

MANPREET SEEKS RAJNATH'S NOD FOR 2 MORE SAINIK SCHOOLS IN PUNJAB P03

INDUSTRY BEARS THE BRUNT; LARGE UNITS ORDERED 3-DAY SHUT DOWN P05

HARDIK BOWLING IN INTRA-SQUAD GAME IS A GOOD SIGN: SURYAKUMAR YADAV P12

PM carries out major overhaul of Cabinet

SONOWAL, SCINDIA BROUGHT IN; 12 MINISTERS EXIT



NEW DELHI, JULY 7

In a major overhaul, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday brought in Sarbananda Sonowal, Narayan Rane and Jyotiraditya Scindia in the Cabinet while dropping as many as 12 ministers including Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar. Fifteen Cabinet ministers and 28 Ministers of State, comprising new faces and those elevated, were sworn in at a ceremony held in the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. While most of the members took oath in Hindi, a few of them took it in English.

This is the first reshuffle in the Council of Ministers by Prime Minister Modi since he assumed charge for a second term in May 2019. An extensive and protracted review was carried

out by Modi and the BJP top brass through a series of meetings with ministers ahead of Wednesday's big exercise. These meetings were also held in the wake of widespread criticism of the Central government's handling of the COVID crisis.

Rane, 69, a Rajya Sabha MP and a former Maharashtra chief minister, was the first to take oath. After Rane, Sonowal, former Assam chief minister, took oath in English. The 58-year-old leader has earlier served as Union Minister of State (Independent charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Sports and Youth Affairs under Prime Minister Modi

Congress-turned-BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, a Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh, also took oath as a Cabinet minister. The 50-year-old leader was Union Minister of State (Independent

Prasad, Javadekar and Vardhan resign



Four senior Union ministers -- Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" -- were among 12 ministers who resigned on Wednesday ahead of the cabinet reshuffle in the evening. Besides these four, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar, Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Debasree Chaudhuri, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria and Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo also resigned.

Charge) for Power and Union Minister of State for Commerce & Communications in the earlier UPA government.

Lok Sabha MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh Virendra Kumar, Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha Ashwini Vaishnav, Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and JD(U) leader R C P Singh, Lok

Sabha MP from Bihar's Hajipur Pashupati Kumar Paras, were also sworn-in as Cabinet ministers.

Kiren Rijju, R K Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Mansukh Mandaviya, Parshotam Rupala, G Kishan Reddy and Anurag Thakur were elevated to the Cabinet level. Bhupendra Yadav, who has been serving in the BJP organisation as

Seven more women join Modi's council of ministers

Seven more women members, including Meenakshi Lekhi, Shobha Karandlaje and Anupriya Singh Patel, joined the council of ministers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, taking the overall female strength to 11 which is one of the highest.

a general secretary, was also sworn-in as a Cabinet minister.

As many as 28 Ministers of State took oath including seven from Uttar Pradesh which goes to polls next year with the BJP seeking a second term there. Pankaj Choudhary, Anupriya Patel, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Kaushal Kishore, S P S Baghel and Ajay Kumar-- all Lok Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh -- took oath as new Union Ministers of State. B L Verma, a Ra-

PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

- **RAJNATH SINGH:** Minister of Defence
- **AMIT SHAH:** Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
- **NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI:** Minister of Road Transport and Highways
- **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN:** Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
- **NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- **SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR:** Minister of External Affairs
- **ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
- **JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Minister of Civil Aviation
- **RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:** Minister of Steel
- **ASHWINI VAISHNAV:** Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
- **PASHU PATI KUMAR PARAS:** Minister of Food Processing Industries
- **GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT:** Minister of Jal Shakti
- **KIREN RIJJU:** Minister of Law and Justice
- **ARJUN MUNDA:** Minister of Tribal Affairs
- **SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:** Minister of Women and Child Development
- **PIYUSH GOYAL:** Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
- **DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:** Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- **PRALHAD JOSHI:** Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
- **NARAYAN TATU RANE:** Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- **SARBANANDA SONOWAL:** Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
- **MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI:** Minister of Minority Affairs
- **VIRENDRA KUMAR:** Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- **GIRIRAJ SINGH:** Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
- **RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
- **HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **MANSUKH MANDAVIYA:** Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers
- **BHUPENDER YADAV:** Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
- **MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY:** Minister of Heavy Industries
- **PARSHOTTAM RUPALA:** Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- **G. KISHAN REDDY:** Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region

ja Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh, was also sworn-in as a Minister of State.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Shobha Karandlaje, MPs from Karnataka; Darshana Vikram Jardiash from Gujarat; New Delhi Lok Sabha MP Meenakashi Lekhi; Anpurna Devi (Jharkhand), A Narayanaswamy (Karnataka); Ajay Bhatt (U-

tarakhand), Chauhan Devusinh (Gujarat), were also sworn in as MoS.

Others who took oath as Ministers of State at the ceremony were Bhagwanth Khuba (Karnataka); Kapil Moreshwar Patil (Maharashtra); Pratima Bhoumik (Tripura); Subhas Sarkar (West Bengal); Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad (Maharashtra); Rajkumar Ran-

jan Singh (Manipur); MPs Bharati Pawar (Maharashtra), Bishweswar Tudu (Odisha) and Shantanu Thakur (West Bengal) Munjapara Mahendrabhai (Gujarat), John Barla and Nisith Pramanik (West Bengal); and BJP's Tamil Nadu state president L Murugan. At least 16 entrants to the Council of Ministers are first time MPs. **PTI**

COVID-19 variants of Concern found in 174 districts

COVID CONTROL MEASURES TO BE STRENGTHENED IN NINE STATES

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Variants of Concern of SARS-CoV2 have been found in 174 districts in 35 states and union territories in the country with the highest numbers in Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

The Variants of Concern (VOC) detected by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in community samples are Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. B.1.617.2.1 (AY.1) or commonly known as Delta Plus variant which signifies Delta variant with an additional mutation. The B.1.617



lineage, first observed in Maharashtra, was associated with the unusual rise observed in several districts of the state. It is now found in many states in India, the health ministry said. INSACOG is a national multi-agency consortium of Genome Sequencing Laboratories (RGSLS) laboratories.

In addition to it, ramping up testing and vaccination, healthcare infrastructure planning and effective clinical management are among the measures to be focused upon in nine states reporting a surge in COVID-19 cases, the health ministry said on Wednesday. **PTI**

Judge recuses self from hearing Nandigram poll plea, imposes ₹5 lakh cost on Mamata

KOLKATA, JULY 7

Justice Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday recused from hearing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's petition challenging the election of BJP's Suwendu Adhikari from Nandigram, while imposing a cost of Rs 5 lakh for the manner in which the recusal was



sought. Releasing the election petition of Banerjee, Justice Chanda said that he was doing so in order

to thwart at the outset attempts by trouble-mongers to keep the controversy alive. "A deliberate and conscious attempt was made to influence my decision before the recusal application was placed before me for judicial consideration on June 24," Justice Chanda observed pointing at social media posts by some TMC leaders. **PTI**

Trouble for Hooda as SC orders CBI probe into Rohtak land case

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the CBI to investigate the release of land in Haryana's Rohtak to a real estate developer under the then Congress government of Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. In 2002, about 850 acres was proposed for acquisition for residential and

commercial sectors in Rohtak by the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA). However, in April 2005, the award was passed for 422 acres. In March 2005, realtor Uddar Gagan Properties Ltd entered into collaboration agreements with some farmers, whose land was supposed to be acquired for development of a colony. **IANS**

Top Hizbul commander killed in encounter

SRINAGAR, JULY 7

A top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday,

police said. Giving details of the incident, a police spokesman said Hizbul Mujahideen group commander Mehrajuddin Halwai alias Ubaid was apprehended during routine vehicle checking at Watyen



in Ganders area of Kupwara district on Tuesday evening. "During his personal search one grenade was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, he was immediately shifted to nearest police post

for questioning. During questioning, he identified himself as Mehrajuddin Halwai @ Ubaid, an active terrorist commander of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen," the spokesman said. **PTI**

A true story of love and truth beyond time

KIRAN DEEP
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 7

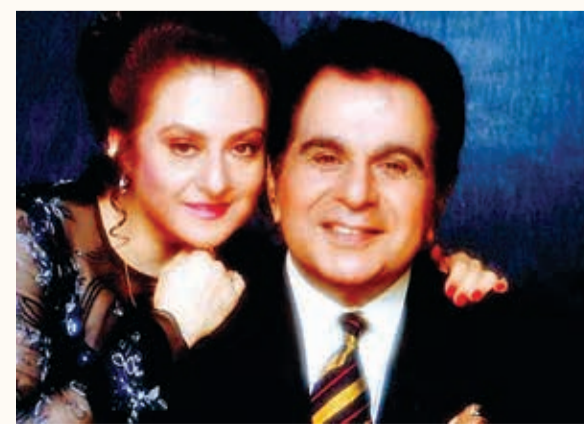
Saira Banu had been in love with Dilip Kumar since she was all of 12 years. Dilip Kumar took time to respond, but it happened one day while strolling at a beach. Both of them were listening to the gentle sound of waves when Dilip Kumar looked at her and said: "Saira, you are not the kind of girl I want to drive around with or be seen around with...I would like to marry you..."

will you be my wife?" Saira was only 22 and Dilip Kumar 44 when they got married on October 11, 1966. It's a real love story, one that only embellishes the fact that true love can never be overrated. A true story of love and truth beyond time.

While reading Dilip Kumar's autobiography -- "The Substance and the Shadow", the first stanza on the opening page struck me as it speaks a lot about the depth of love... "Sukoon-e-dil ke liye kuchh to chhemaam karoon



*Zara nazar jo miley phir unhein salaam karoon
Mujhe to hosh nahin aap maskharaa dijiyey
Kahan se chhedoon fasana kahan tamaam karoon...."*
Dilip Kumar, India's enduring film legend through the decades, died at a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday after prolonged illness. He was 98. Kumar, often known as the Nehruvian hero survived



by his wife Saira Banu. Dilip Kumar, was an institution in himself. It can surprise many that

Dilip Kumar had no inclination or ambition to become an actor and his first break was an acciden-

tal one. It all happened when he came to Mumbai from Pune looking for a job and this one incident changed his life entirely. One morning, he was waiting at Church Gate for psychologist Dr Masani, who had once given a lecture on vocational choices for arts students at Wilson College, to discuss his job prospects. Dr Masani took Dilip Kumar to Bombay Talkies studio and introduced him to Devika Rani, the owner of the studio. This meeting proved to be a turning point not only

for his life but for the entire Bollywood industry. She offered him a salary of 1250 rupees per month -- an amount hard to believe in those days and rechristened him Dilip Kumar from Yusuf Khan. His first movie was Jwar Bhata in 1944 and the rest as they say is history. He never looked back and went on to give us great movies like Devdas, Kohinoor, Naya Daur, Mughal-e-Azam, Ram Aur Shyam, Ganga Jamuna, and later, blockbusters like Shakti, Kranti and Saudagar.

Dilip Kumar's family hailed from Peshawar and was into the business of fruits. Though they enjoyed a good economic status, the family saw rough times during the Second World War. To beat the financial odds, Dilip Kumar moved to Pune to work as an assistant to manager at Army Club. Going was so rough that he even sold sandwiches outside the club. But things looked up due to this sandwich business and he managed to earn an amount of five thousand rupees in those days within a small period.

7 pvt hospitals issued notice for ignoring directive on O2 plants

NARINDER GUPTA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, July 7

Acting tough against the erring private hospitals, which have not installed their PSA based oxygen generation plants despite repeated requests, the district administration today issued show cause notices to seven such hospitals for their act of non-compliance of administration's directions.

Divulging the details,

Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori said that hospitals including Sharanjit, Kidney, Sikka, Oxford, Ghai, Neuronova, and Caremax hospitals have been issued the notices because of their act of non-compliance of the administration's direction to install PSA based oxygen plants.

He added that during the second peak of the pandemic, these hospitals were among those where demand for oxygen cylin-



ders was above 50 per day, adding they were asked to install PSA plants by August 2021.

Thori added that no efforts were made by these hospitals to set up these plants to tackle their oxygen requirements in view of the next wave. He added that a large num-

ber of hospitals have set up plants in their premises to be self-reliant in terms of oxygen production but these negligible acts are hurdles to achieve this goal.

The Deputy Commissioner categorically mentioned that the recommendations to be made to health department to cancel their license as Covid care facilities in case they do not adhere to the guidelines issued by administration.

COVID-19: Punjab sees five more fatalities, 233 fresh cases



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, July 7

With 5 more Covid-related fatalities, the toll in Punjab reached 16,141 while 233 fresh cases took the tally to

2 deaths were reported from Amritsar and Sangrur, 1 from Pathankot in the past 24 hours, the bulletin said.

There are 89 critical patients who are on ventilator support, 217 other critical patients and 647 patients on oxygen support, it said.

59,6,970 in the state on Wednesday, according to a medical bulletin.

