three Twenty20 games to start on July 13.

"They are likely to get a minimum one-year suspension if found guilty of several breaches of their contract," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The trio was also pulled out of the three-match One-Day International series against England

after they were seen breaching their bio-secure bubble ahead of the first ODI in Durham.

Mendis and Dickwella were seen smoking in the streets of Durham, where they were based ahead of the ODI series.

England won the first ODI by five wickets. The second ODI is due to be played on Thursday with the final on Sunday.

After Sri Lanka's whitewash in the T20 series against England, their fifth consecutive series defeat, disgruntled fans launched a campaign to shun the team on social media.

The hashtag #unfollowcricketers began to trend on Facebook on Sunday as thousands of fans boycotted the social media pages of Mendis and Gunathilaka, reports said.

Fans were also sharing memes asking each other not to watch the national team on television. — AFP

**Quick passes**
**English fans are over the moon**

Years of despair. Decades of distress. Eons of agony.

It's nothing but history now, because England have finally beaten Germany again in a knockout match at a major soccer tournament.

"It's absolutely brilliant as an old man, after seeing us keep losing to the Germans for a while," said England fan Steve Line, a 61-year-old gardener from Milton Keynes who made his way to Wembley Stadium on Tuesday for the historic night.

"It's put it to bed now, hasn't it? Put it to bed," the fan added.

"I remember the pain of 1996, as a 12-year-old and having to go to school the next day," said Terence Michael Anthony, now a 37-year-old accountant from London.

"I think it's just a relief now that the draw opens up we've got a real chance of making it to the final. It's good to get one over on the Germans, we owed them. But it's not so much revenge. We're a massive football nation, we need to be performing at the top level," said Richard Mills, a 36-year-old Payments Manager from London. — AP



An England supporter reacts while watching the Euro match between England and Germany at the 4TheFans Fan Park in Manchester on Tuesday. — AFP

**Pessina celebration is a big hit in Italy**

Matteo Pessina's goal-scoring "diving face-first on the turf with his arms nearly flat by his side" has become quite a sensation back home in Italy.

Rightly so.

The 24-year-old midfielder, who only joined his national team for the European Championship after another player was injured, scored what turned out to be the winning goal in extra time against Austria in the Round of 16.

"It was the most spontaneous thing in the world. It didn't seem real to me that it had really happened and I did the stupidest thing I could think of. I get lots of videos of people imitating it, even on the beach. It's really wonderful," Pessina said.

Not bad for someone who was playing in Italy's third division a little over four years ago "and at times struggling to even make the team."

"There was a time, when I was in Serie 'C' and I wasn't playing, that I even thought about quitting. But I continued because of the love for this sport," he said. — AP

**Brazil get a clear path to the final**

Defending champion Brazil may have the smoothest path to the final of the Copa America tournament they are hosting.

The hottest competition could be on the other side of the draw, where arch rivals Argentina and Uruguay have the chance to meet in the semifinals.

The knockout stage of the Copa America was finalised on Tuesday after the last two matches in Group A.

Argentina beat Bolivia 4-1 to ensure their finished atop the group, setting up a game against Ecuador in the quarterfinals.

Ecuador are yet to win in the tournament, but held Brazil to a 1-1 draw on Sunday and are in third position in South American World Cup qualifiers.

If Lionel Messi's line-up beat Ecuador, coached by Argentine Gustavo Alfaro, their semifinal will be against either Uruguay or Colombia. Uruguay has 15 Copa America titles, the most recent being in 2011. Argentina have 14, but have had a trophy drought since 1993. — AP

# SHEVA'S UKREIGN

## Former star Shevchenko leads Ukraine to quarters

Glasgow, June 30: Artem Dovbyk's header in the 121st minute sent Ukraine through to a Euro 2020 quarterfinal clash with England as they beat Sweden 2-1 after extra time in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Ukraine squeezed through to the Last 16 despite taking just three points in the group stage, qualifying in part because Sweden beat Poland to top Group 'E' ahead of Spain.

But former star and manager Andriy Shevchenko's side were determined to show they deserved their place in the knockout phase as Oleksandr Zinchenko fired them into an early lead.

