





The farmers and labourers of the country will not stay back. You will have to take back the three farm laws. This movement is not only limited to farmers, it has been the movement of whole country against 'ham do, hamare do'

RAHUL GANDHI  
CONGRESS LEADER

# 15,807 more get corona jabs in Delhi, turnout 62%

12 AEFI cases reported; Capital records 142 new Covid cases and 2 deaths, positivity rate stands at 0.22 per cent

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

**M**ore than 15,800 beneficiaries received the Covid-19 jabs in Delhi with a turnout of 62 per cent today in the fourth week of the countrywide inoculation drive, according to data shared by officials.

As many as 14,743 people had got the Covid vaccine in Delhi yesterday with a turnout of

about 80 per cent.

Senior officials said the number of vaccination centres in the national capital was increased to 253 today from 183 earlier. Besides healthcare workers, frontline workers - who include, police, civil defence staff, DJB and electricity department employees among others - in the city have also been getting the Covid shots for the last several days.

"Today, 15,807 people were administered coronavirus vac-

uled vaccination days, from initially four days - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - have now been extended to six days a week - from Monday to Saturday.

After a sluggish start since the nationwide vaccination exercise was launched on 16 January, the inoculation drive has gained momentum in Delhi in the last several days.

"Today, 15,807 people were administered coronavirus vac-

cine, and AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) was reported in 12 persons," a senior official of the Delhi health department said.

The number of people vaccinated against Covid in Delhi, majority of whom are healthcare workers, had crossed the one lakh-mark last week.

The district-wise distribution of total 12 AEFI cases today was: Central Delhi (0), East Delhi (0), New Delhi (1), North Delhi (2),

North East Delhi (0), North West Delhi (0), Shahdara (2), South Delhi (4), South East Delhi (0), South West Delhi (1) and West Delhi (2). Meanwhile, the national capital recorded 142 new Covid cases and 2 more deaths today while the positivity rate stood at 0.22 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city's Covid caseload went up to 6,36,529. The fresh coronavirus infections were identified from

64,328 tests. The positivity rate rose to 0.22 per cent from yesterday's 0.19 per cent. The coronavirus patients in the national capital who recovered and were discharged from different hospitals numbered 135, which took its cumulative tally of such recoveries to 6,24,592, the health bulletin said.

Delhi's Covid toll climbed to 10,886 with 2 fresh fatalities, the bulletin stated. The case fatality rate stood at 1.71 per cent.



Representational Image

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**  
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)  
In the Court of Sh. Ajay Goel  
Addl. District Judge-04  
South-West,  
Dwarka Court, New Delhi  
CS/1523/2016  
Syndicate Bank — Plaintiff  
Versus  
Himayun Kabir, — Respondent

1. Humayun Kabir, Proprietor M/s. New Palika Bazar, s/o Shri Abdul Bakr, Shop No. G/78, Vardhaman Plus City Mall, Sector-23, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077.

Also at: Humayun Kabir, H. No. 16, B-Block, Solanki Chowk, Raj Nagar, New Delhi-110045.

2. Deepak Kumar, s/o Sh. On Prakash, r/o H. No. C-41 A, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110024.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 16th day of February, 2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 2nd day of February, 2021.

Addl. District Judge-04  
South-West  
Dwarka Court, New Delhi  
Seal of the Court

**COURT NOTICE**  
(UO 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
MS. SUMITRA KADIAN  
Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
Shree Shree Jagannath Seva  
Sangh

Versus  
Manju Chauhan  
CNR No. HRGR02-0005101-  
2019

Next Date: 03-07-2021  
Publications Issued to:  
1. Asha Devi, w/o Sh. Anil Kumar, r/o Raigarh Rewari  
2. Smt. Biplesh Chauhan, r/o H. No. 59 P, Sector 5, Gurugram

3. Kiran Alias Vahida Rashi-  
di, d/o Sh. Sant Singh Kataria,  
r/o H. No. A-176, Nand Ram  
Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi

4. Rekha, d/o Lt. Sant Singh Kataria, r/o H. No. 307, 7th  
Cross, Near Birla Hospital,  
Shiva Narayan Park, Gurugram.

I have no titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s)  
could not be served. It is  
ordered that the defendant(s)/  
respondent(s) should appear person or  
through counsel on 13-07-  
2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to  
[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district\\_notice&district=gurugram](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=gurugram).

Dated, this day of 11-02-  
2021.

Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
Seal of the Court

**COURT NOTICE**  
(UO 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
SH. ASHWANI KUMAR  
MEHTA  
Additional District and  
Sessions Judge  
Gurugram  
Braham Rishi Angira Education  
and Research Society  
Versus  
Ved Prakash Gautam etc.  
CIN No.: CMA/2020  
CNR No.: HRGR01-000089-  
2020

Next Date: 18-03-2021

**Publication Issued to:**  
**Respondent No. 3 (1)**  
Yogesh Sharma (Lrs. of  
Gopal Krishan Sharma), r/o  
H. No. 365/4, New Railway  
Road, Gurugram, Haryana

No. 5  
Yoginder Gautam, s/o Late  
Sh. Chandan Singh Gautam,  
r/o Sunaro Ka Mandir, Village  
Gurugram, Tehsil and Distt.  
Gurugram.

In above titled case, the  
defendant(s)/respondent(s)  
could not be served. It is  
ordered that the defendant(s)/  
respondent(s) should appear person or  
through counsel on 18-03-  
2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to  
[https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district\\_notice&district=gurugram](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=gurugram).

Dated, this day of 11-02-  
2021.

Additional District and  
Sessions Judge  
Gurugram  
Seal of the Court

**IN THE COURT OF  
COMMISSIONER, UNDER  
EMPLOYEE'S  
COMPENSATION ACT, 1923,  
CIRCLE-IV, GURUGRAM—  
122001 (HARYANA)**

**Case No. ....2020**  
Shoraab @Sohrab Khan  
Versus  
Allied Pigments Industries  
etc.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To,  
Allied Pigments Industries,  
J-981, Industrial Area,  
Kushkheda, Tehsil Tijara,  
District Alwar (Rajasthan)  
Through its Managing Director/  
Prop. (Regd. Owner of  
Vehicle No. RJ-02/GA-7973).

Whereas in the above noted  
case it has been proved to  
the satisfaction of this Court  
that the defendant named can  
not be served by ordinary  
process, therefore, this proclama-  
tion is being under Order 5  
Rule 20 CPC directing respon-  
dent abovenamed to appear in  
this Court/Tribunal on 22-2-  
2021 at 10:00 a.m. personally  
or through counsel. Failing  
which ex parte proceedings  
will be taken against you and  
in case of your non-attendance  
on 22-2-2021, then you shall  
appear on the next working  
day.

Given under my hand and  
the Seal of this Court/Tribunal  
on 21-1-2021.

Commissioner  
Under Employee's Com-  
pensation Act, 1923  
Circle-IV, Gurugram (HR)  
Seal of the Court

**IN THE COURT OF  
MS. PREETI PAREWA  
ACJ/CCJ/ARC**

**Room No. 03,**  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi

**Petition No. SC-6/2021**

ANITA JASMI  
Versus  
State & Ors.

—(Petitioner)

**FOR SUCCESSION  
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN  
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925**

To,  
All concerned.

Whereas in the abovenoted  
petition, the applicant/petitioner  
has applied for Succession  
Certificate to the Hon'ble Court  
under Section 372 of the Indian  
Succession Act, 1925 in respect of  
the debt and securities any per-  
son having a claim against or  
an interest in the Estate of  
the deceased Late Mrs.  
Surinder Taneja Name of  
Spouse Late P. N. Taneja died  
on Dt. 25-07-2020 at R L K C  
Hospital Metro Health Institute  
Naryana, Pandit Nagar, Delhi.  
We are requested to send  
particulars thereof in writing  
to the undersigned Court to  
be standing in the name of

deceased.

Whereas the 17-02-2021 at  
10 (Ten) O'Clock in the  
forenoon has been fixed for  
hearing and the application  
is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and  
the Seal of the Court this 09-  
02-2021.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC  
Patiala House Courts  
New Delhi  
Seal of the Court

**NOTICE DEBTS RECOVERY  
APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

**Apartment No. 318, 3rd Floor,**

**Hotel Samrat,  
Kauthaly Marg,  
Chamakpuri,**

**New Delhi-110021.**

**IA. 37/2021 At Appeal No.**

**67/2020 In OA No.**

**DRT, I, Delhi**

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.**

**— Applicant**

**Versus**

**M/s. Universal Engineers &  
Consultants & Ors.**

**— Respondent**

**1. M/s. Universal Engineers &  
Consultants E/20, Lajpat  
Nagar, New Delhi.**

**2. Dr. Lalit Singh, s/o Mahindra  
Singh, r/o H. No. 348, 2nd Floor,**

**Gurugram, Haryana.**

**3. Sh. Mahinder Singh, s/o Sh.  
Gurumukh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**4. Sh. Sunder Singh, C-1/86,  
Mayapuri, New Delhi.**

**5. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**6. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**7. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**8. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**9. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**10. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**11. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**12. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**13. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**14. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**15. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**16. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**17. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**18. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**19. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**20. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**21. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**22. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**23. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**24. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**25. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**26. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**27. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**28. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**

**29. Sh. Suresh Singh, r/o 1st E-20,  
Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.**</p



*Let Bengal live in peace. The BJP should not be allowed to come to power in the state. I appeal to all to protect the honour of Bengal*

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021

03

# HC seeks police stand on plea over farmer's death

Delhi HC seeks response of govt, police on Navreet Singh's grandfather's plea for a court-monitored SIT probe into his death after his tractor overturned during farmers' tractor rally on 26 Jan

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought response of the AAP government and police on a plea seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the death of a 25-year-old man who died after his tractor overturned during the protesting farmers' tractor rally on Republic Day.

Justice Yogesh Khanna issued notice to the Delhi government, Delhi Police, Uttar Pradesh Police and the Chief Medical Officer of District Hospital at Rampur, where the post mortem was carried out.

The court sought their stand on the petition moved by the deceased Navreet Singh's grandfather who has claimed that the victim has suffered gunshot injuries to his head.

The court directed the Delhi Police to file a status report with regard to the investigation on or before the next date of hearing on February 26.

Delhi government standing counsel Rahul Mehra, appearing for the police, told the court that according to instructions received by him,



Singh died as result of overturning of his tractor at ITO here during the violent clash between farmers and the police personnel.

He said that a general FIR in relation to Singh's death has been registered at I P Estate police station.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the victim's grandfather, told the court that the way Delhi Police has conducted itself in the matter "does not inspire a shred of confidence".

She said that the police abandoned all procedures, like carrying out inquest proceedings, conducting a post mortem and lodging of an FIR,

as required under the law, even if it was a case of accidental death.

She said that the victim's grandfather took the body back to their native place in Uttar Pradesh where the post mortem was carried out.

The police, instead, seized all the CCTV footage from the area, including from cameras which were closest to the incident site, and only selectively released video recorded from far.

It also released a statement to the media, on the evening of January 26, saying that the farmer died due to overturning of the tractor without even carrying out a probe,

Grover told the court that according to a UK-based pathologist, who saw the video of the incident and also perused the post mortem report, the injuries on the victim were consistent with at least one or two gunshot wounds.

She argued that this indicated that the victim lost control of the tractor and it overturned as he was shot by the police personnel.

The petition has sought directions to Delhi Police to share with the petitioner the CCTV footage recovered from the incident site.

It has also sought directions

to the UP police to share with the petitioner the FIR lodged there in connection with the death of the young farmer.

A direction has also been sought to the Chief Medical Officer of District Hospital at Rampur to provide the petitioner with a copy of the victim's x-ray report and also the video recording of the post mortem.

The petitioner's grandson was lying in a critically injured condition under the overturned tractor, however, despite the presence of a large number of police men including senior police officials in the vicinity, no attempts were made by Delhi Police to provide immediate critical medical intervention to save the life of the petitioner's grandson.

Instead, the Delhi Police resorted to tear gas shelling to prevent other protesters from reaching the site where the tractor lay with the petitioner's grandson's body underneath.

No efforts were made by the Delhi Police to cordon off the site of the incident and to collect time sensitive material evidence from the site, which was allowed to be erased and destroyed, the petition has claimed.

## Himachal CM calls for inculcating scientific temperament in students

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 11 FEBRUARY

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday stressed the need for inculcating scientific temperament in students.

Presiding over the Yuva Vigyan Puraskar function organised by Himachal Pradesh Science, Technology and Environment Council here, he said that the present state government has launched Yuva Vigyan Puraskar Scheme in 2018 to encourage the students to adopt science subject, thereby motivating them for research.

The chief minister said that under this scheme 47 students were rewarded in 2018, 30 students in 2019 and this year as many as 46 are being rewarded today.

He said that this would go a long way in motivating and inspiring the students to perform better.

Thakur said that there is no dearth of talent in the state and the only thing required was to motivate the students to perform better. He said Himachal Pradesh is the second most literate state in the country.

He said the teachers should motivate the students to develop scientific temperament. He said that Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the study of the students. He said the government ensured that the students are provided education virtually, which was a big success. He said that there is no substitute of classroom education and the students during and post lockdown had urged him to start



class room teaching. He said that now with the decrease in Covid-19 cases, the state government has decided to open the schools to facilitate the students.

Thakur said Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a mantra of finding opportunities in challenges for the nation to progress. He said that when the first case of corona virus was found in India not even a single PPE kit was manufactured in India. He said that today India is not only self-sufficient in PPE kits, but was even exporting it to several countries.

He gave away prizes to the award winners and expressed hope that the talented students would explore new knowledge and become future scientist and reach the top to make name of the state and country.

Principal Secretary Science, Environment and Technology K.K. Pant said that students securing first ten positions in 10+2 Faculty of Science in Himachal Pradesh School Education Board examinations are awarded under the programme. He said that Rs 1 lakh is provided to the student who gets the first place, Rs 90,000 to the student who gets the second place and Rs 80,000 to the student securing third position.

## 'Swarnim Himachal Rath Yatra' to instil sense of belongingness in residents: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 11 FEBRUARY

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said the main objective of the "Swarnim Himachal Rath Yatra" is to ensure active participation of every Himachali in it and to instil a sense of belongingness in the residents of the state.

After a meeting of the State Level Executive Committee of Rath Yatra, Thakur said the Yatra would commence from 15 April on the occasion of Himachal Day and cover all the 3615 Gram Panchayats and other Urban Local Bodies areas during its 51 days journey.

"The Yatra would focus on showcasing the glorious 50 years developmental journey

of Himachal Pradesh. Besides, active participation of Ministers, MLAs and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies must be ensured to make the event a success," he added.

He further stated that Swarnim Himachal Rath Yatra would ensure reaching out to approximately 25 lakh people of the State through Rath Yatra and social media.

He directed that all the major departments of the state must ensure their participation and highlight the achievements of their respective departments.

The main focus would be on highlighting the achievements, policies and programmes of the state government.

ment for which the departments must provide their promotional IEC material and brochures to highlight their developmental journey so that the same could be showcased through the digital Rath Yatra.

Further, efforts should also be made to rope in the local and national level artists and cultural troupes to entertain the people and highlight the glorious journey of the state through street plays, skits and songs," he said.

Thakur said events such as 'Swarnim Eethaas Par Charcha', quiz competitions, debates and painting competitions should also be organized at local level to ensure active participation and involvement of youth and students.

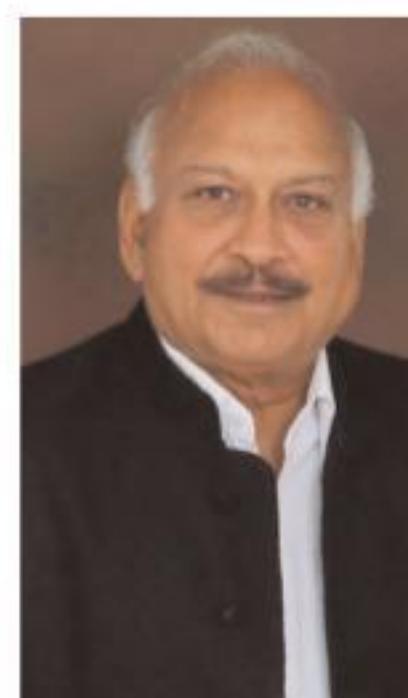
Special secretary Arindam Chaudhary made a detailed presentation on the proposed Swarnim Himachal Rath Yatra.

## Only Amarinder can lead Pb under present circumstances: Mohindra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 FEBRUARY

A senior Punjab Congress leader and cabinet minister, Brahm Mohindra on Thursday said that amidst "growing sectarian politics" allegedly played by the Shiromani Akali Dal, Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh is the "only leader who enjoys the trust and confidence of each and every Punjabi in the state".

Speaking to reporters, the six-time Member of Legislative Assembly from Patiala Rural constituency said "under today's circumstances, if anyone can lead Punjab, it is only and only Amarinder Singh".



"Having known him for last fifty years, I can say with unfailing confidence and hundred percent guarantee that right now, his charisma apart, there is no leader in Punjab

jab who can meet his secular and nationalistic credentials", the minister said, while claiming that nobody could handle the state better than him under current circumstances.

The veteran Congress said it was Amarinder who took the lead in pointing out flaws in the three agriculture laws enacted by the Central government.

