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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



DIALOGUE CAN
RESOLVE KASHMIR
ISSUE: IMRAN



RBI VOICES CONCERN
ABOUT CRYPTOCURRENCY

P4

P8



OLI IN NO MOOD TO
RESIGN, PREPARED TO
FACE PARLIAMENT

GIROUD STRIKES
TO CLINCH IT
FOR CHELSEA

P9



P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 33 and 12 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 38%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 32.5°C (+7) Min: 12.7°C (1)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:49 hrs 18:18 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

16:16 hrs 06:17 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Tiger Woods was seriously injured after crashing his SUV on sweeping, downhill road in the Los Angeles suburbs on Tuesday. Doctors tried to stabilise 'significant' injuries to his right leg. Woods' Foundation said in a statement he was awake, responsive and recovering in the hospital. AGENCIES

Marginal hike in rail fares: The Railways has effected a marginal hike in fares for passenger and other short distance trains. The public transporter has effected the hike to discourage people from avoidable travels and those which are not most necessary. In a press release, the Railways confirmed the news reports about higher price being charged from those travelling in passenger trains over small distances. According to Railways, these trains constitute only three percent of the total trains.

LITERARY
The Literary page, featuring reviews and books, will appear on alternate Thursdays, beginning today. The Law page, too, will now appear on alternate Thursdays.

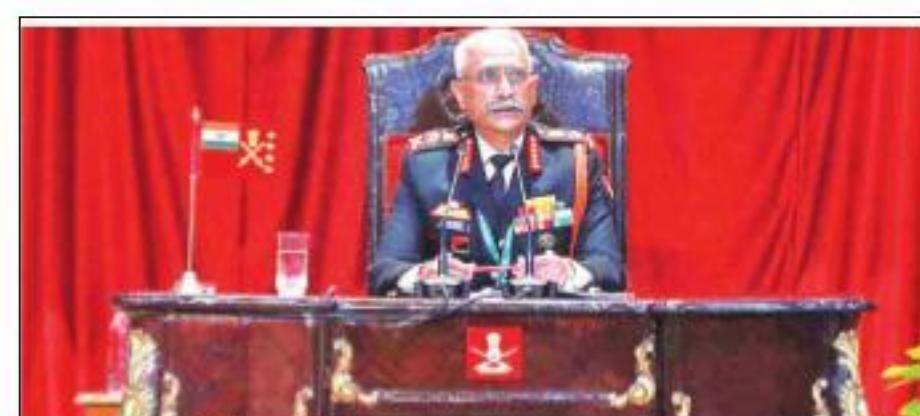
'Pangong disengagement a win-win situation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The disengagement of armies of India and China from north and south banks of Pangong Tso is a "very good end result" and a win-win situation for both the sides, Army Chief Gen M M Naravane said on Wednesday, stressing that there are strategies in place to address other pending issues in eastern Ladakh.

He said there were no signs of an "overt collusion" between China and Pakistan during the Ladakh standoff but India also caters to a long term strategy for not a two, but a two-and-a-half-front war. With the half front, he was referring to the internal security.

He said right from the beginning of the standoff, all sides on the Indian side worked together.



Vivekananda International Foundation.

The advice which was given by National Security Adviser also came in extremely handy and his insight into strategic level affairs definitely helped us chalking out the response, the Army chief said.

"As a result of this whole approach, this disengagement has taken place. I think it is a very good end result. It is a win-win situation. For any agreement to last, both sides

should feel that they have achieved something. I think a good outcome has resulted out of the 10 rounds of talks which have taken place so far," he said.

Last week, armies of the two countries concluded withdrawal of troops and weapons from north and south banks of Pangong Tso in the high-altitude region.

Naravane said there are some issues which remain in the area of Dapsang, in the area of eastern Ladakh and in other areas along northern border. "...But we have our strategies in place for that. Do we have anything to negotiate in future? Yes, definitely we have. But I would not, of course, for obvious reasons, what those strategies would be to further and progress our negotiations and come out with a favourable outcome."

Setback to civil service aspirants, SC dismisses plea for extra chance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

In a setback to over 10,000 UPSC civil service aspirants, the Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking an extra attempt for those who exhausted their last chance in the 2020 preliminary exam amid the Covid-19 pandemic or have got age barred from appearing in future tests.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Indu Malhotra and Ajay Rastogi dismissed the petition filed by the aspirants and clarified that its decision would not restrict the Centre in exercising its discretion in future to deal with the difficulties as projected to the court. Consequently, the petition fails and is accordingly

dismissed, the bench said.

The top court said that it is not exercising its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution as it would set down a precedent and also have cascading effect on examinations held in other streams during the pandemic.

Justice Rastogi, who penned down a 40-page verdict on behalf of the bench, however rejected the Centre's submission that what is being claimed and prayed for by the petitioners under the guise of Covid-19 pandemic is nothing but a lame excuse in taking additional attempt to participate in the Civil Service Examination 2021. The top court said merely because as a matter of policy, if the Centre has granted relaxation in

the past for the reason that there was a change in the exam pattern/syllabus then "no assistance can be claimed by the petitioners in seeking mandamus to the 1st respondent (Centre) to come out with a policy granting relaxation to the participants who had availed a final and last attempt or have crossed the upper age by appearing in the Examination 2020 as a matter of right".

The Centre and the UPSC submitted that not only the petitioners or intervenors before this Court, but there are large number of candidates who had appeared in the various examinations last year during the pandemic and everyone must have faced some constraints in one way or the other.

Motera cricket stadium gets Modi tag, Sardar Patel 'upgraded'

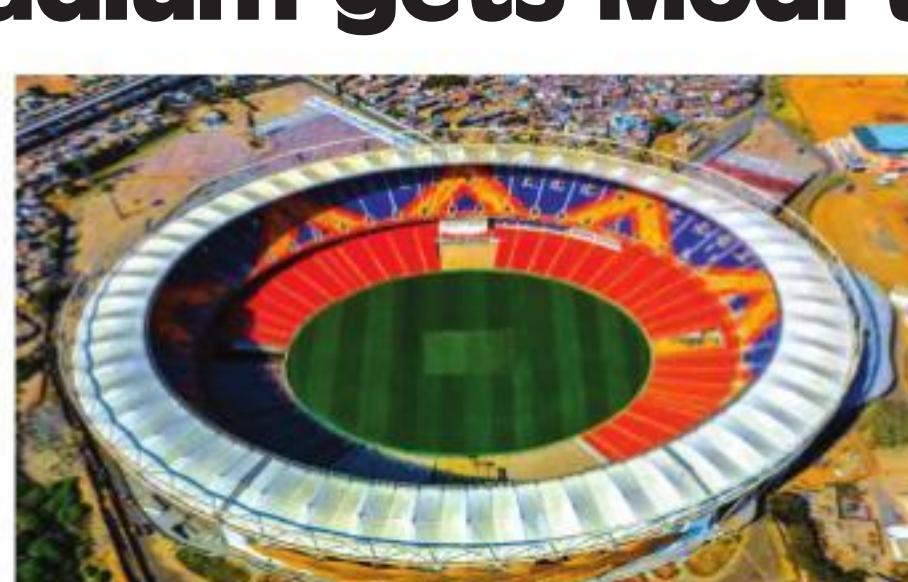
STATEMAN NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, 24 FEBRUARY

Cricket administrators in Gujarat sprang a surprise today, renaming the world's largest cricket stadium as Narendra Modi Stadium.

India's Iron Man Sardar Patel, whose name had glorified this stadium till date, was 'upgraded' to grace the proposed sports enclave whose foundation stone too was laid today.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 1.32 lakh capacity cricket stadium and performed the 'Bhoomi Puja' for the adjoining Sardar Vallabhbabai Patel Sports Enclave spread over 215 acres on the western bank of Sabarmati river here.

Union home minister Amit Shah dropped broad hints that with the completion of the sports enclave India would be



Due to the media hype created by the 'Namaste Trump' event, the cricket authorities here had to clarify that it was not the official inauguration of the world's largest cricket stadium.

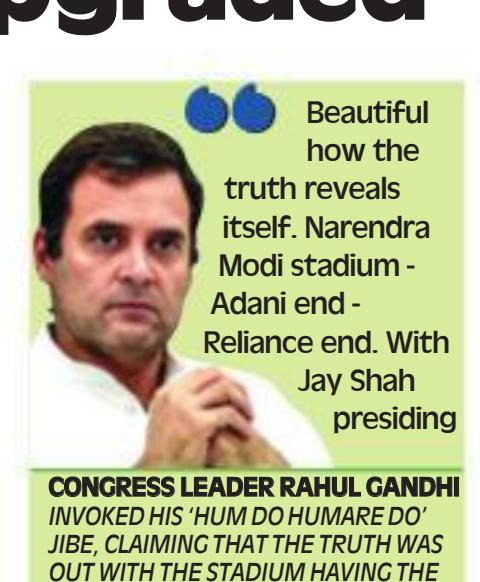
Speaking on the occasion, President Kovind said that the LED floodlighting in the stadium would be energy saving and narrated an incident about how a poor boy good at



cycling had excelled in the sport with some support and encouragement.

Attributing Mr Modi's vision for dreaming big to the success of the world's biggest cricket stadium, Union home minister Amit Shah said that Ahmedabad would one day be known as 'Sports city of India'.

He assured the gathered audience on behalf of Mr Modi that India would be



created many records of their careers.

Union minister of state for youth affairs and sports Kiren Rijiju said that Gujarat now features among the top five states in many sporting events, a direct result of encouragement given under Modi's tenure.

In New Delhi, as social media was flooded with remarks including by some

Student set on fire after failed gang rape attempt

SHAHJAHANPUR/LUCKNOW,
24 FEBRUARY

A college student who was found lying without clothes and severely burnt along a national highway in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district has claimed she was set on fire after a failed attempt to gang-rape her, police said on Wednesday.

According to Superintendent of Police S Anand, the girl told investigators that three people tried to rape her in a field near Rai Kheda village on Monday and when they did not succeed, they poured kerosene and set her on fire.

The police officer, however, added that she frequently changed her statements and also said that she was not aware of how she reached the hospital from the third floor of her college building.

The BA second-year student was admitted to a hospital in the district and later referred to Lucknow.

Dr SC Saundriyal, director of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Civil Hospital, Lucknow, where the girl is undergoing treatment for 72 per cent burns, said, "Her condition is stable right now."

Earlier, reports said she suffered 60 per cent burns.

In CCTV footage, the girl, a student of a college run by a trust of former union minister Swami Chinmayanand, was seen coming down alone from the third floor, the police said.

Over a dozen students of the college, including her friends, have been questioned.

The girl had called a person of her village on mobile phone on the day of the incident and he has also been questioned, the SP said. PTI



Tomorrow I am meeting Stalin and we will have wide ranging talks as the elections are round the corner. We are very confident of doing well

OOMMEN CHANDY
VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER AND FORMER KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi govt notifies scheme for doorstep delivery of ration

PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The Delhi government has notified its flagship scheme for the doorstep delivery of ration that is likely to be rolled out from next month, officials said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced his government's plan to launch the scheme in his Republic Day address.

The 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna' (MMGRY) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) of the National Food Security Act, 2013, was notified by the government on February 20, the officials said.

The MMGRY involves the delivery of packed wheat flour and rice to beneficiaries at their doorsteps.

According to the notified scheme, the beneficiaries will have to pay the processing (conversion) charge along with the cost of subsidised foodgrains.

"The entire operation from the lifting of foodgrains from FCI godowns, milling, packaging and till the delivery of packaged commodi-

ties to the beneficiary will be carried out under CCTV monitoring. Commodities will be carried in GPS-fitted vehicles," the scheme notification said.

There are about 17 lakh PDS beneficiaries in Delhi.

As per the notified scheme, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) will empanel millers and rice processors to lift the foodgrains for cleaning, grinding and packaging.

The packed foodgrains will be transported from millers to fair price shops and from there to the doorsteps of beneficiaries through direct home delivery (DHD) agencies to be engaged by Delhi Consumer's Co-operative Wholesale Store Ltd (OCCWS).

Distribution of packaged items (wheat flour and rice) will be done only after successful biometric authentication using e-PoS (point of sale) devices. The cost of subsidised foodgrains and a specified amount as milling or conversion charges will be collected from the beneficiaries," the scheme notification stated.

An e-POD (proof of delivery) will be captured for records, it said.

Ration card holders may draw their full entitlement of foodgrains in more than one instalment, it added.

The scheme will be optional and existing TPDS beneficiaries in Delhi will have to specify whether they want to enrol under it. Beneficiaries will be able to exercise the option at the beginning of every financial year.

The DHD agency will notify the beneficiary in advance through SMS before delivery.

Under the MMGRY, there will be a provision of a grievance management system to enable beneficiaries to lodge their complaints. A call centre for beneficiaries is also envisaged under the scheme.

For transparency and to prevent diversion and pilferage, the scheme will be monitored closely by the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

In his Republic Day address, Kejriwal had said the initiative for doorstep delivery of ration would be a revolutionary step in changing the entire ration system. People will not have to go to shops and stand in queues.

BJP-ruled MCDs in a 'mess', AAP only alternative: Kejri

CM holds roadshow ahead of MCDs bypolls; also thanks Gujarat people for AAP's gains in civic polls there

ASNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

In the run-up to the upcoming Delhi Municipal Corporations (MCDs) bypolls, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today said the BJP-ruled MCDs was in a "mess", claiming that his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was the "only alternative" to such an abysmal situation in the city.

Addressing a roadshow in Shalimar Bagh ~ under the North Delhi Municipal Corporation ~

which is among the five wards where bypolls will be held, Kejriwal said the AAP government in Delhi has provided 24-hour electricity with zero bills and ensured good schools and hospitals across the city.

"The MCDs are in a mess under the BJP," the CM charged and asked people to vote for the AAP candidate contesting from the Shalimar Bagh ward which fell vacant after the death of the sitting



Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow in Shalimar Bagh in the Capital on Wednesday.

SNS

BJP councilor.

The bypolls for the five wards of the city's three municipal corporations are scheduled to be held on 28 February, whose results will be declared on 3 March.

Apart from the AAP candidates, the candidates of the BJP and the Congress are also contesting these bypolls.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal also thanked the people of Gujarat after his party registered gains in the civic body polls in that state.