Emil Forsberg's deflected strike brought Sweden level before half-time and the RB Leipzig midfielder

**Ukraine 2**  
(Oleksandr Zinchenko 27,  
Artem Dovbyk 120+1)

**Sweden 1**  
(Emil Forsberg 43)

twice hit the woodwork in the second half.

However, a red card for Marcus Danielsson nine minutes into extra time left Sweden hanging on for penalties until Dovbyk latched onto Zinchenko's inviting cross to spark wild scenes of celebration among the small band of Ukrainian fans at Hampden Park.

"With this performance and commitment, our team has deserved the love of the whole country," said Shevchenko, who in the last eight will return to Italy where he enjoyed the best years of his stellar playing career with AC Milan.

Shevchenko said before the game his side had already achieved their objective by making it through the group.

But the former Ballon d'Or winner got the reaction he desired after a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Austria in their final group game with a fast start.



Andriy Yarmolenko (left) of Ukraine unleashes a shot during the Euro Round of 16 match against Sweden at Hampden Park in Glasgow on Tuesday. — AFP

Andriy Yarmolenko has been his country's driving force all tournament, scoring or assisting in all but two of their six goals.

The West Ham United winger's teasing cross with the outside of his left foot fell kindly for Zinchenko on 27 minutes and the Manchester City man drilled in a low shot that had too much power for Olsen.

Zinchenko will come up against a number of his club teammates in the quarterfinal, and he urged Ukraine to believe they can make history by reaching the semi-finals of a major tournament for the

first time as an independent nation.

"I know a lot of those players personally. They have a really good set of players, their substitutes bench probably cost the same as three Ukrainian teams," said Zinchenko.

"This should not scare us, this should motivate us. I sense myself that everything is possible in this life and we will try everything for it," he further added.

Forsberg has been just as influential for Sweden as Yarmolenko for Ukraine and he equalised two minutes before the break with his fourth goal of the tour-

nament. He then hit the woodwork twice after the break, curling a shot onto the base of the post before a more powerful effort from the edge of the box cannoned back off the bar.

In between times, Georgiy Bushchan produced a stunning save to tip over Dejan Kulusevski's dipping shot.

"In the second half we had four great chances, hitting the post and crossbar," said Sweden boss Janne Andersson.

"It felt like we would score eventually, but unfortunately we didn't and in the extra time it went the way it did. The

red card really decided the game," he added.

Danielsson won the ball but followed through with a dangerous challenge on Artem Besedin that forced the Dynamo Kiev striker to come off with a serious knee injury.

Yarmolenko also had to be replaced midway through extra time in what will be a concern for Shevchenko if Ukraine are to have any chance of shocking England in Rome.

But his replacement Dovbyk was the hero as he chose the perfect time to score his first international goal. — AFP

## Southgate surges north

London, June 30: England are dreaming of Euro 2020 glory after finally slaying old nemesis Germany in the knockout stages of a major tournament and now have a favourable draw against Ukraine in the quarterfinals.

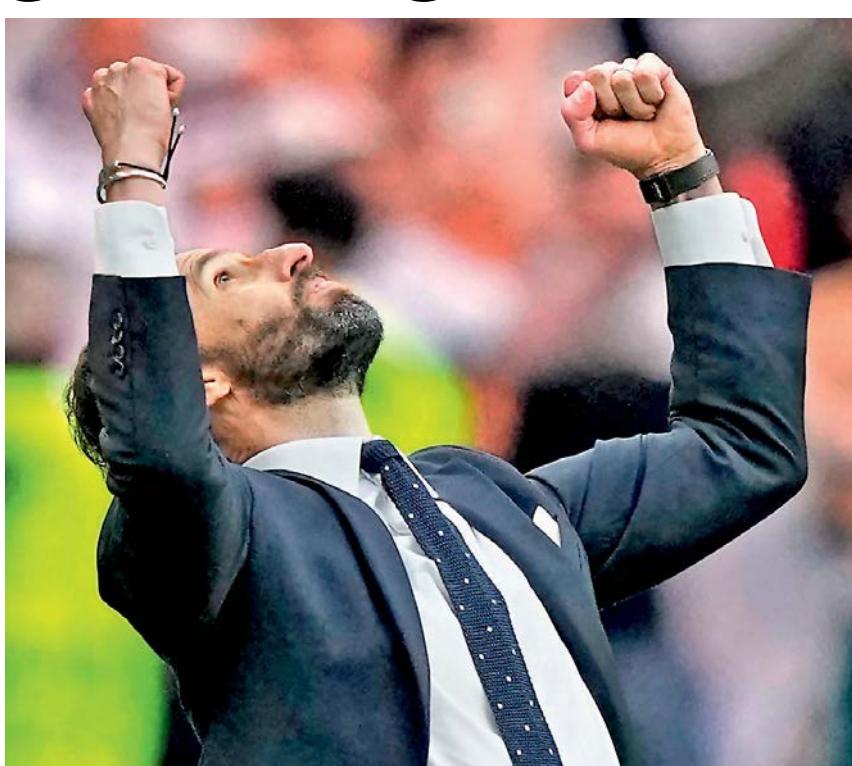
A 2-0 win over the four-time world champions at a raucous Wembley — thanks to late goals from Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane — rewarded England manager Gareth Southgate's measured approach, which had been criticised for being overly cautious in the group phase.