"If the farmers' plight has become a national and international issue today, it is only because Amarinder initiated the process of taking the corrective measures by way of legislation in the Assembly, which unfortunately has not been forwarded to the President by the Punjab Governor", he remarked.

Mohindra lashed out at the

Akalis and the BJP, saying they may have parted ways, but their agenda remains the same and similar to that of dividing and polarizing people on communal lines. He warned that the Akalis and the BJP were playing a dirty and dangerous game, which for sure will be defeated by the Punjabis.

On the AAP, the minister said, it had again started cozying up to the same elements (radicals) as it did during the run up to the last Assembly elections. "This obviously speaks a lot about their immaturity, inexperience and ignorance about Punjab and its politics", he ridiculed the AAP while asserting that it may not be able to open its account this time in the Assembly.

## 'H'yana govt implementing e-office system'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 FEBRUARY

To make government offices paperless, an e-office system is being implemented in Haryana, the project director, Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates Programme, Rakesh Gupta said on Thursday.

Presiding over a review meeting regarding the process of e-office at Haryana Niwas today, Gupta said forwarding of files in government offices through e-office will bring transparency and efficiency in the work process while there will be no delay in anyone's work. It was informed at the meeting that in the state, e-file and e-receipt have been forwarded digitally by about 25,000 users more than 20,000,000 times. Forwarding files digitally has saved paper while transparency, accountability, and efficiency in government file processing sys-

tems have increased.

More than 95,000 e-files have been moved more than 10,40,000 times on the e-office. More than 3,90,000 e-receipts have been carried forward more than 9,70,000 times on the e-office. Gupta directed nodal officers of the departments to set up their control room in the headquarters so that if any problem arises in the districts, it can be resolved timely.

He said that if there is any technical problem in any department, they should contact Haryana State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.

should be resolved within the stipulated time, he directed.

Gupta said that Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, has clearly directed to make Saral Portal more beneficial for the common man. He directed the nodal officers of various departments present in the meeting that they need to remain more vigilant about providing timely solutions to the problems raised by the public.

In the meeting it was informed that more than 540 government schemes and services have been integrated on this portal. More than six lakh applications are received on the portal every month. Approximately 20 lakh messages are sent every month to track these applications. On an average, the Antyodaya portal helpline receives about 1 lakh calls every month. In total, over 1.4 crore applications have been resolved through Saral Portal.

## Scraping of Sanskrit teachers' recruitment exposes BJP-JJP govt: Hooda

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 FEBRUARY

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said the cancellation of recruitment for Sanskrit teachers, without assigning any reasons, has "exposed" the true character of the Bharatiya Janata Party-BJP-JJP government which talks about values, culture and Sanskrit.

Hooda said that the move has exposed the double standards of the BJP government. Reacting strongly to the cancellation of PGT Sanskrit recruitment by Haryana Staff Selection Commission, he said the abrupt cancellation of the recruitment process



started in 2015 for 626 posts, is grave injustice towards the youth of the state. The former CM said the government has cheated the youths who have been waiting for employment for five years.

Final result of this recruitment had come in January 2019 and the youth were waiting for a joining date but

the government constantly kept delaying the process. The candidates also staged protests and even went on hunger strike but the government still did not give a joining date, he said.

Hooda said he too raised the demands of these youths repeatedly but the government kept ignoring their demands for a joining date and has now cancelled this recruitment.

Hooda said the government's focus should be to create new employment opportunities, not cancel jobs for which the process has been completed.

The Leader of Opposition said that the government is playing with not only the future of the unemployed but

also sportspersons who have brought glory to the state and the country.

"Instead of giving employment to sportspersons, sports policy is constantly being changed. The government has made a new change in the sports policy, now it has been decided that medal winning players will not be given Haryana Civil Service and Haryana Police Service posts. The truth is that the BJP government has been ignoring players who have brought glory to the country and the state. The 'Bring Medal, Get Post' policy introduced in the Congress government, was completely watered down and sportspersons have been denied their rights," he said.

## PIL in HC to vaccinate prisoners out on bail, parole before they surrender

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

A PIL was moved in the Delhi High Court on Thursday seeking directions to the AAP government to ensure that all the prisoners who were out on bail or parole are vaccinated before they surrender so as to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection inside prisons.

The plea by four lawyers is listed for hearing on Friday before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh.

The plea by four lawyers is listed for hearing on Friday before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh.

DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh.

The petitioners -- advocates Abhilasha Shrawat, Prabhash, Kartik Malhotra and Manav Narula -- have sought directions to the Delhi government to "arrange and facil-

itate COVID-19 vaccination to all the prisoners who were out on bail".

The petition claims that as on January 14, there were 16,396 inmates in the three prisons in Delhi which together have a capacity of 10,026 and it indicated that there was not sufficient space for maintaining social distancing.

The petitioners contend

that with more prisoners scheduled to surrender in the coming days, there may not be sufficient space to keep them in quarantine for 14 days and therefore, it was necessary to vaccinate the prisoners who were out on bail, parole or furlough before lodging them back in the jail.

"The very purpose of extension orders (of bails and paroles) was to protect the prisoners who were inside the jail and thus it is necessary that due to this change in circumstance i.e., coming of COVID-19 in the court premises itself,

## WEDDING COLLECTION OFFER

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raymond

PARK AVENUE

ColorPlus

parx

PUNJAKIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chak.)

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AJIT PAWAR  
DURING AN INTERVIEW

## THUMBNAILS



AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra pays tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru at Anand Bhawan, in Prayagraj on Thursday. IANS

**Wild pig culling:** Telangana forest department has empanelled 30 shooters for culling wild pigs to protect farmers' crops and will bear the expenses of ammunition themselves. Gram panchayats sought their services. SNS

## India will facilitate vaccine supplies to Canada, Modi assures Trudeau

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured his Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau, that India would facilitate supplies of Covid-19 vaccines to his country to fight the pandemic as the two leaders discussed various bilateral and global issues, including "recent protests".

"Was happy to receive a call from my friend @justinTrudeau. Assured him that India would do its best to facilitate supplies of COVID vaccines sought by Canada. We also agreed to continue collaborating on other important issues like climate change and the global economic recovery," Modi tweeted after a telephonic conversation between the two leaders. Trudeau tweeted, "Today, I had a good discussion with Prime Minister @NarendraModi on many important issues, and we've agreed to stay in touch." He also attached along with his tweet a readout on the telephonic



conversation issued by his office.

The readout said the two leaders had an exchange on their respective efforts to fight the pandemic, protect the health and safety of their people, and provide economic support for their citizens. Trudeau and Modi spoke about India's significant efforts in promoting vaccine pro-

duction and supply, which have provided vital support to countries around the world. The two leaders reaffirmed their common interests in a free and open Indo-Pacific, and the importance of working together on global challenges such as climate change, strengthening global trade, and reinforcing the rules-based international order.

They discussed Canada and India's commitment to democratic principles, recent protests, and the importance of resolving issues through dialogue. They underlined the need to work collectively in rebuilding a more sustainable and resilient global economy, the readout said.

The leaders underscored the importance of the Canada-India strategic partnership anchored in shared values, strong people-to-people ties, and growing bilateral economic cooperation. They looked forward to working together at the G-7, G-20, and other international forums.

## TENDER

## HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

E. E., Jal Shakti Division No. 1 Una  
Telephone No. : 01975-226060, E-mail : eeiph1una@gmail.com  
" Notice Inviting E-tendering "

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No.1 Una invites online tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through online process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Time
1	Providing Water Supply Scheme to Harizan Basti, Julian Mohalla, Podian Mohalla, Pangoli Mohalla in Village Kallu Tehsil Haroli Distt. Una (HP)(Sh-Laying, jointing and testing of GMS pipes for distribution system) (Under SCSP).	Rs. 15,85,842/-	Rs. 31,717/-	Rs.250/-	Three months.

1. Last date of physical / online submission of Earnest Money deposit and cost of tender documents etc on 24-02-2021 upto 05:00 PM

2. Last date of e-tendering upto 24-02-2021 at 05:00 PM and the same will be opened on the day on 25-02-2021 at 11:00 AM

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the <http://hpptenders.gov.in>

5672/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

The Executive Engineer IPH Division Hamirpur invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering Process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time of completion
1	Providing Sewage Scheme to ward No. 11 in Tehsil and Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Excavation, laying, jointing and testing of rising main D150mm dia K7 from newly proposed wet well to Dosarka main sewer line).	Rs. 312185/-	Rs. 6244/-	3' months
2	Providing house hold connection by the Ministry of Jal Shakti Har Ghar Nai se Jar under Improvement of LWSS Patialner, Iwss Kasihri Mahadev, LWSS Duhak , LWSS Dhal , LWSS Chabutra , LWSS Banal & LWSS Kaara fro River Beas in Tehsil and Ditt. hAmirpu (Sh:- Excavation, laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe of 25 mm dia at vilae Kuthera and Chiggar).	Rs.190681/-	Rs.3814/-	3' months
3	Providing Sewerage Scheme connectivity to Hamirpur Town in Tehsil and Ditt. Hamirpur(Sh:- House Connection of sewerage line for Houses No. 128-137 housing colony ward No. 7).	Rs.245459/-	Rs.4909/-	3' months
4	Providing House hold connection by Ministry of Jal Shakti "Har Ghar Nai se Jar" under Jai Jeevan Mission under Improvement of LWSS Banal in Tehsil Sujanpur Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Supplying and erection of centrifugal pumping machinery along with allied accessories for 1st stage).	Rs.360000/-	Rs.7200/-	6 months
5	Providing Sewerage Scheme to leftout area of MC Hamirpur in Tehsil and Ditt. Hamirpur (Sh:- House Connection to sewerage line for Houses No. MG-27 to MG-32 in IHP Housing Colony, Ward No. 7).	Rs.179129/-	Rs.3583/-	3 months
6	AIR & MTO of Sewerage Scheme to Hamirpur Town in Tehsila nd Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- House connection to sewerage line from Houses No. 15 to 25 in Ward No. 3 at Nadaun Chowk).	Rs.156078/-	Rs.3122/-	3 months
7	Upgradation/Autentation of existing Sewerage Treatment plant at NIT Hamirpur in Tehsil and Ditt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Construction of panel room & Scada Room 4.50x3.00 & 2.75 x3.00).	Rs.488511/-	Rs.9770/-	3 months
8	AIR & MTO of Sewerage Scheme to Hamirpur Town in Tehsil and Ditt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Replacement of tube media of tubesetter of 0.68 MLD existing STP at Bajuri).	Rs.239096/-	Rs.4782/-	3 months
9	AIR & MTO of Sewerage Treatment Plant NIT Hamirpur in Tehsil and Ditt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Replacement of tube media of tube settler of 0.27 MLD existing STP NIT).	Rs.252986/-	Rs.5060/-	1 months
10	Providing House Hold Connection by Ministry of Jal Shakti " Har Ghar Nai se Jar" under Jai Jeevan Mission under Improvement of LWSS Banal in Tehsil Sujanpur Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Construction of Pump House at Banal).	Rs.461396/-	Rs.9228/-	3 months
11	Providing separate drinking water supply scheme to village Lonagni Kardt in Tehsil Sujanpur Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- construction of storage tank of 40000 liter capacity in village Balhe).	Rs.307731/-	Rs.6155/-	3 months
12	Balence work of providing Sewerage Scheme for Nadaun Town in Tehsil Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Providing and fixing of Photo print-er Machine).	Rs.360000/-	Rs.7200/-	1 month
13	Improvement House Hold connection by Ministry of Jal Shakti " Har Ghar Nai se Jar" in LWSS Kohla Kaloor in Nadaun Constituency Distt. Hamirpur (Sh:- Demolition, Excavation , jointing and testing of separate GI pipe line of various dia to ward No. 3 and Ward No. 6 from existing main storage tank).	Rs.318518/-	Rs.6370/-	3 months

Last date of issue of tender from divisional office 18.02.2020 upto 3.00 PM.The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website :- [www.hphp.org](http://www.hphp.org) or from Executive Engineer IPH Division Hamirpur date specified above.

5665/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.

## NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT No.:CEJ/PMGSY/633 of 2020-21 Dated: 06/02/2021

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on "Same Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 17-02-2021 for each of the following works including Defect Liability Period of 03 years after completion of work."

S. No.	Name of work / Package No	Name of the Project	Constt Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Maint. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Total (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for Completion (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Call of Tender	Date and Time of Opening of tenders	Class of Contractor
1.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Mandi to Azamabad, Package No.JK11-98, Block Mandi, District Poonch	28.08	3.37	31.45	0.06	0.63	03 Months	2 <sup>nd</sup>		17-02-2021 10:00 AM	As per Bidder's Submission
2.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Chandak Mandi road to Chaktroo, Package No.JK11-98, Block Poonch, District Poonch Length- 3.500 Kms	51.95	6.23	58.18	0.06	1.16	05 Months	2 <sup>nd</sup>		17-02-2021 10:00 AM	As per Bidder's Submission
3.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Qasba to Bandichechian, Package No.JK11-92, Block Mandi, District Poonch Length- 2.50 Kms	37.25	4.47	41.72	0.06	0.83	03 Months	2 <sup>nd</sup>		17-02-2021 10:00 AM	As per Bidder's Submission

1.(a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 06.55 PM On 09-02-2021 to 17-02-2021 (5.00 PM).

No. DIP/J-11398/20

Dated: 10.02.2020

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu

For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

www.jkrrda.nic.in



The farm Bills were drafted on the directions of corporates. When the farmers do not want these Bills, why are these being imposed on them?

SP LEADER VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD  
DEMANDING REPEAL OF FARM LAWS, GUARANTEE ON MSP

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021

05

Budget for the rich, of the rich, by the rich: PC

NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram today said the Modi Government's three years of "incompetent economic management" had taken the country backwards, and there was nothing for the poor, the unemployed, the closed MSMEs or the migrant workers in the Budget 2021-22.

Participating in the Rajya Sabha's resumed debate, he said "this Budget was by the rich, of the rich and for the rich." He said, "a slowing down economy was pushed into a deep recession, minus 10 per cent, thanks to the pandemic and the incompetent economic management."

Pointing to the Budget's flawed direction, he said "This is a Budget for that one percent of India's population who already control 73 per cent of India's wealth; we reject this Budget in the name of the people, we appeal to you to amend this Budget and provide cash transfers, rations and succour to the poor."

He said "we record our strongest protest and dissent against the Budget; because we dissent we will be called *andolan-jevi* and *par-jevi*s. Who are the *par-jevi*s of the country; they are the one per cent who control 73 per cent of India's wealth."

He said the text of the Budget Speech was prosaic and bureaucratic, and the pretext was "we have a pandemic." In 2004-05, he said, when the UPA-I took over, the GDP was Rs 32 lakh crore. When the UPA demitted office in 2013-14, it was Rs 105 lakh crore.

## S Dinajpur ZP staff halt work

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BALURGHAT, 11 FEBRUARY

The office staff and other workers at the South Dinajpur Zilla Parishad (ZP) have launched a strike in protest against the alleged misbehavior of the Additional Executive Officer (AEO), Manish Varma. Mr Varma has, however, denied the allegation. The office staff members have informed the District Magistrate through the ZP Sabhadhipati of the matter and demanded immediate solution to the problem. The staff members have refused to resume work without the intervention of the DM.

Chief accounts officer Prasid Basak, who has newly joined his post, claimed that

the Additional District Magistrate and the AEO of the ZP insulted him and hurled abuses at him. "All classes of employees at the Zilla Parishad have stopped work since Thursday morning and demanded intervention of the District Magistrate to solve the problem. They have refused to resume work until they hold discussions with the DM," a source said. The staff also lodged a verbal complaint with the Sabhadhipati, Lipika Roy.

In January too, the staff members had stopped work at the ZP for four days, protesting against the misbehavior of the Sahakari Sabhadhipati, Lalita Tigma, with a staff, and the matter was solved after the intervention of TMC chairman

Biplab Mitra. "Manish Verma, the executive officer of the Zilla Parishad, often uses foul language with the staff members and his behaviour is rude. On Tuesday evening he insulted the Financial Control and Chief Accounts Officer and used abusive language. We are protesting this," said one of the staff members, Dilip Dutta. Sabhadhipati, Mrs Roy, held discussions with the staff members today, but in vain, it is learnt.

Mr Varma, on the other hand, said the allegation is baseless. "I have never used such language with the staff. I also have informed the district magistrate about the incident and hope everything will be normal soon," he said.

## ISI row: Man sentenced to life for espionage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BALASORE, 11 FEBRUARY

The Additional Sessions Judge sentenced 41-year-old Iswar Behera, to life imprisonment on charges of spying and passing on classified information to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan.

Behera, a contractual cameraman engaged in the Interim Test Range (ITR), defence establishment here, was tried under Sec 121A, 120B of the IPC and Sec 3, 4 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act which include abetment to waging war against the state. He was arrested six years back.

The Deputy Director, prosecution, Crime Branch, Chittaranjan Kanungo said it was proved that Behera was in

**Behera, a contractual cameraman engaged in the Interim Test Range (ITR), defence establishment here, was tried under Sec 121A, 120B of the IPC and Sec 3, 4 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act which include abetment to waging war against the state. He was arrested six years back.**

touch with an ISI agent and sharing secret and classified information of ITR missile-testing activities with him for monetary gain. His audio conversation of about 666 seconds with the agent too was confirmed by forensic reports.