2 deaths were reported from Amritsar and Sangrur, 1 from Pathankot

2,000 students take part in Start-up Fest



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, July 7

One of the 250 student organizations at Lovely Professional University (LPU), "Tanzanite" is organizing 16-day long National Start-up Fest (NSF)-2021, virtually, under the aegis of Division of Student Welfare.

The fest is a massive gathering of India's best entrepreneurs, founders, mentors along with numerous participants. It is also featuring national-class content across several keynote addresses, interactive sessions, thought-provoking predictions and more.

The inaugural ceremony of the fest was held with the e-Lamp lighting ceremony in the presence of the jury, contestants and live audience on the prescribed link.

Presently, participants are gaining a healthy dose of tips regarding successful start-ups. The fest is also holding a series of events including Ideathon, Case study, Budget, Group discussions, Quiz and Webinar.

Now, vaccination at disabled's doorsteps



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, July 7

In an exemplary initiative of Nakodar Administration headed by SDM Nakodar Poonam Singh, three mobile teams of health department will provide vaccination against Corona at the doorsteps of disabled persons in Nakodar Sub Division from Thursday.

SDM Poonam Singh while confirming it told this correspondent here

on Wednesday that Senior Medical Officer Dr Bhupinder Kaur has appointed three different teams led by ANM Narinder Kaur, Neelam and Charan Singh for the purpose to facilitate the disabled persons at their doorsteps.

Meanwhile, SDM Nakodar and Shahkot, Poonam Singh held a meeting of the officers concerned at Shahkot and reviewed the preventive steps taken for flood.

Police to hold coaching camp for aspirant cops

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, July 7

In a new initiative to enable maximum youth of Kapurthala to clear the written exam (first stage) for the upcoming recruitment of constables and sub-inspectors in Punjab Police, the police would hold a guidance camp in Police Lines on Thursday at 4 pm.

The experts would deliver key lectures about how to crack the written exam to the participants in the camp.

Disclosing further details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harkamalpreet Singh Khakh said that this guidance camp would help the youths to better understand the syllabus of the



written exam regarding both posts of constables and sub-inspectors in the Punjab Police.

He said that Inderpal Singh and Abhimanyu from IAS/PCS Academy besides two experienced teachers from Punjab Education Department would detail the youths about methods/ways to clear the written exam.

SSP said that the guidance camp would start at 4 pm on Thursday at Police Lines.

He appealed to the youths to avail maximum benefit of the camp so that they can clear the exam successfully and serve the Punjab Police which is known for its rich history of gallantry, sacrifice, and innumerable achievements world-wide following passing the physical examination for which the coaching and training camp is already underway.

Army aspirants to get free training at C-PYTE

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, July 7

The Punjab government has made arrangements to train youths free of cost to help them prepare for recruitment in Indian Navy Army.

The Centre for Training and Employment for Punjab Youth (C-PYTE) at Hakumat Singh Wala in Ferozepur has announced to organise a free training course for youth aspiring to join armed forces during the upcoming army recruitment rallies, in relations and sports quota. In the past, hundreds of youths have got free pre-recruitment training from C-PYTE and joined the Indian Army.

Camp Incharge, Hakumat Singh Wala informed that C-PYTE, an institution of Employ-



ment Generation and Training Department, is organizing camp for screening and registration counselling and free training for relations in Army on July 27 and for sports quota from August 3, 2021.

He said C-PYTE is a Training and Employment Centre of the Punjab government at Hakumat Singh Wala where free training is provided to the youths. The Training Centre is 9 KMs from Talwandi Bhai chowk.

250 jabbed at vaccination camp

KULDEEP SOOD
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Barnala, July 7

Progressive Senior Citizens Society (Reg.) and Suryavanshi Khatri Sabha Barnala organised a Corona Vaccination Camp at Gandhi Arya High School Barnala in collaboration with the School Management Committee and staff. SDM Varjit Walia inaugurated the vaccination camp.

Speaking on the occasion, he appealed to the people to get two vaccinations and follow the instructions in the Corona Protocol for the prevention of the Corona epidemic. Sukhwinder Bhandari, president of the society, and Rajesh Bhutani, general secretary of the Sabha, said



about 250 people had been vaccinated against corona during the camp. Assistant Civil Surgeon Dr. Avinash Bansal and Dr. Rajinder Singla, DIO, assessed the camp. Rajminder Sharma, the headmaster of the school, and the staff provided their full support during the camp.

The oxygen level of the people was tested with the help of an oximeter. Meenakshi Joshi, Ruby Singla, Sushma Goyal, Ravneet Kaur, Reena Rani, Sharda Goyal, Sunita Gautam, Pawan

Kumar Clerk were present on behalf of the school staff. Senior Citizens and the House were represented by Babita Jindal President Women's Wing, Suryavanshi Khatri Sabha

Women's Wing President Mandeep Walia, Chief Patron of the House Neeraj Bala Dania, Ramesh Chand Kaushal, Hem Raj Verma, Gurjeet Singh Lali, Ashwani Sharma, Harpreet Kaur A.N. Chamber of Commerce President Anil Bansal Nana, Mohinder Pal Garg, Swami Siri Niwasi, Deepak Advocate, Kavita Garg, Rakesh Jindal, Kewal Krishan Garg, Mahesh Gupta, Tilak Raj Chhabra, Parveen Singla, Ram Singh Sangheda, etc. were present.

Vax camp held for specially-abled

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, July 7

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori, a special vaccination camp was held on Wednesday at Apahaj Ashram near HMV college, where inmates of the ashram and nearby surroundings were inoculated.

While visiting the camp, Deputy Commissioner said that specially abled persons are the integral part of our society and the administration was committed to serving them amid this unprecedented health crisis. He also interacted with the

eligible beneficiaries taking their vaccine jabs. Meanwhile, a special medical check-up camp was also organized by the Ashram, where Dr. Vijay Mahajan, CMD, Tagore Hospital, Dr Jagdeep Singh, an eye surgeon, conducted the medical examination of people.

A wide range of diseases were checked by the expert doctors besides providing free of cost medicines to patients.

Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori lauded the efforts being made by the Ashram in serving this needy strata of the society through Apahaj Ashram.

PGSC holds webinar to celebrate Van Mahotsav

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, July 7

Pushpa Gujral Science City (PGSC) celebrated Van Mahotsav by organizing a webinar on "Role of Microbes in Sustainable Forest Management." Around 300 school and college students from all over Punjab participated through virtual mode.

The programme was sponsored by Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Punjab. Dr Vipin Parkash, Programme Coordinator (Forestry), Forest Research Institute, Dehradun was the key speaker. Delivering a talk at this occasion, he said that soil microorganisms are important part of forest ecosystem and



play an important role in sustainable development of forestry.

Further, Microbial life has been present on earth for at least 3,500 million years and microbes also play numerous roles as silent partners in human activities such as forestry, agriculture, mining and water treatment. A balanced community of microorganisms is extremely important for tree's health and plays a vital role in

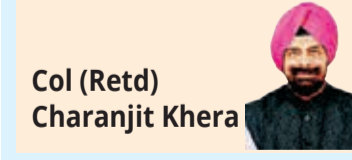
converting barren, poor quality land into cultivable land, he added. Dr Neelima Jerath, Director General, Science City, while giving introductory remarks at the occasion said that primary objective of Van Mahotsav week celebration is to bring awareness on the environmental issues and educate masses about the need of planting trees as these are one of the best solution to control global warming.

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SOS call by ex-servicemen of Mohali Sector 110, 104



Col (Retd) Charanjit Kherra

In 2006 Punjab Govt declared a Mega Housing Project to Promote Private developers for development of sectors of Mohali and other major cities of Punjab. Accordingly Pear Agrotech Corporation Ltd (PACL) purchased Land of Sector 100, 104 with all the approvals from the competent Authorities after paying all the requisite fees for CLU, EDC, Electricity security with PSC and launched sector 104 in 2008 and sector 100 in 2010 for Sale.

The Sector 100 and 104 of Mohali are independent, freehold and have excellent location. Both the sectors consisted of residential plots(1941), Commercial Plots(105), Group Housing Sites (9), Public Buildings etc(26), Economically weaker sector Sites (1). According- Licence was issued by Pb Govt as per PUDA/GMADA website for purchase open to public in both sectors.

A total of 1285 purchased plots in both sectors of which 823 allottees are awaiting offer of possession and registration of plots who have paid 95% of the cost but data for sold

and unsold inventory is 656 for residential plots. Many allottees purchased plots earlier, constructed houses with after paying requisite fee and having obtained GMADA sanctioned of construction, passed various stages of construction, approval for Sewage connection after verification, received Partial Completion Certificate to PACL for Sector 104 after getting duly satisfied with the progress of the Project.

In the year 2013, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) found that PACL was involved in a Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) which was illegal as per the

law of land. The Supreme Court attached all the properties and related documents of PACL. Pearl City Mohall Residents Welfare Association (PCMRWA) approached the SC for getting justice. Accordingly the SC formed a committee, Lodha Committee in the matter and authorized it to sell all the moveable and immovable assets of the PACL to pay back the investors of CIS.

The worst part was that GMADA did not support the cause of the home buyers and when asked by Lodha Committee to take over the Project, GMADA authorities refused to take over the project.

Allottees further felt the Jolt and were harassed who ever made houses in these sectors that their electric connection were disconnected by PSPCL since PACL had failed to pay the electricity bill. On request from welfare Association and intervention of the Lodha Commission, bank guarantee worth Rs 16.36 crores with the PSPCL was released to complete the pending electrification work for sector 104.

However Sectors 100 and 104, Mohall have been put out of the ambit of auction process by Lodha Committee as they accept that third party rights are established here.

Manpreet seeks Rajnath's nod for 2 more Sainik schools in Punjab

Manpreet Badal also sought MoD's approval for official clearance for establishing a modern bus station and terminal in Bathinda

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Wednesday met the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and urged him to approve the establishment of two additional Sainik Schools in Punjab.

Manpreet Singh Badal stated that Punjab is the most decorated state in India in terms of military honors and gallantry awards. The state next in line after Punjab accounts for less than half of the honors bagged by Punjab soldiers. However, Punjab has only one Sainik School in Kapurthala, and the state is now seeking the establishment of two more Sainik schools—one in Gurdaspur and the other in Bathinda. The



Finance Minister stated that other states like Haryana, Bihar, and Maharashtra have two Sainik Schools each, while Uttar Pradesh has three. The Union Defence Minister assured him of due and

adequate action, stating that he personally appreciates the role played by Sikhs and Punjabis in the defence of national security and the defence of India's social and cultural values.

Move to create new ministry a little too late: Randhawa

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Punjab Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa though hailed the decision of Centre to carve out separate ministry of Cooperation yet he termed this decision a delayed one. He has expressed hope that the genuine concerns of farmers and other sections of rural society will be addressed and the cooperative movement at the grassroots level would be further strengthened.

In a statement, Randhawa asked the Centre to sincerely focus its sole attention to prioritize the issues faced by the Cooperatives in order to transform the destiny of beleaguered farmers especially



the small and marginal ones, who were passing through an acute agrarian crisis due to squeezed margins of profit due to non-remunerative MSP coupled with their fragile economic condition owing to heavy burden of debt.

According to Randhawa if right decisions are taken by the newly created Union Cooperative Ministry, the vast majority of rural population can be economi-

cally empowered and the growing economic disparity between the normal population and the super rich can be reduced. The empowerment of cooperative movement can also be used for reducing social tensions arising out of disparity between the rich and poor and also bridge rural-urban divide.

Recalling the pivotal role of Punjabi farmers in ushering green revolution in mid-60's and subsequently the White Revolution, Randhawa said it was a high time to recognize their immense contribution in strengthening the cooperatives by initiating path-breaking measures so as to enable them to supplement their income.

'Schools to have 17,299 more smart classrooms'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Punjab School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla, on Wednesday, said that Capt Amarinder Singh-led state government has decided to convert as many as 17,299 more classrooms of 12,507 government schools into smart classrooms. Singla said that 24 rooms of 22 District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs) will also be transformed into smart training rooms. The minister said that a budget of Rs. 117 crore would be spent for transformation of these training and classrooms.

The cabinet minister said that the education department will be installing multimedia projector, micro CPU, sound bar, white board for projection and green board for writing in



the smart classrooms.

Singla said that the Congress government is committed to uplift the standard of education of government schools and to fulfill the commitment, required funds were being allotted to the schools to improve the basic infrastructure. He said that apart from the improvement in the infrastructure facilities, few path-breaking initiatives like online teacher transfer policy, smart schools policy and pre-primary education which have also led to remarkable improvement in the quality of education across the state.

Drug case: Punjab Police arrest six more people

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Hoshiarpur, July 7

Acting on the leads provided by four Afghan nationals recently arrested following the seizure of 17-kg heroin, the Punjab Police on Wednesday said they have succeeded in arresting six more people alleged to be part of the drug racket. Police seized 3.2 kg of heroin and Rs 41,12,000 drug money from them,

Hoshiarpur SSP Navjot Singh Mahal told reporters here on Wednesday.