He claimed that the people of Gujarat have "rejected the centuries-old politics of Congress and chosen the Aam Aadmi Party as the main opposition party, which proves that they want politics of development and work in the state".

"The AAP has breached BJP's citadel in Surat after it bagged 27 seats in the municipal corporation. I would like to thank the people of

Gujarat from the bottom of my heart. The people of Surat have handed over the responsibility to the Aam Aadmi Party as the main opposition party and rejected the 125-year old Congress," Kejriwal said.

"I want to assure you, that every volunteer of ours will fulfill each of his responsibility with full honesty and dedication.

Gujarat has introduced a phase of new politics, which is politics of honesty, politics of work, politics of improved schools and hospitals, and politics of 24x7 free electricity," the AAP supremo said while addressing the Gujarat people.

Kejriwal will hold a road show in Surat on 26 February to thank people for voting for the AAP. "We will change the face of Gujarat in coordination with the people of the state. I am coming to Surat on February 26, to personally meet and thank all of you," the CM added.

No offline exams up to Class 8 in Delhi govt schools: DoE

PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The Delhi government issued guidelines to its schools on Wednesday for the assessment of the students up to Class 8, ruling out offline examinations and instead, asking them to grade the students on the basis of projects and assignments.

The guidelines of the Directorate of Education (DoE) have been issued to the government-run and aided schools for assessment for the 2020-21 academic session, during which schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all teaching and learning activities were conducted online.

"Since no classroom teaching and learning has taken place at the primary and middle level, the formal mode of pen-and-paper assessment will be replaced by a sub-

jectwise assessment of projects and assignments for Classes 3 to 8," said Rita Sharma, Additional Director of Education, Delhi.

According to the guidelines, for Classes 3 to 5, 30 marks will be for assessment based on worksheets, 30 for the assignments given in winter breaks and 40 marks for the assignments and projects provided from March 1 to 15.

Similarly, for Classes 6 to 8, 20 marks will be for assessment based on worksheets, 30 for the assignments given in winter breaks and 50 marks for the assignments and projects provided from March 1 to 15.

"In case a student does not have access to a digital device or internet, the assignments and projects will be given in hard copies by calling his parents to the school while following the COVID-19 guidelines," Sharma said.

'Delhi may ask travellers from 5 states to show Covid negative report'

PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The issue had also been discussed in a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Monday.

According to sources, standard operating procedure (SOP) for those arriving from the five states is in the process of being finalized.

An official said that authorities need to take such steps to prevent any rise in COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

Maharashtra is showing a daily surge in COVID-19 cases, according to an official of the Union Health Ministry. Kerala is showing an incremental decline, but the daily cases in absolute numbers is still high over there. Punjab, with its daily increase in cases, is also a cause of worry.

People travelling in flights, trains and buses from these states will have to produce negative test report before entering Delhi, they said.

The requirement of the negative COVID-19 test report is likely to be implemented from Friday night, officials said.

SUPPORTING EVERY DREAM!



APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR THE STUDENTS BELONGING TO SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY CATEGORY OF DELHI FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

- 1 Reimbursement of tuition fees to the SC/ST/ OBC categories students of Class I to XII.
- 2 Merit scholarship for students belonging to SC/ST/ OBC/Minority category studying in Professional/ Technical Colleges/Institutions/Universities
- 3 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar State Award for SC/ST/OBC Categories Students.
- 4 Financial assistance to SC students for pursuing higher studies abroad. (This scheme is offline)

- 5 Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students
- 6 Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students
- 7 Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students
- 8 Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0109/20-21

Government has taken a decision to launch a new scholarship scheme- 'Mukhyamantri Vidyarthi Pratibha Yojna' for SC/ST/OBC Categories Students of IX to XII. Details about this scheme will shortly be uploaded on the website of the department. Hence, students are advised to keep on checking the website for details.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED SCHOLARSHIPS:
www.edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in

DETAILS OF THESE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES, INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING ONLINE AND VERIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES ETC., ARE AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT
www.scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: 31.03.2021

DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SCs, STs, OBCs AND MINORITIES, GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
B-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002



Pb to tighten law to crack down on crimes in jails

Amarinder ministry decides to amend law to ensure up to 7-yr imprisonment for prison indiscipline

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 24 FEBRUARY

The Punjab government on Wednesday decided to amend the Prison Act 1894 to strengthen security across the state's prison and curb criminal acts by inmates through more stringent punishment for major offences like rioting, escape from prison, and other violations of prison discipline and rules.

A Bill to bring in the necessary changes will be introduced in the Budget Session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, which is scheduled to get underway on 1 March.

This decision was taken by the state Council of Ministers at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The Council of Ministers approved a proposal mooted by the jails department to add new penal provisions in the said Act to strengthen security arrangements and pre-



vent the use of mobile phones by the inmates besides checking incidents like rioting inside jails, assault on the jail staff, damage to the jail property, absconding, possession of drugs inside the jails etc.

Section 52-A(1) of the prison law would be amended with imprisonment not less than three

years, which may extend up to seven years or with fine not exceeding Rs 50,000 or with both for offences against prison discipline.

In case of non-payment of fine, the imprisonment may be further extended to one year and on second or subsequent conviction, will be punished with the imprisonment of either description

for a term which will not be less than five years but which may extend up to 10 years and shall also be liable to a fine which may extend up to Rs 5 lakh.

The existing provision provided for a maximum of one year imprisonment and fine exceeding rupees twenty-five thousand or both.

Despite various security

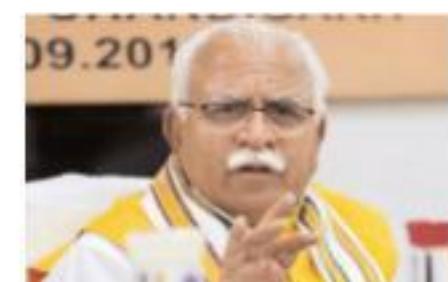
arrangements in the jails of the state, there have been cases of use of mobile phones by the inmates in recent times, as well as rioting inside the jails, incidents of assault on jail staff, damage to jail property, fugitive incidents. Incidents of drug trafficking are also coming to light from time to time, which is creating difficulties for the jail administration and the law and order situation in the state.

The Prisons (Punjab Amendment) Act 2013 made some amendments to the Prisons Act, 1894 to prevent wireless communication devices in prisons, vide which a punishment not exceeding one year (bailable) with or without a fine of Rs 25,000 was imposed. But it was felt that this provision of punishment was proving insufficient to prevent such

incidents and thus the existing provisions of the Act are being amended to make these more stringent to deter the inmates from committing such offences.

Develop a system for KG-to-PG edu in a single institute: Khattar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 24 FEBRUARY



Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Wednesday called for developing a system under which a single educational institute would impart education from kindergarten (KG) to post-graduate levels.

Presiding over a review meeting with the State Educational Research and Training Council (SCERT), District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) and Block Institute of Teacher Education (BITE), the CM directed the officers to identify two such universities wherein such system can be implemented initially.

He directed the officers to also chalk out a plan for the accreditation of private institutions. This should be continuously monitored so that they can meet the required standards directed, said the CM.

During the meeting, it was informed that in the New Education Policy, from the year 2030, it will be mandatory for a teacher to hold a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (BA-BED) integrated

degree. Khattar said work on this programme should be started from next year rather than to wait for the year 2030.

The CM further directed that 10 schools each should be identified in three districts of Haryana including Gurugram, Jhajjar and Kurukshetra where Internships for the students taking BA-BED integrated degree can be provided.

He said that apart from in-service training, training should be made compulsory even before recruitment.

He said that every possible effort should be made to raise the standard of education. The CM said that as there is a good demand for professionals including drivers, nurses and teachers abroad, therefore a new concept can be created by linking Integrated BED with foreign services and the manpower can be provided as per needs in abroad.

The CM was apprised that at present 21 DIETs and four

BITEs are functional in the state. These Institutes have been set up under the 60:40 funding scheme of the Central and state government. Besides this, two Government Elementary Teachers' Training Institutes (GETTIs) in Haryana are being run under 100 per cent state funded scheme.

Khattar further apprised that DIET's Teaching Faculty has been internally adjusted in schools. In addition, there are 340 privately funded institutes offering Diploma Courses in Education (D.Ed). Meanwhile, Haryana CM has thanked Union minister of railways and commerce and industry, Piyush Goyal, for permitting the stoppage of train number 14717/14718 Bikaner-Haridwar Express at Kalanaur Kala Station.

Sharing more details in this regard an official spokesman said that the Union minister of railways, Goyal, has sent a confirmation letter to the CM. An experimental stoppage will be provided at Kalanaur Kala Station for a period of six months, for providing better connectivity to the passengers.

New sites notified for adventure sports in HP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 24 FEBRUARY

HP's Tourism and Civil Aviation Director Yunus said here on Wednesday that the State Government has notified additional sites for paragliding and river rafting in order to boost adventure tourism activities in the state.

He said that now tourists visiting the state could experience paragliding at new sites in the districts of Kullu, Kangra, Mandi, Chamba, and Shimla. Under 'Nai Rahein Nai Manzilein' scheme, the possibilities are also being

explored for promotion of adventure sports activities in hitherto unexplored areas of the state.

Director said that the new notified paragliding sites include Pandhara to Gadsa and Kharigan to Nagabag in district Kullu, Tang Narwana to Khirki in Kangra district, Darroo to Lahra (Khajjar) and Lahra to Darol and Raina to Nainikhad Jarein in Chamba district. He further said that in district Mandi the paragliding sites notified includes Prashar and Spindhar and in Shimla district, the notified paragliding site is

The Director said that in last two years an expenditure of approximately Rs two crore have been incurred on imparting training courses to 749 persons which includes basic mountaineering course, paragliding course, basic, intermediate and advance skiing course including SIV course for providing training to locals from these newly identified areas. In addition to these new notified sites, there are many other notified sites available where paragliding is being done by adventure enthusiasts. These sites includes Bir-

Billing, Chohla Indru Nag near Dharamshala in Kangra district, Solang Nallah, Marhi, Talaiti-Talotgi, Majach-Shanag in Kullu district, Mauja Rehad to Kargano in Solan district, Ser Jagas in Sirmaur district. Besides, this notified river rafting sites includes Shamshi to Jehri and Babeli to Pirdi in Kullu district, Luhri to Tattapani in Shimla district, Darch to Jispa and Kaza Bridge to Tabo in Lahaul-Spiti.

He said the focus of the department is to promote unexplored areas of other potential districts along with the provision of training.

We are taking all necessary COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

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ARROW ColorPlus PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE

- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



स्वर्णम हिमाचल

ई-परिवहन व्यवस्था

का शुभांग

पीटरहॉफ शिमला में

25 फरवरी 2021 को प्रातः 11:30 बजे होगा

श्री जय राम ठाकुर
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री
मुख्य अतिथि

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज
माननीय शहरी विकास, नगर एवं ग्राम योजना, आवास,
संसदीय मामले, विधि एवं सहकारिता मंत्री
विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री बिक्रम सिंह
माननीय उद्योग, परिवहन, श्रम एवं रोज़गार मंत्री
समारोह की अध्यक्षता करेंगे
एवं

श्री सुरेश कश्यप
माननीय संसद, शिमला लोक सभा क्षेत्र
विशेष अतिथि होंगे।

परिवहन सेवाएं अब ऑनलाइन

क्या लाभ मिलेगा?

- सभी सेवाएं आपके घर द्वारा पर उपलब्ध
- ट्रांसपोर्ट दफ्तर जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं
- पारदर्शी और समयबद्ध सेवाएं मिलना सुनिश्चित
- m-Parivahan गोबाइल एप पर अपनी RC एवं ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस डाउनलोड करें

Vahan वाहन ईरानी

ऑनलाइन सेवाओं का लाभ लें ↓

- राज्य परिवहन विभाग की वेबसाइट <https://himachal.nic.in/transport/> के माध्यम से
- यदि कोई दिक्षित आए तो डेडिकेटेड हेल्पलाइन 0177 2654185 पर सम्पर्क करें
- प्रदेश के सभी लोकमित्र / CSC केंद्रों के माध्यम से

ड्राइविंग-कंडक्टर लाइसेंस संबंधी सेवाएं	लर्नर लाइसेंस, ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस, टुलीकेट लाइसेंस, इन्यूवल ऑफ ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस, कंडक्टर लाइसेंस, ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस, अपॉइंटमेंट सिस्टम
रजिस्ट्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट संबंधी सेवाएं	ट्रांसफर ऑफ ओजरिशिप, चेंज ऑफ एड्रेस, हाइपोथिकेशन, टुलीकेट आरसी और रजिस्ट्रेशन का इन्यूवल
स्टेज कैरिज	जरा परमिट, इन्यू परमिट, टुलीकेट परमिट, स्पेशल परमिट, ओजरिशिप ट्रांसफर और एसग्राटी पेंटे
कॉर्टेक कैरिज - एआईटीपी	परमिट आवेदन, नया परमिट, परमिट इन्यूवल, टुलीकेट परमिट, होम स्टेट ऑथराइजेशन और स्पेशल परमिट
गुडस कैरिज	ज्यू परमिट, इन्यू परमिट, इप्लीकेट परमिट, स्पेशल परमिट और नेशनल परमिट
अन्य सेवाएं	एनओसी, फिटनेस इन्यूवल, फिटनेस टेस्ट की अपाइंटमेंट, कंपोजिट फीस, टोकन टैक्स पेमेंट, छीकल मॉडल अप्रूवल

परिवहन विभाग हिमाचल प्रदेश

NIC National Informatics Centre

हेल्पलाइन नंबर 0177 2654185
(सुबह 10 से शाम 5 बजे तक)



The way the BJP is strangling the freedom of expression, it shows that they are scared...

SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV
ACCUSING BJP OF DOING POLITICS OF INTIMIDATING PEOPLE

India

'Rajnath could resolve impasse if allowed to talk to farmers'

BKU chief Tikait accuses BJP-led Central government of being stubborn over the 3 new agri laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARBANKI (UP), 24 FEBRUARY

Bharatiya Kisan Union president Naresh Tikait on Wednesday called defence minister Rajnath Singh a caged parrot and said the farmers' issues could be resolved if he is given the freedom to talk with them.