During investigation it was found that money was transferred to his account through

net banking and money order from various places including Mumbai, Meerut, Ajmer, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Abu Dhabi. As many as 29 witnesses were examined, 44 document evidences and 36 material evidences were produced in the court. Even the statement of a postmaster of Meerut city in connection with the money order received by Behera was recorded. This is an exceptional case that has never happened before in Odisha," said Kanungo.

Behera was in touch with Asif Ali of Meerut, a suspected ISI agent who is still in Meerut jail and would be tried in this case. Based on inputs from the IB, a special wing of Odisha Police tracked his movements for several weeks before arresting him in 2015. The police had seized a computer, cell phone, passbook and pen drive besides other items.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Bharti**, D/o Hukam Singh, R/o D-72, Billu Ka Makan, Pandit Chawk, Mandawali, Delhi has been missing since 12.10.2020 at 10 a.m. from her house. In this regard, FIR No. 427/2020 u/s 363 IPC dated 16.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mandawali, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

**Name: Bharti, Gender: Female, Age: 17.6 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Yellow colour suit and salwar, black colour shoes on her feet.**

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Mandawali, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax : 011-24368639

DP/305/ED/2020

SHO  
P. S. Mandawali, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011-22720808, 22720030

**FRENCH BUILD MART PRIVATE LIMITED**  
Regd. Office : N-8, Ground Floor, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017  
Site Office : Sector-66, Village Maidawas, Gurugram, Haryana  
Tel. 0124-257154, Web. www.frenchbuildmart.co.in  
CIN : U45200DL2008PTC715630

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all the existing allottees of Licence No. 43 of 2010 dated 08.06.2010 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana (DTP), in favor French Build Mart Pvt. Ltd for development of a Commercial Colony on the land area measuring 2.0229 acres (0.81 hectare) in The Cityscape, Sector-66, Village-Maidawas, Gurugram, Haryana. The project is registered with the HRERA vide Registration No. 02 of 2018 dated 01.01.2018 in favor of Capital Skyscraper Pvt. Ltd, an associate company of the Licensee Company. Now both the Companies have decided that without infringing upon any right and interest of the existing allottees, the project will now be implemented / completed by French Build Mart Pvt. Ltd. ("Licensee Company"). Accordingly, the Company has applied to the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram for reissuing the registration certificate in favour of the Licensee Company i.e. French Build Mart Pvt. Ltd. Accordingly, in compliance of Section 15(1) of The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 vide this Notice, the existing allottees are herewith informed that the Project will now be completed and delivered to the allottees by the Licensee Company. In view of above, all the existing allottees are requested to send their consent to the proposed change in the development to be done by the Licensee Company, within 30 days of publication of this Notice at the any of the following addresses:- i) The Chairman, Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram at its address at PWD Rest House, Gurugram, Haryana & 2. French Build Mart Pvt. Ltd at its address at N-8, Ground Floor, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi- 110017. If no intimation is received within 30 days, it will be assumed that the existing allottees have consented to the above change in development of the commercial project The Cityscape by the Licensee Company.

Place: Gurugram  
Date : 11.02.2021  
For French Build Mart Pvt. Ltd.  
BB Sahu  
Authorised Signatory

## ASHIANA AGRO INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Reg. Office: No.792/5, Eswari Hotel Complex, Bangalore High Road, Sungvacharam, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram Distt. - 602106 (Tamil Nadu) Tel No.: +91-44-28344820, Website: www.aaill.in

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine months ended 31st December, 2020 (Rs. in Lacs)

S.No	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Month Ended			Year Ended
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from Operations Including Other Income (Net)	23.75	22.70	25.29	55.81	73.47	102.02	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.97	2.73	2.72	3.20	(3.25)	(0.89)	
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.97	2.73	2.72	3.20	(3.25)	(0.89)	
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.97	2.73	2.72	3.20	(3.25)	(0.89)	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit /(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	1.97	2.73	2.72	3.20	(3.25)	(0.89)	
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- per share)	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance sheet of previous year	-	-	-	-	-	(224.02)	
8	Earning Per Share (EPS) (in Rs.) (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.07	(0.07)	(0.02)	
	(a) Basic and diluted EPS before Extraordinary items	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.07	(0.07)	(0.02)	
	(b) Basic and diluted EPS after Extraordinary items	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.07	(0.07)	(0.02)	

Notes: 1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee subject to limited review by the statutory auditors of the company and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 11, 2021.  
2) This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014.  
3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and Nine months ended December 31, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter and Nine months ended December 31, 2020 are available on website of the Stock Exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and also on the Company's website at [www.aaill.in](http://www.aaill.in).

Place: Chennai  
Date : 11/02/2021

For Ashiana Agro Industries Limited  
Parvin Kumar.M  
Whole-Time Director  
DIN: 02438906

Notes: 1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee subject to limited review by the statutory auditors of the company and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 11, 2021.  
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3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and Nine months ended December 31, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter and Nine months ended December 31, 2020 are available on website of the Stock Exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and also on the Company's website at [www.aaill.in](http://www.aaill.in).

For Ashiana Agro Industries Limited  
Parvin Kumar.M  
Whole-Time Director  
DIN: 02438906

Place: Chennai  
Date : 11/02/2021

The farm Bills were drafted on the directions of corporates. When the farmers do not want these Bills, why are these being imposed on them?

SP LEADER VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD  
DEMANDING REPEAL OF FARM LAWS, GUARANTEE ON MSP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, 11 FEBRUARY

## Don't make agri laws a 'prestige issue': Pilot

Cong leader says Centre should set aside its 'ego' and repeal the farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

**U**rging the Centre not to make the agrilaws a "prestige issue", senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Thursday asserted that the government must let go of its "stubbornness" to immediately repeal the legislations, and said that when the BJP could not convince its allies like the Akali Dal and the RLP on the issue, how can it expect the farmers to accept the laws.

A day ahead of former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's visit to Rajasthan to raise the voice of the farmers against the farm laws, he said that the Centre should withdraw the laws and after thorough consultation with farmers and states, come up with a new set of legislations which the tillers would themselves want and is not something that is forced upon them.

In an interview, Pilot slammed the BJP for stating that the Congress had made a "U-turn" on the farm laws, saying

a U-turn on Aadhaar, then on GST, MGNREGA, FDI and so many issues. The Congress said we want to get new investments (in the agri sector) and technological inputs, want more mandis, liberalise the system, but never said we will make laws contrary to the interest of the farmers," he said.

Stressing that the government should set aside its "ego" and let go of its "stubbornness" to repeal the laws, Pilot said almost all political parties and even the BJP's allies - be it the Akali Dal or Hanuman Beniwal's Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) - opposed the laws. "They were not able to convince their own NDA partners, how can they expect the farmers to be convinced by these laws and accept them," Pilot said.

"I don't think they should make it a prestige issue," the former Rajasthan Congress chief said. Asked if there could be a middle path or the repeal of laws was the only option, Pilot said the farmers have explicitly said that they want a complete withdrawal of the laws and the Congress stands firmly

Govt ready for talks, if needed can amend farm laws: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Bhopal, 11 FEBRUARY

The Union government is ready to discuss the new agriculture laws with farmers' leaders with an open mind and even to amend them if necessary, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Thursday.

The new laws are aimed at doubling farmers' income, Singh said, speaking at a function to inaugurate thousands of small-scale irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh. Singh's statement follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fresh appeal to protesting farmers on Wednesday to come forward for talks and the assurance that the government is open to amending the laws if there are any shortcomings. "We are ready to talk

with an open mind on farm laws and if needed even make amendments to them.

As a result of our government's decisions, a new confidence is being built among common farmers. And due to this (confidence) farmers have achieved a record production," Singh said. "In 2017, the prime minister had vowed to double farmers' income by 2022. This was not an easy resolve....against the backdrop of this, the three farm laws were enacted

## Biden cracks whip

Joe Biden has turned the screws against the generals in Myanmar with a fresh cache of sanctions against the military regime which staged a coup on February 1 and arrested Aung San Suu Kyi and other senior politicians. The bold action by the United States has been announced in parallel with the spectacular people's protests that were ratcheted up in Yangon and Mandalay, the two largest cities, on Wednesday.

In the net, the American President has signaled an exceptionally robust initiative against the intervention of the junta in the immediate aftermath of yet another victory of the National League for Democracy. Amazing is the promptitude of the White House reprisal. Nonetheless, the US President has effected a deft balancing act. It thus comes about that while his administration has the authority to freeze US assets that benefit Myanmar's leaders, there will be no change of policy pertaining to support for healthcare programmes, civil society groups and other spheres that benefit the people.

From the economic perspective, the curbs will be suitably crippling, but it is unlikely that the appercart of governance will be rocked. The establishment soldiers on if Iran is held up as a case-study. President Biden has indicated that more measures are on the anvil. For now, the executive order will prevent Myanmar's generals from accessing \$1 billion in assets in the United States. The administration will identify specific targets of the sanctions later this week.

"The military must relinquish power it seized and demonstrate respect for the will of the people of Burma," Mr Biden said. "The people of Burma are making their voices heard, and the world is watching," the President affirmed, using an alternate name for Myanmar. "We'll be ready to impose additional measures and we'll continue to work with our international partners to urge other nations to join us in these efforts." Before Mr Biden spoke from the White House, large crowds opposed to the military takeover demonstrated on the streets of Myanmar, even after security forces stepped up the use of force against them and raided the headquarters of Suu Kyi's political party, the NLD. It is open to question whether Wednesday's US action will impinge on Myanmar's military regime. Many among the military leaders are already under sanctions imposed in the wake of the offensive against the Rohingyas.

The US first imposed sanctions in 1998 after the military violently suppressed a protest. These were tightened over the next two decades because of what Washington deemed human rights violations by the ruling military regime. It is imperative to fix the accountability of the junta. There is increasing recognition that this will need to be a coordinated effort by the comity of nations if change has to be brought about in Myanmar. For far too long has it suffered at the hands of the army, which even has 25 per cent of the seats reserved in a supposedly elected Parliament. Joe Biden has acted against institutionalised shambolism.

## Bank strike

Banks and banking will be in suspended animation on March 15 and 16 in response to a two-day strike called by the United Forum of Bank Unions, an umbrella entity of nine unions. Fifty-two years after the nationalisation of banks, the contentious issue is privatisation of two banks, as proposed in the Budget 21-22, that was presented in the Lok Sabha on February 1 by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The proposed agitprop, announced on Tuesday, February 9, does suggest that it took the bank unions barely nine days to firm up the praxis of total dislocation of banking throughout the country a month from now, and without a scintilla of discussions with the finance ministry.

More basically, the strike will turn out to be a four-day stoppage of banking. Indeed the prefix-suffix syndrome appears to have been studiously calibrated. Prior to the start of the strike, March 13 is a second Saturday and, therefore, a bank holiday. March 14 is a Sunday, a mandatory closure. The deleterious impact of the agitprop will be felt most acutely in West Bengal, which traditionally has been no stranger to strikes, regardless of the issues and the political backing. To summon a variant of historian Athar Ali's seminal work on Mughal India, parties and politics have been in the banking court for as long as they have. This time, as invariably on every occasion, the bank unions have garnered the support of the political class ~ save perhaps the BJP ~ to lend support to the agitation. To call the dislocation on 15th and 16th March a two-day strike is a misnomer, if ever there was one.

The fiscal dislocation will be considerable in the season of the Union budget, state budgets and the Vote-on-Account in states that will be going to polls very shortly. To that can be added the fiscal transactions that are imperative for every State to purchase the Covid vaccine, not to forget the inconvenience that will be caused at the individual level, with cheques piling high in the absence of clearing operations.

There is time yet before the shutters are brought down across the country. The employees may have their problems with the proposed privatisation; but these could well have been sorted out through negotiations.

The mergers of no fewer than four banks last year has been generally accepted. Stoppage of work is scarcely a solution. The *jhanda*-wielding bank unions in Bengal must be laughing up their sleeves over the dubious prospect of a four-day break from normal service.

# Shaving the Barber ~ I

Corporate governance gets its roots in ethical behavior and business principles, intending to create long-term value and sustainability for all stakeholders. Corporate board directors face the challenge of aligning the interests of the board, the management, shareholders and stakeholders

Kautilya's Arthashastra is perhaps the first documented book on the concept of good governance in India. The King is the servant of the state and the subjects. Good governance and stability are entirely linked. If rulers are responsive, accountable, removable and recallable, there is stability. If not, there is instability. These tenets viz., Raksha, Vridhi, Palana, and Yogakshema hold good even today.

Substitute state with the corporation, King with CEO or Board, subjects with various stakeholders including shareholders, and you have the quintessence of corporate governance. Remember, central to the concept of corporate governance is the belief that public good should be ahead of private interest and that the corporation's resources cannot be used for personal benefit.

Raksha means protection. In the corporate scenario, it can be equated with risk management. Vridhi means growth. In the present-day context, it can be aligned to stakeholder value enhancement. Palana means maintenance/compliance. This is the modern equivalent of adherence to the law in letter and spirit. Yogakshema means well-being, and in Arthashastra, it is used to imply a social security system. In the present-day context, it can be equated to corporate social responsibility. Off late there is growing preference to call it corporate moral responsibility.

It takes a combination of people, rules, processes, and procedures to manage a company's business. This is how corporate governance is defined. Corporate governance forms the basis for corporations to make decisions that consider economic, social, regulatory conditions and the market environment to ensure compliance with the norms under each of them. Corporate governance gets its roots in ethical behavior and business principles, intending to create long-term value and sustainability for all stakeholders. Corporate board directors face the challenge of aligning the board, management, shareholders, and stakeholders' interests. They respond to their duties and responsibilities with full regard to transparency and accountability. It is often said that corporate boards are responsible for providing oversight, insight, and foresight. That's a tall order in today's marketplace, which is complex and volatile.

Sound governance principles are fundamental to the work that board members do. In every decision the board makes, members must consider how it will affect their employees, customers, suppliers, communities, and shareholders. Good corporate governance relies on distinct differences in the roles between board directors and managers. It was never intended for board directors except for the executive ones to engage in micromanaging the management. Their part is strategic, planning and oversight. Boards also take the views of external experts to assist them in case they feel the necessity thereof. In essence, board directors act as stewards of the company who governs for the present times

## Kautilya's Arthashastra

### The Way of Financial Management and Economic Governance



Translated by R. Shamastry

and provide guidance and direction for the future. In their role as overseers, boards must continually assess a variety of risks in the areas like Financial Reporting, Internal Controls, Reputation, Litigation, Ethics, Technology, Health, Safety, and the Environment.

Many interests are represented within a board of directors: Promoters, the CEO, other



AMARJIT CHOPRA



SABYASACHEE DASH

The writers are chartered accountants

senior executives, prominent investors, and shareholders with extensive holdings. In certain cases, representatives of workers and financial institutions form part of the Boards.

Ideally, each director is expected to place the company's interests above all other interests, but it may not always happen. This gives rise to the concept of independent directors who act as a guide and thinktank to the company. They are to act as watchdogs.

Independent directors play an active role in various committees, namely the Audit Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee, Stakeholders Relationship Committee, Risk Management Committee and Corporate Social Responsibility Committee. Having an independent director on a board provides corporate credibility.

Globally five primary reasons are accepted as the need for Independent Directors: viz., they are impartial, are willing and available, bring expertise, help resolve conflicts, and can act to share their network.

An independent director is a member of the board of directors who:

1. Is not having a material/pecuniary relationship with the company.
2. Is not part of the company's executive team.
3. Is not involved with the day-to-day operations of the company.

It may be relevant to remember a few eminent global views on this subject.

"Corporate governance is concerned with holding the balance between economic and social goals and between individual and communal goals. The governance framework is there to encourage the efficient use of resources and equally to require accountability for the stewardship of those resources. The aim is to align as nearly as possible the interests of individuals, corporations and society." (Sir Adrian Cadbury, UK, Commission Report: Corporate Governance 1992)

"Good corporate governance is about 'intellectual honesty' and not just sticking to rules and regulations, capital flowed towards companies that practiced this type

of good governance." ~ Mervyn King (Chairman: King Report) Notably a major wave of economic reforms was initiated in India in the year 1991. A thrust towards economic liberalization led to a new era in Indian corporate governance. The year 1992 witnessed the establishment of SEBI as the Indian securities market regulator. SEBI rapidly began ushering in securities market reforms that gradually led to corporate governance reforms as well. In 1998, a National Task force constituted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) recommended a code for Desirable Corporate Governance, which was voluntarily adopted by a few companies.

Thereafter, a committee chaired by Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla submitted a report to SEBI to promote and raise the standard of Corporate Governance in respect of listed companies. Based on the recommendations of the Kumar Mangalam Birla committee the Equity Listing Agreement was made applicable to all listed companies of a certain size. India's corporate governance norms therefore came to be governed through a clause in the listing agreement popularly referred to as Clause 49.

Although both the CII Code as well as the Kumar Mangalam Birla Committee Report expressly cautioned against mechanically importing forms of corporate governance from the developed world, several concepts introduced by the authorities were indeed those that emerged in countries such as the U.S. and the UK. These include the concepts such as an independent board and audit committee. Subsequently a few more such ~ tee, the Narayan Murthy Committee and the JJ Irani Committee ~ were constituted to evaluate and recommend improvements.