He said after the disclosures made by the four Afghan nationals, two teams were constituted to arrest the other involved in this international drug trade.

Among the arrested are Kishan Lal, who was nabbed from his residence at Delhi and Rs 10.20 lakh drug money and two mobile phones were recovered from him.

Amarinder condoles Dilip Kumar's demise

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Wednesday condoled the sad demise of Hindi matinee idol Dilip Kumar (98) who passed away at Mumbai this morning after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife actress Saira Banu.



entrants in Indian film industry. "In the death of veteran actor Dilip Kumar, a void has been created which is difficult to be filled," added the Chief Minister.

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister described Dilip Kumar as an icon of Hindi cinema who was a heart throb of millions of his fans not within the country but across the globe also. His immense contribution in Bollywood would be ever remembered by one and all besides always inspiring new

Sharing his heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family, relatives and fans, Capt. Amarinder Singh prayed to the Almighty to grant courage to bear this huge loss in this hour of grief and eternal peace to the departed soul. Notably, Dilip Kumar starred in several memorable films including Naya Daur, Mughal-e-Azam, Ram Aur Shyam, Devdas, Saudagar, Karma and Shakti which are considered landmark in the Indian cinema.

Sukhbir seeks financial package for industry

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday demanded the state government offer a financial package to the state industry for the losses suffered by it due to the currently forced lockdown on account of power supply mismanagement, even as he called for supplying power to the industry at the promised landing cost of Rs 5 per unit.

In a statement here, the SAD President said after suffering huge losses due to the Covid lockdown since the last one and a half years, the industrial sector was presently in the grip of a power lockdown with the government imposing a three day compulsory off for the industrial sector besides closing down large scale industries for five days and reducing contracted power load



of continuous supply to the industry by fifty per cent. "This has broken the back of the State industry which is suffering losses of crore of rupees on a daily basis besides losing orders".

Asserting that state govt was directly responsible for this state of affairs as he held the Power portfolio, Sukhbir Badal said "required power purchases should be made immediately to ensure adequate power for the industrial sector". He said simultaneously the industry should be offered a financial package for the losses incurred by it besides deferring collection of bills for the current cycle by two months.

'Nabha Power has risen to challenge'

BALINDER SINGH PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Patiala, July 7

Nabha Power, which owns and operates 2x700 MW super-critical thermal power plant at Rajpura, clocked 100 pc availability in the first quarter of the financial year 2022. The plant has been in continuous operation for 105 days.

The plant has been the backbone of in-state power generation and has recorded a plant



load factor (PLF) of 89.71% against the national average of 58.64 pc during the first quarter. Among the base load thermal plants in the country, NPL had one of the highest PLFs during the last quarter.

Chairman of Nabha Power, D K Sen said, "Paddy season is the most crucial period for Punjab from a power supply perspective. Our capacity being entirely tied to Punjab, bring extra responsibly to us. Before the onset of the paddy season, we make necessary preparations to ensure that our Rajpura plant provides reliable power to Punjab. Our two units have been in continuous operation for 153 days and 105 days at a stretch respectively."

Punjab BJP gave Centre incorrect feedback on farm laws, state chief should resign: Ex-minister Anil Joshi

CHANDIGARH, JULY 7

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

He claimed that initially, farmers protesting against the farm laws had a few demands that could



have been handled had the BJP's Punjab unit not projected that all was hunky-dory in the state.

He also said state BJP president Ashwani Sharma should admit his failure and resign rather than

issuing him notices.

Speaking to reporters in Amritsar, Joshi alleged, "The state unit (of the BJP) was giving the feedback (to the Centre) that farmers were happy and only a handful were unsatisfied. When central ministers held virtual meetings, they presented fake farmers in those meetings and claimed they were happy with the laws." PTI

Agitating farmer unions should contest Punjab assembly polls: Gurnam Singh Chaduni

CHANDIGARH, JULY 7

Outfits involved in farmers' agitation against the new agri laws should contest the Punjab assembly elections as it will "present a model on how the system can be changed", Haryana Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said on Wednesday. Chaduni, a key leader of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) which is spearheading the farmers' stir, said, "What I want to say is that we should not run 'Mission UP, but Mission Punjab'. SKM has planned a 'mahapanchayat' in September and other activities in Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls next year.

"Now, we are moving for Mission UP. A Mahapanchayat will be organised on September 5. Other activities will happen. Then polls will come and we will work to defeat the BJP.

"If we assume BJP gets defeated, will the Cen-

tre then agree to our demands. Don't take it otherwise," said Chaduni in a video message, and cited the example of West Bengal, where the farmer bodies campaigned against the BJP.

"The BJP was defeated there, but did the Centre then accept our demand," he asked.

Chaduni said that even the opposition has not categorically stated that if they come to power these laws will be scrapped and a law to guarantee MSP will be framed. In the video message, Chaduni said that "we say that we want to change the system, but don't apply enough thought to what has to be done to realise this."

He said that BJP and the Congress have not been able to change the system, "then from whom should we expect to do this?" "If we have to change the system, then we will have to formulate a plan. And that plan should be 'Mission Punjab'," he said. PTI

Rev online services to remain suspended



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

A spokesman from the Department of Revenue, Punjab informed that the online services for registration of documents on website (<https://igrpunjab.gov.in>) will not be available from July 9 (7p.m.) to July 12 (8a.m.) due to some maintenance activity.

The online facility of booking of slots will also not be available during this time, he informed. Any inconvenience caused due to this temporary unavailability of this service is highly regretted, said the spokesperson.

Delegation of Aggarwal Samaj felicitates Cabinet Minister Singla

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

A delegation from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh Aggarwal Samaj met Punjab School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla to felicitate him for his marvellous contribution to Aggarwal samaj. Members of the delegation also appealed inclusion of Maharaja Aggarsain's biography in the curriculum of schools.

Dozens of office bearers of Aggarwal Samaj today met Cabinet



Minister Vijay Inder Singla at the Punjab Bhawan led by Vijay Bansal, Minister for National Organization of All India Aggarwal Sammelan (North India in charge), former Chairman Haryana Government and thanked Vijay Inder Singla for the steps taken for the betterment of the Aggarwal society.

Hot weather conditions unabated in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, JULY 7

Hot weather conditions continued to prevail in Punjab on Wednesday.

In Punjab, Patiala recorded a maximum temperature of 41.4 degrees Celsius, six notches above normal. Amritsar recorded a maximum temperature of 41.2 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal, while Ludhiana's high settled at 39.8 degrees Celsius. Bathinda registered a high of 40.5 degrees



Celsius, three notches above normal.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, recorded a high of 40.2 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal. PTI

DC: Get vaccinated to prevent third wave

AMARPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Deputy Commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma on Wednesday appealed to the people to avoid stepping out unnecessarily and strictly observe COVID-19 appropriate behaviour even after getting the vaccine for preventing the third wave of coronavirus. Addressing the Ludhiana residents in his weekly Facebook live session on the official page of DPRO Ludhiana, the Deputy Commissioner said that crowding must be avoided and people must wear a mask, maintain social distancing, wash hands frequently and get vaccine immediately to build herd immunity. He said that as per doctors, the third wave may hit due to violations



of COVID-19 protocols by the people and if we follow the rules and get a life-saving jab, we can prevent the wave. Reiterating the need for the people to get vaccinated immediately, Sharma said the vaccine is a shield in the fight against the pandemic and there is a stock of 25,000 doses of vaccine with Ludhiana besides holding 178 inoculation camps. He said that that vacci-

nation against COVID-19 is critical to breaking the chain of transmission and the administration has already stepped up the pace of vaccination to cover a maximum number of people expeditiously. The DC also exhorted people to come forward for the vaccination in huge numbers especially encouraging youths and their parents in the camps so that further maximise the coverage.

Industry bears the brunt; large units ordered 3-day shut down

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

As power crisis facing the state has deepened and dry spell seemed to be unending, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has imposed harsher restrictions on large supply (LS) consumers with shutting down their power supply continuously for three days - from 8 am on Wednesday to 8 am on July 10. In a PR Circular (9/2021b dated July 5), the PSPCL has said that all LS industrial consumers, rolling mills and induction furnace units - except essential industries, services and other exempted categories, in West, North and Central zones (including Ludhiana), would observe three weekly off days from Wednesday to July 10. Further, all the LS industrial consumers can use only



POWER CRISIS

serve weekly off-days or run load in excess of restricted load. It has been laid down that for each weekly off day Rs 100 per kVA (for first default) of maximum load used in excess of the restricted load while for second and each subsequent default it would be Rs 200 per kVA of maximum load used in excess of the restricted load. Meanwhile, highly placed sources in the PSPCL indicated that even after closure of most large industries and imposition of power cuts on urban feeders, the state was facing a shortfall of anything between 1,000 and 1,500 MW of power every day. Official data made available said the state's own generation from all sources - four units each of thermal plants at Ropar and Lehra Mohabat, hydel power projects, private power plants and renewable energy sources was to the tune of 5,000 MW.

Couple held for robbery, cash recovered



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

A week after a couple robbed a relative of a city-based industrialist of Rs 1.5 lakh near Gill Canal Bridge, the police nabbed the couple and recovered 1.09 lakh cash from their possession. The police have also recovered a toy pistol and Scorpio SUV used by the accused in the crime. The accused were identified as Harinder Singh (37) and his wife Manjit Kaur alias Shalu (34) of Sidhwan Bet. They were at present residing as tenants in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP 2) Jaskiranjit Singh Teja said that Harinder is a habitual offender. He is already facing trial in three cases including robbery, possession of weapons. Harinder came out on bail from Mansa jail in December 2018 and now he started executing robbery along with his wife. On June 28, the complainant Ankush Kanda

of Amritsar, relative of Shivam, a city-based nut bolt factory owner, along with Babat Sharma, brother-in-law of Shivam went to make a payment and they were carrying cash Rs 1.5 lakh. They were on motorcycle and when they reached near Gill Canal Bridge the accused couple came there in the Scorpio SUV. The accused pointed the toy pistol and threatened the complainant while asking them to handover the cash. Later, the accused fled away with the amount. The ADCP said that the accused were aware that the complainants are into making cash transactions on a daily basis. Therefore, they were observing the complainants and hatched the conspiracy accordingly. ASI Subash Chand, in-charge Marado Police Post said that the accused were arrested from Ring Road area on the basis of tip-off. The accused also have accommodation in Pathankot and Himachal Pradesh on rent where they used to hide after executing crime here.

2 held for setting Rajiv Gandhi's statue on fire



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

A statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was set on fire by some anti-social elements on Wednesday evening. However, the police nabbed the accused later. The police have booked two persons after a video of a man wearing a turban-like a Nihang Sikh surfaced on social media. In the video, the man introduced himself as Ramandeep Singh and he took the responsibility of the incident. In the video, Ramandeep along with his accomplice Satpal Singh are seen putting fuel and tyre on the statue of Rajiv Gandhi and setting it on fire. Ramandeep was further heard in the video stating that he will set all statues of Rajiv Gandhi on fire if they are installed in the public

parcs. "Gursimran Singh Mand was planning to install statues of Rajiv Gandhi in public parks and we Sikhs oppose this move and I will set every such statue on fire," he said. ADCP Pragya Jain said that the accused have been identified as Ramandeep Singh Nihang and Satpal Singh Navi. A case under Sections 153-A and 435 of the IPC and Article 68 of the IT Act and Section 3 of the Defacement of Public Property Act was registered against them at Salem Tabri Station. She said that soon after receiving the information eight teams were pressed into service and the accused were arrested. Both the accused have a previous criminal background, Ramandeep was booked in six criminal cases, while Satpal has 17 FIRs against him including snatching and theft.

Dist primary govt schools to get solar panels

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

In order to make government schools free from the problem of power cuts, over 32 government schools in the district will get solar panels installed in their campuses. These schools will get around 3KW solar panels installed in their campuses. This move is taken by the government to reduce the cost of electricity in the government schools

of the state. In the first list of the schools released by the government, the selects schools from the district include - Government Primary Schools in Daad, Dhandari Khurd, Lohara, Jandiali, Sahnewal, Kohara, Nandpur, Gaspura, New Shimlapuri, Sherpur Kalan, Sherpur Khurd, Haibowal Kalan, Haibowal Khurd, Daba, Dholewal, Shimlapuri, Vishkarma, Gobind Nagar, Jawaddi, BR Sunet, Sunet,

Model Gram, Chet Singh, Kot Mangal Singh, Mehrbaan, Chanan Devi, Kailash Nagar, Indira Colony, Bhattian Bet, Tarf Karabara, Basti Jodhewal and Kakowal. According to some school principals of government schools, they used to pay electricity bills of around Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 every two months. "So, this move will not only reduce the financial burden but will also help the students as the schools

will not face any shortage of power supply. Rather, the installation of solar panels will enable the school to generate more energy and save a large number of units annually," they said. Earlier, state Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla had announced that the Education Department is making continuous efforts to further strengthen the infrastructure in the government primary schools.