He accused the BJP-led central government of being stubborn over the three new laws, which farmer unions want repealed. The protesting farmers too are not ready to

go back on their demands, he said.

The government has made defence minister Rajnath Singh a caged parrot ('pinjre ka tota'). If he is given the freedom to talk to farmers, I can guarantee that there would be a decision and the BJP's prestige will also remain intact, he said. He said farmers respect the defence minister, but he is not given a chance by the government to deal with the farmers' issue.

Tikait addressed a farmers' "mahapanchayat" here and

also spoke to reporters, claiming that the Centre was not paying heed to the farmers protesting against the laws. The government is stubborn and is not ready to hear out farmers. It should change its attitude," the BKU leader said.

The BKU leader said the way Uttar Pradesh's Purvanchal is through Barabanki and if farmers here are

labelled them as terrorists and Khalistanis and we will not remain silent on this," he said.

Tikait indicated that he had no quarrel with Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan, whose supporters and those of the Rashtriya Lok Dal clashed recently over the farmers' protests.

"Earlier Hindus and Muslims lived in amity. But from 2013, BJP spread misconceptions among them and divided society. But now people have understood their tricks, the BKU leader said.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT *SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS*

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Bharmour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item rate bid, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting Date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of bid	Time Limit	Cost form (Rs.)	Class of Contrs. entitled
1	Periodic maintenance of Machhatar to chanchhota road Km 0/00 to 5/440 under Amp 2020-21 PMGSY road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 0/000 to 3/000 and 5/00 to 5/440 and drain various Rds.	3022362	4.03.2021	52840	12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	1500	Class C & above
2	Periodic maintenance of Bharmour to Badgram road Km 0/00 to 19/450 under Amp 2020-21 village road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 11/00 to 15/00 and drain various Rds.	3199220	4.03.2021		12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	1500	Class C & above
3	Periodic maintenance of Bharmour to Badgram road Km 0/00 to 19/450 under Amp 2020-21 village road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 17/00 to 19/450 and drain various Rds.	1904828	4.03.2021		12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	500	Class D & above
4	Periodic maintenance of Hadsar to Chobla road Km 0/00 to 5/000 under Amp 2020-21 village road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 0/000 to 3/000 and drain various Rds.	3856734	4.03.2021		12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	1500	Class C & above
5	Periodic maintenance of Holi to Andra Graon road Km 0/00 to 3/500 under Amp 2020-21 village road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 0/000 to 2/000 and drain various Rds.	1619729	4.03.2021		12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	500	Class D & above
6	Periodic maintenance of Toi to Gowala road Km 0/00 to 6/500 under Amp 2020-21 PMGSY road in Tehsil Bharmour Distt. Chamba (HP) (SH:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete laying with paver finisher in Km 5/610 to 6/500 and drain various Rds.	1619729	4.03.2021		12.03.2021 up top 3.00 PM	Three Months	350	Class D & above

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

Submission of original Document:- The original instruments in respect of cost of documents and EMD should and other Technical Documents be submitted to the tender inviting Authority i.e. Executive Engineer, Bharmour Division HPPWD Bharmour on a date later not later than three working day after the opening of tender i.e. 15.03.2021 at 3.00.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bid without declaring any reasons thereof.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Bharmour Division
HPPWD Bharmour

On behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh

6017/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

H.P.P.W.D. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited/re-invited on form No 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Barsar on behalf of Governor of H.P for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. in the appropriate class so as to reach in this office on 20-03-2021 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment [Non Refundable] on 19-03-2021 up to 4.00 PM. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Name of work No. 01: C/O link road Bara to Village Bara (G.P.) Sakroh (Sh:- C/O R/wall at Rd. 0/227 to 0/269) Under OTMNP Head Estimated Cost:- 4,18,138/- Earnest Money :- 8400/- Time :-One Month Cost of form:-350/-

Name of work No. 02: C/O office/Store building 10/4 Company Bhota Home guards 10th Bt. Hamirpur(Sh:- Balance work of P/F panelled glazed and shitter,painting/distempering & W.S. & S.I.) Deposit Work Estimated Cost:- 3,92,215/- Earnest Money :- 7900/- Time :-One Month Cost of form:-350/-

Name of work No. 03: C/O bridge on link road Up-Mohal Kardo & C/O bridge on link road Kuthera Chowk to Roppa G.P. Saredi,C/O bridge on link road Bandos ti village Talai & C/O bridge on link road village Ree to Balhi Sh:- Preparation Data for bridge work,Soil investigation for bearing capacity for the C/O bridge Only (RNS-2020-2021) Estimated Cost:- 2,34,000/- Earnest Money :- 4700/- Time :-Two Month Cost of form:-350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

No.1:- The Earnest Money in the shape of National saving certificates /Time deposit Accounts/ Saving Account/ FDRs in any of the post office/ Nationalized Bank in duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Barsar must be accompanied with the application.

The tender document shall be accepted in Two Covers.(Cover-1 shall contain EMD and Cover-2 shall contain application and other documents).

No.2:- Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will not be rejected.

No.3:- The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal order, G.S.T. No. with latest clearance return and EPF No. with latest clearance return with his application for obtaining the tender documents.

No.4:- Executive Engineer Reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

No.5:- The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period

No.6:- Tender forms will not be issued to those contractors who are not registered under HPGST Act-1988 and GST & photo copy of individual PAN No. allotted to them attached with their application at the time of applying for tender documents. Application will not be entertained without aforesaid documents.

No.7:- The contractor /firms are required to insert the rate of each item in words as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept / rejects any overall tender.

No.8:- The tender shall be issued to only those contractors/firms who are found eligible suitable and competent.

No.9:- The tender forms shall be issued to eligible contractor depending upon their past performance and work experience which shall be duly evaluated by the technical evaluation committee.

No.10:- The Tender forms of soling, wearing and tarring shall be issued only to those contractors who will produce proper documents of ownership of required machinery and completion certificate of similar work issued by the concerned Executive Engineer also required & tender forms for Mastick Asphalt wearing course shall be issued only to those contractors who will produce ownership document/bills of equipments i.e. Tar Boiler, Mastick Cooker & Generator 62kv.

No. 11:- contractor /firm having necessary documents past adequate experience shall be preferred.

No. 12:- Contractor who have failed to start /complete the work in hand with in reasonable time shall not be issued tender forms.

No.13:- One contractor should not have more than two major works in hand at a time.

No.14:- If 20-03-2021 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00 A.M.

Executive Engineer,
Barsar Divn.HPPWD,
Barsar

The way the BJP is strangling the freedom of expression, it shows that they are scared...

SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV
ACCUSING BJP OF DOING POLITICS OF INTIMIDATING PEOPLE



Retired Army men supporting farmers at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Gathwala Khap first to boycott three farm laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, 24 FEBRUARY

Gathwala (Malik) Khap becomes first to announce that they would boycott the farm laws. The decision was taken on Tuesday evening in a panchayat held at Kudana, avillage in Shamli district.

The decision has come a day after the clash between between the villagers and supporters of Union minister Sanjeev Balyan in village Soram of district Muzaffarnagar.

The decision of Gathwala

khap to boycott the three farm laws has come as a big blow to the efforts of the JP leaders to convince the Khap Chaudharys(leaders) in favour of the farm laws.

The panchayat of Gathwala Khap was held at village Kudana under the headship of its Rajendra Singh.

After elaborate discussion the panchayat unanimously declared to boycott the 3 farm laws.

The Khap members also raised their demand to repeat the laws immediately.

Pak, India can resolve Kashmir issue through dialogue: Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, 24 FEBRUARY

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday that Kashmir is the only dispute with India and it can only be resolved through dialogue.

Addressing the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Trade and Investment Conference which he co-chaired with his counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo, Khan said that he offered India an opportunity to hold peace talks on being elected as prime minister in 2018 but nothing came to pass.

"Our only dispute is Kashmir and it can only be resolved through dialogue," he said.

Earlier this month, India said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

"Immediately when I came into power, I approached our neighbour India and explained to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the way forward for the subcontinent is to resolve our differences through dialogue," Khan said.

Delhi during the farmers' tractor rally in protest against the three new agri laws, the Centre informed the Delhi High Court on Wednesday.

by the representative of Pakistan during the high-level segment of the UNHRC in Geneva.

Rejecting the charges levelled by Pakistan against India as baseless, she asserted that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were an integral and inalienable part of India.

Pujani said that as a country with one of the world's worst human rights records, Pakistan would do well to put its own house in order, before venturing to point a finger at India.

"The violence, institutionalised discrimination and persecution faced by Pakistan's minorities, including Christians, Sikhs and Hindus, has continued unabated. There have been frequent attacks on the places of worship of minor-

ities communities, a grave violation of their right to freedom of religion and belief," she added.

The Indian diplomat said the condition of women belonging to minority communities, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians, remained deplorable in Pakistan.

An estimated 1,000 women from minority communities were subjected to abduction followed by forced conversion and forced marriage every year.

The Indian diplomat termed as 'completely unacceptable' the remarks made by Turkey about India, saying it was ironical that a country which has trampled upon its own civil society was passing unjustified comments on other's internal matters.

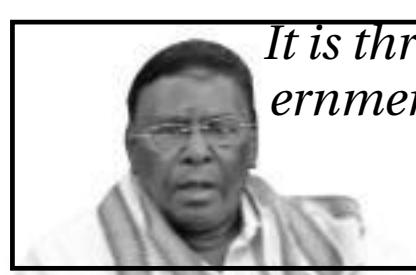
In a move to increase the flow of water from the artificial lake to Rishiganga river, near Murunda, the team are removing obstructions like tree trunks, stones and debris to improve the discharge.

SDRF's Deputy Inspector General Ridhim Aggarwal says, "The SDRF mountaineering team has opened the outlet of the lake from the earlier 20 feet to the existing 50 feet with the help of the villagers in 3 days. With this the water level in the lake has receded by one feet."

A team of ITBP, SDRF and other agencies are presently camping at the lake site. The administration is alert with the Indian Meteorological Department forecast for light rainfall on 25 and 26 February and moderate rainfall in the Tapovan area on 27 February.

For monitoring the water level of the lake and flow of Rishiganga the agencies have installed a water level sensor and alarm system at Reini village.

Search and rescue operations continued at the disaster affected area on Wednesday. Agencies are working overtime to restore connectivity. Many pedestrian and motorable bridges connecting over



It is through 'conspiracy' by BJP and its allies that my government was toppled

FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF PUDUCHERRY V NARAYANASAMY

CAUTIONING VOTERS AGAINST SUPPORTING BJP-AINRC-AIADMK ALLIANCE IN ASSEMBLY POLLS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2020

CPM: Rahul Gandhi speaking like BJP recruiting agent

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
24 FEBRUARY

The CPI-M on Tuesday came out against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his unprecedented attack on the Left and chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the concluding rally of UDF's Aishwarya Kerala Yatra' here, saying Rahul's speech sounded like that of a BJP's recruitment agent.

In a statement, the CPI-M state secretariat said the Congress national leader didn't even try to make a

feeble criticism against BJP while he launched scathing attack on the CPI-M.

"Rahul merely echoed the voice of the BJP in attacking the Left just serves to expose the Congress' meek surrender to communalism. It is just such an approach that has led to Congress MLAs shifting base to BJP in many states," said the CPI-M on Wednesday in the statement.

Rahul should remember that he himself is a person released on bail in a financial fraud case, the statement said and added that "Rahul would have thought



of his brother-in-law Robert Vadra who is currently facing charges of amassing disproportionate assets."

Gandhi on Tuesday came down heavily on the Left

government and chief minister Vijayan over the recent allegations and issues, including the sensational gold smuggling case and the alleged backdoor appoint-

ments in government services.

"If you hold the CPM flag, you can do gold smuggling by sitting even in the CMO. If you are with the LDF, you are guaranteed to get all the jobs. Or else, you will have to go on a hunger strike. But the chief minister will not budge to hold talks with the protesters even if they die," Rahul told the party workers and supporters gathered at a rally here organised at the culmination of the Aishwarya Kerala Yatra led by Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH FATEH PURI, DELHI-110006 bearing property No. 712 to 720 situated at CHURCH MISSION ROAD FATEH PURI CHANDNI CHOWK DELHI-110006, is in existence since 1868. It is a heritage building declared by the Competent Authority. The property is meant only for religious purposes and owned, possessed, managed and controlled by Delhi Diocesan Trust Association (Registered vide certificate of registration No. 100001 dated 10-02-1968) and its companies act 1913 Registered Office Al 1 Church Lane New Delhi-110001. Pastorate Committee of St. Stephen's Church Fatehpuri, Delhi-110006 have been entrusted and authorised by Delhi Diocesan Trust Association (D.D.T.A.) to protect and manage the property of St. Stephen Church including its entire complex. This comes to the knowledge of Pastorate committee of St. Stephen Church that some property dealers / antisocial element in connivance and conspiracy of some experts erstwhile officials of Delhi Diocesan Trust Association are trying to buy the property of St. Stephen Church and create third party interest in the property of St. Stephen Church which is a crime punishable in the law. The Pastorate committee is fully authorised to protect the property of St. Stephen Church Complex as per The Constitution of Church of North India and its Bye-Laws. In such circumstances, Pastorate Committee of St. Stephen's Church through its secretary / authorised signatory wants to inform the general public that legal proceedings have been initiated against those antisocial elements. Any one dealing with them shall be responsible for their acts and shall be liable to criminal prosecution which will be illegal and unauthorised. Delhi Diocesan Trust Association or Pastorate committee St. Stephen's Church Fatehpuri, Delhi-110006 shall not be responsible in any manner for their acts and conduct. Pastorate Committee St. Stephen Church Fatehpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE

On instructions from and on behalf of Sh. Prem Kumar Thareja, s/o Sh. Ghanshaman Thareja and Smt. Asha Kumari Thareja, w/o Sh. Prem Kumar Thareja, both r/o A-49, Dayanand Colony, Rajpath Nagar-4, New Delhi (Hereinafter referred to as my Clients), I hereby notify to general public that my Clients, due to the ill-treatment, constant harassment and threats being extended to them by their daughter and their relations with their daughter Ms. Jayanti Thareja, s/o Pandchali, Haryana, Thareja, Anybody dealing with her shall be doing so at his/her own risk and consequences.