(To be Concluded)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Disaster management on test

SIR, This has a reference to your today's front page report "U'khand: Rescuers face uphill task due to heavy slush, debris". The natural disaster in Uttarakhand and the ongoing rescue operation provide an opportunity to assess where India stands on disaster management. If one compares the current response to the Kedarnath tragedy

information flow. In 2013, it took the government several days to mount a search-and-rescue operation, losing precious time and money. In the Chamoli case, the response has been swift and the political leaders have been forthcoming with on-the-ground information.

Yet, flaws are evident. The

comes more challenging because there are no early warning systems; there is lack of seamless flow of information between those at the frontline such as the police or communities and the government or scientists to report and assess gaps; also there is an absence of disaster-related training for the people. For example, did the workers undergo mock drills on what to do if a disaster strikes, and how to survive in such biting cold?

This is even more critical for migrant labourers who have no knowledge of the local environment and modes of survival. Rescue operations in India remain human-intensive, but technology has moved forward and, therefore, constant upgrading is required. These issues need to be addressed since, in a disaster, time is of the essence and the focus has to be on saving every life.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,  
Kolkata, 10 February

### SHOCKER AT CHEPAUK

SIR, This is with reference to the report, "Great leveller: Chepauk shocker after Brisbane heroics", published in *The Statesman*.

I don't think there can be any better analysis that would sum up the entirety of the proceedings during the match ~ the pitch factor, the saliva factor, the inexperience of a young Indian spinner, the class of Virat Kohli and of course, the capitulation on the last day of the

response remains reactive because of inadequate planning and absence of precautions. Hydropower projects are often built in ecologically fragile areas, ignoring scientific evidence. The situation be-

### FAREWELL TO AZAD

SIR, The emotional touch in PM Modi's farewell speech for a Kashmiri leader Ghulam Nabi Azad in the house, will certainly be seen as a step towards neutralising the rigid and aggressive image that PM has attained in last six years and which has caused a series of anti-government movements over the last few years in India, the latest being the farmers' protests.

It was Modi's style of telling a Congress loyalist leader since 1973 that commitment towards the Gandhi family doesn't pay off.

However, there is a bleak possibility that Azad will switch his loyalty at the fag end of his political career, but at the same time, he tactfully decided not to speak about his objections about the Modi government bifurcating his own state, where he also served as the CM for three years.

Given the PM's reputation of being very cautious in everything he says or does, his friendly tone towards Azad could be interpreted as a planned attack on the divided Congress house.

It may also be remembered that Azad is also one of the leading members of the group of 23 rebel congress leaders who had openly demanded party elections to challenge the supremacy of the Gandhis in the Congress.

Yours, etc., Vandana, Chandigarh, 11 February.



kesh Mukhopadhyay, certainly leaves an indelible mark on the readers of our esteemed newspaper. The methods used by him in creating a sports report, includes not only the finest vocabularies but also a great sense of maturity and experience, along with the fine touch of his journalistic quality and class, which is invariably experienced while reading any of his reports and articles.

Even in this case, he has so effortlessly managed to sum up the entirety of the proceedings during the match ~ the pitch factor, the saliva factor, the inexperience of a young Indian spinner, the class of Virat Kohli and of course, the capitulation on the last day of the

match. His way of questioning the sudden metamorphosis or transformation of the entire set-up from Down Under to Chepauk and mentioning JK Rowling and her fictional characters to this effect, is truly remarkable.

And then the pragmatic and meticulous illustration of how things unfolded on the cricket field during the course of the Test match, indeed reflected the vast cricketing sense and knowledge of Mukhopadhyay.

Compliments to *The Statesman* for publishing such outstanding and educative articles over the years.

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi,  
Kolkata, 10 February.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIAN VOICES

## The carnival will continue

Nobody would be surprised that both India and Japan are most unhappy about the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) allowing itself to be stampeded by port and other unions, together with a section of the Buddhist clergy, to abandon its commitment to develop and run the East Container Terminal (ECT) of the Colombo Port as a 51-49 percent joint venture (JV).

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) was to retain its controlling interest and would thereby have collected over half the profits earned by the JV. Moreover, the minority shareholder would have funded the completion of the phase two of the project involving the building a second 600 m berth to supplement the 450 m berth already commissioned.

This involves a massive investment of billions of rupees that an already debt-strapped economy cannot afford. Foreign investment and assistance for this purpose in the context of the first fiasco is most unlikely. All the wrong signals have been given.

A lot of false propaganda that the country's national assets are being sold, with ECT being touted as the latest such instance, was allowed to gather steam during the controversy that has now reached its unhappy conclusion. Eventually the unions railroaded the government into giving in and announcing that the project will be totally handled by the SLPA which will manage and develop the terminal at its own expense. This has been hailed as a great victory.

Sowing the wind by caving into union and other pressure will result in having to reap the whirlwind resulting in many dangerous implications for future governance. The unions having already had the first taste of blood, can

## The Island

surely be expected to look for more. They, together with others who helped scuttle the ECT deal, have already indicated that they would do as much over the development of the West Container Terminal (WCT). Having withdrawn from its original commitment, the government has indicated that 85% of WCT would be granted to Indian and other investors in an attempt to win them over.

But this obviously placatory measure, which some of the unions and their backers are saying they would resist, does not seem to have any buyers. Sri Lanka's former High Commissioner to Delhi is on record saying that India rejected WCT in 2018. The agreed ECT arrangement covered a 35-year period during which the SLPA would have received handsome royalties and dividends from the yet incomplete deep water terminal. Management, technical and marketing expertise that the country woefully lacks would have flowed in.

On top of that, the foreign partners would have completed the second phase of the project with no investment from the government. Both Japan and India are friends we cannot afford to lose.

DUSHYANT SINGH

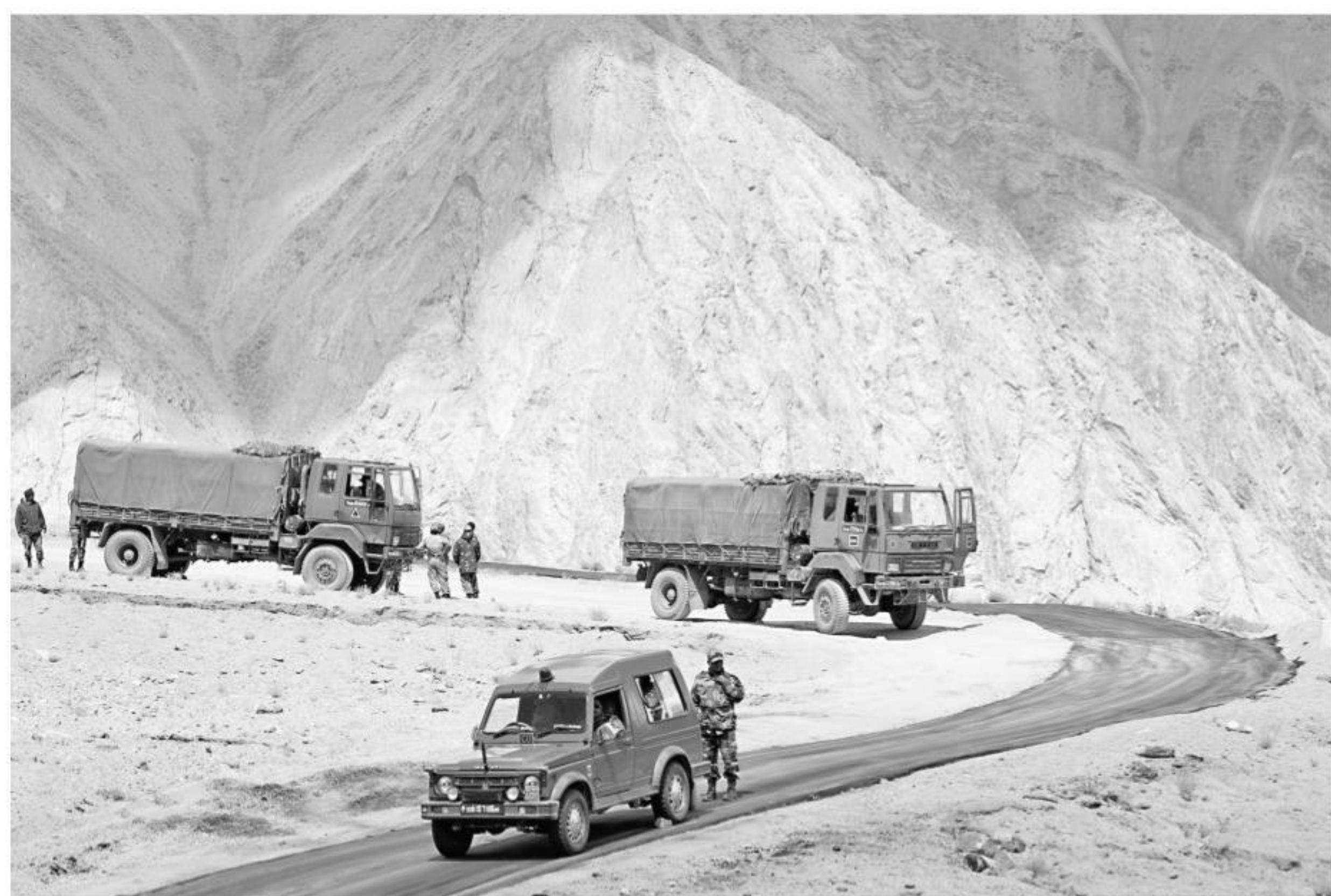
G lobal Times has reported that "the Chinese and Indian border troops on the southern and northern shores of Pangong Lake began disengagement as planned on Wednesday according to the consensus reached during the ninth round of military commander-level talks", citing their Defense Ministry. While no formal confirmation has been received from Ministry of Defence, Government of India, the news if correct will prove mutually beneficial for the two countries.

Given the current economic and security challenges facing the country due to the ongoing pandemic which still persists with new strains of the virus surfacing periodically and the volatile geo-political regional and global situation, India needs time to get its economy back on track and assess the shape of strategic alignments that are likely to take place in the world. The impact of change of Presidency in the US, emerging power equation in the Islamic world with three major power centres represented by Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran trying to assert themselves for leadership and the EU's stand still uncertain due to Brexit and divergence of views with the US over trade relations with China demand a studied approach by India globally especially as it is also a temporary member of the UNSC.

India also needs to carefully watch the turn of events in its neighbourhood with Myanmar under turmoil due to military coup, Sri Lanka cancelling the contract to develop its East Colombo Port Terminal, Afghanistan in a state of uncertainty and a highly volatile internal situation in Nepal. In summary, the decision which was reported by many news agencies to disengage from the current friction points in Ladakh presumably agreed upon during the ninth round of the China-India Corps Commander Level meeting held on the Chinese side of the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point on January 24 will provide the country the much needed strategic space and allow the government to focus on well-being of the country.

The Chinese side agreeing to the unconditional disengagement may be attributed to the steadfast and unblinking approach of the Indian Armed Forces, valour and grit of the Indian troops on the ground, impact of the rigours of weather and terrain under which the troops of the two sides were operating and the whole-

## Disengagement in Ladakh a welcome development



ISOCK

hearted support by Government of India in providing the necessary wherewithal for our troops to operate in such difficult conditions. Also it goes without saying that the Chinese troops were not accustomed to either operating in such conditions for sustained periods or have seen active combat unlike the Indian troops who have an experience of over five decades of constantly operating under such terrain and weather conditions in warlike situations.

Further, in order to support the military effort, the government reacted swiftly in providing the necessary

funding when faced with the situation in Ladakh. It granted emergency powers to the Armed Forces wherein the Indian Armed Forces could procure any weapon system below Rs 500 crore. PM Modi also removed the cap on expenditure on defence following the Ladakh crisis. The 20-21 budget had earmarked Rs 1.13 lakh crore for defence but due to removal of the cap, the likely expenditure for the current year is likely to be Rs. 1.34 lakh crore.

While the prompt action by the Government of India is highly commendable the important lesson for the future is that we should constantly

improve our military capability to avoid a knee jerk episodic defence budget allocation. For this the Long Term Perspective Plans of the Defence Forces must be adequately supported. The recommendation to resort to non-lapsable funding of defence capital expenditure must be implemented from the current year itself. We must remain cognizant of the fact that a robust hard power capability is the guarantor for peace and stability which in turn is a mandatory condition for economic development of the country.

While the thaw in the bilateral security situation is a welcome devel-

opment being mutually beneficial to both countries, it should not lull us into complacency. Our intelligence mechanism and Armed Forces must remain geared for any adverse development and keep plans ready to prevent China from surprising us, be it occupation of any strategic feature along our Northern borders extending from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh or a repeat of a Galwan like situation proactively.

The writer is a retired Lieutenant-General of the Indian Army, and a former Corps Commander of 11 Corps and ex-Chief of Staff, Eastern Command.

## After a life of quiet endeavour



F S AIJAZUDDIN

their savings or dependent upon their families, or importuning God to provide.

Their latest affliction is that they will not be eligible to receive Sinopharm's anti-Covid vaccine (the only one they could afford), because its effect on geriatrics has not been fully explored. The ratio of deaths to births (last recorded as 7.5: 29.8) has moved a notch higher.

Fortunately, Pakistan's leaders are not affected by such fears. Not for them the pains of monthly bills, the insecurity of old-age insolvency, the humiliation of craven dependence

after a lifetime of productive contribution. Their final years will be spent cushioned in state-of-the-art hospital beds in London or the US, ending in a guilt-lined coffin.

Three of Pakistan's leaders are already eligible for a pension, not that they need it. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is 75 years old, Nawaz Sharif is 71 years old, and Imran Khan is 68 years old. All of them are older than German Chancellor Angela Merkel who, at the age of 66, has decided after four terms in office to retire from politics.

Chancellor Merkel's life is a model of quiet endeavour and palpa-

ble accomplishment. Trained in East Germany, she qualified as a chemist rather like Mrs Margaret Thatcher, with whom she has been frequently compared. Unlike Mrs Thatcher, Frau Merkel carried no cudgels in her handbag. The record of her four terms as chancellor should be followed by other leaders as a blueprint for national moderation and international conciliation.

Only a person with her deft touch could have handled the Brexit amputation when Great Britain, having liberated Europe from Germany twice (in 1918 and again in 1945), itself sought liberation from a successor generation of Krauts. Her singular domination of the European Union gave the EU an adhesion which none of its other 26 member states (including France) alone could provide. Her opponents criticised her policy regarding resident Turks in Germany and her treatment of refugee migrants, but would they have acted differently?

If Merkel did have a bête noire, it was the bête Russe — Vladimir Putin, who knowing her fear of dogs, deliberately once brought his pet Labrador into their meeting. She attributed this to his need to appear macho. Putin was trained by the Russian KGB, she probably by the East German Stasi. They understood each other perhaps too well.

Over the 15 years of their often fractious relationship, they never allowed their personal animosity to retard commercial opportunities that were advantageous to both countries. Germany is now dependent on Russian hydrocarbons. The showpiece Nordstream-2 system of pipelines, for example, transports natural gas below the Baltic Sea from Russia to northern Germany.

Chancellor Merkel has survived

US presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump. She maintained Germany's equanimity even when Trump tried to build a wall across the Atlantic. To President Joe Biden's recent exhortation to his Western allies to join "a cold war of alliances" against the People's Republic of China, Chancellor Merkel has responded with vigour. Referring to her discussions with President Xi Jinping, she reaffirmed at Davos their common belief in the need for "multilateralism in the world" and the importance to contain "naked international hegemonism". She went further, accusing the US of "international tyranny".

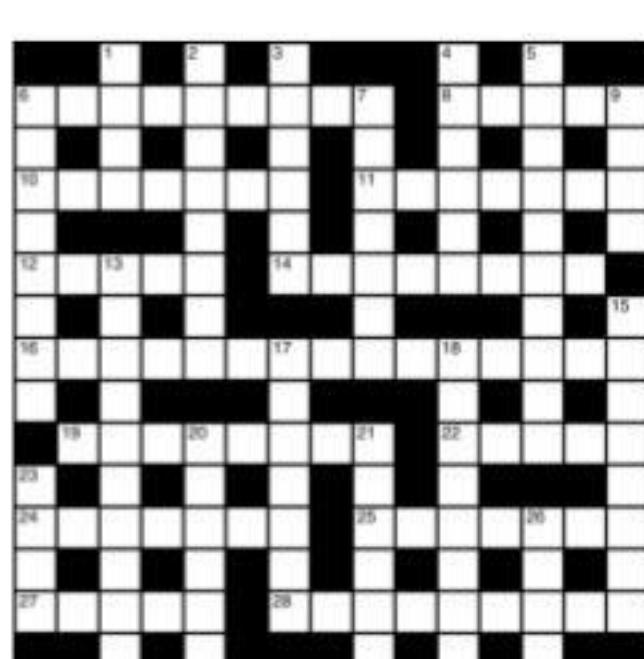
By the middle of this century, China and Russia will stand pre-eminent among nations. The United States, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Japan will have to yield centre-place in the leaders' photo line-up at Davos. South American countries like Brazil, Mexico and Argentina are yet to fulfil their economic potential. African economies need to struggle harder if they are to reach "middle income" levels by 2050.