Southgate knows only too well what the consequences of failure are for England against Germany in a major tournament on home soil.

His distinguished playing career was forever dogged by a miss in the penalty shootout at Euro 96 that sent the Germans to the final.

Twenty-five years on, England are still waiting for their first major tournament win since 1966, when they beat Germany in the World Cup final, but are at least now consistent contenders.

The Three Lions reached the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup in Russia and the inaugural Nations League. And only a major shock in Rome on Saturday will deny them a last-four spot once more.



England coach Gareth Southgate celebrates the Euro Round of 16 win against Germany at the Wembley Stadium in London on Tuesday. — AFP

pick certain personnel instead of others and, if it goes wrong, you're dead," he said after switching to a 3-4 formation to match up with Germany's wing-backs.

That meant Jack Grealish, Phil Foden, Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford and Mason Mount all started the game sitting on the bench.

After a poor end to the season with Manchester City, there were calls for Sterling to be dropped before the tournament began.

The results are clear to see after they started a tournament with four

consecutive clean sheets for the first time since 1966. Southgate's loaded bench also means England have the weapons to decide games as fatigue sets in.

Grealish was the game-changer after his introduction 20 minutes from time with a part in both goals, but the manager's faith in Sterling and Kane was also rewarded.

If England see off a limited Ukraine side hampered by injuries on Saturday they will be back at Wembley for the semifinals. A quarter of a century after it was supposed to, football may be finally coming home for Southgate and England. — AFP

## ENGLISHMEN ERASE YEARS OF AGONY

London, June 30: As the Wembley Stadium announcer roared the final score England 2, Germany 0, Gareth Southgate's vision was momentarily diverted from his victorious players to the big screen.

Shown beaming from the VIP seats, reveling in England's passage to the European Championship quarterfinals on Tuesday, were David Beckham and Ed Sheeran.

Prince William, wife Kate and 7-year-old Prince George were also there celebrating, as fans just like their subjects rather than royalty.

But it was the sight of David Seaman that caught Southgate's eyes and made him pause, to think back in one of his greatest moments as England coach to the pain of 25 years ago. It was Southgate's penalty miss at the old Wembley that denied an England side with Seaman in goal the chance to reach the Euro 96 final.

"For the teammates who played with me, I can't change that so that's always going to hurt," Southgate said.

"But what this group of players has been able to do is give a new generation a lot of happy memories and another afternoon where they have made a bit of history.

England are finally unburdened by the weight of its agonising history against the Germans.

This was a day more reminiscent, albeit with a long way to go in 2020, of the 1966 World Cup final win over them on the same site. — AP

## EURO QUARTERFINALS

July 2	Switzerland vs Spain in St Petersburg	9.30 pm
July 3	Belgium vs Italy in Munich	12.30 am
July 4	Czech Republic vs Denmark in Baku	9.30 pm

July 4

England vs Ukraine in Rome 12.30 am

London, June 30:

Joachim Loew walks away after 15 years in charge of Germany leaving a misfiring side short of confidence and his successor Hansi Flick already under pressure to turn things around before next year's World Cup.

The Germans bowed out of Euro 2020 after a disappointing display in the 2-0 Last 16 defeat to England on Tuesday at Wembley, which was Loew's 198th and final game in charge.

His record of 124 wins, 40 draws and 34 defeats since 2006 is impressive.