Sunny Arora
Advocate
173, Sainik Vihar,
New Delhi
Mob.: 9955351584.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC is informed hereby that we are offering to sell the schedule property after receiving NOC from R.B.I. vide P.W. No. FED.CNND(P)/879/10.51.000/2017-18 dated May 20, 2019 on as is where is and on first come first serve basis to any individual / company / association of persons at a consolidated rate of Rs. 7,00,00,000 which is not negotiable. Any interested person willing to buy the schedule property shall contact the undersigned with Letter of Intent together with Demand Draft/Pay Order of Rs. 2,00,00,000 payable in favour of "Heathy & Gresham (India) Private Limited" hereinafter referred to as the said company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Only after receipt of the said sum the company shall handover the copies of title deeds and other relevant papers pertaining to the scheduled property and after being satisfied with the title of the schedule property the intending buyer shall conclude the sale within 4 months thereafter.

Schedule of the property:

All that land admeasuring 2 bighas and 10 cottahs more or less together with building at Premises No. 4, Mahendar Chatterjee Lane, Kolkata-700012 under P.S.: Topsia & K.M.C. Ward No. 059.

"Heathy & Gresham (India) Private Limited"

31, Chittaranjan Avenue P.S. & P.O.: Bowbazar Kolkata-700106
Mob.: 9836952734

MY CLIENT lost original Title Deed No. 5146/2010 and she has lodged a General Diary at Dum Dum Police Station being D.G. No. 2006 dated 21.12.2016 against the loss of above deed. Any person having any right/claim or objection in respect of Flt. No. E-2, 4th floor at 292, R.N. Guha Road, Sriyan Apartment, Kolkata-700074, please contact the undermentioned address within 10 (ten) days from the date of this paper publication with all original documents after the expiry of the above period any demand/objection will not be granted.

Sisutosh Ganguly
Advocate
G.D. 365, Salt Lake
Kolkata-700106
M: 7980841847
Enrolment No.: WB/258/1981

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of

Sh. Guruvendhan Pal Singh District Judge

(Commercial Court-02)

Room No. 25,

New Delhi District

Patiala House Courts,

Case No. CS (Comm):

3/2019

De Laage Landen Financial Services India Pvt. Ltd.

Versus

Bhalle Ram & Anr.

The Bhalle Ram, s/o Shri Bhim Singh, Village - Wazirpur, Rural Part 32, Near Hera Wali Chopa, Tehsil - Gohana, Dist. Sonipat, Haryana-131301, Ph: 9050488768.

Mrs. Mamta, w/o Mr. Bhalle Ram, 10, Sector 10, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110020.

Whereas the abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby required to appear before this court by pleader or through video conferencing on 30-03-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

The written statement must be filed within thirty days from the date of service of the summons or you are to also file affidavit of admission/denial of the documents filed by the plaintiff with written statement.

It is made clear that any unjustified denial of documents and delay in the time lines may lead to an order of costs against the concerned party.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this 09th day of February, 2021.

District Judge

(Commercial Court-02)

New Delhi District

Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE IN THE COURT OF MRS. RAJANDEEP K BILLING Judicial Magistrate 1st Class-2, Amloh (P)

M/s. Ram Kumar Gupta & Company # 40, Sec-3-A, First

DEBTORS

RECOVERY

TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara

Building, Parliament Street,

New Delhi-110001

OA No. 692/2017

M/s. ICICI Bank Limited

- Applicant

Ladakh Foods Ltd. & Ors.

- Respondents

To:

1, M/s. Ladakh Foods Ltd.,

Having its Registered Office At:

R-10, Nehru Enclave, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. Through its Director, Mr. Iqbal Jamil, s/o Sh. Arun Bansal, s/o Lt. Sh. Mool Chand Bansal, r/o E-60, New Multan Nagar, North-West, New Delhi, New Delhi-110056.

- Petitioner/s

Versus

State

FOR SUCCESSION

CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To:

All concerned.

Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities Amount lying in the name of Sh. Rakesh Goyal, Director of M/s. Arien Metals Pvt. Ltd., C-7, Sector 80, Noida, U.P. & Resident C 78, Sector 56, Noida.

3. Rajesh Goyal, Director of M/s. Arien Metals Pvt. Ltd., C-7, Sector 80, Noida, U.P. & Resident C 78, Sector 56, Noida.

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Setback for Oli

Nepal's Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli, has suffered yet another setback with Tuesday's revival of the dissolved House of Representatives by the country's Supreme Court. It will be recalled that the Prime Minister had dissolved Parliament in December, plunging the country into a severe constitutional crisis. Two months after the dissolution – officially by the President, Bidya Devi Bhandari – the judiciary has had its way in the face of the fractious executive, whose unilateral action was embedded in the infighting within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), most particularly the faction led by Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda. A five-member Constitution bench, headed by the Chief Justice, Cholendra Shumsher, has now annulled the government's decision to dissolve the 275-member Lower House. Indeed, the tussle for power has impinged on governance in the Himalayan country. Yet it must be open to question whether the apex judiciary's action will stave off the constitutional crisis that has been building up since 20 December, let alone lead to the annulment of fresh elections on 30 April and 10 May. Implicit in the court order is the fineprint that has been addressed to the Prime Minister, specifically that the dissolution of the House "has been unconstitutional". Nay more, the government has been ordered to summon a session of the House within the next 13 days in an essay towards normalcy. The dissolution of the House, at the behest of Oli, had ignited protests from a substantial section of the NCP, led by Prachanda, who also happens to be a co-chair of the ruling party. As many as 13 writ petitions, including the one by the party's chief whip, Dev Prasad Gurung, had been filed in the Supreme Court, seeking the restoration of the Lower House of Parliament. In course of the hearing, Oli defended the dissolution of the House, claiming some leaders of his party were trying to form a "parallel government". He said he was forced to take the step after his opponents in the ruling party made it difficult for him to function and accomplish various tasks. It is pretty obvious that his submissions did not impress the Bench. The crisis in Nepal has been building up for a while. In January, the faction of the NCP, led by Prachanda, expelled Oli from the general membership of the NCP for alleged anti-party activities. Earlier, he had been removed from the post of chairman of the ruling party and Madhav Nepal was appointed as second chairman. Prachanda is the first chairman. The Prachanda-led faction and the main opposition, Nepali Congress, had been opposing the dissolution of the House as "unconstitutional and undemocratic". The NCP's ideology has now hit the reefs as has governance in the wider canvas. The Supreme Court has taken care of the constitutional facet as it must.

Japan can

If anyone can, it's Japan. This unofficial post-World War II motto is now more relevant than ever as the Covid-19 delayed Tokyo Olympic Games get underway in July this year. With about five months to go before the Olympic torch is lit, the new president of the Tokyo Games organising committee Ms Seiko Hashimoto has key challenges to overcome. For starters, her confirmation is in itself a major positive as the former speed skater and track cyclist has the second-highest Olympic appearances of any Japanese athlete, having represented her country in four consecutive Winter Olympics from 1984 to 1994 and in three consecutive Summer Olympics from 1988 to 1996. That she has taken over in difficult circumstances given the year-long delay due to the pandemic and the special protocols which have to be fine-tuned to allow thousands of athletes and possibly millions of spectators to participate in the Games safely, is obvious. Her task was further complicated by the disruption caused by her predecessor Mr Yoshiro Mori who had to quit over a row triggered by his widely criticised sexist remarks. Ms Hashimoto's appointment is seen as an unequivocal riposte to Mr Mori's comment that "women talk too much". She has certainly been known to walk the talk both as a highly regarded athlete and an extremely competent government minister. Among her first challenges is to finalise the SOPs to implement safety measures for the Olympic torch relay for regional or prefectural administrations to follow as that takes place before the formal opening of the Games. But the biggest issue the organising committee has to get its head around is whether to limit the number of spectators at various Olympic venues or even if they should be allowed at all. The plan at the moment is for all venues to be fully open to spectators, both domestic and overseas. But fears of a second wave of Covid-19 are weighing heavily on the minds of the organisers and the spike in cases over the new year holidays has given them cause for concern. Indications are that overseas visitors may be limited or disallowed. Nobody would blame the committee if it decided to place at least some limits on foreign visitors given the strict adherence to Covid-19 norms which the Japanese people have shown has not been replicated by citizens of other nations. Indeed, masking, distancing and washing have been widely prevalent in Japan long before the pandemic struck. The hit to the economy, however, will be severe. About 900,000 tickets have been sold, and many ticket holders have booked hotels. These monies will have to be refunded. Ms Hashimoto has to deal with on-field challenges too. The International Olympic Committee's diktat last month that 25 per cent of Olympic qualification spots will be determined by qualifying events means that many of these events which were to be held in Japan but had been postponed will have to be squeezed into a short timeframe. On the other hand, the Japanese government is suspending exemptions that allow the entry of foreign athletes for qualification events due to public health concerns. Given Ms Hashimoto's track record, though, if anyone can overcome these challenges it is her.

Triumph in 1971?

Pakistan's generals, whether Field Marshal Ayub Khan or Yahya Khan could not see through Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's game of wanting to get rid of the East so that he could be the Prime Minister. Even as late as 1971, President Yahya Khan could have negotiated with the Bangabandhu for an amicable settlement. Instead, they sent General Tikka Khan to Dhaka to perpetrate one of the biggest pogroms in the annals of history



It is one thing to admire Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman; to applaud the secession of East Pakistan is another, especially so from the viewpoint of India. The late Prime Minister Morarji Desai had complained that we had inherited one Pakistan but Indira has given us two. He evidently did not approve of the popular delight in dividing Pakistan and having two Islamic countries neighbouring India instead of one.

The pros and cons of this issue have not been studied sufficiently. First, Bangladesh's secession need not have been inevitable had Islamabad made greater use of brains than bullets. One may recall the amalgamation of Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan into a single province to become a balance against the populous East Pakistan. Instead, had the East been reorganized into say four provinces for effective governance, there would have been four capitals, four chief ministers and so on.

Whether Sheikh Mujib Rahman could then have risen as an unquestioned rehnuma-e-azam (great leader) of the East is doubtful. If the East was allowed to retain the foreign exchange it earned through jute and its products plus any other exports, a major genuine grouse would have disappeared. It would have gladly paid for its imports then; in other words, one currency, two Reserve Banks. Third, Urdu and Bengali could have both been made official languages.

Pakistan's generals, whether Field Marshal Ayub Khan or Yahya Khan could not see through Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's game of wanting to get rid of the East so that he could be the Prime Minister. Even as late as 1971, President Yahya Khan could have negotiated with the Bangabandhu for an amicable settlement. Instead, they sent General Tikka Khan to Dhaka to perpetrate one of the biggest pogroms in the annals of history. On the other hand, at the end of it their Foreign Minister Bhutto performed an extraordinarily theatrical performance at the United Nations about fighting India for

a thousand years, his eyes flooded with tears to avoid any allegation that he had instigated the pogrom for secession.

Before the 1971 pogrom not many people infiltrated into Assam and Bengal across our eastern borders. This weaponless invasion began when the poor in Bangladesh awoke to the fact that they were on their own. They had no hope of even going to West Pakistan. Hence they began migrating to wherever they could. Some political leaders in Kolkata were actively helpful to them in helping them to obtain ration cards and other documents in exchange for votes. To all this was added the fear spread by environmentalists that in a few decades 17 per cent of Bangladesh's land area would be submerged by the sea.

A wife of a tea garden manager in the Sylhet district of East Pakistan had written an interesting book on plantation life, including how she and her husband and their two children escaped when fighting began in 1971. Raihana A Hasan while not expressing any hatred, displayed right through an attitude towards the locals that was just short of contempt, repeatedly describing them as short and dark without reason. Nearly all the managers of gardens were from the western wing. Only the few estates owned by locals had Bengali managers. All in all, the East was a millstone around Pakistan's neck, mostly because of prejudice as well as the majority of the total population which eventually broke the country. In the strategic sense, an undivided Pakistan was advantageous to India.

Our military intervention was no doubt humanitarian, for Bengalis of any faith, understandably also emotional and for many Indians a question of the joy of breaking up an antagonistic neighbour. As events have unfolded recently, proponents of

intervention would argue: what about Chinese influence? Would it not have come to our eastern border as it has on our west, had Bangladesh not been separated from Pakistan? Here, one must point to the fact that Bangladesh has rustled up armed forces far in excess of its actual needs and the possibility of its collusion with the Chinese should a war with that country come about in the future cannot be ruled out.

In the immediate aftermath of the 1971 victory, the sheer euphoria and triumphal feeling at having sundered the hated enemy was overpowering. "Saakshat Durga hai" was how Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who would go on to be the nation's Prime Minister, described Indira Gandhi immediately after India's lightning decimation of Pakistan in the 1971 war.

India's intervention has handed itself a serious strategic problem. With the erstwhile East Pakistan as its eastern wing, Pakistan was always unbalanced. With its severance, Pakistan became a more cohesive entity. Pakistan would have wasted itself trying to preserve its eastern territory, but after 1971, began carrying its jihad into India in keeping with its doctrine of bleeding India through a thousand cuts. This fact is not appreciated by peaceniks and those naïve folk who believe that "people to people contact" and mouthing of empty platitudes will solve all problems between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan's ISI also operates with impunity in Bangladesh, carrying out anti-India activities in collusion with the Islamist terror groups based there. Then there is the ever-present menace of infiltration, which has the twin objective of grabbing living space for Bangladesh's population and altering the demography of our North Eastern states, which face the alarming prospect of being swamped by Bangladeshis. One

should not be surprised if some day Bangladesh claims India's North East to be an 'integral part' of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujib had years earlier written that the economy of East Bengal would not be fully viable without Assam being a part of it.

The Hindus in Bangladesh are not treated well. India, the country whose sacrifices made the birth of Bangladesh possible is looked upon with suspicion. Why have things come to this pass? This is so because the political handling of the aftermath of 1971 war was naïve, to say the least. Indira Gandhi left her policy making to the Panch Pyare, i.e., her five advisors, who botched a historic opportunity to settle Pakistan. In Bangladesh, we put all our eggs earlier in Sheikh Mujib Rahman's basket. With his assassination, we lost all our bargaining power. Fortunately Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina is not anti-India as Begum Khalida Zia was.