Where does Pakistan stand? Our population is the fifth largest in the world. We are a nuclear state. Yet, we behave like ingratiating puppies, grateful for rollovers of billions of dollars 'deposits' from the Chinese, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Perhaps Pakistan's ageing leaders should follow Chancellor Merkel's example and retire from politics. Because, as VIPs, they are used to preference, they should be given the Sinopharm Covid vaccine first. It is only fair. The country is already suffering from the after effects of their sickly governance.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28823



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

BIRCH PECK MOSS  
UEI H M W  
RECOGNISED LIMA  
N T S E N N  
SHORTSHARPSHOCK  
R R L E U  
LAYPEOPLE CASED  
A A R S R A  
WEARS OBSCENE LY  
M O S T D  
HUMANITARIANISM  
E O R E R F A  
ACNE FACILITIES  
R I T G E C O  
DEAN BEAN SHEEN

### ACROSS

- 6 German composer, hard one, working the mind (9)
- 8 No terrain curtailed Australian painter (5)
- 10 Dog in dispute involving old woman? (7)
- 11 A rugby forward's larger than average, by the way (7)
- 12 Clergyman overlooking last page (5)
- 14 Some getting upset with it in the old American park (8)
- 16 Not sending through full light? Mains broken, with rest requiring generator (15)

### DOWN

- 19 See about US university working for a small interval (8)
- 22 Morning publication returned letter (5)
- 24 Sort of ferret about behind mast, getting tense (7)
- 25 I caught seabird moving round Arctic feature (7)
- 27 Principle involved in First-rate networking (5)
- 28 Missed tea being served up in cup (9)
- 1 Nothing before dawn, say, is a burden (4)

- 2 Pilot here endlessly flying? (8)
- 3 Lough of questionable status, receiving last of sludge from river (6)
- 4 Note first pair of traders coming in to target Irish location (6)
- 5 Wake master roughly after error (10)
- 6 One who may mock pollsters during half of electioneering (8)
- 7 Tries initially expediting some late vehicles (7)
- 9 Boy lifting hot food (4)
- 13 Persuasive exercises given to students in future (10)

- 15 Upturn in good crafty things – leg breaks – follow on? (8)
- 17 Assumed American used drugs – time to get involved (7)
- 18 Boost soldiers after a month, way up (8)
- 20 Provoke enlightenment, we hear, shifting stress (6)
- 21 Article Phi's written up about grand puzzle (6)
- 23 Difficult position? Best to roll over (4)
- 26 A lot of food not originally from China? (4)

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

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

How the work of smoke prevention has been developed in Calcutta is shown in the reports of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission, the latest of which, for 1919-20, has just been issued. At the outset the Commission was only able to take legal action after smoke had been produced. Then the more intelligent system was brought into operation by which the causes of excessive smoke production could be dealt with by training the stokers and giving attention to the design and proportions of the furnaces, flues, and chimneys. Experience has shown, as the report puts it, that smoke prevention should, in the first instance, have been approached from the furnace end of the installation and not from the chimney top. The results of the later system have been very satisfactory. Some of the statistical facts have already been published. The report shows that smoke production has been largely reduced, and the atmosphere is so much the clearer, while money has been saved to the owners of factories, which is very much better than the infliction of fines. In the reduction of smoke from oil-burning steamers, amongst other matters, Calcutta has much for which to thank the Commission. As might be expected from the present system of dealing with smoke from mills, factories, or other sources, there has been a great reduction in the number of prosecutions.

### NEWS ITEMS

#### B.B. AND C.I. RAILWAY STRIKE

Bombay, Feb 11  
About 5,500 men of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway workshops at Parel went on strike suddenly demanding increased wages, payment of grain compensation, allowance for the last five months and gratuity to certain men who took part in strikes since 1913. The Railway authorities put up a notice last evening that wages for January would be paid on Monday, also arrears of wages due for the last five months would be paid on March 10. The notice was torn down by the men. They started throwing stones at passing local trains last evening. Another notice was put up locking out the men if they continued in their attitude of strike. Late in the evening strikers dispersed peacefully and no disturbance is reported.

#### PATNA VAKIL CONDEMNS NON-COOPERATION

Niru Narayan Singh, a High Court vakil and a member of the new Bihar Provincial League, in a letter to the Press justifying the necessity for the formation of a league, points out why the British connection is essential to this country. He says that non-violent non-cooperation might succeed in destroying the existing Government but that it would be powerless against an invasion, especially a Mahomedan invasion. Then there would be a conflict in the Mahomedan minds between patriotism and religion, and the majority of them, he thinks, would side with their co-religionists. After alluding to the danger of an Afghan invasion he justifies the British connection to be better than any other foreign domination.

#### BOMBAY POST AND TELEGRAPH STRIKE

All the Post and Telegraph office peons, who struck work on September 19 last, resumed work today at their respective post and telegraph offices unconditionally, surrendering themselves to Mr. N. Vaughan, the Presidency Postmaster and Mr. P.N. Mitra, the Superintendent of the Central Telegraph Office. The men, who were getting tired of idling and running after their strike leaders and starvation staring them in the face, held a meeting last night and on the advice of Mr. V.G. Dalvi, barrister, honorary secretary of the Post and Telegraph Men's Union, decided to resume work today. Mr. Dalvi explained that the Post and Telegraph Office authorities had expressed their willingness to look into the grievances of their men, if they resumed work at once and in a body.

#### LONDON JEWS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

The annual conference of the Association of Jewish Friendly Societies was held on January 16 at the offices of the Order of "Achei Brith" and "Shield of Abraham" at Shoreditch. Reporting on the work of the association's representatives on the Board of Deputies, Mr. M. Levy strongly deprecated the action of Lord Rothschild in ringing forward at a recent meeting of the Board, without previous notice, a suggestion that the League of British Jews should be called on to help in the formation of a Press bureau for the Jewish community. Mr. M.F. Vangelder said that in their ranks were bad Jews, just as there were bad Jews among the Zionists, "and I am one of them," he added. There were many in the League who were not Jews at all. They should be allowed a fair hearing.



The government is targeting to conclude the strategic sale of BPCL in the June quarter

TUHIN KANTA PANDAY  
DIPAM SECRETARY, GOVT OF INDIA

## THUMBNAILS

**Tata Tele:** Tata Tele Business Services (TTBS) has introduced Smartflo, a future-ready cloud communication suite that has been innovatively designed to support today's hybrid work culture. It allows uninterrupted connectivity between all stakeholders, internally within employees and externally with customers and vendors across platforms and touchpoints, said a Press release from the company.

SNS

**HDFC Bank:** HDFC Bank has invited applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its SmartUp grants. SmartUp grants by HDFC Bank under Parivarjan "the bank's umbrella CSR brand" is aimed at finding and deploying long-term, sustainable solutions at scale, to address social issues and contribute to the economic and social development of the country. This year, the bank will focus on start-ups creating social impact at scale in sectors such as education-technology (ed-tech) and skill development, among others, said a release.

SNS

**Rapido rental service:** Bike taxi platform Rapido has announced the launch of Rapido Rental services in six cities - Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Jaipur - for the first time in India. Introducing the concept of 2W bike taxi rental services, the company aims to cater to those customers who have to complete multiple tasks at different locations and want to avoid the hassle of multiple bookings and waiting for the ride to arrive, it said in a Press statement.

SNS

**Samsung offer:** Samsung has announced the launch of "The Lifestyle Fest" for its most popular lifestyle range of TVs: The Frame and The Serif, with exciting offers. During this fest, valid till 28 February 2021, Samsung's lifestyle TVs will be available at special prices with exclusive discounts, said a company release.

SNS

**MyGate growth:** Community management solution provider MyGate announced that they have registered strong growth in Kolkata in 2020. Despite the pandemic, MyGate has added more than 469 new societies as customers and 75,000 new homes during the last year and now has close to 700 societies and 120,000 homes on its platform, according to a Press release.

SNS

**RailTel IPO:** State-owned RailTel Corporation of India on Thursday fixed a price band of Rs 93-94 a share for its initial share sale, which will open for public subscription on 16 February. The initial public offer (IPO) is entirely an offer for sale through which government will offload 87,153,369 equity shares, amounting to 27.16 per cent stake, the company said in a statement.

PTI

# Aditya Mittal appointed as CEO of ArcelorMittal

Lakshmi Mittal, who is currently chairman and CEO, will become company's executive chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI/LONDON,  
11 FEBRUARY



Global steel giant ArcelorMittal today announced the appointment of Aditya Mittal as its chief executive officer (CEO).

Aditya Mittal, son of steel baron Lakshmi N Mittal, is the chief financial officer (CFO) of the company, and will succeed his father in the new role.

In a statement, the Luxembourg-based steel maker said Lakshmi Mittal, who is currently chairman and CEO, will become the company's executive chairman and Aditya Mittal will become the CEO.

"The board of directors of ArcelorMittal today (Thursday) announces Aditya Mittal, currently president, CFO and CEO of ArcelorMittal Europe, will become chief executive officer of the company.

Lakshmi N Mittal, who founded the company in 1976 and is currently chairman and CEO, will become executive chairman," the company said.

"The world is transforming at a rapid pace and this change brings challenges but also many opportunities for

In this position, Lakshmi Mittal will continue to lead the board of directors and work together with the CEO and management team, it said.

The company added that Genuine Christino will now become its CFO. Christino joined the company in 2003 and has held the position of head of finance since 2016.

On his appointment as CEO, Aditya Mittal said it is an honour for him to be the CEO of the world's largest steel making company.

His father, he said, built ArcelorMittal from a greenfield rolling mill in Indonesia to become the world's leading steel company today.

Aditya Mittal further said:

"The world is transforming at a rapid pace and this change brings challenges but also many opportunities for

ArcelorMittal. The biggest challenge, but also the biggest opportunity, will be to demonstrate that steel can de-carbonise and indeed is the perfect material for a circular economy."

Lakshmi Mittal said the board unanimously agrees that Aditya Mittal is the natural and right choice to be the company's CEO. He has an unrivalled knowledge of the business and a keen sense of how the company must continue to transform to remain the world's leading steel company.

In the statement, Bruno Lafont, lead independent non-executive director, said: "Aditya Mittal is without a doubt the right candidate to be the next chief executive of ArcelorMittal. His knowledge and experience of the company is

## ArcelorMittal posts net income of \$1,207 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI/LONDON, 11 FEB

Global steel giant ArcelorMittal today posted \$1,207 million net income for the quarter ended 31 December 2020. The world's largest steel maker had posted a net loss of \$1,882 million in the year-ago quarter, the company said in a statement. For the whole year (2020), the company reported a net loss of \$733 million, as against a net income of \$2,454 million in 2019.

ArcelorMittal follows January to December fiscal year.

Commenting on the company's financial performance, ArcelorMittal executive chairman Lakshmi N Mittal said:

"2020 was a year of enormous challenge as countries, societies and businesses across the world grappled with the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The impact on the steel industry was significant. However, the resilience and enterprise shown by its workforce across the business enabled ArcelorMittal to deliver a solid operating performance in times of adversity," Mittal said. During the December quarter, the company produced 18.8 million tons (MT) crude steel, registering a fall of 5 per cent from 19.8 MT a year ago. The total shipments were at 17.3 MT compared to 19.7 MT, while sales in fourth quarter of 2020 were at \$14.2 billion as compared to \$15.5 billion in the same quarter in 2019.

During the entire 2020, its output at 71.5 MT was also down by 20 per cent to 89.8 MT in 2019. Total steel shipments for 12 months in 2020 were 69.1 MT representing a decrease of 18.2 per cent as compared to 84.5 MT.

## Coal India Q3 net profit drops 21% to ₹3,085 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY



State-owned Coal India Ltd today reported 21.3 per cent fall in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,085.39 crore for the quarter ended 31 December 2020.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 3,923.87 crore in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE.

Income during October-December quarter of financial year 2020-21 slipped marginally to Rs 24,334.62 crore from Rs 24,602.19 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.

CIL's production during the quarter under review increased to 156.78 million tons (MT) from 147.50 million tons in the correspond-

ing quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output.

In a separate filing, the company said its board has accorded approval for incorporation of two wholly-owned subsidiaries, one for solar value chain (Ingot-wafer-cell-module) business vertical and another for new and renewable energy.

However, the nod is subject to approval of the government, the filing said.

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India increased by 11.14 per cent to 2,76,554 units last month as compared with the same month last year amidst supply chain challenges, unavailability of semiconductors and higher container charges, auto industry body Siam said today.

Out of this proposed spend, CIL has planned to invest Rs 32,696 crore on coal evacuation, Rs 25,117 crore on mine infrastructure and Rs 29,461 crore on project development by 2023-24.

The state-owned company will also invest Rs 32,199 crore on diversification and clean coal technologies, Rs 1,495 crore on social infrastructure and Rs 1,893 crore on exploration works.

The investment of Rs 1.22 lakh crore will be utilised to fund total 500 projects.

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India increased by 11.14 per cent to 2,76,554 units last month as compared with the same month last year amidst supply chain challenges, unavailability of semiconductors and higher container charges, auto industry body Siam said today.

Passenger vehicle sales in January 2020 stood at 2,48,840 units.

As per the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), two-wheeler dispatches to dealers also rose by 6.63 per cent to 14,29,928 units, compared to 13,41,005 units in January 2020.

Motorcycle sales increased by 5.1 per cent to 9,16,365 units as against 8,71,886 units in January 2020.

Scooter sales were also up

## SIAM REPORT

► Passenger vehicle wholesales in India increased by 11.14 per cent to 2,76,554 units last month as compared to 2,48,840 units in the same month last year.

► Two-wheeler dispatches to dealers also rose by 6.63 per cent to 14,29,928 units, compared to 13,41,005 units in January 2020.

► Three-wheeler sales, however, declined by 56.76 per cent to 26,335 units as compared with Rs 60,903 units in January last year.

by 9.06 per cent at 4,54,315 units from 4,16,567 units a year ago.

Three-wheeler sales, however, declined by 56.76 per cent to 26,335 units as compared with Rs 60,903 units in January last year.

Vehicle sales across categories rose by 4.97 per cent to

## Amazon moves SC in Future-Reliance deal dispute

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

bai on 26 January 2021.

Last month, Amazon had approached Delhi High Court seeking enforcement of the interim order of the Emergency Arbitrator (EA) at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) that had restrained FRL from going ahead with the deal with Reliance, Justice Midha had directed FRL and other parties to maintain status quo till a press order was issued.

The development comes after a recent Delhi High Court's ruling that stayed a previous order on status quo of the deal and ruled that statutory authorities cannot be restrained from acting in accordance with law.

Amazon has approached the Supreme court in the matter against Future, sources close to the development said. Future and Amazon did not respond to e-mailed queries.

The high court order on Monday came over an urgent petition moved by FRL after a single-member Bench directed maintaining status quo over Future's deal with Reliance.

The scheme of arrangement has already received approval from CCI and no objection from Sebi and bourses, following which it had approached NCLT Mumbai.

January 2018 of 2.64 lakh units." As far as two-wheeler sales are concerned, 14.30 lakh units were sold last month, a de-growth of 5.32 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) from the highest sales in January 2018 of 16.85 lakh units, he added.

"The total PV sales from April to January period were still below 2014-15 levels and for two-wheelers it is below 2013-14 levels," Menon said.

Besides, three-wheeler sales suffered a de-growth of 56.76 per cent last month, compared to the year-ago period, primarily on account of lower off-take of passenger three-wheelers, he added.

"Supply chain challenges including rising price of steel, unavailability of semiconductors and higher container charges, continue to be obstacles in smooth functioning of the industry," Menon noted.

## Gadkari to launch first CNG tractor today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY



Union minister Nitin Gadkari will on Friday launch India's first CNG tractor that could save about Rs 1 lakh annually on fuel costs, the government said today.

The tractor has been converted to CNG from diesel.

"India's first-ever diesel tractor, converted to CNG, will be formally launched by Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari tomorrow (Friday)," the ministry of road transport and highways said in a statement.

It added that the conversion, carried out jointly by Rawmat Techno Solutions & Tomasetti Achille India, will help farmers increase their income by lowering costs and help in creating job opportunities in rural India.

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We do not recognise the legitimacy of the military-led government

NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN MINISTER NANAIA MAHUTA

REACTING STRONGLY TO THE MYANMAR COUP

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021

09

# Nations curb ties, weigh sanctions on Myanmar

Joe Biden said he was issuing an executive order that will prevent Myanmar's generals from accessing \$1 billion in assets in the US, and promised more measures

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SEOUL, 11 FEBRUARY

A growing number of governments are curbing diplomatic ties with Myanmar and increasing economic pressure on its military over the coup last week that erased the fragile democratic progress in the long-oppressed Southeast Asian nation.

President Joe Biden said Wednesday he was issuing an executive order that will prevent Myanmar's generals from accessing \$1 billion in assets in the United States, and promised more measures.

The US was among many Western governments that lifted most sanctions in the past decade to encourage democratic transition as Myanmar's military rulers were taking gradual steps toward civilian rule, changes that proved temporary with the ousting of the elected government and detentions of Nobel Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and others.

One of the strongest reactions came from New Zealand, which has suspended all military and high-level political contact with the country and pledged to block any aid that could go to its military government or benefit its leaders. It also placed a travel ban on Myanmar's new military rulers.

We do not recognise the



Demonstrators in traditional costumes display placards during a protest against the military coup in Yangon on Thursday.

AGENCIES



(R) People with pictures of General Aung San during a protest in Mandalay.

legitimacy of the military-led government and we call on the military to immediately release all detained political leaders and restore civilian rule, Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said Tuesday.

In Washington, Biden said his actions were aimed at freezing US assets that benefit Myanmar's military leaders while maintaining support for health care programs, civil society groups and other areas. The US already has sanctions in place against some Myanmar military leaders over the killings and persecution of minority Rohingya Muslims.