Health staff to observe 2-day pen down strike



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Members of paramedical and health workers union Punjab will observe a pen down strike against the recommendations of 6th Pay Commission on Thursday and Friday. In this regard, the members of the union submitted a notice to the Civil Surgeon

Dr Kiran Ahluwalia on Wednesday. The union members said the reduction in various allowances being given to employees is unjustified and against the interests of government employees. They said if the government will not fulfill their demands, they will intensify the protest.

'Avoid going out between 12 pm and 3 pm to avoid heatstroke'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Observing cases of heat stroke, the district Health Department has issued guidelines for residents appealing to them to avoid going out during day hours unnecessarily. Civil Surgeon Dr Kiran Ahluwalia said that between 12 pm to 3 pm, the day temperature is much higher and one should avoid going out during these hours. Now, the maximum temperature in the city has reached 40 degrees Celsius and the residents have started facing the problem of heat stroke. Highlighting the signs and symptoms of heatstroke, Dr Ahluwalia said that a person suffering from heatstroke might face high body temperature, nausea, headache, rapid breathing, alteration in sweating etc. So, one should increase the intake of water and people should consume lemon water, ORS, Lassi to keep themselves hydrated. "If you think a person may be experiencing heatstroke, seek immediate medical help," she said while adding that while waiting for emergency treatment one should get the affected person into shades or indoor, remove excess clothing and cool the person with whatever means available.

Joint CP starts plantation drive in Police Lines

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) J Elanchezhian on Wednesday started a plantation drive in Police Lines under Mission Tandarust Punjab. Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police-1 Dr Pragya Jain, Assistant Commissioner (Under Trainee) Dr Harjinder Singh Bedi, J Elanchezhian said it is high time for the people to come forward and join the hands with the administration for planting saplings to enhance the green cover in Ludhiana. He said that each person must protect the environment for giving a better future to the coming generations by planting saplings. He added there is a regular increase in the levels of air, water, and soil pollution and the trees can play a crucial role in conserving our environment by reducing pollutants.



JCP J Elanchezhian said it is high time for the people to come forward and join the hands with the administration for planting saplings to enhance the green cover in Ludhiana.

Assistant Commissioner (Under Trainee) Dr Harjinder Singh Bedi said that the aim of mission Tandarust Punjab is to ensure clean air, water and increase the forest cover in the state for which the Punjab government is deeply committed and it would leave no stone unturned to achieve the goal. He said that even individuals can receive

Managing 'biomedical waste' properly helps in reducing hospital acquired infections

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Every hospital in the state has its own share of 'biomedical waste' which needs to be disposed of properly as per prescribed guidelines by Punjab

Pollution Control Board (PPCB). On the global level, there is an organization under the name of 'United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)' which has adopted DMCH as a role model in this part of region

(in 2012) for imparting training to other medical institutes in handling their biomedical wastes. Dr Sandeep Sharma, Convenor, Biomedical Waste Control Committee remarks that ever since COVID-19 pandemic has

started affecting the nation, role of managing hospital's biomedical waste has increased considerably and every hospital, whether a small or bigger one and medical institute should seriously think of disposing of biomedical wastes properly so that hospital acquired infections can be reduced considerably.

Farmers apprised of training programmes

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Agriculture experts provided information regarding training programmes organised at PAU, use of bio-fertilizers in basmati and other crops, and farm operations for the next fortnight on Wednesday. Speaking at PAU Live, Dr Kuldeep Singh, Head, Department of Extension Education and Associate Director (Skill Development), informed about



the training programmes (short, vocational, in-service and sponsored), organised by the PAU for the farmers, farm women, rural youth and officials of various departments. Trainings are imparted in precision farming, hybrid seed production, culti-

vation of horticultural crops, mushroom growing, apiculture, poultry, dairy, piggy, goatry, value addition of agricultural produce, tie and dye, stitching, embroidery, etc, he said. Besides, emphasis is on honing the skills of the rural youth and enabling them to earn their livelihood by venturing into agriculture related enterprises, he added. Dr Jupinder Kaur, Assistant Microbiologist,

explained the use of bio-fertilizers in basmati. She said: "They are cost-effective, pollution free and eco-friendly inputs which reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers." They also help in improving soil health, she said, while adding that the PAU has recommended bio-fertilizers for 18 crops. While purchasing bio-fertilizers, farmers must check the expiry date and the crop for which it is being purchased, she advised.

Man shot at, bystander hurt

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, July 7

Tension gripped the residents of Preet Nagar in Shimlapuri after a number of assailants opened fire in the area. In the incident, a 75-year-old bystander suffered bullet injury on the left arm. The victim was identified as Surinder Singh. He is a retired irrigation department employee. He was accidentally shot at by the assailant when the victim went out of the house to buy an ice-cream from the roadside vendor. However, the police have booked four assailants who were identified as Gurpreet Singh, Gagandeep, Jagga and Ravinder.

A case was registered against the four accused on the basis of the statement lodged by Chanpreet Singh. According to Chanpreet, there were around a dozen of accused who had come to attack him with sharp edged weapons and they also fired two shots targeting him but he got saved. Sub Inspector Balkar Singh said that the accused believed that Chanpreet is the source of the police and Chanpreet used to share information about them with the police. Therefore, they attacked him. A case under Sections 307, 506, 148 and 149 of the IPC and Articles 25, 54 and 59 of Arms Act was registered against eight

persons of which four were identified. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP 2) Jaskaran Singh Teja said that the mother of one of the accused has been apprehended in connection with a drug peddling case. He added that the investigation in the incident has revealed that the weapon used in the crime was not registered and was illegally procured. "Raids are on to nab the accused once they will be arrested the probe will be conducted to nab the illegal arms supplier," said the ADCP. He added that the condition of victim Surinder Singh is stated to be stable now.

Cabinet rejig

The much awaited reshuffle of Narendra Modi's cabinet has eventually taken place on Wednesday. While the expansion was expected for a long time, some of the resignations came as a big surprise. The expansion had been necessitated to fill some vacancies caused by the death of Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan, resignation of Ms Harsimrat Kaur Badal after her party, the Shiromani Akali Dal broke away from the National Democratic Alliance as also for the inclusion of the Janata Dal (United) members.

Quite a few faces like that of former Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Narayan Rane and others were expected to be inducted. But, the dropping of senior ministers like Ravi Shankar Prasad, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Parkash Javadekar and Ramesh Pokhriyal did come as a surprise. Much talked about removal is however that of Dr Harsh Vardhan and his deputy Ashwani Kumar Choubey over their "mishandling" of the second wave of COVID pandemic. Given the enormity of the pandemic, it is difficult to pinpoint a single person and attribute entire failure to him. It was actually the failure of the entire health system, which could not cope up with the spontaneous and massive surge. Otherwise, the same team had handled the first wave pretty well. Equally surprising is the removal of the Minister for IT and Law, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

There obviously must be multiple parameters to induct and remove the ministers from the cabinet. But this reshuffle should not be held as a final judgement about the performance as ministers. And it is not necessarily the performance and merit alone which decide the inclusion or exclusion of ministers. At times there are political expediencies and compulsions that determine the choices and preferences of the government.

The year 2022 is going to be very crucial for the Bharatiya Janata Party as seven crucial states are going to polls. These include Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Punjab and Goa. IN all these states, except Punjab, the BJP has quite high stakes. The reshuffle has been done keeping in view these elections also. Besides, the efficiency, age and educational qualification has also been taken into consideration for appointing the ministers.

Shocking indeed!

Government departments are notorious for mindlessly applying old and hackneyed laws to harass citizens. But Information Technology Department of the Government of India has taken the cake for registering cases under a section of the IT Act which had been struck down by the Supreme Court way back in 2015.

The apex court observed the other day that it was "shocking" and "distressing" that there was a fivefold increase in the registration of cases under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act though the provision was quashed by it six years ago.

The court was informed that there were 229 cases pending in 11 states when the Supreme Court in April 2015 struck down much-abused Section 66A of the IT Act, which authorised police to arrest people for social media posts construed as "offensive" or "menacing". After the law was quashed, police in these states went on to lodge 1,307 new cases under the same provision.

"What's going on? It is terrible...shocking. It is distressing," remarked the bench, headed by Justice Rohinton F Nariman, as it took up a plea by NGO People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCIL) to issue suitable directives to the Union government and subordinate courts in the country to make sure cases are not registered under Section 66A, and nobody is arrested or prosecuted under this quashed law.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the NGO, cited a study conducted by Internet Freedom Foundation and Civic Data Labs, which showed that while 229 cases were pending as on April 24, 2015 when the apex court declared Section 66A of the IT Act as "unconstitutional and void", and 1,307 new cases got registered in the last six years under the law already struck down. Maharashtra topped the list with 381 cases, followed by Jharkhand (291), and Uttar Pradesh (245).

"It is shocking. We will work out a method and will do something to make sure our judgment works," retorted the bench, which also included justices KM Josph and BR Gavai.

Attorney general KK Venugopal, appearing on behalf of the Centre pointed out that Section 66A was still there in the IT Act, and the bare acts also contained this provision even after 2015 judgment of the Supreme Court.

"The section is still there in the statute. When a police officer looks at the law book, it is still there. The section has two stars with a footnote that says the section has been struck down by a division bench of the Supreme Court. But the section is full there," said the AG. "A police officer won't read the footnote, we are sure," said justice Nariman.

At this, Venugopal suggested that the section must be identified as "struck down" right next to where it is mentioned in the bare act, and the footnote must also clearly say that the provision does not exist anymore for the purpose of registration of cases.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



Will Afghan ancient historical sites again face Talib threats?

S. RAVI

The fear on the part of those who are tasked with taking care of the Afghanistan's uniquely diverse cultural heritage is not unfounded. It is still fresh in their memory, as it is of others, when the Taliban in 2001, destroyed the planet's largest statues, the Bamiyan Buddhas

While there is a widespread speculation as to what awaits Afghanistan after the departure of the US-led foreign troops in the country, historians and heritage experts globally, are keeping their fingers crossed as to the fate of cultural legacy of the embattled nation.

The concern is justified since Afghanistan's rich historical and cultural heritage dates back to several centuries. From being part of Indus Valley Civilisation to being invaded by Alexander, several empires including Greco-Bactrians, Kushans, Saffarids, Ghaznavids, Timurids, and Mughals among others have started from this region.

According to an article in National Geographic some cultural heritage experts are hopeful; others are growing anxious with the forthcoming departure of US and European forces.

The fear on the part of those who are tasked with taking care of the nation's uniquely diverse cultural heritage is not unfounded. It is still fresh in their memory, as it is of others, when the Taliban in 2001, destroyed the planet's largest statues, the Bamiyan Buddhas. They also vandalised the National Museum in Kabul and looted antiques from ancient sites. Their attitude towards the past relics, especially the pre-Islamic ones, portrayed them in a bad light at the international level.

This time, however, there appears to be a change as Taliban have given their word to respect the nation's history. In a statement they commanded their followers to "robustly protect, monitor and preserve" relics, halt illegal digs, and safeguard "all historic sites." But time will tell whether the commitment is only tactical, to reduce the resistance of the world community to their re-emergence or a genuine change of heart born out of the bitter experience of the past.

Interestingly, they have forbidden selling of artefacts in the art market. Their statement said: "No one should try to disturb such sites or think about using them for profit."

According to the NG article, the statement did not come as a surprise to Cheryl Benard of Washington-based Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ARCH). The write-up states that she told her group last fall that both sides need to address the issue. Not everyone shares this optimism.



Afghanistan's Institute of Archaeology's Noor Agha Noori is not convinced. He told NG: "To be honest, we are very worried about the future of cultural heritage were the Taliban to come into power," he said while informing that Islamists were indulging in looting historical sites in order to raise finances.

Speaking in the same vein, Mohammad Fahim Rahimi, Director of Kabul's National Museum observed: "Unfortunately the statement is not clear, especially concerning the pre-Islamic heritage. You know what happened to the collection during the civil war and in 2001."

The museum conservators over the years painstakingly pieced together many wooden and stone sculptures which were broken deliberately.

There are many who pin their hopes on the US brokered talks between the Taliban and the Afghan Government hoping that the region's past will be protected. Last year, the Government had said yes to discuss "ensuring the security of historical and Islamic sites" during their talks while the statement of February gives an indication on part of Taliban to do so as well.

Nasratullah Hewadwall of the Kabul branch of ARCH remarked: "It's a great and positive step." He shared that last year the Taliban had distanced itself from the destruction of Bamiyan Buddhas in 2001 while blaming it on al Qaeda.

According to Hewadwall, the leadership of the group has realised the economic significance of ancient heritage and sites as tourist attractions while perceiving that destroying them damages their image.