Unfortunately, foreign policy in India has hitherto been an exclusive preserve of the Nehru dynasty, with often disastrous results. It is only after 2014 that we are seeing a marked change in this regard with commensurate change in India's stature in the world. Foreign policy calls for greater transparency and greater debate, both within Parliament as also outside in the media and think tanks.

While designing foreign policy in the context of Bangladesh, I am sure as to what might follow after the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh retires. Sheikh Hasina remembers her father, how her country was liberated, and the importance of pursuing a moderate foreign policy, especially towards India. The reason for sounding this note of caution is that an Islamic country has few policy options. They have to work within the framework of what the Qur'an says. True democracy is not possible, nor is genuine socialism. When Islam was born, there were only kings and sheikhs. Times have changed since, but the scriptures have not. Therefore, when rulers run out of options, they take refuge in militarism or Islamic extremism, as did President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES
Young women deserve a future

One would think, confined to their homes and isolated from their network of friends and acquaintances, not to mention menacing strangers, young women and girls 17 years old and below would be safe not just from coronavirus infection, but from other social ills as well. These include sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation. But what gives? From March 15 to Nov. 30 last year, the period covering lockdowns in the country, 13,923 cases of violence against women and children were reported, according to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). Of these, 4,747 were cases of violence against children, including sexual abuse. While the number was lower than the total in 2019, the PCW pointed out that "victims of abuse might have had fewer chances of being rescued because of pandemic restrictions."

The sexual abuse of girls within their homes—and possibly and probably from their fathers, brothers, uncles, and other men known to them—may explain the dismaying finding that the rates of early pregnancy are continuing to climb even in the midst of a pandemic. Commission on Population and Development executive director Juan Antonio Perez III said that about 40 to 50 girls between 10 and 14 years give birth every week in the country. Of this number, Perez disclosed that two 10-year-olds, one from Metro Manila and the other from the Calabarzon region, were counted among the new mothers. Which

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
prompts one to ask: How did these girls get pregnant when for the past year they were mostly kept on lockdown in their homes?

A writer Ninotcka Rosca pointed out in a Facebook comment: "First, who are the men impregnating these kids, and what are their ages? This problem will never be resolved if people keep thinking it's only a woman's or girl's issue. Five hundred years of telling girls not to do it by ignoring the men who do hasn't cut it, is not cutting it, and won't cut it." Last November, the survey firm Social Weather Stations found that, to 59 percent of Filipinos, early teenage pregnancy was "the most important problem of women today" in the country. The next most important perceived problems are physical violence and unexpected pregnancy, both at a far 11 percent. A total of 7 percent each said they believed sexual and emotional violence was a problem, while 4 percent said women's most important problem was their inability to access family planning information and services. Certainly, that is trenchant commentary on the welfare of women and girls today and their travails on the reproductive health front. Sen. Nancy Binay has filed a Senate resolution calling for greater government attention and action on the problem of early pregnancies, which she described as "a national emergency." "This is the ninth year since 2011 that the (teenage pregnancy) rate has increased," the senator noted, with one out of every 10 pregnancies here involving teenage mothers. The problem goes beyond that of the young mother, her baby, and her family, though it has its most immediate and powerful impact on their lives.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Sheer wastage of manpower

SIR, With reference to the article, 'Four-day Week', by Prafull Goradia published on 16 February, I would like to add that in India the Government employees both Central as well as in the States, enjoy far too many holidays. Nowhere in the world are festivals treated as holidays, which are a sheer wastage of manpower.

India is a secular country and the government should officially stop declaring holidays on the occasion

of religious festivals or on the birth anniversary of any religious or non-religious figures.

Religion is a purely private affair and in a secular country it should not be encouraged under government sponsorship. The government should strike a balance between a festival of holidays and proper utilisation of manpower.

The best way for proper manpower utilisation is simply grant holidays to the

employees of government organisations both States as well as Central Government on three occasions i.e. on 26 January, 15 August and 2 October being Republic Day, Independence Day and the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

However, in addition to these three holidays, every government employee should be given another 25 or 30-day break in a year which they can avail of as and when they need to celebrate religious, social or private occasions. This would also ensure their religious freedom. The holidays on Saturdays and Sundays should continue as at present.

Political parties must stop using holidays to earn popularity. A secular state must respect the Constitution as well as religious freedom.

India is entering the global arena to play an important role in economic, political and other fields. Therefore, wastage of man-

power will surely not be commensurate with the best practice in the world.

Yours, etc., Amit Kumar Sarkar, Kolkata, 19 February.

INNOVATE & EXCEL

SIR, Apropos the editorial, 'IT works' (20 February), economic globalisation and the exponential growth of technology has begun to bear out that work carried out in isolation due to interruptions as corona, get rapidly factored in.

Most economic contributions related to service and delivery, are conducive

to being split into modules, to be subcontracted over a value chain that gets linked up efficiently and quickly. The phenomenal breakthroughs, on a near daily basis, in IT and network communication has not only ensured these but opened up myriad more possibilities.

The significant one has been in the gig economy that enables an individual or a small group to morph into a modest and ongoing concern. That apart, 20 per cent of the organisations have at least 30 per cent contingent/temporary workers.

Further, 50 per cent of the organisations showed large increase in using gig workers in the last five years. Post pandemic, every country's informal working economy, the gig and Working From Home (WFH), are destined to get formalised. Back to normal times, people will find myriad opportunities to earn beyond the brick and mortar concept of an office, to fit with their chosen proportion of a work-life style. Trust man's genius to innovate, re-mould and excel.

Yours, etc., Navi Mumbai, 20 February.



ABHIROOP CHOWDHURY AND ARMIN ROSENCRANZ

With climate change crisis looming large and ever-increasing anthropogenic footprint pushing unique biodiversity to the brink of extinction, developmental projects need to be evaluated for their environmental impacts before execution.

The Andaman and Nicobar islands are an archipelago on the Bay of Bengal, bordering the Indonesian island of Sumatra in the south and Cocos island of Myanmar in the North.

Strategically these islands also hold a phenomenal importance in regional geopolitics. Even during the British colonial period, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were the checkpoints to minimize the Dutch, French and Japanese imperialistic influences in South-East Asia. With the passage of time, the situation has not changed, only the political players are different. Still these islands hold the key to check the increasing Chinese influence in this region particularly in the neighboring country of Myanmar.

Against this backdrop, comes the news of building the New Transhipment Terminal in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a part of the grand plan to develop these islands. The terminal is supposed to be built in the island of 'Great Nicobar' and entails an overall investment of 100 billion Indian Rupees. This project will be built in Campbell Bay, at Great Nicobar near the national naval station of 'Baaz'.

Nestled in the warm waters of the tropics, this island has a plethora of endemic biodiversity. These 572 forested islands host 9,130 animal species of which 1,032 species can be found only in this ecoregion. It is a part of the 'Sundaland' biodiversity hotspot. Hotspots are areas in the world with exceptional richness of biodiversity. This is the habitat of diverse terrestrial and marine species - whales, dolphins, dugong, hornbills, marine turtles, saltwater crocodile, *Trochus*, sea cucumbers, sea-shells, sharks, marine turtles and saltwater crocodiles, to mention a few.

Apart from the unique biodiversity, these islands are the abode of four 'Negrito' tribes - the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese and two of Nicobar island's 'mon-goloid' tribes - the Shompen and Nicobarese.

Ships burn modified sulfur rich crude oil for their movements. Ship-

Nicobar development at the cost of ecology?



source pollutants, namely Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) all are global warming gasses as well as leaving enormous toxic footprints on the environment. Research indicates that SO₂ emission from per liter heavy ship-grade crude oil is 2700 times higher than petrol or diesel used in road transportation sector. Harbours and port terminals also use diesel intensive machineries emitting pollutants in the environment. Some of the bulk materials handled by port authorities such as fertilizers, coal, petroleum products, sulfur, and asbestos can result in increase of dust load in the nearby atmosphere.

A 2010 study by Civic Exchange at Hong Kong, reported 519 deaths per year in the Pearl River delta due to SO₂ exposure. But experts claim that total

premature deaths from all shipping-derived air pollution can be even twice this number and by 2030 this figure could rise to 1,100 premature deaths per year due to shipping impacts. Oil and petrochemical pollutants have polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), which can impact the digestive, respiratory and circulation systems.

Any oil seepage or spills in the marine system can reduce oxygen level in waters, impact the phytoplankton community and can destabilize the whole marine ecosystem. Oil pollution also impacts bird species and researches indicates it can have toxic impacts by reducing egg-shell thickness and their breeding success. The near threatened Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) has its breeding ground in the small Nicobar island near the 'would be' shipping lanes

after the start of the Nicobar Transhipment Terminal.

Physical impacts of anchoring of vessels are known to cause threat to assemblages of infralittoral algae and sensitive benthic flora and fauna. Anti-fouling paints used in ships have toxic tributyltin (TBT) in them and a 1998 study suggests that north-western Mediterranean waters have around 0.04 nanogram per litre of this toxic contaminant destabilizing the marine ecosystem.

The Chamoli disaster on 7 February has shocked the nation and showed the impact of unplanned developmental projects in the environmentally unique ecoregion of the Western Himalayas. On a similar note, Nicobar Islands should not be viewed as a pawn in a regional geopolitical chess game or a cash cow for finan-

cial coffers. It needs to be recognized for its unique biodiversity and environmental wealth. Developmental activities must be scientifically evaluated by unbiased competent agencies before execution of any project.

The best-case scenario would be to keep these untouched, pristine, forested islands free from the burden of unsustainable, non-green developmental models. Climate change and global warming are rapidly changing the weather pattern of this region as well as increasing disaster events in the tropics. In view of this, environmental conservation must definitely be prioritized over short term financial or geopolitical gains.

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Professor and Dean at Jindal School of Environment & Sustainability, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana, India.

A more appropriate epitaph



MAHIR ALI

The headstone above a final resting place dug in Rome's non-Catholic cemetery 200 years ago today bears the indelible inscription: "This grave contains all that was mortal of a young English poet who, on his death bed, in the bitterness of his heart at the malicious power of his enemies, desired these words to be engraved on his tomb stone: 'Here lies one whose name was writ in water'."

There is a harp above the inscription, but no name. As some readers might have guessed, the mortal

remains are those of John Keats, the bicentenary of whose distressingly premature demise was commemorated this week with readings, lectures, virtual tours and the like. His immortal remains can be found in bookshelves all around the world.

Contrary to what the gravestone suggests, it wasn't bad reviews that killed the poet. The villain was tuberculosis, commonly known back then as consumption. After a night out in London in February 1820, Keats coughed up blood and recognised its colour. "That drop of blood is my death warrant," he told his house-

mate. "I must die."

A couple of years earlier, he had watched his younger brother, Tom, succumb to the ailment. As a teenager, he had seen his mother die of the same disease. Besides, he was a qualified apothecary and an apprentice surgeon who eventually chose poetry over medicine, but not before working at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals in London.

Orphaned at a tender age, Keats was a belligerent schoolboy, more interested in brawls than in scholastic pursuits. But he became a voracious reader in his later teens and soon began spouting verse. Hardly any of

his juvenile poetry has stood the test of time, although the emotions expressed therein ought to be familiar to men — yes, it's the male gaze, although Keats was later to be commended (or criticised) for his feminine sensibility, too.

The sonnet *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer* is generally seen as his first significant poem, signalling a lifelong fascination with Greek mythology, which didn't always serve him well. It was followed not long afterwards by a far lesser known sonnet, *Written in Disgust at Vulgar Superstition*, an exorcism of organised religion. Some of the early poems also hint at political engagement, but it never came anywhere close to that of his contemporary (and admirer) Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Keats' first volume of verse, published in 1817, may not have been particularly impressive, but it did not deserve the derision it received from a Tory literary establishment almost genetically inclined to be dismissive of "Cockney poets". The criticism became even more vicious when Keats published his first long poem, *Endymion*; he himself was far from satisfied with this extended excursion into Greek mythology but had decided that he couldn't countenance any further revisions.

What's particularly extraordinary, though, is that his genius wasn't widely recognised even after he published *Lamia*, *Isabella*, *The Eve of St Agnes* and *Other Poems* in 1820. The "other poems" included, mind you, some of the most exquisite verses committed to paper in the English language — the odes *To a Nightingale*, *On a Grecian Urn* and *To Autumn*, alongside the odes *To Psyche* and *'On Melancholy'*. The only notable poem that

followed was the sonnet *Bright Star*.

Yet by the mid-19th century Keats was yet to be recognised as a gift to posterity, unlike older contemporaries such as Wordsworth and Coleridge (both of whom he had met). Perhaps it was only in the 20th century that Keats' stature (he stood 5ft 1in) was deservedly elevated to that of a literary giant, but his star was already shining bright in the late 19th century.

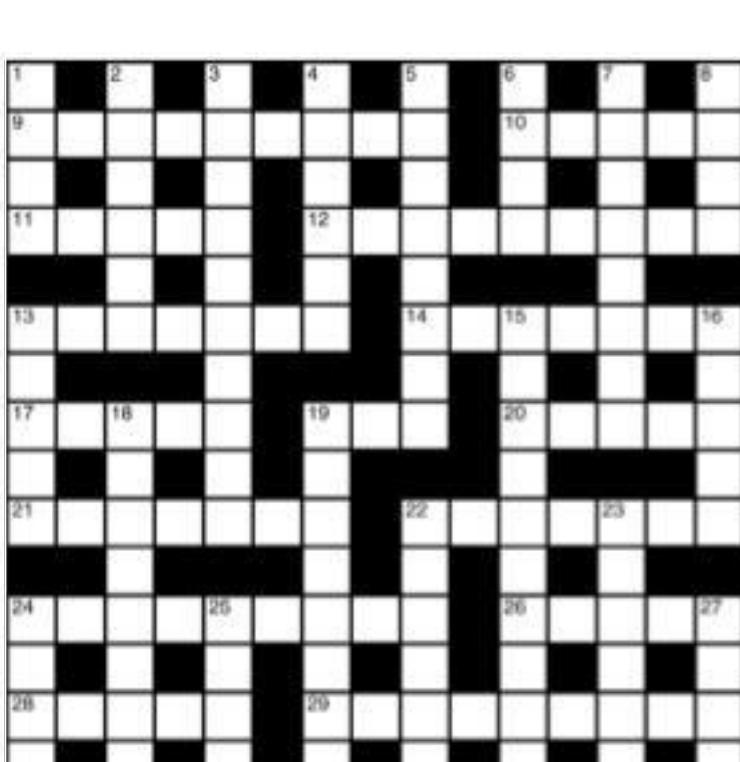
On a visit in 1877 to the cemetery where the poet's remains are interred, Oscar Wilde prostrated himself upon the grave and declared it to be "the holiest place in Rome". He marked the occasion with a sonnet that includes the lines: "Thy name was writ in water — it shall stand/ And tears like mine will keep thy memory green."