There has so far been no

change in the level of US diplomatic representation in Myanmar, where Thomas Vajda continues as ambassador.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said European foreign ministers will meet February 22 to review the 27-nation bloc's relations with Myanmar and explore ways to increase economic pressure. Its options could include sanctions targeting individuals and businesses owned by Myanmar's military as well as cuts in development assistance.

Since 2014, the EU has granted Myanmar almost 700

million euros (\$850 million). Borrell said the EU's special system for granting least-developed countries duty-free and quota-free access to all products except arms and ammunition could also be reassessed.

We now need to develop a robust response to this unacceptable seizure of power, which reverses 10 years of democratic transition, he said, adding that the review would examine how closely we work with the government and its institutions from a legal, financial and technical perspective, as well as the impact on beneficiaries. The UN Human

Rights Council, the 47-member-state body based in Geneva, has scheduled a special session on Friday to consider the human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar.

Human rights advocates have urged governments to take harsher action, while avoiding penalties that would hurt ordinary Myanmar citizens.

President Biden's announcement of asset freezes and an Executive Order opening the door for further targeted sanctions on Myanmar's military are important and welcome steps," Daniel Sullivan, senior advocate for human

rights for Refugees International, said in a statement.

But there is much more that the United States can and must do to censure the military's egregious behavior and recognize the true threat that the Myanmar military's seizure of power presents," he said.

It's unclear if Myanmar's neighbours will come together to take meaningful action.

The leaders of Malaysia and Indonesia have urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to convene a special meeting to discuss Myanmar, a member state. But ASEAN has long operated on a principle of non-interference in each other's affairs and its decisions are made by consensus, meaning it would take just a single member, possibly Myanmar itself, to block any move it sees as hostile.

Following the coup, Brunei, the current ASEAN chair, issued a statement calling for the pursuance of dialogue, reconciliation and the return to normalcy in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, a retired general who himself seized power in a military coup in 2014, told reporters on Wednesday he received a letter from Myanmar's junta leader, Min Aung Hlaing, asking for Thailand's support for the democracy in Myanmar.

## Ethnic minorities protest coup

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
YANGON, 11 FEBRUARY

Members of Myanmar's ethnic minorities marched through streets in traditional dress and floated on wooden long boats in a scenic lake Thursday to protest last week's coup, a sign of the broad and growing resistance to the military takeover.

In response to the coup, tens of thousands of protesters have marched daily in Yangon and Mandalay. Demonstrations have spread throughout the country, showing depth of the resistance.

On Thursday, people from Myanmar's ethnic minority groups, who are

concentrated in far-flung, border states, joined in, a striking show of unity in a country where some groups have resented the Burman majority's control and have also had their differences with Suu Kyi. But their deep mistrust of the military, which has brutally repressed their armed struggles for more autonomy, has made them uneasy allies with her party.

In Myanmar's eastern Shan State, home to the country's largest ethnic minority group, scores of wooden long boats hosted a unique floating protest on scenic Inle Lake, with passengers holding placards denouncing the coup and calling for justice.

## 'ISIS could regain capacity to orchestrate attacks in 2021'

PTI  
UNITED NATIONS, 11 FEBRUARY

The threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security is on the rise again and the terror group could regain the capacity to orchestrate attacks in different parts of the world in 2021, the UN counter-terrorism chief has warned the Security Council.

In a briefing to the Security Council on Wednesday, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov cautioned that the world must be prepared to disrupt such new attacks.

"The threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security is on the rise again. It is crucial that Member States remain focused and united to counter it, despite the strains and competing priorities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic," he said on the 12th Report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIS (Daesh) to international peace and security.

In Myanmar, internet access was cut for about 24 hours last weekend, in an apparent bid to head off protests against the army's seizing of power and the detention of leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her allies. By Sunday afternoon, internet users reported data access on their mobile phones was suddenly restored.

Norway's Telenor ASA, which runs one of Myanmar's main wireless carriers, said the communications ministry cited "circulation of fake news, stability of the nation and interest of the public" in ordering operators to temporarily shut down networks. Telenor said it had to comply with local laws.

Internet cuts have political, economic, and humanitarian costs, experts warned. The effects are exacerbated by Covid-19 lockdowns that are forcing activities like school classes online.

tected borders.

As ISIS's regional affiliates entrench themselves and gain autonomy and strength, they could provide the group new capabilities and options to conduct external operations, he said.

"Member States warn that ISIS could regain the capacity to orchestrate attacks in different parts of the world in the course of 2021," Voronkov said, adding that ISIS's primary focus remains resurgence in Iraq and Syria, where the international community continues to grapple with the legacies of the group's so-called 'caliphate'.

Voronkov said that about 10,000 ISIS fighters, including foreign terrorist fighters in the low thousands, remain active in the region, the majority of them in Iraq, pursuing a protracted insurgency.

These sizable remnants are assessed to pose a major, long-term and global threat. They are organised in small cells hiding in desert and rural areas and moving across the border between the two countries, waging attacks, he said.

The UN official underscored the need to end the "scourge of terrorism" by defeating ISIS in cyberspace, disrupting new attacks globally and tackling the threat posed by its regional affiliates, especially in Africa.

"We must urgently solve the protracted issue of ISIS members lest our failure enables the group's resurgence," he said, assuring that through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the UN system will continue to "stand by Member States as they rise to these challenges".

## Jailed Saudi women's rights activist released

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DUBAI, 11 FEBRUARY

comment from Saudi authorities on her release.

Her release this year was widely expected as the judge suspended two years and 10 months of her sentence and gave her credit for time already served, putting her release date sometime in March.

The release comes as Saudi Arabia faces new scrutiny from the United States, where President Joe Biden has vowed to reassess the US-Saudi partnership and stand up for human rights and democratic principles.

"I have some welcome news that the Saudi government has released a prominent human rights activist," Biden said in a speech. "She was a powerful activist for women's rights and releasing her was the right thing to do." The United Nations welcomed al-Hathloul's release but UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said it is important that others who are in the same condition as her, who have been jailed for the same reasons as her, also be released and that charges be dropped against them."

There was no immediate

## Internet cuts become favoured tool of regimes

DIGITAL SIEGE  
LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY

When army generals in Myanmar staged a coup last week, they briefly cut internet access in an apparent attempt to stymie protests.

In Uganda, residents couldn't use Facebook, Twitter and other social media for weeks after a recent election. And in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, the internet has been down for months amid a wider conflict.

Around the world, shutting down the internet has become an increasingly popular tactic of repressive and authoritarian regimes and some illiberal democracies. Digital rights groups say governments use them to stifle dissent, silence opposition voices or cover up human rights abuses, raising concerns about restricting freedom of speech.

Regimes often cut online access in response to protests or civil unrest, particularly around elections, as they try to keep their grip on power by restricting the flow of information, researchers say.

It's the digital equivalent

» Last year there were 93 major internet shutdowns in 21 countries, according to a report by Top10VPN, a UK-based digital privacy and security research group

» Regimes often cut online access in response to protests or civil unrest, particularly around elections, as they try to keep their grip on power by restricting the flow of information, researchers say.

» Shutdowns can range from all-encompassing internet blackouts to blocking social media platforms or severely throttling internet speeds, the report said.

of seizing control of the local TV and radio station that was part of the pre-internet playbook for despots and rebels.

"Internet shutdowns have been massively underreported or misrepresented over the years," said Alp Toker, founder of internet monitoring organisation Netblocks. The world is "starting to realize what's happening," as documenting efforts like expand, he said.

Last year there were 93 major internet shutdowns in 21 countries, according to a report by Top10VPN, a UK-based digital privacy and

security research group. The list doesn't include places like China and North Korea, where the government tightly controls or restricts the internet.

Shutdowns can range from all-encompassing internet blackouts to blocking social media platforms or severely throttling internet speeds, the report said.

Internet cuts have political, economic, and humanitarian costs, experts warned. The effects are exacerbated by Covid-19 lockdowns that are forcing activities like school classes online.

The shutdowns highlight a wider battle over control of the internet. In the West, efforts to rein in social media platforms have raised competing concerns about restricting free speech and limiting harmful information, the latter sometimes used by authoritarian regimes to justify crackdowns.

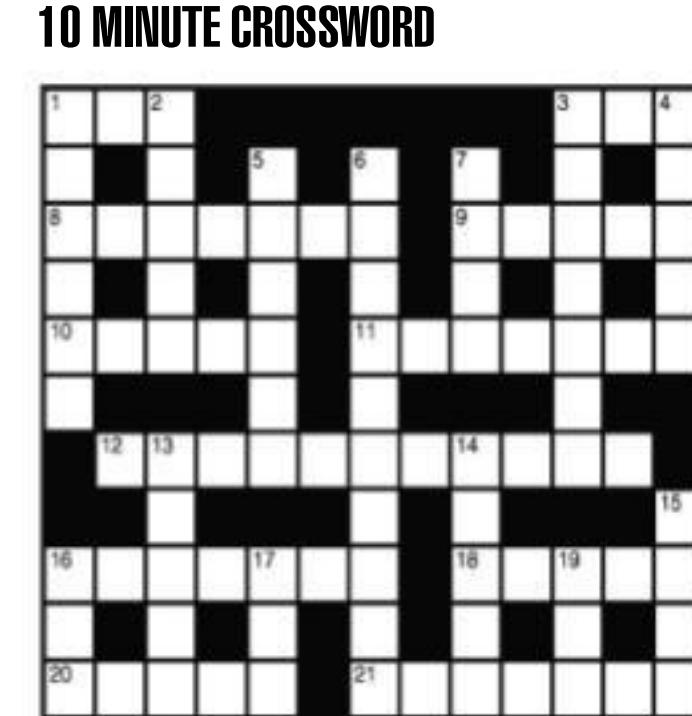
In Myanmar, internet access was cut for about 24 hours last weekend, in an apparent bid to head off protests against the army's seizing of power and the detention of leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her allies. By Sunday afternoon, internet users reported data access on their mobile phones was suddenly restored.

Norway's Telenor ASA, which runs one of Myanmar's main wireless carriers, said the communications ministry cited "circulation of fake news, stability of the nation and interest of the public" in ordering operators to temporarily shut down networks. Telenor said it had to comply with local laws.

"We deeply regret the impact the shutdown has on the people in Myanmar," it said.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



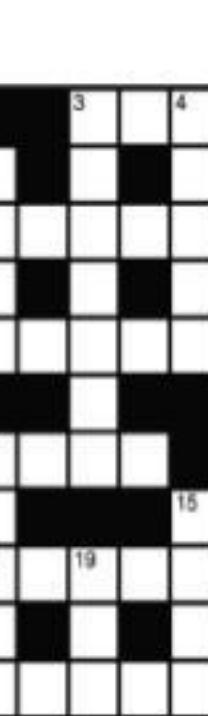
**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

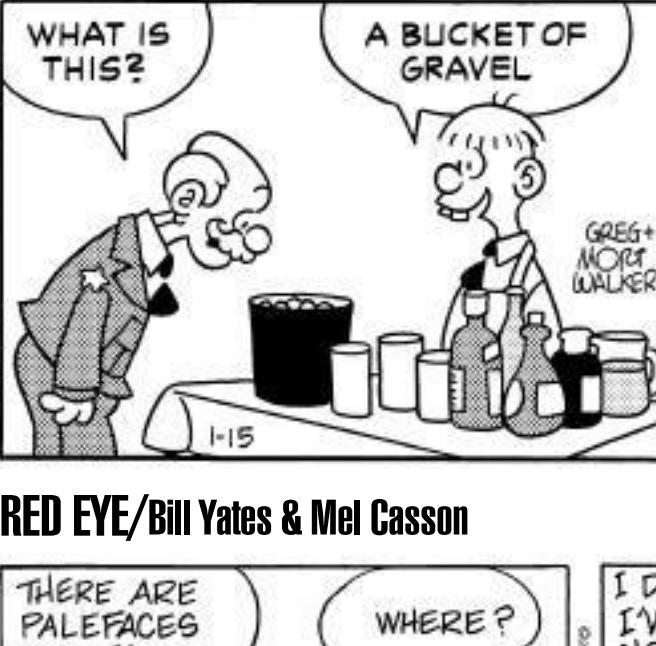
- 1 Recess (3)
- 3 Meadow (3)
- 5 Ghost (7)
- 9 Jottings (5)
- 10 Evade (5)
- 11 Strong emotion (7)
- 12 Fortified beverage (5,6)
- 16 Giant tree (7)
- 18 Nobelman (5)
- 20 Living (5)
- 21 Free time (7)
- 22 Weeding tool (3)
- 23 Very warm (3)

**DOWN**

- 1 Next to (6)
- 2 Surrender (5)
- 3 Grille (7)
- 4 Fire-raising (5)
- 5 Emphasis (6)
- 6 Decent (11)
- 7 Burden (4)
- 13 Need of (7)
- 14 Material (6)
- 15 Purpose (6)
- 16 Secret store (5)
- 17 Overt (4)
- 19 Coarse (5)



BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



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### NEED TO KNOW

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#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

SMIS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

54957, 5676747

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi

City Office 43513185, Call Cen-

tre 09910383383,

18001803838, Reservation

43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

port 011-25671580; Terminal I-

B 25671576, Palam Road

25671579, 18001803838

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry

and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 3373377

AIR PORTS 23868709

</div



You have said that America can be defined in one word: Possibilities. We hope the possibilities...point toward an improvement of China-US ties

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING  
TALKING TO US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	32	24 H
HONG KONG	21	15 CL
TOKYO	14	2 H
LONDON	-1	-5 H
DUBAI	25	18 H
SAN FRANCISCO	12	9 H
NEW YORK	0	-4 H
MOSCOW	-12	-18 H

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

## THUMBNAILS



A long line of vehicles line up in Fair Park to receive Covid-19 vaccinations in Dallas. Dallas County's mega vaccine site shifted to a drive-thru model in an effort to help move things quicker. ■AP

**28 UN peacekeepers injured:** Attackers opened fire on a temporary United Nations base in central Mali on Wednesday in a well-planned assault that wounded 28 peacekeepers from Togo, UN officials said. The United Nations condemned the attack in Mali, which remains the deadliest of the UN's 12 far-flung peacekeeping missions, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. ■AP

**Undersea 7.7 quake in South Pacific:** Small tsunami waves were detected in South Pacific Islands after an undersea earthquake early Thursday morning. The US Geological Agency said the quake was strong and shallow, at magnitude 7.7 and just 10 kilometres deep. ■AP

**Missile test:** Pakistan on Thursday conducted a successful training launch of a surface-to-surface cruise missile which can strike targets up to 450 kilometres, the Army said, the country's third missile test in three weeks. ■PTI

**AstraZeneca working to adapt vaccine to new strains**

LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY

AstraZeneca said Thursday it's working with the University of Oxford to adapt its Covid-19 vaccine to protect against new strains of the virus as public health officials raise concerns about mutations that may make the virus more resistant to existing vaccines.

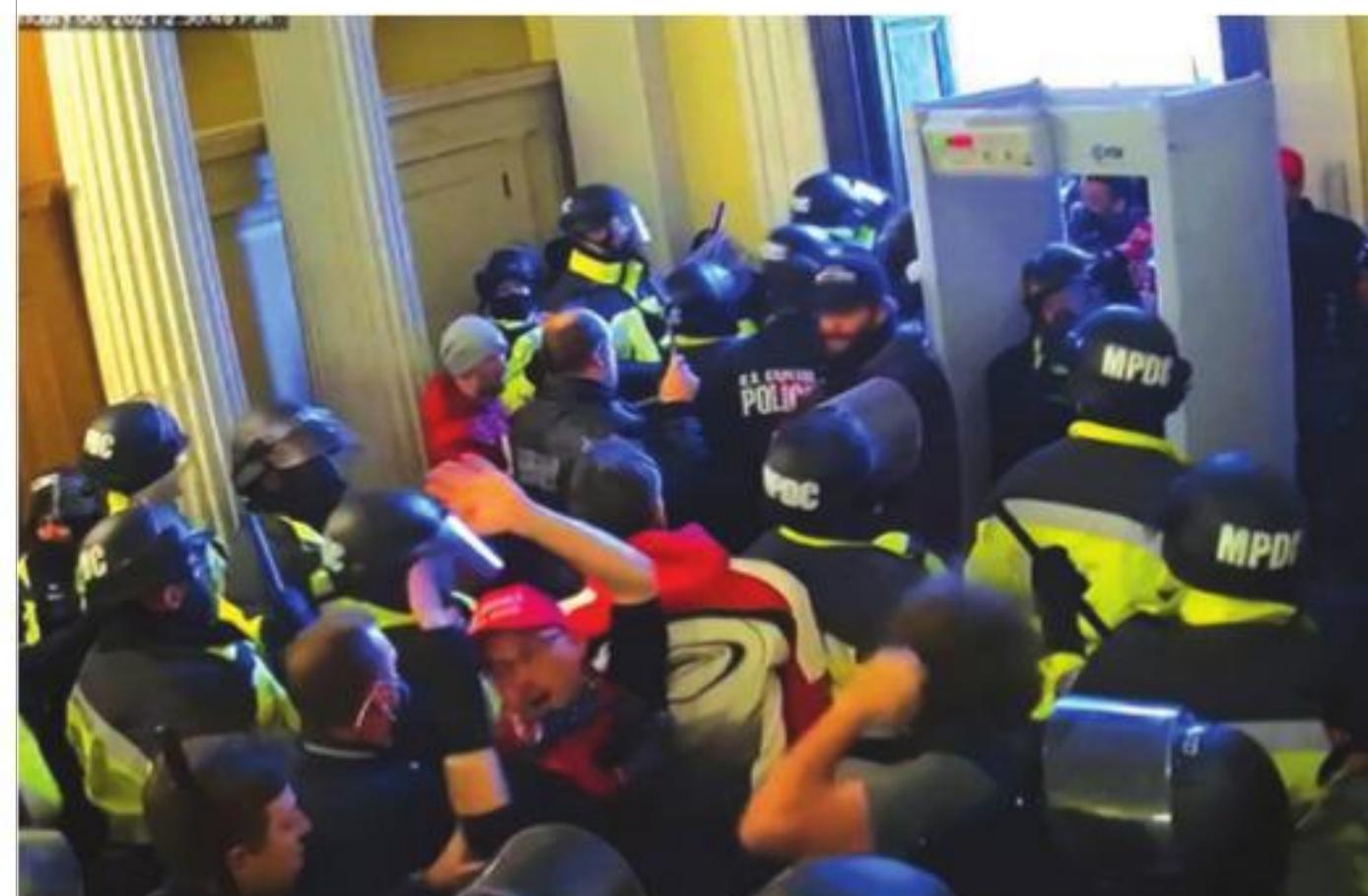
The Anglo-Swedish drugmaker worked with Oxford to develop one of the first Covid-19 vaccines authorized for widespread use. AstraZeneca said it hopes to cut the time needed to produce large amounts of any new vaccine to between six and nine months.