In terms of historical significance, there is much to be lost in case Afghanistan's cultural heritage is not preserved.

Being at the geographical crossroads of Central Asia, the region has attracted traders, merchants, scholars, pilgrims, and armies since the arrival of Alexander the Great.

Afghanistan is from where Buddhism spread to China and it is this place where Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism flourished, both before and after the advent of Islam in the 7th Century AD.

Also as part of the Silk Road which connected India with China and Iran, it boasts of remains of several ancient cities, monasteries, and sarais, which housed travellers.

Besides the threat of the Taliban, a greater fear which grips cultural conservators is that of chaos that will follow after the departure of American and NATO troops that has already begun.

According to Jolyon Leslie, who is working as a preservationist at an ancient Buddhist stupa outside Kabul: "Our fears are less about a possible threat posed by the Taliban than the prospect of a breakdown in law and order."

Chaos already exists, informs Hewadwall, especially in rural areas. The twin factors of lack of security and shifting alliances, has enabled poverty-stricken villagers, gangs, different militia and Taliban to steal artefacts for smuggling them.

Many place their hopes on the Afghan officials who have so far done well to preserve the sites, museums and artefacts from decay and destruction. The article quotes NG's archaeologist Fredrik Hiebert, who talking about Afghan officials said: "They will be good caretakers. I have total confidence in them." According to him, they have braved arrest and even death in their call of duty. IANS

The history of Israel and Palestine: Alternative names, competing claims

DANIEL MILLER

The airstrikes ended, the rockets stopped and the street fighting between Jewish and Arab Israelis abated as Israel and the militant Islamist group Hamas agreed to a ceasefire, ending the fourth war between them since 2008. The war and the actions that culminated in it have been discussed extensively. Both sides have, as always, laid the blame for the latest hostilities at the feet of the other. Sadly, this war and the lead up to it are just the latest entries in a long ledger written in blood and tears. Israel. Palestine. One land, two names. Those on each side claim the land as theirs, under their chosen name.

Israel first appears near the end of the 13th century BC within the Egyptian Merneptah Stele, referring apparently to a people (rather than a place) inhabiting what was then Canaan. A few centuries later in that region, we find two sister kingdoms: Israel and Judah (the origin of the term Jew). According to the Bible, there had first been a monarchy comprising both, apparently also called Israel. In about 722 BC, the kingdom of Israel was conquered by the



Neo-Assyrian empire, centred in what's now Iraq. As an ancient geographic term, Israel was no more.

Less than a century and half later, Judah was overthrown. Its capital Jerusalem was sacked, the Jewish Temple destroyed and many of Judah's inhabitants were exiled to Babylonia. Following the exile's end a little under 50 years later, the territory of the former kingdom of Judah served as the heart of Judaism for almost seven centuries (although the rebuilt Temple was again destroyed in AD 70, by the Romans).

In AD 135, following a failed Jewish revolt, Roman Emperor Hadrian expelled the Jews from Jerusalem and decreed that the city and surrounding territory be part of a larger entity called Syria-Palestina.

Palestina took its name from the coastal territory of the ancient Philistines, enemies of the Israelites (ancestors of the Jews). Subsequent to the Islamic conquest of the Middle East in the seventh century, Arab peoples began to settle in the former Palestina. Apart from about 90 years of Crusader domination, the land fell under Muslim control for just under 1,200 years. Although Jewish habitation never ceased, the population was overwhelmingly Arab.

In the second half of the 19th century, the longstanding yearning of Jews in the Diaspora to return to the territory of their ancestors culminated in the nationalistic movement called Zionism.

The Zionist cause was driven by steeply rising hatred toward Jews in Europe and Russia.

Immigrating Jews encountered a predominantly Arab populace, who also considered it their ancestral homeland.

At that time, the land comprised three administrative regions of the Ottoman empire, none of which was called Palestine. In 1917, the land came under British rule. In 1923, Mandatory Palestine, which also included the current state of Jordan, was created. Its Arab inhabitants saw themselves primarily not as Palestinians in the sense of a nation, but instead as Arabs living in Palestine (or rather, Greater Syria).

Zionist leaders in Mandatory Palestine strove hard to increase Jewish numbers to solidify claims to statehood, but in 1939 the British strictly limited Jewish immigration.

Ultimately, the Zionist project succeeded because of global horror in response to the Holocaust.

In November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, partitioning the land into independent Arab and Jewish States. The resolution met immediate Arab rejection. Palestinian militias attacked Jewish settlements.

On May 14, 1948, the Zionist leadership declared the found-

ing of the state of Israel.

The new Jewish state was immediately invaded by the armies of several Arab countries, alongside Palestinian militants. By the time the fighting ended the next year, the Palestinians had lost almost four fifths of their United Nations allotment. Seven hundred thousand of them had been driven from their homes, with no right of return to the present day. For Jewish Israelis, it's known as the War of Independence. For Palestinians, it was al-Nakba the Catastrophe.

On Nov. 15, 1988, the Palestinian National Council issued a declaration of independence, recognised a month later by the UN General Assembly. Approximately three-quarters of the UN's membership now accepts the statehood of Palestine, which has non-member observer status. PTI

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NEWS BRIEFS

Occultist held on rape charge in UP's Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Police here have arrested an occultist for allegedly raping a 23-year-old woman on the pretext of curing her ailment, an official said on Wednesday.

Man shot dead in Bihar's Nalanda district by cousin

PATNA: A man was gunned down in Bihar's Nalanda district on Wednesday after he objected to his cousin misbehaving with and molesting his wife.

Rahul slams govt on fuel price hike



NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at the government as petrol prices crossed the Rs 100-a-litre mark in Delhi.

100-a-litre mark in Delhi, charging that the Modi government runs on "tax extortion". Petrol prices crossed the Rs 100-a-litre mark after fuel prices were

increased in line with firming international oil trends. "Your car may run on petrol or diesel, Modi government runs on tax extortion," Gandhi tweeted in Hindi, using hashtag "TaxExtortion".

In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 100.21 a litre and diesel is priced at Rs 89.53 per litre. Delhi is the last of the metro cities to see petrol rising above the Rs 100-a-litre mark. Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune already have prices above that mark. Kolkata also saw petrol prices climbing over Rs 100 per litre on Wednesday. PTI

An ex-Maha CM, Rane to act as a counter to Uddhav

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Rajya Sabha MP and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Narayan Rane, who was inducted into the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, joined the BJP in October 2019 after switching over to the Congress in from the Shiv Sena in



2005 and then leaving the Congress to form the short-lived Maharashtra Swabhimani Paksha in 2017. A

formidable Maratha leader from the Konkan region of Maharashtra, Rane has held multiple portfolios in the Maharashtra government in the past, but never made it to the Union Cabinet.

The BJP is most likely to use him to counter Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, with whom the party has had a blow-hot, blow-cold relationship. IANS

Kerala govt files appeal against quashing of probe against ED

KOCHI, JULY 7

The Kerala government on Wednesday filed an appeal before a division bench of the High Court seeking cancellation of a single bench order in April this year, that quashed an FIR registered by the state crime branch against the enforcement directorate (ED).

The contention of the government was that it was not right for the single bench to do that as it was against the



law. The Crime Branch had registered an FIR against ED officials probing the Kerala gold smuggling case, that the prime accused in

the case Swapna Suresh was forced to give false statements, and implicate chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the case. IANS

TRP rigging case: 3 Republic TV employees get anticipatory bail

MUMBAI, JULY 7

A sessions court here on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to three Republic TV employees in connection with the alleged Television Rating Points (TRP) rigging scam. The three employees Shivendu Mulherkar, Ranjit Walter and Sivasubramaniyam Sundaram - had filed their pleas before the court in November-December last year, their lawyer Vikram Kamath said.

The court heard the pleas on Monday, he said. On Wednesday, Additional Sessions Judge A D Deo allowed the anticipatory bail applications of the three employees, their lawyer said. They had submitted before the court there was no ground against them (for arrest) and they were not named in the FIR registered in the case. Subsequently, a charge sheet was filed, and they were named as accused. So, whatever material was there, it was

They had submitted before the court there was no ground against them (for arrest) and they were not named in the FIR registered in the case

before the court. Hence, their custodial interrogation was not required, Kamath had argued.

In a supplementary charge sheet filed in the case in June this year, the Mumbai police had named the three as accused, along with senior journalist and Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami. The alleged fake TRP scam came to light in October last year when ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint through Hansa Research Group (HRG), alleging that certain television channels were rigging TRP numbers. PTI

Yogi sanctions ₹1.5 crore for doctor's lung transplant



NEW DELHI, JULY 7

In a heart-warming gesture, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned a sum of Rs 1.5 crore for the lung transplant of a resident doctor at the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS). Sharda Suman, 31, a resident doctor at the RMLIMS is battling for life for the past two months after Covid caused irreparable damage to both her lungs.

Suman, pursuing PG in gynaecology from the Institute, was eight-months pregnant when she had to be put on a ventilator after contracting a severe infection on April 14. A C-section was done while she was on the vent support to save the baby. She gave birth to a baby girl who is said to be fine. Chief Minister Adityanath, on Tuesday, declared that the government would take care of all her medical expenses. IANS

MP: 53 patients died of black fungus at Indore hospital in 56 days

INDORE, JULY 7

At least 53 patients have died of Mucormycosis or black fungus infection at the government-run Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital (MYH) in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city in the last 56 days, an official said on Wednesday.

A total of 667 patients had been admitted at the MYH, the busiest hospital treating cases of black fungus, since May 13, and of these, 467 patients were discharged after



the treatment, the hospital official said. As many as 53 patients had died of the infection so far and 147 are

currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, he said. The doctors have performed 756 surgeries of black fungus

As many as 53 patients had died of the infection so far and 147 are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, he said

patients in the last 56 days, the official said, adding that about 94 per cent of patients had contracted the infection after recovering from COVID-19.

An analysis of this data has revealed that the mortality rate of black fungus patients at MYH stands at 8 per cent. PTI

DELHI/NCR

Delhi's NO2 pollution increased by 125 pc in one year: Study

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Delhi recorded an increase of 125 per cent in NO2 (nitrogen dioxide) pollution between April 2020 and April 2021, according to a Greenpeace India study which analysed NO2 concentrations in India's eight most-populous state capitals.

NO2 pollution has increased in all the eight capitals studied - Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur and Lucknow - but Delhi has seen the "most dramatic increase" during the period, the report said. NO2 is a dangerous air pollutant that is released when fuel is burned, as in most motor vehicles, power generation, and industrial processes. Exposure to NO2 can severely impact people's health at all ages, affecting the respiratory and circulatory systems and the

NO2 is a dangerous air pollutant that is released when fuel is burned, as in most motor vehicles, power generation, and industrial processes

brain, leading to an increase in hospital admissions and mortality. "Satellite observations reveal NO2 pollution increased to 125 per cent of April 2020 levels.

The analysis suggests the increase would have been even greater (146 per cent) had weather conditions been similar to 2020," read the report, titled "Behind the Smokescreen: Satellite Data Reveal Air Pollution Increase in India's Eight Most Populous State Capitals". PTI

IT Rules: Delhi HC refuses to grant interim protection from coercive action to digital media portals

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU New Delhi, June, 25

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant protection from coercive action to digital media portals as it adjourned their challenge to the new IT Rules after being informed that a plea has been moved by the Centre to transfer them to the Supreme Court. "Transfer petition has been preferred?", a Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee who replied, "Yes".

The court then proceeded to adjourn the pleas by The Wire, Quint Digital Media Ltd and Pravda Media Foundation till August 20. According to amended Information Technology Rules, social media and streaming companies



"Transfer petition has been preferred?", a Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee who replied, "Yes"

will be required to take down contentious content quicker, appoint grievance redressal officers and assist in investigations. Senior Advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, appearing for the portals, urged the court to

pass an order of interim protection as the Central government was yet to even reply to the petitions filed by digital media portals. "Notice has gone on the rules and they have not filed reply. Now they

are asking me to report to them. This is the first step in submitting to the discipline (of regulation of content by government). Please hear my stay application and grant me protection," she said.

She added that the central government's conduct was "totally in the face of Supreme Court decision that government regulation of content of media is unacceptable". In response, Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma said that "1700 digital media has already submitted information" as per the IT Rules. "It is not a matter voice-vote", Ramakrishnan stated as she asserted that the digital media portals before the court had preferred to challenge the new IT Rules. The Court, however, refused to pass any order and directed the Centre to file counter affidavit. PTI

5G roll out: Delhi HC grants week to Juhi Chawla to deposit ₹20 lakh in costs

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted a week to Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla and two others to deposit Rs 20 lakh in costs imposed on them for abusing the process of law by way of their lawsuit challenging 5G wireless network technology. "The court is shocked at the conduct of the plaintiffs," Justice J R Midha said, as he observed that Chawla and others were "not even willing to gracefully deposit the costs".