The original manuscript can be found in the Keats-Shelley House adjacent to the Spanish Steps in Rome, where Keats grew pallid and spectre-thin and died just months after he arrived in Italy, having survived a tumultuous sea voyage that included quarantine off the coast of Naples because of a cholera outbreak in London.

Keats stepped ashore on his 25th birthday, fully aware that his fears that "I may cease to be/ before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain" were about to come true. His possible future shall eternally remain a mystery and matter of conjecture. But given his core body of work, it's hard not to conclude that the opening lines of *Endymion* would have served as a far more appropriate epitaph than a name "writ in water": "A thing of beauty is a joy forever:/ Its loveliness increases; it will never/ Fade into nothingness..."

Dawn/ANN

NO 28836



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 9 Butcher's wrapping duck — huge duck! (9)
- 10 Fiver that talks about advanced inner personality (5)
- 11 Somewhat eccentric, or mad, losing power to Democrat? (5)
- 12 Greek leader soon brought about plucky Priam's end (9)
- 13 50s rocker pinching golden chain is fired (7)
- 14 See 6 Down
- 17 Two characters abroad initially pursuing model (3-2)
- 19 His poetry no-go? Or

DOWN

- 20 Peacock in mating frenzy on the way (5)
- 21/2 One 6 across left her shaken (7,6)
- 22 Stanhope for one in time becomes mediocrite (7)
- 24 Carol eating cold and out-of-date bread (9)
- 26 Retreat from Moscow? (5)
- 28/4 Another 6 to trouble Longshanks? (5,6)
- 29 Ray — powerful toyed with male bears (5,4)
- 1 Like good brandy found in drainage ditch? (4)
- 2 See 21 Across

- 3 Note stain left surrounding crack in cathedral area (4,6)
- 4 See 28 Across
- 5 Chest-beater having breakfast in Chardonnay? (5,3)
- 6/14 Novel bleak: an end should incorporate article in work of 23 (4,3,4)
- 7 Mineral from old Roman watering-hole (8)
- 8 This will break with martial artist coming round (4)
- 13 Theme work penned by Mark that remains unfinished (5)
- 15 Mostly useless about

- 16 Missing staff turning up in city (10)
- 17 One used to spin has some control at Headingley (5)
- 18 One tends cows and three bats (8)
- 19 Sweet bad stuck in gum (8)
- 22 Respected heads of army units and air force (6)
- 23 Person walking miles leaves old soldier (6)
- 24 Very hard getting round London district (4)
- 25 Much drama having no quiet songs (4)
- 27 Culminating point of month in service (4)

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

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The most recent report that has been issued by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board illustrates the attention which is now being given at Home to the improvement of the conditions of labour, with the object of promoting at the same time industrial efficiency and the health and contentment of the workers. This report deals specially with the iron and steel industry, and is based on the investigation of the sickness records of about 20,000 steel-workers during six years. Fatigue, it is pointed out, may be muscular or mental. An example of the man who suffers from mental fatigue is the crane-man, who is seated all day at his work but who has to be ever on the alert to manipulate his levers correctly. Fatigue, again, may be due to the trying effects of exposure to hot and moist air, and labour of an intermittent type, where spells of idleness alternate with spells of excessively strenuous work as in the case of open-hearth steel-melters, - is also very prone to cause fatigue. In some occupations, again, the inhalation of dust and chemical poisons has to be taken into account. The first indication of fatigue is diminished capacity for work with a diminution of output, and the more remote effects are manifest in the sickness and mortality records. The report estimates that output might be increased by 50 to 100 per cent by the general adoption of the most improved plant.

NEWS ITEMS

LAWLESSNESS AT NAGPUR

Nagpur, Feb 24

In connection with the serious situation created at Nagpur the following facts have been ascertained:- A large demonstration occurred at the District Court, Nagpur, yesterday, where excise sales were being held. An attempt was made to interrupt the auction, but this was frustrated. In the afternoon a large mob collected near the court and a liquor contractor was assaulted. The mob then stoned the police and the Magistrate in charge, and two European officers and a few policemen received some injuries. The conduct of the police, under most difficult circumstances, was exceptionally good. In the evening some liquor shops were looted in the city. The latest report is that the city is now quiet. Additional military and police forces have been summoned.

TRIBUTE TO INDIAN POLICE

Presiding at a lecture at the East India Association by Sir John Cumming on, "Crime and Police in India", Sir Edward Henry said that steps to increase the status and efficiency of village chowkidars would do more than anything to prevent ordinary crime. Lord Carmichael said that there had been a great improvement in the police in Bengal during recent years, but it was essential to any advancement that the pay and prospects of the force should be far better. Once when visiting a mofussil hospital he remarked on the large number of police patients, and the doctor told him that the reason was that many of the police were inadequately fed owing to insufficient wages. For this, the British officers and their Indian colleagues and subordinates are alike to be congratulated.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY

Shareholders at a meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, unanimously authorised the creation of ten million sterling second preference shares, ranking both as regards dividend and capital after existing preferences, also five millions first preference shares ranking pari passu with those at present issued. The Chairman, Sir Charles Greenway, submitting resolutions said that the expenditure was necessary to attain completely independent status in all branches. Their business was so large that they were unable entirely to meet it from the profits without unduly delaying expansion. The first preferences would benefit from the issue by the improvement of their dividend to a fixed eight per cent. There was reason to anticipate an increase in the profits in consequence of the output of oil rapidly increasing as various extensions came into operation.

BLIZZARD SWEEPS AMERICA

The most severe snowstorm for years has been experienced here. Snow is lying in drifts six to ten feet deep. Trains have been delayed for hours and half a dozen deaths have occurred. Sixteen thousand men are employed in shovelling away the snow. New caterpillar tractors have been used for the first time to push snow-ploughs, and they have cleared the principal thoroughfares in a most efficient manner. A message from St. Johns, Newfoundland, states that the blizzard sweeping the Atlantic seaboard is the worst snowstorm Newfoundland has had this winter. Train and steamer services are suspended and business is practically at a standstill. The storm has destroyed the residence of the Roman Catholic Archbishop, who, with nine priests and the domestic staff, had a narrow escape.



Hyundai will enter the seven-seater premium SUV segment in India with the global debut of its Alcazar model this year

S KIM

THUMBNAILS

Bosch investment: Bosch Home Appliances on Wednesday said it would invest 100 million euros in India to scale IoT-based product solutions and generate new employment opportunities. The company would invest the sum over the next 3-4 years towards personalising solutions, brand-building, strengthening its technology centre and UX studies, and setting up a robust refrigerator factory to bring its best-in-class German technology to India, a Press release said. PTI

Airtel enters ad biz: Bharti Airtel on Wednesday marked its entry into advertising business with launch of "Airtel Ads", a move it said will enable brands to pitch consent-based and privacy-safe campaigns to over 320 million customers across its various businesses like mobile, DTH and homes. Airtel Ads leverages the company's data science capabilities, and would enable brands to create deep engagement and high-impact campaigns for most relevant customer cohorts, it said. PTI

Volvo plan: The Indian arm of Swedish luxury car maker Volvo said on Wednesday that 50 per cent of its vehicles would be battery operated by 2025 under its global vision plan and the first product "XC40 Recharge" would be launched in the country later this year. "We are planning to launch our electric car in India in the second half of the year. It will be called the XC40 Recharge. It has already been in Europe and has been very successful (there)," Volvo Car India managing director, Charles Frump, said. PTI

Toshiba facility: Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Pvt Ltd (TTDI) has been certified by Japan's ministry of economy, trade and industry (METI) as a Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM). The new TTDI JIM will accept up to 120 under-graduates of local industrial training schools as technical trainees each year, said a Press release. SNS

Recykal: Recykal, an end-to-end digital "waste-commerce" solutions provider, has been selected as the first member from India for The Circulars Accelerator Program 2021. The Circulars Accelerator will connect industry leaders with 17 ground-breaking circular economy entrepreneurs to scale up disruptive, cross-sector value chain innovation at an unprecedented pace, said a Press release.

KFC India: KFC India has announced the launch of their all new range of Value Burgers, starting at just Rs 69. "With a variety of veg and chicken burgers to choose from: Classic Chicken, Classic Veg, Spicy Chicken and Spicy Veg - it doesn't get any burger than this for sure!", the company said. SNS

₹7,350-crore scheme to boost output of IT hardware items

Move to woo global and domestic players to take advantage of India's manufacturing prowess

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The government today approved a Rs 7,350-crore scheme to boost production of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers in the country, as it sought to woo global and domestic players to take advantage of India's manufacturing prowess.

Production worth Rs 3.26 lakh crore and exports of Rs 2.45 lakh crore are estimated over the next four years under the new scheme, which is expected to create 1.80 lakh jobs.

Briefing reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet, communications and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme has been approved for IT hardware products that would cover laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers.

The Rs 7,350-crore scheme aims to promote India as a global hub for hardware manufacturing. The PLI push for hi-tech IT

ABOUT THE SCHEME

► The latest IT hardware scheme offers incentives between 4-1 per cent on net incremental sales (over base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years.

► The scheme will benefit five major global players and 10 domestic "champions" in the field of IT hardware manufacturing.

hardware gadgets comes close on the heels of the Cabinet last week clearing a Rs 12,195-crore scheme for telecom equipment manufacturing.

An incentive scheme for mobile phone manufacturing was announced last year and has since garnered strong response from players despite the challenging times of the pandemic.

The latest IT hardware scheme offers incentives between 4-1 per cent on net incremental sales (over base year 2019-20) of goods man-

ufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years, an official statement said.

The scheme will benefit five major global players and 10 domestic "champions" in the field of IT hardware manufacturing, a segment where self-reliance is important for the country given the "huge import reliance" for these items at present, it added.

The PLI scheme is expected to enhance the development of electronics ecosystem in

► The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme has been approved for IT hardware products that would cover laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers. The Rs 7,350-crore scheme aims to promote India as a global hub for hardware manufacturing.

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
COMMUNICATIONS AND IT MINISTER

The incentives under the scheme are payable by government only after investment has been done, employment has been generated, production and sales targets have been met.

The scheme will usher additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of Rs 2,700 crore.

"The direct and indirect revenues generated from production under this scheme are expected to be Rs 15,760 crore over next four years. Domestic value addition for IT hardware is expected to rise to 20-25 per cent by 2025 from the current 5-10 per cent due to the impetus provided by the scheme," it said.

Increase in both domestic manufacturing and domestic value addition will help significantly reduce the large foreign exchange outgo that India will have to otherwise bear, it added.

At present, the laptop and tablet demand in India is largely met through imports valued at Rs 29,470 crore and at Rs 2,870 crore, respectively.

National Stock Exchange (NSE) suffered an outage earlier in the day due to technical glitches. Trading across segments came to a halt at 1140 hrs due to connectivity issues.

However, the broader Indian markets were not impacted as communication lines at BSE remained operational.

"The global market was mixed, not very convinced that world central banks like Fed will maintain a flexible monetary policy even during rising bond yield and inflation. And the Asian market was negatively impacted by a hike in stamp duty on equities," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.96 per cent higher at \$65.10 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee gained 11 paise to settle at 72.35 against the US dollar.

Sensex jumps 1,030 points, Nifty 274 pts

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Cabinet clears ₹15K-cr PLI scheme for pharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

The government today approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical sector, entailing an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the scheme which will benefit domestic manufacturers, help create employment and is expected to contribute to the availability of a wider range of affordable medicines for consumers.

The duration of the scheme would be from 2020-21 to 2028-29 and is expected to promote the production of high-value products in the country and increase the value addition in exports, an official release said.

The total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 crore and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 crore are estimated during six years from 2022-23 to 2027-28, it added.

The scheme is expected to generate 20,000 direct jobs and 80,000 indirect employment for both skilled and unskilled personnel, as a result of growth in the sector, the

release said.

"The scheme is also expected to bring in investment of Rs 15,000 crore in the pharmaceutical sector," it added.

The PLI scheme is further expected to promote innovation for development of complex and high-tech products, including products of emerging therapies and in-vitro diagnostic services as also self-reliance in important drugs.

It is also expected to improve accessibility and affordability of medical products including orphan drugs to the Indian population, the release said.

The objective of the scheme is to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector," it noted.

The companies registered in the country will be divided across three groups based on their global manufacturing revenue (GMR) to ensure wider applicability of the scheme across the pharmaceutical industry and at the same time meet the objectives of the scheme.

Everstone sells Modern Foods to Mexican firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 24 FEBRUARY

Unilever in April 2016 and successfully relaunched the iconic bread brand in June 2017 nationwide.

HUL had bought Modern Foods from the government in 2000 as part of the divestment process and decided to exit as part of its strategy to leave non-core sectors.

Modern Food Industries was set up by the government in 1965 as Modern Bakeries in Madras and was renamed as Modern Food in 1982. When sold off to HUL, it had 13 bread manufacturing units apart from fruit juice concentrates under brand name Rasika in New Delhi and aerated soft drinks Double Seven.

When HUL took over 74 per cent of its equity in January 2000 for Rs 10.5 crore, it became the first privatisation of a public sector unit by the Vajpayee government.