The comments came as AstraZeneca said fourth-quarter net income rose to \$1.01 billion from \$313 million in the same quarter a year earlier. Drug sales increased 11 per cent to \$7.41 billion, driven by a 24 per cent increase in cancer treatments. The company posted \$2 million of revenue from its Covid-19 vaccine, which it has pledged to supply on a non-profit basis during the pandemic, and said it would begin reporting sales of the vaccine beginning in the next quarter.

Meanwhile, senior European Commission officials on Thursday expressed cautious optimism that European economies will rebound later this year and in 2022, despite deep uncertainty over a surge in cases and the impact of new variants of the virus. In its winter interim economic forecasts, the European Union's executive body predicts that growth in the 19 nations using the euro will reach 3.8 per cent this year and next after a 6.3 per cent drop in 2020. ■AP

# Chilling footage key exhibit in Trump trial

Video shows rioters smashing into the building and searching menacingly for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 11 FEBRUARY

**C**hilling security video of last month's deadly insurrection at the US Capitol, including officers searching menacingly for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence, has become a key exhibit in Donald Trump's impeachment trial as lawmakers prosecuting the case wrap up their opening arguments for why Trump should be convicted of inciting the siege.

The House will continue with its case Thursday, with Trump's lawyers set to launch their defense by week's end.

The footage shown at trial, much of it never before seen, has included video of the mob smashing into the building, distraught members of Congress receiving comfort, rioters engaging in hand-to-hand combat with police and audio of Capitol police officers pleading for back-up.

It underscored how dangerously close the rioters came to the nation's leaders, shifting the focus of the trial

from an academic debate about the Constitution to a raw retelling of the January 6 assault.

Videos of the siege have been circulating since the day of the riot, but the graphic compilation shown to senators Wednesday amounted to a more complete narrative, a moment-by-moment retelling of one of the nation's most alarming days. It offered fresh details into the attackers, scenes of police heroism and staff whispers of despair.

The footage included rioters roaming the halls chanting 'Hang Mike Pence', some equipped with combat gear. Outside, the mob had set up a makeshift gallows. And in one wrenching moment, police were shown shooting and killing a San Diego woman, Ashli Babbitt, as the mob tried to break through doors near the House Chamber.

Pence, who had been presiding over a session to certify Joe Biden's election victory over Trump, thus earning Trump's censure, was shown being rushed to safety, where he sheltered in an office with his family just 100 feet from

the rioters. Pelosi was seen being evacuated from the complex as her staff hid behind doors in her suite of offices.

Though most of the Senate jurors seem to have made up their minds, making Trump's acquittal likely, they sat riveted as the jarring video played in the chamber. Republican Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma bent his head at one point, another GOP colleague putting his hand on his arm in comfort.

President Trump put a target on their backs and his mob broke into the Capitol to hunt them down. Senator Mitt Romney, R-Utah, saw himself in the footage, dashing down a hallway to avoid the mob.

Romney said he hadn't realised that officer Eugene Goodman, who has been praised as a hero for luring rioters away from the Senate doors, had been the one to direct him to safety.

That was overwhelmingly distressing and emotional, he said.

Earlier in the day, prosecutors laid out their case by methodically linking Trump's verbal attacks on the elec-

## 'Mob sought to kill Pelosi'

Democrats say Capitol Police evacuated House Speaker Nancy Pelosi from the Capitol complex entirely because they feared for her safety on January 6.

Prosecutors at Donald Trump's second impeachment trial on Wednesday played audio of Pelosi's barricaded staffers whispering for help and showed images of the mob trying to break down a door into Pelosi's office.

The 80-year-old Pelosi was a longtime political target of the president, who derisively nicknamed her 'Crazy Nancy.'

House impeachment manager Stacey Plaskett says Pelosi was rushed to a secure offsite location because some of the rioters publicly declared their intent to harm or kill Pelosi. Plaskett says that if the rioters had found Pelosi, they would have killed her. They did it because Donald Trump sent them on this mission, she added. ■AP

tion to the violence that resulted when hundreds of loyalists stormed the building. Trump did nothing to stem the violence and watched with glee, the Democrats said, as the mob ransacked the building. Five people died.

The goal of the presentation was to cast Trump not as an innocent bystander but rather as the inciter in chief who spent months spreading falsehoods about the election. Using evocative language meant to match the horror of the day, they compared Trump to a fire chief who delights in seeing fires spread, not extinguished, and they compared his supporters to a cavalry in war.

Trump's words weren't just free speech but part of the big lie his relentless efforts to sow doubts about the election results, prosecutors say. Those began long before the votes were tabulated, revving up his followers to stop the 'steal' though there was no evidence of substantial fraud.

This attack never would have happened, but for Donald Trump, Republican Madeleine Dean, one of the impeachment managers, said as she choked back emotion. And so they came, draped in Trump's flag, and used our flag, the American flag, to batter and to bludgeon.

Thursday brings the second and final full day of House arguments, with the Trump legal team taking the lectern Friday and Saturday for up to 16 hours to lay out their defense. The difficulty facing Trump's defense team became apparent at the start as they leaned on the process of the trial rather than the substance of the case against the former president.

The prosecutors on Wednesday aimed to preemptively rebut arguments that Trump's lawyers have foreshadowed as central to their defense, arguing for instance that there was no First Amendment protection for the president's role in directly inciting the insurrection.

Defence lawyers are likely to blame the rioters themselves for the violence, but the Democrats' presentation made clear that despite the vivid videos of the event they view Trump as ultimately responsible.

Trump is the first president to face an impeachment trial after leaving office and the first to be twice impeached. He is charged with incitement of insurrection, words his defence lawyers say are protected by the Constitution's First Amendment and just a figure of speech.

Trump's words weren't just free speech but part of the big lie his relentless efforts to sow doubts about the election results, prosecutors say. Those began long before the votes were tabulated, revving up his followers to stop the 'steal' though there was no evidence of substantial fraud.

## Indian-American Democrats support Trump impeachment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 11 FEBRUARY

The president incited the crowd that attacked our Capitol and our democratic institutions last month and the necessity of his conviction is as clear today

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI  
INDIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN

Impeachment Manager Jamie Raskin, who is also a Democratic member of the US House of Representatives, while defending the constitutionality of the trial said, "our case is based on cold, hard facts. It's all about the facts. President Trump has sent his lawyers here to try to stop the Senate from hearing the facts of this case. They want to keep the trial over before any evidence is even introduced."

Bruce Castor, who is representing Trump alongside attorney David Schoen, delivered a meandering argument during the first day on Tuesday of the Senate impeachment trial, including praise for the House impeachment managers for a presentation that he said was "well done," CNN reported.

On February 3, in the trial brief, the House Impeachment Managers alleged that in a grievous betrayal of his Oath of Office, Trump incited a violent mob to attack the United States Capitol during the Joint Session, thus impeding Congress's confirmation of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the winner of the presidential election.

"Vote to convict," Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said. "The video evidence presented at the impeachment trial - Trump whipping up the mob, then the attack on the Capitol - was chilling. We were all there. How can Senators deny that Trump incited that deadly attack on us and our democracy?" she said in a tweet.

## In his first call with Xi, Biden conveys concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON/BEIJING,  
11 FEBRUARY



US President Joe Biden has expressed his "fundamental concerns" about China's coercive and unfair economic practices, its crackdown in Hong Kong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang and increasingly assertive actions in the region, as he spoke with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for the first time since taking office.

The phone call between the two leaders came hours after the Pentagon announced a task force on China.

This was the first phone call between the two leaders after Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on January 20.

During the phone call, Biden shared his greetings and well wishes with the Chinese people on the occasion of Lunar New Year on Friday.

Biden affirmed his priorities of protecting the American people's security, prosperity, health, and way of life, and preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific, the White House said in a readout of the call.

China claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory.

China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also

China has faced severe criticism from Western countries, including the US, over persistent reports of the mass detention of Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.

Biden administration officials have also condemned China's attacks on pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

China has ramped up a crackdown in Hong Kong after imposing a new law against subversion following major protests in the city. The two countries also have differences over Taiwan.

President Biden underscored his fundamental concerns about Beijing's coercive and unfair economic practices, the crackdown in Hong Kong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and increasingly assertive actions in the region, including toward Taiwan, the White House said.

The militaries of China and India have been engaged in a tense standoff in eastern Ladakh since early May last year.

Biden had earlier said he would not immediately cancel the trade agreement that former president Donald Trump struck with China nor take steps to remove tariffs on Chinese exports.

His administration is planning a sweeping review of the previous Trump administration's posture toward China, including its crackdown on unfair trade practices and antagonistic military activities in Asia.

On his part, President Xi struck a conciliatory tone by saying that the growth of the China-US relations has been the most important development in international relations over the past half-century.

## In UK, roving teams bring vaccine shots to homeless

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY

In a pandemic, homeless people face being more forgotten than they already are. But not by doctors like Dr Anil Mehta, who is on a mission to bring the coronavirus vaccine to those hardest to reach and often most at risk of getting sick in east London.

Mehta, a general practitioner, and his small team of doctors and nurses have been showing up at homeless centers in his local area, a Covid-19 hotspot, offering a free jab to dozens who might otherwise be left behind in Britain's mass vaccination drive.

Because those sleeping outside and people in shelters have no address that doctors can contact them at, some local

authorities across Britain have begun sending out roving vaccination teams to identify the clinically vulnerable among them so they can have access to the jab.

The charity 'Homeless Link' said the UK government last month appealed to local officials to accommodate as many so-called rough sleepers as possible and help them register with a doctor as temperatures plummet and as a more contagious virus variant drove a huge surge in UK infection rates. But the charity said there has been no clear strategy to ensure that the homeless get inoculated, and that means officials in differ-

ent areas have been left to take different tacks.

We believe that a targeted approach to vaccination is needed to protect people with no home, said Rick Henderson, the charity's chief executive.

Mehta is happy with the progress so far.

These are very hard-to-reach groups they could be in different places. We are effectively chasing them.

Earlier this week, Britain's government also urged anyone living in the UK unlawfully to register with a doctor and receive a vaccine, promising that they would not have their immigration status checked or risk deportation.

suffering.

"It's a wise decision, but it's too late," he said. It's also too early, he said too early to say whether President Joe Biden's move will bring peace to Yemen.

Biden's halt to support for the Saudi-led coalition was a dramatic break with the air campaign against Yemen's Houthi rebels, which had brought international condemnation for causing thousands of civilian deaths.

With the move, Biden launched a new push to bring an end to a 6-year-old war that has caused the Arab world's poorest nation to collapse

into a humanitarian catastrophe.

But reaching peace will be a difficult path. The warring parties have not held substantive negotiations since 2019. A deal brokered by the UN in 2018 after talks in Sweden has largely gone nowhere, and only one of its components ~

pro-government forces over the past year.

Peter Salisbury, Yemen expert at the International Crisis Group, said Biden's policy shift was "really welcome news." But, he said, that "won't automatically mean an end to the war, at all."

Yemen on Thursday marks 10 years since the fall of long-time autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh in the wake of an Arab Spring uprising, a moment Yemenis hoped would lead to effective governance and greater freedom. Instead, a brutal war followed when the Iranian-backed Houthis, in late 2014 seized the capital Sanaa

along with much of the country's north, ousting the government of Saleh's successor, President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi.

Saudi Arabia assembled a coalition that has waged a ferocious air campaign, while supporting allied forces controlling the south in the name of restoring Hadi's internationally recognised government.

The ensuing war has killed some 130,000 people and devastated Yemen's already weak infrastructure, from roads and hospitals to water and electricity. UN aid agencies have warned that the hunger cri-

## Despite Biden's push, a difficult road to peace in Yemen

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CAIRO, 11 FEBRUARY

Buthaina al-Raihani was five years old when a Saudi airstrike destroyed her home in the Yemeni capital and killed her parents and all five of her siblings in August 2017.

Ever since, she still breaks into tears for seemingly no reason. When planes fly overhead, she shouts to her uncle, "They're going to hit us!"

For her uncle, Khalid Mohammed Saleh, the US decision last month to stop backing the Saudi coalition and push for an end to the war can do nothing to end her

into a humanitar

ian catastrophe.

But reaching peace will be a difficult path. The warring parties have not held substantive negotiations since 2019. A deal brokered by the UN in

# Changing for the better



**Young entrepreneurs can become exponential leaders who create a positive impact in their local communities and rise to solve global challenges**

KUNAL SOOD

Entrepreneurship can help transform our world for a better future. The number of startups, SMEs and entrepreneurs has grown exponentially over the past decade. The primary reasons why people choose to become entrepreneurs are a genuine desire to change the world and implement creative solutions globally. Entrepreneurs are passionate about learning. Young entrepreneurs can become exponential leaders who create a positive impact in their local communities, and scale to solve global challenges. Here's how they can achieve success in an ever-changing world:

**Solving an universal challenge**

The best entrepreneurs improve people's lives by solving universal problems. They are extraordinary at

creating elegant solutions to challenges that affect all human beings and the planet. Communication used to be extremely expensive and labor intensive when letters and telegrams were transported via trains, ships and horses. The evolution from landline phones to smartphones made communication instantaneous and media interactive through the power of social media and texting.

**Feedback is one's friend**

It is important to interact with clients and potential customers: What do they love about the brand? How has the product impacted their lives and their local community? Zoom conversations, social media and short surveys created with Google Forms are incredibly helpful. The more detailed, constructive feedback one receives, the faster one can create a favourable product. It is empowering

for young entrepreneurs to know what could be improved. Like the iPhone and Tesla, this is how one builds something, which millions of people will love.

**Increasing value**

If one's product improves people's lives, it increases in value in their homes. They will buy two or three for their families and relatives because they experienced the direct benefit in their own lives. Customers won't have the desire to leave. When one increases the value for stakeholders, one builds a loyal following. Every company has finite time, energy and resources so it is important to focus on areas where one's skills align to create an exponential impact and increase value.

**Creating impact**

It is necessary for a company

to hold a kind of exclusive value in the world. One cannot do everything alone. However, one's voice, vision and leadership have the power to transform how human beings interact with each other and the planet. Is one's packaging plant-based as opposed to traditional plastics that are made from fossil fuels? Does one's customer base span from Gen Z to elders because the excellent design of one's product appeals to all generations? Brands that succeed over time - whether the product is solar energy or coffee - operate with sustainable manufacturing methods that positively impact the planet.

**The relentless pursuit of transformation**

The best companies are ever-evolving. To transform, one must

have lasting power. Grit and tenacity are the cornerstones of transformation too. One needs to find the answer to "How has our product improved in the last year?" If one believes that something can be better, one needs to push the limits. A learning spirit needs to be incorporated in the company so that as the product improves, employees also grow as leaders and experts in their fields.

To become a visionary entrepreneur, one of the greatest gifts can be developing your skills as an exponential leader. This skillset will enable young entrepreneurs to change the world for the better while living lives of deep meaning and purpose. We must unite for a future full of possibilities. We must come together as a small group of committed citizens.

The writer is founder, WeThePlanet

PUNEET GUPTA

India's belief in the science of planetary movements and that of other celestial bodies is deeply rooted. From the time of our birth to every important milestone in our lives, we largely depend on the study of the movements and relative positions of our stars. Even as a means of coping with life's challenges that involve our family, relationships, wealth, and health; we go to astrologers.

This booming industry has attracted numerous entrepreneurs to tap in this segment. After all, the youth has not completely dismissed the ancient science of astrology and palmistry.

Numerous innovation-based astrology startups have made their own specialty in the online world, by making predictions, which produce customised forecasts in various vernacular dialects, in this manner giving potential clients an easy, innovative pool of services. Every year, around 100,000 new astrologers enter the market. While the endlessness of such services ranges from reading history and anticipating future, numerology, palmistry, gemology, vaastu shastra, tarot reading, and so on, bringing them together on a single platform is a great entrepreneurial idea.