The judge was hearing three applications moved by the actor for refund of court fees, waiver of costs and replacing the word "dismissed" in the judgement with "rejected". The court's reaction came after Chawla's counsel, Senior Advocate Meet Malhotra's, after withdrawing the application for waiver of costs,



said that costs would either be deposited in a week or ten days, or legal remedies against the same would be taken. "On one hand you move a frivolous application and on the other hand, you withdraw the application and plaintiffs are not even willing to gracefully deposit the costs," the court said.

The court stated that it, in fact, took a lenient view when it imposed costs of Rs 20 lakh on Chawla and others and did not initiate contempt proceedings. "I was shocked... This court took a lenient view and did not issue contempt when case was made out. I was totally inclined. PTI

SRDC to constitute team to address encroachment issues in Chandni Chowk market

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC) has decided to constitute and deploy "Joint Encroachment Prevention Team" to address issues of encroachment by unauthorised hawkers and sanitation in the revamped Chandni Chowk market, officials privy to the development said on Wednesday. They said necessary instructions in

The SRDC is the nodal agency constituted for the redevelopment of the Chandni Chowk heritage market

this connection were issued in a meeting of the SRDC, which was chaired by Delhi's Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain, who is also the chairman of the SRDC, on

June 25. The SRDC is the nodal agency constituted for the redevelopment of the Chandni Chowk heritage market.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the "Joint Encroachment Prevention Team" will have officials from the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Police to ensure that there is no encroachment in the newly revamped heritage market. PTI

Fire breaks out at chemical factory in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

A fire broke out at a chemical factory in outer Delhi's Nangloi area on Wednesday, Delhi Fire Services officials said. No casualty has been reported so far, they said.

"We received a call about the fire at the chemical factory in Nangloi around 11.20 am. A total of 12 fire tenders

"We received a call about the fire at the chemical factory in Nangloi around 11.20 am. A total of 12 fire tenders have been pressed into service," said Atul Garg, director of Delhi Fire Services. PTI

Delhi HC refuses to stop further circulation of film purportedly based on Sushant Rajput's life

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to pass any direction to restrain further circulation of film 'Nyay: The Justice' which is purportedly based on the life of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput and has been released on a website.

"We will have it on 14th (July). I am not inclined at this stage," said a bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher

and Talwant Singh while hearing the application of Rajput's father Krishna Kishore Singh, in the appeal against single judge order refusing to stay the release of the film.

Justice Shakdher said the movie had already been released and since the bench was available only for today, he was not inclined to hear it or issue notice. "Matter is listed in usual course on July 14. Let the application be listed

on same date. I don't want to second guess what the judge is going to do. I'm not inclined to issue notice at this stage. In an appeal, you know what the rigour is," the court said.

Senior Advocate Jayant Mehta, appearing for Singh, argued he was not seeking that the film be un-released, but that it should not be re-published or further circulated on any other platform now. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Khattar condoles Dilip Kumar's demise

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday condoled the demise of legendary actor Dilip Kumar...

Himachal to get tough against overcrowding

SHIMLA, JULY 7

A day after the central government expressed concern over tourist overcrowding at hill stations, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday issued directions to local authorities to ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour to contain the spread of the virus...



enabling them to provide additional monthly assistance of Rs 1,500. The Cabinet gave consent to increase the additional honorarium of the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,750 per month...

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The Cabinet gave consent to increase the additional honorarium of the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,750 per month...

ED attaches 3 Gurugram plots in money laundering case against Unitech

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

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



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

Three held for robbery attempt on Haryana Police constable in plainclothes

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Police on Wednesday said it has arrested three suspects who allegedly tried to rob a police constable in plainclothes during routine patrolling in Panipat district...



Police stop Congress workers who were staging a protest demanding for restoration of statehood to J & K, and against hike in the fuel prices, in Jammu, on Wednesday.

419 Covid recoveries, 280 new cases, 4 deaths

SRINAGAR, JULY 7

Recoveries continued to stay ahead of new cases in J&K on Wednesday as 419 patients recovered while 280 new cases and 4 deaths were reported in last 24 hours...

PAGD condemns summoning of Mehbooba's mother by ED



The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Wednesday condemned the summoning of the mother of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti by the Enforcement Directorate...

ba's mother Gulshan Nazir asking her to appear at the agency's office in Srinagar on July 14 in connection with a money laundering case...

Anurag Thakur's political journey: A tale of struggle, patience & thorns

SHIMLA, JULY 7

The 13-year political journey of former BCCI chief Anurag Thakur, who retained BJP's bastion in Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh for the fourth consecutive time in 2019, is full of struggle, patience and thorns...



national cricket body. In a mega Cabinet revamp on Wednesday, Thakur, the Minister of State for

Finance and Corporate Affairs, was elevated, along with others. Since his maiden electoral victory in the May 2008 Parliamentary by-poll at the age of 34, Thakur, who served the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) as its president for four straight terms since 2000, has been

targeted by his rivals for being too high-profile and jet-setting. In every Parliamentary election, Hamirpur has been witnessing more aggressive campaigning as compared to the other three Lok Sabha constituencies in the state Shimla (reserved), Kangra and Mandi, political observers said.

Gurugram records highest Covid recovery rate at 99.44 per cent

GURUGRAM, JULY 7



Gurugram is the first district in 14 states and four Union Territories (UTs), securing the top position with the highest recovery rate at 99.44 per cent. Gurugram's recovery rate is far

better than the national average of 97.1 per cent, according to the Union government's Covid-19 portal. Gurugram Deputy Commissioner, Yash Garg, said this was only possible with the efforts of the district health department which adopted several tough measures to prevent Covid-19 infection in the district. Garg informed that the Covid recovery rate in the capitals of 14 major states in the country was measured.

Top Hizbul commander killed in encounter in J&K's Kupwara



SRINAGAR, JULY 7

A top Hizbul Mujahideen commander was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, police said. "One of the oldest & top commander of HM #terror outfit Mehrzuddin Halwai @ Ubaid got neutralised in #Handwara #encounter. He was involved in several terror crimes. A big

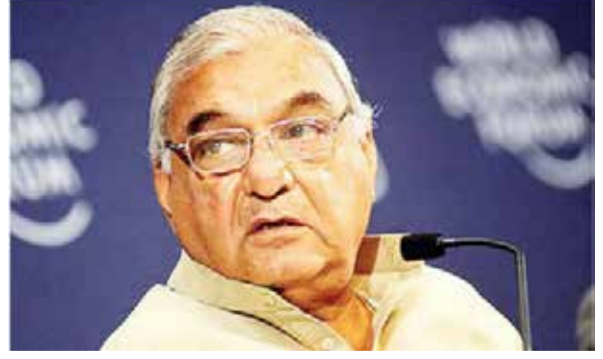
The operation turned into an encounter after the security forces were fired upon. Halwai was killed in retaliatory action by the security personnel, the police added

success," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet. Security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation at Pazi-pora-Renan in the Handwara area of the district Wednesday morning following information about the presence of militants there, the police said. The operation turned into an encounter after the security forces were fired upon.

Demand for leadership change in Haryana Congress gains momentum

RAJENDRA KHATRY PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU Chandigarh, July 7

Demand for change in Congress leadership in Haryana has gained momentum. Majority of leaders are in favour of Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Haryana Congress now is divided in two main factions. One section with majority of MLAs is siding with Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former Chief Minister of Haryana and Leader of Opposition in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha.



to the central leadership of the party that they want Bhupinder Singh Hooda as the main Congress leader in Haryana. Haryana Congress leaders considered loyal to Hooda are Dr. Raghubir Kadian, Geeta Bhukkal, Aftab Ahmed, B B Batra, Rao Dan Singh, Jagbir Malik, Jaiveer Valmiki, Shakuntala Khatak, Bishanlal Saini, Balbir Valmiki, Rajendra Singh Jun, Dharam Singh Chokkar. Along with this, it has also been expressed

that the party should not keep the leadership issue hanging in the state as this affects the morale of the party workers and which in turn results in poor performance of the Congress in the elections. Referring to the neighboring state of Punjab, the Hooda faction legislators said in unison that the Congress came to power there only when the party gave Capt Amarinder Singh total command of the party in Punjab.

Top US leaders greet Dalai Lama on his 86th birthday

WASHINGTON, JULY 7

Top US leaders have warmly greeted Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on his 86th birthday, describing him as an inspiration to people around the world who are drawn to his messages of compassion, equality and inclusivity. The Dalai Lama's supporters in the US also announced plans to establish a library in his honour in New York. The 14th Dalai Lama, who celebrated his 86th birthday on Tuesday, has made the hillside town of Dharmasala in Himachal Pradesh his headquarters after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. China does not recognise the Tibetan government-in-exile and accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to separate Tibet from China. The Dalai Lama, the

highest spiritual leader of Tibet, denies being a separatist and says he merely advocates for substantial autonomy and protection of Tibet's native Buddhist culture. Greeting the Dalai Lama on his birthday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "I am delighted to extend warm wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the occasion of his 86th birthday on July 6. "His Holiness is an inspiration to many around the world who are drawn to his messages of compassion, equality, and inclusivity," he said. "I have deep respect and appreciation for His Holiness' grace, wisdom, and humility, as well as his dedication to greater global equality and the equal rights of all people, including his fellow Tibetans. I wish His Holiness the very best," he said in a statement.

LifeStyle

Dilip Kumar no more, B-Town recalls memories



Taapsee:
There is no industry without competition, stress today

Actress Taapsee Pannu says there is no industry without competition and stress today. Talking about life in Bollywood being fastpaced and how it takes a toll, Taapsee tells IANS: "It is a very competitive industry, just like other industries. Just that our competition comes in front of the camera for the world to judge. So, it becomes slightly more stressful, but everyone knows about it when they get into it."

She agrees it is a part and parcel of an actor's life. "It's not like somebody forced us into it. We were aware of the fact that we will be in front of the camera and people would want to know more and more about us, so we were aware of that when we entered. So, something in return of that unconditional love we get from the audience is a price we pay. That attracts stress and it's a part of every competitive industry," the actress said. "There is competition in every industry. There is no industry without competition and stress today," summed up Taapsee, whose latest film "Haseen Dillruba" released on Netflix recently. **IANS**

Tributes and condolences continued pouring in from the film fraternity for late legend Dilip Kumar all through Wednesday. The veteran actor passed away in a Mumbai hospital aged 98 in the early hours of the day. Actors, singers, filmmakers and others associated with the film industry, especially whose lives he had touched, took to social media to mourn his demise, recall their experiences of meeting him and working with him, and offered their condolences to the bereaved family and his wife, veteran actress Saira Banu.



Actress Hema Malini posted: "Veteran actor, exemplary role model for all heroes, my respected co star in Kranti, Dilip Kumar ji, is no more. I recall a couple of visits to his house & the pleasant meetings I had with him & Saira ji. My heart goes out to Saira ji, his life partner of many years, for this loss."

Veteran actor Anupam Kher tweeted: "The legend lives on!! There is and there will always be a part of #DilipKumar Saab in every Indian actor for generations to come! His performances were like magic. Thank you Sir for those amazing moments i could spend with you! You taught me so much about life, living & acting!"

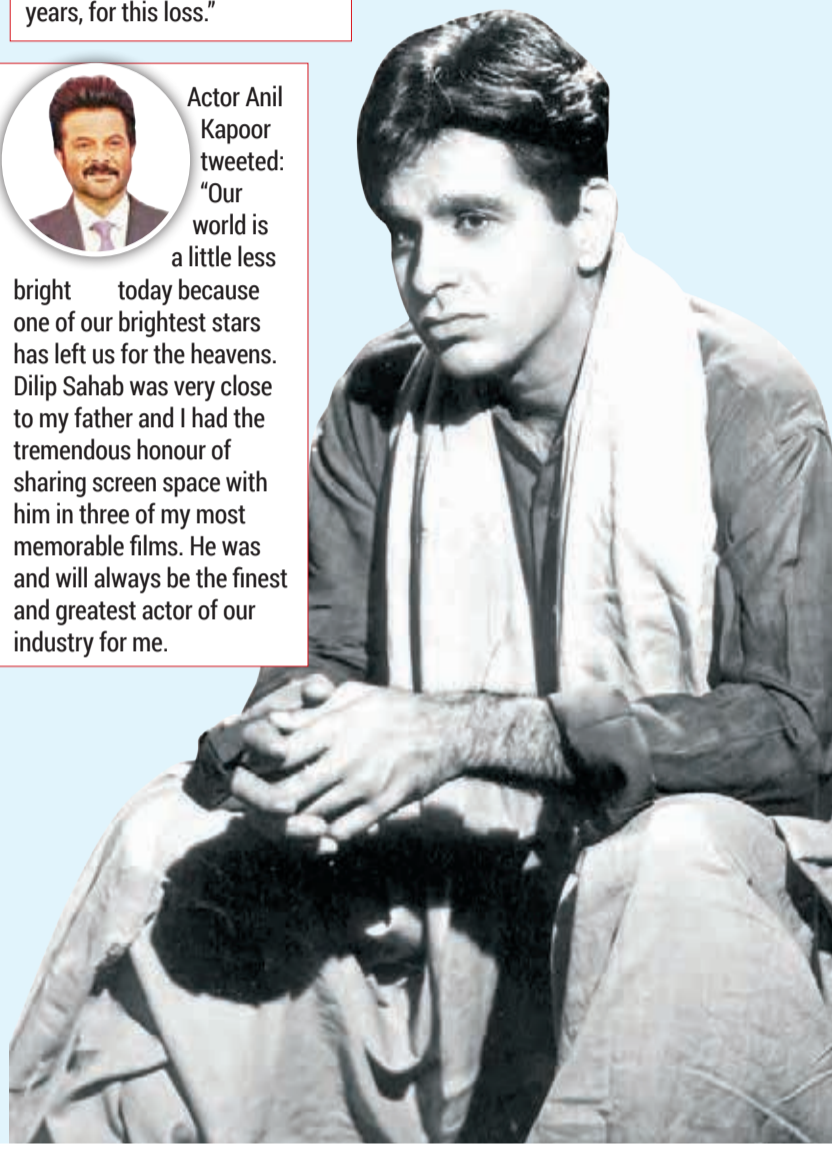


Actor Anil Kapoor tweeted: "Our world is a little less bright today because one of our brightest stars has left us for the heavens. Dilip Sahab was very close to my father and I had the tremendous honour of sharing screen space with him in three of my most memorable films. He was and will always be the finest and greatest actor of our industry for me."