Everfoods acquired Modern Foods from Hindustan

Sensex jumps 1,030 points, Nifty 274 pts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 24 FEBRUARY

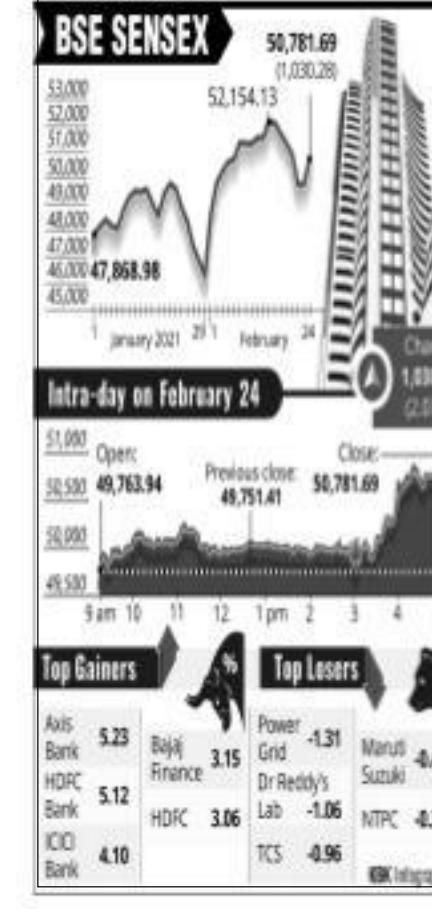
Equity benchmark the Sensex rose 1,030.28 points and the Nifty rallied over 274 points today, tracking strong buying in financial stocks, after trading hours were extended following a technical glitch at NSE.

After resumption of trade at 3.45 pm, NSE Nifty zoomed 274.20 points or 1.86 per cent to end at 14,982 points.

Similarly, the 30-share BSE index settled 1,030.28 points or 2.07 per cent higher at 50,781.69 points.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging around 5 per cent, followed by HDFC twins, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance and SBI. On the other hand, PowerGrid, Dr Reddy's, TCS and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

Minutes before the scheduled closure of trade at 3.30 pm, leading bourses BSE and



NSE said their equity and derivatives markets will remain open till 5 pm. The move came after the

Trading halt: Sebi seeks explanation from NSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 24 FEBRUARY

distress to ensure that activity is not affected.

Trading across segments was halted at 11.40 am today due to "issues with the links with telecom service providers", according to the NSE.

The bourse said it depends on two telecom service providers for connectivity, and both failed simultaneously resulting in the outage.

"The NSE was also advised to keep the market participants updated with the evolving developments," it said.

The "trading halt" continued till 3.30 pm. In view of the exceptional situation arising out of it, it was decided to extend the trading hours from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

Centre permits all private banks to take part in govt-related business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

Embargo lifted on grant of govt business to private banks. All banks can now participate in development of the Indian economy, furthering govt's social sector initiatives, and enhancing customer convenience.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

enhancing customer convenience," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet.

Private sector banks, which are at the forefront of imbibing and implementing latest technology and innovation in banking, will now be equal partners in government business, including government agency business. The government has conveyed its decision to the RBI," it added.

The government has already announced its intent to privatise two public sector lenders, other than IDBI Bank, in the Budget 2021-22.

Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget 2021-22 earlier this month, had announced the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs) as part of

the disinvestment drive to garner Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

"Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company in the year 2021-22," she had said.

The government last year consolidated 10 public sector banks into four and as a result, the total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017.

As per the amalgamation plan, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce were merged with Punjab National Bank, making the proposed entity the second-largest PSB. Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank, while Allahabad Bank was subsumed in Indian Bank. Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank were amalgamated with the Union Bank of India.

Reliance prices coal gas from MP at minimum \$6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

Reliance Industries Ltd today sought bids from buyers of coal gas it produces from CBM blocks in Madhya Pradesh at a minimum price of about \$6 at the current oil price.

Reliance sought bids for 0.82 million standard cubic meters per day of gas from the Sohagpur coal-bed methane (CBM) block, according to a notice inviting offer (NIO).

Bids have been sought for supply of gas, which can be used in industries as fuel or feedstock as well as by city gas operators for supply as CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households, for one year beginning 1 April 2021. Users have been asked to quote a percentage of Brent crude oil price they will be willing to pay for the gas.

Reliance set 9.5 per cent of Brent rate as the base or minimum price and asked bidders to "enter bids that are higher than or equal to it."

At the current \$65 per barrel Brent crude oil price, the price of gas produced from coal seams, called CBM, comes to \$6.17 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu).

"A bidder shall be required to quote the variable denoted as 'V' in percentage terms as a positive number" of the Dated Brent price, the notice said.

Gas price will be "higher of (V)per cent x Dated Brent; or PPAC Price," it said.

PPAC price refers to the rate the government fixes every six months for gas produced mostly by state-owned firms such as ONGC. That price for

the six months ending 31 March 2021 is \$1.79 per mmBtu.

Reliance started commercial gas production from the CBM blocks in March 2017 and reached the peak of 3 mmscmd before the end of 2018. CBM is natural gas stored or absorbed in coal seams and contains 90-95 per cent methane.

The pricing formula notified today is a variation over the 2017 formula when Reliance had sought bids in the form of a deductible from 12.67 per cent of prevailing Brent crude oil price plus \$0.52 per mmBtu plus \$0.26 per mmBtu.

In that bidding for up to 3 mmscmd of gas, Reliance had outbid rivals including state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd to buy the entire volume.

Sona Comstar to raise ₹6,000 crore via IPO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 24 FEBRUARY

Our message to the junta has not changed. They must relinquish power, they must restore the democratically elected government, and our message to the people of Burma has not changed.



NED PRICE
US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

PM Oli in no mood to resign, prepared to face Parliament

Naya Patrika daily termed the ruling a defeat for an autocratic ruler and a victory of democracy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU, 24 FEBRUARY

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will not resign immediately and implement the Supreme Court's verdict against him by facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks, an official representing the embattled premier said on Wednesday.

In a landmark ruling, a five-member constitutional bench led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher on Tuesday annulled the Oli government's "unconstitutional" decision to dissolve the 275-member lower house of Parliament. The court also ordered the government to summon the House session within the



Nepalese supporters of a splinter group in the governing Nepal Communist Party participate in a rally to celebrate the Supreme Court order in Kathmandu on Wednesday.

AP

next 13 days.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on 30 April and 10 May at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli.

Oli's Press Advisor Surya

Thapa said the prime minister, who turned 69 this week, intends to implement the verdict of the apex court after facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks.

"The Supreme Court's verdict is controversial, however, it should be accepted and implemented. Its effects will

be seen in the future as the decision has not provided any solution to the political problems," Thapa said. He claimed that the apex court's verdict will further fuel instability and pave way for powerplay. "The Prime Minister will face the House of Representatives to implement the verdict but will not tender his resignation as of now," Thapa was quoted as saying by The Himalayan Times.

Oli's Chief Advisor Bishnu Rimal, mirroring Thapa's sentiments, said that all will have to accept the court's decision. "However, it provides no solution to existing political complications," Rimal said.

Thapa's reaction comes amid mounting pressure on the prime minister to step down following the court verdict.

A large section of the Nepalese media welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict that reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives. They hailed the decision, saying it has upheld democratic values and safeguarded the Constitution.

"By passing a judgment, the Supreme Court has once again stood by the people, and reestablished the notion of an independent judiciary," wrote The Kathmandu Post in its editorial.

"Now the House has been reinstated and the politics will return to Parliament, the problems are not yet over," the daily warned. Naya Patrika daily termed the ruling a defeat for an autocratic ruler and a victory for democracy and a challenge for the future.

Radical imam convicted by German court

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 24 FEBRUARY

A former imam at a radical mosque in Germany was convicted Wednesday of being a member of the Islamic State group and sentenced to 10 1/2 years in prison.

The state court in Celle in northern Germany convicted Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah A., who goes by the alias Abu Walaa, of membership in a foreign terrorist organization as well as terror financing and being an accessory to preparing a serious act of violence, a court statement said.

The court found that Abu Walaa and his network radicalized young people in northern and western Germany and sent them to areas controlled by IS, the dpa news agency reported.

Three co-defendants were given prison sentences ranging from four years and two

weeks to eight years for supporting IS, among other offenses. The verdict against Abu Walaa, a 37-year-old Iraqi citizen, ended a trial that began in September 2017.

Abu Walaa was the imam at a prominent radical mosque in the northern city of Hildesheim and also organized Islam seminars at mosques elsewhere in Germany.

Conviction in landmark case over Syrian govt torture: A former member of Syrian President Bashar Assad's secret police was convicted Wednesday by a German court of facilitating the torture of prisoners in a landmark ruling that human rights activists hope will set a precedent for other cases.

Eyad Al-Gharib was convicted of accessory to crimes against humanity and sentenced by the Koblenz state court to 4 1/2 years in prison.

Taliban have had sanctuary in Pak: Ex US Gen

WASHINGTON, 24 FEBRUARY

A former top US military official has told lawmakers that the Afghan Taliban have had sanctuary in Pakistan and the terror group originated from the madrassas in that country.

During a Congressional hearing on Tuesday, General (ret) Joseph F Dunford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also told lawmakers that the probability of civil war is high in the wake of a precipitous US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

We know that the Taliban have had sanctuary in Pakistan.

We know that they have an active diplomatic effort travelling to Moscow, travelling to Beijing, travelling to other countries. We know they travel in the Gulf. We know Iran has provided some material support, he said. Dunford said the Taliban gets its financial support from drug trade.

The Taliban, he said is a Sunni terrorist organisation. There's no question that the Taliban originates from the madrassas in Pakistan, he said in response to a question. Dunford told lawmakers that the terrorist threat has been reduced because of the US trained Afghan forces and continued US military presence.

We believe that the threat can reconstitute itself in a period of about 18 to 36 months and present a threat to the homeland and to our allies, he said, adding that the Afghan forces are highly dependent on US funding, as well as operational support. They will remain so for some time.

The probability of civil war is high in the wake of a precipitous US withdrawal, he said, adding that Afghanistan meets the definition of a fragile state. PTI

Thai court ousts three Cabinet members found guilty of sedition

BANGKOK, 24 FEBRUARY

Three Cabinet ministers in Thailand were forced to leave their posts Wednesday after a court found them guilty of sedition for taking part in sometimes-violent protests in 2013-2014 against the government then in power.

The Criminal Court in Bangkok found Digital Economy Minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta, Education Minister Nataphol Teepsuwan and Deputy Transport Minister Thaworn Serneam guilty along with about two dozen other defendants in a case that was launched in 2018.

The verdicts can be appealed to a higher court but under the law the Cabinet ministers must relinquish their jobs immediately.

Another prominent person convicted Wednesday was Suthep Thaugsuban, a former deputy prime minister who helped found the People's Democratic Reform Committee, which led the demonstrations against the elected government of then-Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Instability caused by the street protests led to the Thai army staging a coup in 2014 and keeping power until 2019. Suthep and the Cabinet ministers each received prison sentences ranging from five to about seven years.

Thaksin's supporters were known as the Red Shirts, and in 2010 wreaked havoc by occupying part of central Bangkok. Their protest was suppressed by the army. AP

China's Mars craft enters parking orbit before landing rover

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 24 FEBRUARY

a Russian mission didn't make it out of Earth orbit. China's attempt will involve a parachute, rocket firings and airbags. Its proposed landing site is a vast, rock-strewn plain called Utopia Planitia, where the U.S. Viking 2 lander touched down in 1976. Tianwen-1's arrival at Mars on Feb. 10 was preceded by that of an orbiter from the United Arab Emirates. All three of the latest missions were launched in July to take advantage of the close alignment between Earth and Mars that happens only once every two years.

Tianwen-1 represents the most ambitious mission yet for China's secretive, military-linked space program that first put an astronaut in orbit around Earth in 2003 and last year brought moon rocks back to Earth for the first time since the 1970s.

China was also the first country to land a spacecraft on the little-explored farside of the moon in 2019.

China is also building a permanent space station and planning a crewed lunar mission and a possible permanent research base on the moon, though no dates have yet been proposed.

The program is a source of enormous national pride and Tianwen-1 has attracted a particularly strong following among the public. Tourists flocked to tropical Hainan island to watch the launch, while others visit mock Mars colonies in desert sites.

Tianwen, the title of an ancient poem, means Quest for Heavenly Truth. Landing a spacecraft on Mars is notoriously tricky. About a dozen orbiters missed the mark. In 2011, a Mars-bound Chinese orbiter that was part of

the program failed to reach Mars.

The program is a source of enormous national pride and Tianwen-1 has attracted a particularly strong following among the public. Tourists flocked to tropical Hainan island to watch the launch, while others visit mock Mars colonies in desert sites.

FREE ANDEAN



Choquekota: Journalists and scientists take images as an Andean condor is released into the wild by Bolivian veterinarians, on the outskirts of Choquekota. Two endangered Bolivian condors were released after recovering from a fall in February, as part of a project run by a state conservation program for the Andean condor.

Experts fear fresh wave of political prisoners in Myanmar

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JAKARTA, 24 FEBRUARY

Whether taken from their homes in the middle of the night or grabbed off the streets during protests, hundreds of people have been arrested in the weeks since Myanmar's military coup, leading human rights groups and experts to fear a sizable expansion in the number of political prisoners in the country.

As of Tuesday, some 696 people including monks, writers, activists, politicians and others had been arrested in relation to the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, or APP, a Myan-

mar-based organisation.

Many of those arrested were charged using a legacy of laws some dating back to

critics by every government, including the one led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which was ousted in the Feb. 1 coup.

The National League for Democracy was comfortable leaving repressive laws on the books because in some instances they felt they might be able to take advantage of those laws themselves, said Ronan Lee, a visiting scholar at Queen Mary University of London's International State Crime Initiative.

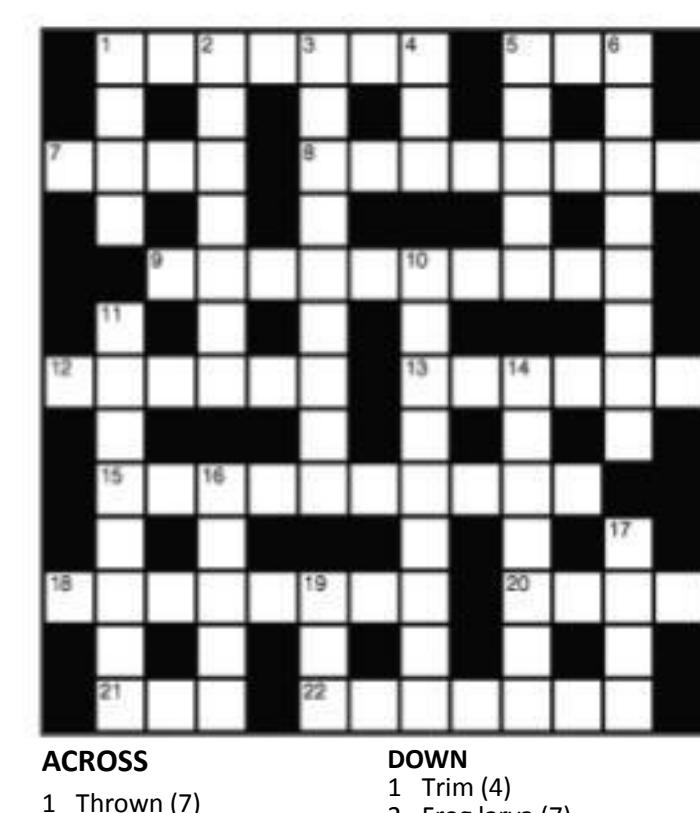
It's now clear that some of those laws are now going to be weaponised against democracy campaigners in a way that maybe the National League for Democracy didn't foresee,

Lee said. While the military continues to use and amend old laws to crack down on dissidents, new laws are being introduced as well, signalling the military's intent to continue arresting protesters.