Over the most recent years, numerous new companies on astrology have come up from within India. The young crowd is leaving its well-settled corporate careers to take up professions in astrology. Online aggregators associate clients with astrologers, numerologists, Vaastu specialists, tarot card readers, and Vedic healers and make trade. Astrology in India was always there and will always be there until forever. It will keep on developing further as we have just entered the Aquarian age. This implies that now onwards, study of science and Astrology will work in

## A GREAT ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEA

**The science of astrology in India has huge potential to empower the startup ecosystem, given this unorganised space becomes more authentic and trustworthy**

parallel and develop a wide margin supplementing each other in a more genial climate.

Interest for online consultations is developing. Online consultations is likewise a developing region in the Astrology industry, where trained professionals and specialists give answers to their customers either by email, chatbot or live video sessions.

This offers customers a chance to avail services from any part of the world, as they can get answers for their issues from the solaces of their home. To help ease the trade, astrolo-

gy software has emerged decreasing the time taken to set up the forecasts and kill any chance of miscalculation, also increasing the potential of the market. This has opened new opportunities for free online consultations, which have begun to gain importance.

Individuals, particularly the youth, are beginning to understand that astrology can prove to be useful and can truly help them shape their future in a coordinated and educated way.

Online astrology saves a great

deal of time for clients as they don't need to visit the astrologer or take an appointment for the consultation. The expense of online session varies between Rs 12 to Rs 400 for every startup, which Indians are willing to spend as they get solace of their homes and outright security.

Additionally, the services are accessible seven days every week, which implies that they can look for counseling whenever it might suit them.

While we are a cutting-edge country with the best innovative

headways, the confidence in astrology and astrologers stays by and large. Relationships in our nation take shape based on the birth charts, and a great many people search for promising date and time to perform significant tasks after consulting astrologers. The science of astrology in India has a great potential to empower the startup ecosystem, given this unorganised space become more authentic and trustworthy with genuine astrologers.

The writer is founder and CEO, AstroTalk.com

PLUS POINTS

### Annual programme



XLRI- Xavier School of Management hosted the 28th Annual JRD Tata Oration on business ethics on virtual mode recently.

This year, Fr Stephan Rothlin, SJ, PhD, Director of the Macau Ricci Institute, and CEO of Rothlin International Management Consulting Limited delivered the oration. Rothlin gave his speech on "China the Emerging Superpower: The Ethical Underpinnings." The speech emphasised on the ethical perspectives and explained the key elements of business ethics, which he has been teaching in business schools in Beijing, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Taiwan for the last 23 years that would allow business leaders and entrepreneurs to understand and embrace the challenge of moral leadership in business. Fr P Christie, SJ director, XLRI delivered the welcome address.

### Worthy webinar



MRG School organised a live session with Sudipta Mukherjee, Orton-Gillingham (AEOGP) English language trainer and a dyslexia therapist from MSL Singapore and has been mentoring teachers for over a decade and has developed curriculum for elementary grades for SEL schools and Army Public School (Cantonment campus). The event was hosted on their Facebook page on fine motor skill development for children from three to five years of age. The session was insightful and helped parents understand the intricacies, benefits of these developmental milestones. It highlighted some very simple but effective activities that guided educators and parents to help children develop fine motor skills.

Priyanka Barara, principal, MRG School said, "Prior to kindergarten, fine motor skills are important for school readiness. Research indicates that fine motor skills play a role in cognition and language development. Graphomotor skills also play a significant role in early reading development. Graphomotor skills are the skills necessary for handwriting. Since these skills make the foundation for student's early education stronger, our school planned this webinar."

### Honouring warriors



British Deputy High Commission Kolkata, West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (WBHDICO) and GoZero Mobility UK came together to recognise the efforts of three Covid warriors for the service rendered by them during the pandemic. They were honoured with clean and green mode of transportation at a felicitation ceremony in Eco Park, New Town recently. The three of them were Purnima Sen Das (blood collection assistant at NKDA), Soumitra Ghose (senior manager - administration and policy, head of quality control at Tata Medical Centre) and Anup Kumar Ghosh (welfare and sanitation team in Eco Park). The GoZero ebikes which were given to them are designed in the UK and are an affordable, healthy and clean mode of transportation, which would allow Covid warriors to commute faster with zero emission.

### Grooming designers

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London is inviting applications for undergraduate programmes in fashion design, fashion business management, communication design and interior architecture and design. The institute is offering these programmes through its creative studio-based education to groom the next generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi. The last date of application is 20 March 2021. For details visit: [www.iiad.edu.in](http://www.iiad.edu.in)



## KUMBLE SUPPORTS JAFFER

Spin legend Anil Kumble (photo, left) on Thursday extended support to his former India teammate Wasim Jaffer after the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) alleged that he had tried to force religion-based selections as the state team's coach. Jaffer, who quit as Uttarakhand coach owing to a dispute with the state association, on Wednesday rejected allegations by the cricket association's officials that he favoured Muslim players in the team.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Asian Le Mans:** Narain Karthikeyan, along with Arjun Maini and Naveen Rao, is driving for Racing Team India in 2021 Asian Le Mans Series, the first round of which will take place at the Dubai Autodrome in two four-hour races on 13-14 February.

**Indian challenge:** India's Divij Sharan and Ankita Raina crashed out of the Australian Open men's and women's doubles events respectively, after suffering straight set defeats in the opening round here on Thursday. Ankita and her partner Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania lost 3-6 0-6 in just one hour and 17 minutes.

**Ticket rush:** Ignoring all social distancing norms, the city's cricket-loving people on Thursday thronged the MA Chidambaram Stadium to collect their tickets for the upcoming second Test between India and England, resulting in chaos and confusion. Although all ticket sales took place online, fans were required to pick their physical tickets from the stadium.

**B'desh Test:** Nkrumah Bonner was making up for lost time with his second successive half-century as West Indies ground out 223-5 against Bangladesh on day one of the second cricket Test on Thursday. Bonner was 74 not out and wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva was with him on 22 after an even first day.

**ISL transfers:** The Indian Super League's 2020-21 season saw significant involvement of transfer fees as the clubs spent Rs 9.5 crore on buying new players, six times more than last season.

**Barca lose:** Taking advantage of a quiet game from Lionel Messi in his 900th career match, Sevilla defeated Barcelona 2-0 in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals. Messi squandered a couple of chances as Sevilla won its eighth consecutive match in all competitions on Wednesday.

## Tokyo 2020 chief could resign over sexist comments

AGENCIES  
TOKYO, 11 FEBRUARY

The president of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics organising committee, Yoshiro Mori (in photo), is set to step down over sexist remarks, the media reported today, a resignation likely to raise new doubts over the viability of holding the Games later this year.

The former prime minister made the remark - that women talk too much - at a Japanese Olympic Committee board meeting early this month, setting off a storm of criticism from abroad.

The *Fuji News Network* and public broadcaster NHK reported that Mori, 83, was set to resign.

The *Mainichi* newspaper said he was expected to express his intention to go. Executive members of the Tokyo

Olympics board are due to meet to discuss his sexist remark.

Mori was not immediately available for comment. A spokesman for the organising committee declined comment.

TBS reported that former Japan Football Association president and mayor of the Olympics village, Saburo Kawabuchi, would replace Mori.

Mori retracted his comment about women at a hastily called Press Conference on 4 February, acknowledging it was inappropriate and against the Olympic spirit. But he declined, at that time, to resign.

Pressed on whether he really thought women talked too much, Mori said: "I don't listen to women that much lately, so I don't know". Mori served as prime minister for a gaffe-plagued year from April 2000.

His latest comment on women drew sharp criticism in parliament, where opposition lawmakers demanded his resignation, and from the public on social media.

This is more than just another problem for the postponed Olympics, which have made the risky choice of trying to open on July 23 in the middle of a pandemic with 11,000 athletes - and later, 4,400 Paralympic athletes.

More than 80% of the Japanese public in recent polls say

the Olympics should be postponed or canceled.

Mori's remarks have drawn outrage from many quarters and have put the spotlight on how far Japan lags behind other prosperous countries in advancing women in politics or the boardrooms. Japan stands 121st out of 153 in the World Economic Forum's gender equality rankings.

Though some on the street have called for him to resign several hundred Olympic volunteers say they are withdrawing most decision makers have stopped short of this and have simply condemned his remarks.

Japan is a country that works largely on consensus with politicians often elderly and male acting behind the scenes and leaking trial balloons to sense public sentiment.

The 2020 Tokyo Games

were postponed for a year because of the novel coronavirus and the pandemic is still creating huge questions about their viability, even though the government has said it is determined the July 23-Aug 8 Games go ahead.

Even before last year's postponement, ballooning costs and a plagiarism scandal involving the official logo bedevilled preparations.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has said coronavirus vaccines are key to a safe Olympics and he said on Wednesday the vaccination drive would begin in the middle of next week.

Japan's vaccination campaign is later than those in most major economies and any delay could sow doubts about a government aim to secure enough doses for everyone before the Olympics.



## 2nd Test: BCCI curator sent off, India team management gets involved in pitch preparations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 FEBRUARY

Following the defeat in first Test in Chennai, the Indian cricket board has removed its curator who was to oversee the pitch preparation at the MA Chidambaram Stadium for the second Test, starting on Saturday.

"I think it is really important that we look after our players and everyone comes into the games fit and fresh and able to deliver their skills at 100 percent."

Anderson said he is "not assuming anything".

In-form Root remains key to England with 684 runs in his last three Tests, including match-winning monster scores of 228 and 186 in the 2-0 Test sweep in Sri Lanka.

"I think (India) have got to find something for Joe Root whether it's playing reverse swing or just a change," former England batsman Ian Bell said.

"He looked so comfortable against left-arm orthodox, you know, how he plays the sweep shot."

The series will decide which team will meet New Zealand in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June.

India slipped to fourth in the WTC rankings after the loss. Australia are third.

The gap between the first and the second Test, which is to begin on February 13, is only of three days. But the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) curator Taposh Chatterjee of Central Zone was sent off immediately after the first match and, instead, tasked to oversee the preparation of pitches for the Vijay Hazare Trophy matches in Indore and Jaipur.

The development is strange considering that the BCCI panel of curators, which was to be reviewed and revised at its annual general meeting in December, has four others besides Chatterjee in the elite panel. Ashish Bhowmick, who

will prepare the Motera wicket for the third and fourth Tests against England, Prashant K. Sunil Chauhan, and Prakash Adhav are the others. There were five other curators in the emerging panel earlier.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) confirmed the development.

"Taposh has left. He was there for the first match. V Ramesh Kumar will oversee the preparation for the second Test," TNCA secretary RS Ramaswamy said.

Kumar is a businessman and had, in the past, not even prepared a first-class wicket.

"It is a surprise that no BCCI curator is at the spot as the BCCI sent back Taposh after the first Test when the players showed their displeasure with the way the pitch [for first Test] behaved on the first two days. The MA Chidambaram Stadium has not had a proper curator for a long time."

Earlier, K Parthasarathy, the head groundsman, was looking after it, but he was not been a regular in the past few years," said a source close to the development.

"The wicket for the second Test is being prepared under the supervision of the team management. There has been no proper watering. The surface for the first Test had red soil and the pitch to be used for the second match is of black soil," he said.

## I was not sure if I wanted to play cricket again: Leach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, 11 FEBRUARY

England spinner Jack Leach was "not sure" if he wanted to play cricket again after the mauling at the hands of Rishabh Pant in the opening Test against India and is quite chuffed about recovering just in time to make a winning contribution in the match.

The left-arm spinner on his first tour of India, was taken to the cleaners by a marauding Pant on the third afternoon of the first Test, but fought his way back to pick six wickets over the next two days as England won by a whopping 227 runs.

"This is my first trip to India and it's been a hell of a tough start! I went through every emotion under the sun in our first Test win and I guess that's why we love cricket so much," Leach wrote in 'Sky Sports'.

"After conceding 77 runs off eight overs on day three I was not sure if I wanted to play cricket again so I'm really proud to have come back and contributed to the team's victory."

"Who would have thought the game would feel that hard when you have won by 227 runs?"

His wickets included the one of India opener Rohit Sharma at the fag end of fourth day's play, when he bowled a ripper to leave the batsman clueless with the delivery's turn and bounce.

"As for me, I think I will be using the delivery that removed Rohit Sharma at the end of day four as a visualisation aid in future games!"

"It felt good to get a player of that stature out with a decent delivery and the timing was good too, so we did not feel like we had to come back and get 10 wickets on the final day."

## East Bengal chasing crucial win against Hyderabad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
ARRAYAVASO, 11 FEBRUARY

Hyderabad FC are in the driver's seat in the race for the Indian Super League (ISL) playoffs while East Bengal need to win all the rest of their matches while needing a few results to go their way to make it to the playoffs. Beating Hyderabad, however, would go a long way in Robbie Fowler's team securing a playoff spot and they would be trying for just that at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Friday.

SC East Bengal have had a

stop-start debut campaign. They've spent most of the season near the bottom of the table.

East Bengal have scored the lowest number of goals from open play (7) and talisman Bright Enobakhare has faded after a bright start. There is every chance the match will be decided in the second half - Hyderabad have scored 75 percent of their goals in the second half while SCEG Goa -- who are all tied on 23 points with 16 games played -- but it is not out of the question.

Root, who scored a match-winning 218 in his 100th Test in Chennai, said he missed the travelling fans but people in the ground would "improve

the aesthetics of Test cricket".

India need to put up a much better batting performance in first innings. Kohli has vowed to give a "tough fight" but the skipper is under pressure having now lost four Tests in a row, including two in New Zealand.

In his one Test in Australia before returning home for the birth of his daughter, India were skittled for just 36. And in his absence, India bounced back to take the series.

India are expected to make some changes to their team but batting great Sunil

## Man City into FA Cup quarters

LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY: One of the most relentless schedules in the history of English soccer hasn't stopped Manchester City putting together a record-setting run of wins.

It's 15 straight victories and counting for Pep Guardiola's irrepressible team, which has another domestic treble in its sights.

By beating second-tier Swansea 3-1 to reach the FA Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday, City broke the record for most consecutive wins in all competitions by a top-flight team, a mark that had lasted for nearly 130 years. Preston won 14 in a row in 1892 and that was later matched by Arsenal's class of 1987.

City has gone one better during a pandemic, when matches in the Premier League or domestic cup competitions are being played every three or four days to fit them into a condensed season that started a month later than usual. AP

## Svitolina beats Gauff in 2nd round in Australian Open

AGENCIES  
MELBOURNE, 11 FEBRUARY

Fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina (in photo) beat 16-year-old Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of the Australian Open.

Svitolina has reached the quarterfinals in Australia twice and showed her experience as she took on Gauff for the first time. She made the most of her only break-point chance in the second set to take a 5-3 lead and then served it out.

Svitolina will play No. 26-seeded Yulia Putintseva in the third round.

Gauff was the youngest player in the women's draw. She was unable to repeat her performances from her breakout major in Melbourne last year. She reached the round of 16 at the 2020 Australian Open with wins over Venus Williams and Naomi Osaka before losing to eventual champion Sofia Kenin.

Fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas has been pushed all the way in a 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1,



the first time.

McDonald is ranked 192nd after missing more than six months because of hamstring surgery and is the lowest-ranked player Coric has lost to in a tour-level match.

McDonald, a 25-year-old American, now will try to equal his best Grand Slam result by getting to the fourth round, which he did at Wimbledon three years ago.

Mackenzie McDonald, who won NCAA tennis titles at UCLA, eliminated No. 22-seeded Borna Coric 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the Australian Open's third round for

the first time. McDonald is ranked 192nd after missing more than six months because of hamstring surgery and is the lowest-ranked player Coric has lost to in a tour-level match.

Against Coric, she looked it. She was near tears during a changeover toward the end of the match.

The 65th-ranked Kanepi was hardly an underdog; she had beaten Kenin in their only previous match and is a six-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist. The Australian Open is the only Slam where Kanepi has not reached the quarterfinals.

The fourth-seeded Kenin only had 10 winners in the match, while committing 22 unforced errors.

Top-seeded Ash Barty dropped a few more points in her second-round match at the Australian Open than her first but the result was still the same.

Barty followed up her 6-0, 6-0 drubbing of Danka Kovinic in the first round with a much tighter 6-1, 7-6 (7) win over fellow Australian Daria Gavrilova. After dropping just 10 points against Kovinic, Barty was far less consistent against Gavrilova, racking up 34 unforced errors.

Barty's serve was a particular problem: she was broken four times, including when serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set.

When you play another Aussie, the rankings go out the window, experience goes out the window, she said. It's always going to be a tricky match no matter what.

The 2019 French Open champion had her upper left thigh heavily taped during the match, though she played it down after the match with a laugh. This isn't very subtle, is it? I can't really hide it, Barty said, adding it was not a big issue. I'm fit as a fiddle, I'm ready to go.

Former No. 1 Karolina Pliskova advances to the third round at the Australian Open by beating American Danielle Collins, a semifinalist at Melbourne Park in 2019, 7-5, 6-2.

Pliskova, seeded sixth, lost serve twice in a seesaw first set but pulled it out and then pulled away. She finished with seven aces. Pliskova has won 65 matches in Grand Slams but is still seeking her first major title. She was runner-up to Angelique Kerber at the 2016 U.S. Open.