Playback singer Asha Bhosle tweeted: "I'm very sad to hear that Dilip Saab is no longer with us. He was like a big brother to me. I have great admiration and respect for his wife Saira bhabhi who has really looked after and dedicated her life to him. Lots of love to her and the family. We share your grief."



Actor Salman Khan posted: "Best actor Indian cinema has ever seen and will ever see ... #RIP Dilip Saab"



Esha Deol to make digital debut in Ajay Devgn's 'Rudra: The Edge Of Darkness'

Actress Esha Deol Takhtani will make her digital debut in the Ajay Devgn-starrer series "Rudra: The Edge Of Darkness". The series reimagines the globally successful British series "Luther". "I look forward to working with Ajay Devgn after a long time. He has been a fantastic co-star to me in many films. As an actor, I believe in working on projects that would let me explore something new and engage me as a viewer as well. This series is a fresh take on the quintessential cop drama with a grey overtone, something which has not been explored in the Indian context before. With the

resounding success of the OTT space, I am charged up for my digital debut with this one," Esha told IANS. The actress was last seen in the 2019 short film "Cakewalk". She has earlier worked with Ajay in films such as "Main Aisa Hi Hoon", "LOC Kargil" and "Yuva". "With Esha Deol Takhtani joining the star cast of 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness', we are certain that her presence will take the series a notch higher and add more spark to the story. Building on the long-standing relationship with Disney+ Hotstar VIP, we are looking forward to the creation of this remarkable series," said Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment, producers of the Hotstar Specials series in association with BBC Studios India. **IANS**



Richa Chadha says 'two-rupee' trolls make her 'very famous'



Richa Chadha is often the target of trolls for voicing her opinions on social media. She has now opened up on whether it affects her at all. Richa Chadha has said that she does not care for trolls as they either indulge in 'whataboutery' or are 'for hire'. The actor is often the target of trolls for being vocal on social media. Richa Chadha often shares her views on current affairs and is known for taking unflinching stands on key issues that has often made her a target of trolls on social media. Richa told Spotboye in an interview, "There are two sets of trolls. One who troll you for your opinions and others who are trolls for hire, who are these two rupees trolls. The latter I don't pay any attention to because there is a lot of unemployment and they earn by trending hashtags with the same spelling mistakes. The former wants you to be vocal about everything, even if you don't know about it, who indulge in a lot of whataboutery and want to reprimand you." The Fukrey star added, "In the end, a troll is a troll be it from the right-wing ecosystem or the left wing and I really don't care about them. In fact, trolls make me very famous. I think trolls don't understand how much they help us unknowingly." **AGENCIES**

Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput's 6th anniversary: Timeline of their relationship



As Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary, here's a look at how they first met and what they had to say about each other. Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary on Wednesday. The actor, who married someone outside the film fraternity, tied the knot with Mira on July 7, 2015, in an intimate wedding in Gurgaon. Shahid and Mira are parents to two children--daughter, Misha, and son, Zain. Their relationship was nothing short of a Sooraj Barjatya movie. Mira Rajput had once revealed during an Ask Me Anything session that she was just 16 when she first saw Shahid Kapoor. The actor was attending a house party of their family's common friends. A few years later, the families reconnected and set Shahid and Mira up for a meeting in 2014. **AGENCIES**

9 in 10 Indians feel digital wallets have made shopping easier

BENGALURU, JULY 7

As online shopping grows multifold amid the pandemic in the country, nine in 10 Indians strongly believe that digital wallets have made shopping easier and a vast majority (98 per cent) of those surveyed have shopped at an online-only retailer in the past 12 months, a new global report showed on Wednesday.

The survey by from global payments provider Blackhawk Network found, which mined the views of 13,000 global shoppers, also found that 69 per cent of respondents will shop more frequently at retailers that accept digital payments.

India has emerged as a forerunner in mobile commerce adoption in comparison to its global counterparts.



Over 54 per cent of the respondents said they will spend more money if they can use digital payment methods.

The findings showed

that 93 per cent of Indian respondents prefer using digital wallets regularly as compared to their global counterparts' average of 55 per cent.

"The pandemic has intensified the demand for digital wallets as contactless payment is reckoned as the new normal. India being a very high cash-driven

market, the digital payment industry is still very nascent, yet fast-evolving," said Theresa McEndree, global head of marketing, Blackhawk Network.

"As we start to hit more of a stride in our economic recovery, the winners will be the merchants that cater to the everyday digital payment preferences of today's shopper," McEndree said in a statement.

The Indian consumers are increasingly embracing innovative ways of transacting using their mobile devices.

Compared to other countries, India leads by a margin when it comes to frequent usage of all given digital payment methods - PayPal, digital wallets, peer-to-peer apps, and barcodes or QR codes.

Contactless payment innovations like QR codes are keeping Indian busi-

nesses moving. QR codes, or barcodes on a mobile device, were being used more frequently at grocery stores and online-only retailers.

"On average, the likelihood of scanning a QR in India is greater than in any other country. Twenty per cent Indian respondents used a QR code or barcode for the first time during the pandemic, and 69 per cent report using them more frequently," the survey noted.

In India, usage of peer-to-peer payment apps is almost as common as online-only retailers (49 per cent) as it is at grocery stores (44 per cent) and department stores (41 per cent).

India, however, ranked lowest (13 per cent) among all countries in choosing 'secure checkout process' as the most important factor when making a payment. **IAN S**

SEBI defines 'same line of business' under delisting norms

MUMBAI, JULY 7

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has come up with a standard operating procedure (SoP) for subsidiary companies planning to get delisted through a 'Scheme of Arrangement' wherein the listed parent holding company and the listed subsidiary are in the same line of business.

The capital market regulator, defining 'same line of business', said that at least 50 per cent of revenue from the operations of the listed holding and listed subsidiary company must come from the same line of business as per last audited annual financial results submitted by both the companies in compliance with SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

Further, not less than 50 per cent of the net tangible assets of the listed holding and listed subsidiary must have been invested in the same line of business as per last audited annual financial results submitted by both the companies.

In case of change of name of the listed entities, within the last one year, at least 50 per cent of the revenue, calculated on a restated and consolidated basis, for the preceding one full year has to be earned by it from the activity indicated by its new name. **IAN S**



NEWSBRIEFS

Tanishq reaffirms its commitment towards safety as stores reopen

CHANDIGARH: Tanishq, India's most trusted jewellery brand from the house of Tata has announced the re-opening of its vast retail network of 356 stores across 216 towns in compliance with all the regulations as mandated by various state governments. As the nation emerges from a second lockdown with the long-awaited return of non-essential retailing, Tanishq makes a re-commitment towards safety by ensuring care for all its stakeholders - customers, employees and the ecosystem at large including the Karigar community. **BPE**

First 2 home-deliveries of new Citroën C5 Aircross SUV

CHANDIGARH: Citroën on Wednesday announced the first 2 home-deliveries of the new Citroën C5 Aircross SUV in Surat and Chandigarh through Citroën BUY ONLINE. This 100 per cent buying online initiative caters to customers in more than 50 cities, even outside the dealer network in India. **BPE**

Nokia G20 with 3 days of battery life launches in India

CHANDIGARH: HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, on Wednesday announced the launch of Nokia G20 in India. The new G-series of Nokia smartphones, represents the perfect balance of delivering on all your daily needs through relevant and user-centric technology. Equipped with our longest ever battery life of three-days, the Nokia G20 comes with the trusted Android promise - three years of monthly security updates to help keep your data as secure as possible along with two years of OS updates. With its 48MP quad camera that includes wide-angle and macro lens, powerful AI imaging modes, OZO audio and ample storage, the Nokia G20 is an on-the-go creative studio. **BPE**

Strong potential for further recovery in air traffic: IndiGo



NEW DELHI, JULY 7

India has a strong potential for further recovery in air traffic, owing to pent-up demand, contended airline major IndiGo.

Besides, the airline cited this trend being supported by strong domestic travel consumption which is further accentuated via the accelerating pace of vaccination drive.

In a conversation with IANS, IndiGo's Chief Commercial Officer William Boulter said: "We have witnessed increasing loads and demand for travel after a mid-May and look forward to achieving 80 per cent capacity utilisation that we

"As per our understanding from doctors if India is able to vaccinate 7 lakh people every day, the 3rd wave is expected to be flat. Currently, the travel demand is closely linked to the number of cases."

"As the cases go up, travel demand falls and the reduction in covid cases pushes up travel bookings. In the current situation we can see travel bookings bouncing back as the number of cases decrease."

Furthermore, he talked about the 'Lockdown Fatigue' which is leading to higher pent-up demand this time around in comparison to last year.

"Last year, when we emerged out of the lockdown, there was pent-up demand because many citizens were stuck in other cities and wanted to return to their hometown which translated into a high demand for travel."

"However, by now, a pandemic and lockdown fatigue has set in which spike travel bookings immediately as the lockdowns opened-up. According to industry sources, travel bookings have trebled in June itself and we hope that this will continue." **IAN S**

At present, airlines' permissible capacity deployment is at 65 per cent of pre-Covid levels applicable up till July 31

had in February by end of this year."

At present, airlines' permissible capacity deployment is at 65 per cent of pre-Covid levels applicable up till July 31, 2021.

On the inoculation front, Boulter said the vaccination drive will definitely be a key factor for the recovery of travel and aviation sectors.

Samsung expects record \$11 bn profit in Q2 on robust chip biz

SEOUL, JULY 7

Samsung Electronics on Wednesday expected market estimate-beating second quarter earnings as its semiconductor business apparently offset a tepid performance from its mobile business.

In its earnings guidance, the South Korean tech giant estimated its operating profit at 12.5 trillion won (\$11 billion) for the April-June period, up 53.4 percent from a year ago.

Its second-quarter operating income estimate beat the market consensus of 11.2 trillion won in a survey by Yonhap Infomax, the financial arm of Yonhap News Agency that surveyed 15 local brokerage houses last month.

Samsung projected its second-quarter sales at 63 trillion won, up 19 percent from a year earlier. The figure is

also above the market consensus of 61.3 trillion won.

Should the preliminary earnings results stand, its sales will be the largest for any second quarter to date, while the operating profit will be the highest since the third quarter of 2018.

On a quarterly basis, Samsung's second-quarter operating profit estimate was up 33.2 per cent from the first quarter, although that of sales was down 3.6 per cent from the previous quarter.

Samsung, the world's leading memory chip and smartphone vendor, did not break down performances of its respective business divisions, saying it will announce the detailed earnings later this month.

Analysts here believe Samsung's semiconductor business led the company's second-quarter performance. **IAN S**

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

Consumer Online Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation under Bejon Kumar Misra, on Wednesday expressed their deep concern on the extension of deadline to seek comments on draft e-commerce rules in India citing consumer ramifications in the long run.

The government extended the deadline for suggestions and feedback on the proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, till August 6 as opposed to July 6th.

The ministry released the draft e-commerce rules on June 21, prohibiting "fraudulent" flash sales, as well as mis-selling of goods and services on e-commerce platforms. Other amendments of the draft

Discoms permitted to relinquish entire allocated power

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

In a major relief for power distribution companies, the government has now given them the freedom to terminate or continue drawing power from a project that has completed 25 years of operations since its commissioning.

It has also said that discoms, if so they so wish, may also continue to draw power from such old power stations,

exercising the first right of refusal available to them under the terms of long-term PPAs.