Yet the figures mask the reality of tears in the German dressing room at Wembley following the latest painful defeat as, once again, Germany struggled to finish their chances.

Loew had the high of winning the 2014 World Cup, including the remarkable 7-1 thrashing of hosts Brazil in the semifinals, but his tenure was tarnished by the low of finishing bottom of the group four years later in Russia, which still haunts the Germans.

"In these 15 years, there were a lot of things that were very positive," Loew insisted at Wembley.

"We have developed steadily, the World Cup in 2014, the Confederation Cup victory

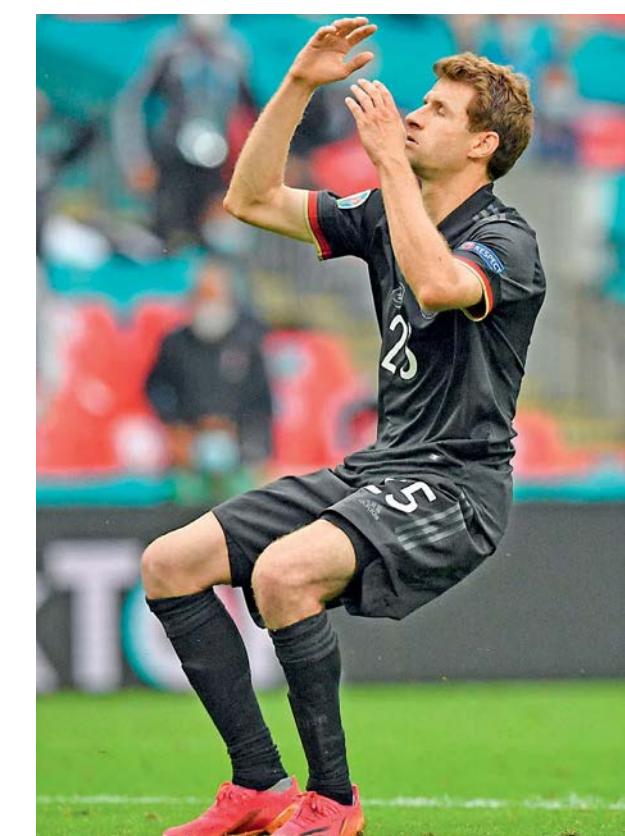


in 2017 with a young team.

"There have been moments that are unforgettable," he added.

Yet Loew admitted his team had experienced "some problems since 2018" and that there had been "a lot of difficult periods" like the unforgettable 6-0 thrashing by Spain last November, which sparked his decision to step down.

His replacement, one-time assistant Hansi Flick, inherits a team which still needs to get its bid for qualification for the 2022 World Cup back on track after a shock home defeat to minnows North Macedonia in March. When Thomas Mueller wasted a golden opportunity to equalise at Wembley with the goal at his mercy, it was typical of Germany's recent struggles in the final third. — AFP



Germany's Thomas Mueller reacts after a missed chance against England during their Euro Round of 16 match at Wembley Stadium in London on Tuesday. — AFP

## Misfire Mueller mulls over miss

Berlin, June 30: Thomas Mueller admits his crucial miss at Wembley for a late equaliser in the 2-0 defeat to England which knocked Germany out of Euro 2020 "hurts like hell".

With England 1-0 up in Tuesday's Last 16 clash thanks to a Raheem Sterling goal, Mueller managed to break clear of the England defence with nine minutes left, but fired agonisingly wide with the goal at his mercy.

"To get that opportunity and then have it go to waste, it hurts like hell," Mueller wrote on Instagram Wednesday under a picture with his head in his hands on the Wembley turf.

"There it was, that one moment that stays in your memory at the end, that keeps you awake at night."

"The moment you work, train and live for as a footballer."

"That moment when you

alone have it in your hands to bring your team back into a tight knockout game and send an entire football nation into ecstasy," he added.

"It hurts me for the whole @fbteam (German FA), my teammates and our coach who all put their trust in me to be there right then," added Mueller.

"But most of all, it hurts because of all the German fans out there who have stood by us and supported us during this European Championship. Thank you for your support."

The 31-year-old was recalled from a two-year international football exile to play at the Euro finals.

Had he scored at Wembley, Mueller would have claimed his 40th goal in 107 internationals, but he has now failed to hit the net at three consecutive European Championships. — AFP