The changes are path-breaking for the power sector as they will help discoms terminate an old PPA that has not remained economical in terms of power tariff. Also, termination of PPAs may allow shutting down operations of old and pol-

luting power stations.

The Power Ministry has said that while flexibility will be given to discoms to terminate old PPAs, such a move should be complete and not done in parts. So, if there is a PPA for bulk purchase from a power station, the entire quantity would have to be relinquished by the discoms after 25 years and not just a portion of it. **IAN S**



People shop at Lajpat Nagar Central Market after it reopened on Wednesday. A government order, issued on Tuesday night, allowed Lajpat Nagar market to reopen on Wednesday, after it had been shut for two days due to violation of COVID-19 norms. **PTI**

Consumer Online Foundation concerned on deadline extension



rules include appointing a chief compliance officer or grievance redressal officer.

Commenting on the draft e-commerce deadline extension by the Government, Bejon Misra, Founder Trustee of Consumer Online Foundation said, "The draft to amend the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules 2020 is a step in the right direction

to tighten the legal norms on the e-commerce platforms which were having a field day until recently, but the extension is setback to protect and strengthen the rights of consumers."

"The demand for extension in time is a delaying tactic by a few e-commerce giants. India being a promising mode of future business in India in the

e-commerce space, there is a strong need to have organised rules to protect and safeguard the rights of consumers," Misra added.

The government has proposed substantive changes and making some much-needed additions in the law to control the unfair trade practices that are widely prevalent in the e-commerce ecosystem. The structuring out of the definition of e-entities and introducing the concepts of cross-selling and fall-back liability will eliminate the abounding confusion even as it reduces the scope of frauds. These draft rules should not be seen as shooting in the foot in a bid to tighten the noose on e-commerce players, instead making the law a win-win for the consumers, the traders and the regulators all together. **IAN S**

AJNIFM partners with Microsoft

CHANDIGARH, JULY 7

The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft announced a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM. The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI, and emerging technologies for transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India.

Commenting on this, Navtez Bal, Executive Director, Public Sector, Microsoft India, said, "AJNIFM has a long history of driving research and innovation, preparing the next generation of leaders to transform India's finance management system. This collaboration brings together AJNIFM's rich experience in the public sector with Microsoft's cloud and AI capabilities, paving the way for data and AI led governance and fintech transformation." **BPE**

Hardik bowling in intra-squad game is a good sign: Suryakumar Yadav

COLOMBO, JULY 7

Hardik Pandya bowling during an intra-squad game is a 'good sign', feels dashing India batsman Suryakumar Yadav, who believes that the bowler and the team management would take a call on his workload during the upcoming limited-overs series against Sri Lanka from July 13.



He also didn't pay much heed to World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga's comments about India sending a second string team as Virat Kohli and the first team stars are in England for the Test series. "We are not thinking about that, we are just here to have some fun, enjoy this series and take a lot of positives from here," Yadav said. Talking about positives, this is the first time that Yadav would be working with Rahul Dravid.

"...it is a great opportunity for everyone, having a tour amid this situation, it is a great challenge and responsibility for each and everyone to come out here and express themselves. "And the great thing is having Rahul (Dravid) sir around, I have heard a lot about him. I think this is my first tour with him but I have heard a lot from many players that he is very calm and composed when it comes to this role," added the 30-year-old. The high

of a successful debut series behind him, Yadav said he would be looking to "start from the scratch". Yadav made his India debut in the T20 format during the home series against England, in which he scored a half century and was generally impressive. "Pressure will be there, because if there is no pressure, there is no fun, so as I said, it will be a great challenge and I am really looking forward to it," said the aggressive right-handed Mumbai batsman.

Asked if a successful debut series would help him cope better with the pressure, Yadav said, "I think that (debut series against England) was a completely different challenge and every time you come, I mean for a batter, every time you go in or play a different game, you start from scratch." "So, this (tour) also I have to start from zero and that was a different series and this is a different series, but the challenge remains the same, I have to go out

in the park and perform the same way, what I did," Yadav added in a virtual press-conference. The Mumbai player also said that his job with the national side is the same as it is for his IPL franchise Mumbai Indians. "I think I have been doing the same thing what I did for my franchise back in the IPL. When I made my debut, the same happened, I did not do anything different, it was all the same. "I have been enjoying that role really well in whatever position they send me to bat, I will be the same. I just go out and express the same way on how I do in every game and I really enjoy it," he added. Yadav also brushed aside suggestions that adapting to the conditions would be a challenge here. "...we have played in these conditions, we play in Mumbai, Chennai, where heat is heavy, humidity is high, and most importantly we have come here 15-20 days early to get acclimatised to these conditions, it will be fine," he said. PTI

Indian team's break in UK to continue as planned



SALISBURY, JULY 7

The Indian team, which is in the UK for a five-Test series, is continuing its 20-day break as of now even as England's ODI team has been forced into isolation after the outbreak of COVID-19 in its squad. Three unnamed England players and four support staff members have tested positive for the virus, 48 hours after the conclusion of their ODI series against Sri Lanka. England were forced to announce a brand new squad under the leadership of Ben Stokes for the upcoming ODI series against Pakistan. The Indian players

are set to re-assemble in London on July 14 and proceed to Durham for a two-week training cum first-class game against Select County XI. "We are aware of the situation. Obviously, ECB and the local health authorities will provide us with any change in existing health safety protocols and that will be strictly followed," a senior BCCI official told PTI. "But we haven't been told anything as of now. The players have not yet been told to cut short their downtime," he added. Presently, most of the players are in and around London enjoying time off with their families and

partners, while a few are in the countryside. Once the players assemble in London, they are expected to be tested again and then allowed to enter the bio-bubble. England have seen a rise in Delta-3 variant cases in the country. "We're in unprecedented territory in terms of replacing an entire squad and management team," said Ashley Giles, director of England's men's cricket. Not all players in the England first choice squad were fully vaccinated. "We have been mindful that the emergence of the delta variant, along with our move away from the stringent enforcement of bio-secure environments, could increase the chances of an outbreak," ECB chief executive Tom Harrison said. "We made a strategic choice to try to adapt protocols, in order to support the overall well-being of our players and management staff who have spent much of the last 14 months living in very restricted conditions." PTI

'Won't sacrifice aggression for consistency'



COLOMBO, JULY 7

India's Suryakumar Yadav is not ready to trade his natural aggression for consistency even though a Twenty20 World Cup spot is at stake, the 30-year-old said on Tuesday.

Yadav told a news conference ahead of the first one-dayer against Sri Lanka on July 13. "Every year I have learned something different from my team mates there, and that tournament is a great learning process. "As you saw when I made my (India) debut, it was the same thing happening. I didn't do anything different." Asked if he is looking to find a balance between aggression and consistency to secure his place for the T20 World Cup in October-November, Yadav ruled out changing his approach. "I have been enjoying this role. Whatever position they tell me to bat in, I'll be the same -- I'll just go there and express the same way I do in every game," he said.

Yadav said he is looking forward to "starting from scratch" in the series against Sri Lanka, which includes three One-Day Internationals and three Twenty20 matches. AGENCIES

UEFA invites Eriksen and medics who saved him to Euros final

PARIS, JULY 7

European football governing body UEFA has invited Denmark international Christian Eriksen and the paramedics who helped save his life during an on-field cardiac arrest to attend the Euro 2020 final at Wembley on Sunday. The brilliant Danish midfielder was resuscitated in front of shocked fans and a massive global

TV audience during his nation's first match of the tournament. UEFA said Eriksen, his partner and six medics were invited to the final, but there was no confirmation he would attend. One of the paramedics, Peder Ersgaard, said he was honoured to receive a VIP invite from UEFA boss Aleksander Ceferin. "I'm excited, like a child on Christmas Eve," he told the



Fagbladet FOA magazine. "I'm very proud of my effort."

effort." Eriksen, 29, collapsed on the Parken Stadium field in the first half against Finland, his eyes staring blank into a TV camera. CPR was administered and his heart was restarted with a defibrillator as players shielded the medics. He is now recovering at home. Eriksen's agent could not immediately be reached by phone. Initially traumatised but

then inspired by the emotion over Eriksen's plight, Denmark have stormed into the semi-finals and play England on Wednesday for a place in the final. Italy play Spain in the other semi-final on Tuesday. "I hope to see Denmark against Italy. That would be really, really big. Just imagine if they become European champions," Ersgaard added. AGENCIES

Argentina beat Colombia in shootout to reach Copa America final

BRASILIA, JULY 7

Emiliano Martinez was the hero for Argentina as he saved three times in a shootout to take his team into a Copa America final match-up with Brazil after Tuesday's semi-final against Colombia finished 1-1 after 90 minutes. Martinez, who tried to distract Colombia's players in the shootout with a barrage of trash talk, saved from Davinson Sanchez, Yerry Mina and Edwin Cardona. Lionel Messi, Leandro Paredes and Lautaro Martinez scored for Argentina as they booked a spot against the host nation in Saturday's final at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium. "I'm speechless," said Argentine keeper Martinez.



"They took us to penalties and that's a question of luck, today it was my turn for glory." Both sides had chances to win in an intense, end-to-end match punctuated by 46 fouls and 10 yellow cards. Argentina are seeking to win their first major international title since lifting the Copa America in 1993 and once again Lionel Messi

was the star man, notching up his fifth assist of the tournament to add to his four goals. Taking a superb pass from Giovanni Lo Celso after six minutes, Messi rolled the ball to Lautaro Martinez to fire home a low shot and give Argentina the lead. Colombia found their feet soon after and hit the

woodwork twice in a minute towards the end of the first half when Wilmar Barrio's deflected shot struck the post and then Mina watched his header hit the bar from the resulting corner. Their equaliser came on the hour mark when Luis Diaz finished from a tight angle to complete a surprise counter attack. Argentina are now unbeaten in 19 games, with their last loss coming to Brazil in the semi-final of the 2019 Copa America. They were also the last team to beat Brazil, in November 2019 when Messi got the only goal of the game in a friendly in Saudi Arabia. Since then Brazil, who beat Peru 1-0 on Monday to reach the final, have won 12 and drawn one. AGENCIES

'Ronaldo is not easy to manage'



ROME, JULY 7

Maurizio Sarri says he found Cristiano Ronaldo difficult to manage during his time in charge of Juventus, as he had to consider the 'personal interests' of the Portugal striker. The 62-year-old was appointed as Lazio coach last month, a year after being sacked by the Turin club, where five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo has played since 2018. "Ronaldo is not easy to manage, he is a multinational company with personal interests that must be combined with those of the team. I consider myself to be better at being a coach than a manager," Sarri told Sport Italia. "There are also a lot of positive aspects, because Ronaldo will bring results home in the end, and they are important results. "He represents something that goes beyond the club, with more than 200 million followers on social

media, but this is a problem in our society. Unfortunately, there is too much talk about players and little about teams." Sarri led Juve to the Serie A title in 2019-20 but was sacked at the end of the season after losing to Olympique Lyonnais in the Last-16 of the Champions League. He suggested that his work was unappreciated, particularly in light of a disappointing 2020-21 campaign under Andrea Pirlo, in which the Old Lady scraped into the Champions League places on the final day of the season. "We won the Scudetto without even celebrating it, everyone just went to dinner on their own," Sarri said. "The league title was taken for granted, inside and outside the club. But this year I saw them celebrating finishing fourth, so maybe those were the ideal conditions for going to Juve." AGENCIES

Italy sink Spain on penalties to enter Euro final

LONDON, JULY 7

Italy reached the Euro 2020 final after keeping their nerve from the penalty spot to edge Spain 4-2 in a shoot-out following a compelling 1-1 draw after extra-time on Tuesday. Jorginho coolly rolled the decisive kick past Spain keeper Unai Simon after Alvaro Morata had been thwarted by Gianluigi Donnarumma and Dani Olmo blasted his effort over the

bar. Spain's twin misses bailed out Manuel Locatelli, who had his strike saved by Simon with the first kick of the shoot-out and Italy's substitutes and coaching staff poured on to the pitch to celebrate in front of their jubilant supporters behind the goal. Italy, who will play either England or Denmark in Sunday's final at Wembley in their first showpiece since being thrashed 4-0 by Spain in Euro 2012, are looking to



win the tournament for the first time since 1968.

Roberto Mancini's side took the lead on the hour

through a sensational curler from Federico Chiesa to complete a sweeping counter-attack which began with keeper Donnarumma catching a Spain cross and rolling the ball out. Morata levelled for Spain with 10 minutes left, calmly slotting into the bottom corner after bursting forward and exchanging a one-two with Olmo. Spain looked more likely to find a winner in the remaining minutes and in

extra time but could not manage a second shoot-out victory after prevailing against Switzerland in the quarter-finals. Italy avenged their shoot-out defeat to Spain in the Euro 2008 quarter-finals and their resounding defeat in the Euro 2012 final, and completed a second straight European Championship victory over the Spaniards after their 2-0 win in the last 16 at Euro 2016. AGENCIES