The hundreds arrested since the coup join the already hundreds of political prisoners in the country who were imprisoned both under the previous junta and the National League for Democracy, or NLD. We have now seen not just a new generation of political prisoners, but also the retargeting of former political prisoners, said Manny Maung, a Myanmar researcher at New York-based Human Rights Watch.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Thrown (7)	1 Trim (4)
5 Section of a circle (3)	2 Frog larva (7)
7 Framework (4)	3 Grave feature (9)
8 Opening (8)	4 Owning (3)
9 Hairy fruit (10)	5 On the move (5)
12 Form a liking for (4,2)	6 Item of baby equipment (8)
13 Tyrant (6)	10 Temporary ally (9)
15 Honest (Informal) (2,3,5)	11 Deliberately destroy (8)
18 Fatherly (8)	14 Husky, for example (4,3)
20 Liability (4)	16 Fine adjustment (5)
21 Large dead (3)	17 Type of ski lift (1-3)
22 Titled widow (7)	19 Indicate assent (3)

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 4200000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139

- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

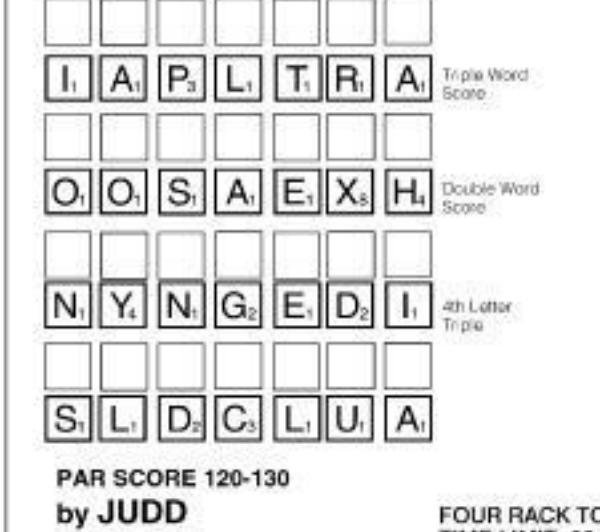
ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Center 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines AP

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 018001801407
- Hainan Airlines 23861262, Call Center 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 23466262 (City)
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE®



PAR SCORE 120-130

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1 = 74

RACK 2 = 59

RACK 3 = 48

RACK 4 = 60

JUDD'S TOTAL = 241

PAR SCORE 155-165

JUDD'S TOTAL = 241

PAR SCORE 120-130

JUDD'S TOTAL = 241

PAR SCORE 120-130



US & Canada recognise their responsibility to defend their shared values around the world and to strengthen their own democracies at home

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

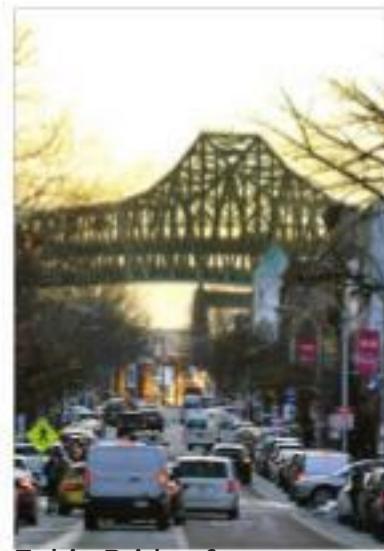
AFTER HOSTING HIS FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL BILATERAL SUMMIT WITH CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU.

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	18°C	21°C
HONG KONG	19°C	20°C
TOKYO	03°C	02°C
LONDON	15°C	14°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	09°C	06°C
NEW YORK	08°C	05°C
MOSCOW	-13°C	-16°C

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

THUMBNAILS



Tobin Bridge frames Broadway as traffic moves in downtown Chelsea, Massachusetts. AP

Ecuador prison riot: Sixty-two inmates have died in riots at prisons in three cities in Ecuador as a result of fights between rival gangs and an escape attempt, authorities have said. Prisons Director said that 800 police officers have been helping to regain control of the facilities. AP

Russian fugitive held: A Russian listed by the Interpol as a fugitive back home was arrested on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali on Wednesday after 13 days on the run with his partner to avoid deportation, officials said. Andrei Kovalenka was arrested in 2019 and convicted of possession of more than 500 grams of hashish. AP

Cocaine shipment: German customs officials have found more than 16 metric tons of cocaine in containers that arrived in Hamburg from Paraguay, authorities said on Wednesday. Another large shipment of cocaine was seized in Belgium and a suspect arrested in the Netherlands. AP

Oz antitrust chief claims victory after Fb standoff

CANBERRA, 24 FEBRUARY

The architect of Australia's laws forcing Google and Facebook to pay media companies for content claimed victory on Wednesday, though critics said last-minute changes to appease Facebook favoured Big Tech over smaller news outlets.

After tense negotiations prompted Facebook to cut off news in the country last week, Australia offered a host of technical concessions and the social media giant said it would restore news as the revamped bill looked set to become law this week.

While Facebook said its concerns had been met and opposition lawmakers warned that smaller media players may be overlooked, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Chair Rod Sims said the bargaining power imbalance had been righted.

"The changes the government's done are things that either don't matter much or are just to clarify things that, at least in Facebook's mind, were unclear," Sims, who helped draft the original laws, Sims said.

"Whatever they say, they need news. It keeps people on their platform longer. They make more money," he said. The endorsement from Australia's top antitrust regulator will bolster the government's argument that its hardline approach worked and may offer encouragement to countries such as Canada and Britain which have said they plan similar laws.

Other countries have introduced legislation forcing so-called Big Tech players to negotiate with media companies for licensing fees for links that draw traffic, and advertising revenue, to their platforms. AGENCIES

FDA says J&J 1-dose shot prevents Covid; final decision soon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 24 FEBRUARY

ing just one dose instead of two is safe to use.

That's just one step in the FDA's evaluation of a third vaccine option for the U.S. On Friday, the agency's independent advisers will debate if the evidence is strong enough to recommend the long-anticipated shot. Armed with that advice, FDA is expected to make a final decision within days.

The Food and Drug Administration's scientists confirmed that overall the vaccine is about 66 per cent effective at preventing moderate to severe Covid. The agency also said J&J's shot—one that could help speed vaccinations by requir-

Johnson & Johnson tested its single-dose option in 44,000 people in the US, Latin America and South Africa.

So far, about 44.5 million Americans have received at least one dose of vaccine made by Pfizer or Moderna, and nearly 20 million have received the second dose required for full protection.

J&J tested its single-dose option in 44,000 people in the U.S., Latin America and South Africa. Different mutat-

ed versions of the virus are circulating in different countries, and the FDA analysis cautions that it's not clear how well the vaccine works against each variant. But J&J previously announced the vaccine worked better in the U.S. -- 72 per cent effective against moderate to severe Covid, compared with 66 per cent in Latin America and 57 per cent in South Africa.

Still, in every country it was highly effective against the most serious symptoms, and early study results showed no hospitalizations or deaths starting 28 days after vacci-

nation. While the overall effectiveness numbers may suggest the J&J candidate isn't quite as strong as two-dose competitors, all of the world's Covid vaccines have been tested differently, making comparisons nearly impossible.

While it wouldn't be surprising if one dose turns out to be a little weaker than two doses, policymakers will decide if that's an acceptable trade-off to get more people vaccinated faster.

J&J was on track to become the world's first one-dose option until earlier this month,

Mexico announced it would use a one-dose version from China's CanSino.

That vaccine is made with similar technology as J&J's but initially was developed as a two-dose option until beginning a one-dose test in the fall.

The rival Pfizer and Moderna vaccines being used in the U.S. and numerous other countries must be kept frozen, while the J&J shot can last three months in the refrigerator, making it easier to handle.

AstraZeneca's vaccine, widely used in Europe, Britain and Israel, is made similarly and also requires refrigeration but takes two doses.

If the FDA clears the J&J shot for U.S. use, it won't boost vaccine supplies significantly right away. Only a few million doses are expected to be ready for shipping in the first week. But J&J told Congress this week that it expected to provide 20 million doses by the end of March and 100 million by summer.

European regulators and the World Health Organization also are considering J&J's vaccine. Worldwide, the company aims to be producing around a billion doses by the end of the year.

Capitol defenders cite missed intelligence for deadly breach

Officials pointed fingers at various federal agencies, each other for their failure

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 24 FEBRUARY

Missed intelligence

was to blame for the outmanned Capitol defenders' failure to anticipate the violent mob that invaded the iconic building and halted certification of the presidential election on Jan. 6, the officials who were in charge of security that day said in their first public testimony on the insurrection.

The officials, including the former chief of the Capitol Police, pointed their fingers at various federal agencies — and each other — for their failure to defend the building as supporters of then-President Donald Trump overwhelmed security barriers, broke windows and doors and sent lawmakers fleeing from the House and Senate chambers. Five people died as a result of the riot, including a Capitol Police officer and a woman who was shot as she tried to enter the House chamber with lawmakers still inside.

No single civilian law enforcement agency — and certainly not the USCP — is trained and equipped to repel, without significant military or other law enforcement assistance, an insurrection of thousands of armed, violent, and coordinated individuals focused on breaching a building at all costs," he testified.

The hearing was the first of many examinations of what happened that day, coming almost seven weeks after the attack and over a week after the Senate voted to acquit Trump of inciting the insurrection by telling his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat. Fencing and National Guard troops still surround the Capitol in a wide perimeter, cutting off streets and sidewalks that are normally full of cars,

pedestrians and tourists. The joint hearing, part of an investigation by two Senate committees, was the first time the officials testified publicly about the events of Jan. 6. In addition to Sund, former Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger, former House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving and Robert Contee, the acting chief of police for the Metropolitan Police Department, testified.

Irving and Stenger also resigned under pressure immediately after the deadly attack. They were Sund's supervisors and in charge of security for the House and Senate.

"We must have the facts, and the answers are in this room," Senate Rules Committee Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar said at the beginning of the hearing. The Rules panel is conducting the joint probe with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Even after the hearing, much still remains unknown about what happened before and during the assault. How

much did law enforcement agencies know about plans for violence that day, many of which were public? And how could the Capitol Police have been so ill-prepared for a violent insurrection that was organized online?

Sund told the lawmakers that he didn't know then that his officers had received a report from the FBI's field office in Norfolk, Virginia, that forecast, in detail, the chances that extremists could bring "war" to Washington the following day. The head of the FBI's office in Washington has said that once he received the Jan. 6 warning, the information was quickly shared with other law enforcement agencies through a joint terrorism task force.

Sund said Tuesday that an officer on the task force had received the memo and forwarded it to a sergeant working on intelligence for the Capitol Police but that the information was not sent on to other supervisors.

"How could you not get that vital intelligence?" asked Senate Homeland Chairman Gary Peters, D-Mich., who said the failure of the report to reach the chief was clearly a major problem. "That information would have been helpful," Sund acknowledged.

Even without the intelligence, there were clear signs that violence was a possibility on Jan. 6. Far-right social media users openly hinted for weeks that chaos would erupt at the U.S. Capitol while Con-

gress convened to certify the election results.

Sund said he did see an intelligence report created within his own department warning that Congress could be targeted on Jan. 6. But he said that report assessed the probability of civil disobedience or arrests, based on the information they had, as "remote" to "improbable" for the groups expected to demonstrate.

Contee, the acting city police chief, also suggested that no one had flagged the FBI information from Norfolk, Virginia, which he said came in the form of an email. He said he would have expected that kind of intelligence "would warrant a phone call or something."

Sund and Irving disagreed on when the National Guard was called and on requests for the guard beforehand. Sund said he spoke to both Stenger and Irving about requesting the National Guard in the days before the riot, and that Irving said he was concerned about the "optics" of having them present. Irving denied that, saying Sund's account was "categorically false."

"We all agreed the intelligence did not support the troops and collectively decided to let it go," Stenger said.

After smashing through the barriers at the perimeter, the invaders engaged in hand-to-hand combat with police officers, injuring dozens of them, and broke into the building.

Indian-American lawyer Kiran Ahuja to head Office of Personnel Management.

US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American lawyer and rights activist Kiran Ahuja to head the Office of Personnel Management, a federal agency that manages America's more than two million civil servants. If confirmed by the Senate, 49-year-old Ahuja, nominated on Tuesday, would become the first Indian-American to serve this top position in the US government. AP

WH says, There is one candidate to lead the budget department and her name is Neera Tanden: The White House and the Indian-American community are solidly backing the nomination of Neera Tanden as the Director of Office of Management and Budget, describing her as the most appropriate candidate to hold the position. If confirmed by the Senate, 50-year-old Tanden would become the first person of colour to lead the federal agency that prepares the annual budget of the US government. AP

of climate crisis, the recovery from Covid, and the many other global issues that are on their shared agenda.



Sund described a scene as the mob arrived at the perimeter that was "like nothing" he had seen in his 30 years of policing and argued that the insurrection was not the result of poor planning by Capitol Police but of failures across the board.

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Speaking at a meeting of top officials of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, the main KGB successor agency, Putin pointed at the so-called policy of containment of Russia, charging that it includes efforts to derail our development, slow it down, create problems alongside our borders, provoke internal instability and undermine the values that unite Russian society.

Putin added that those activities by foreign powers, which he didn't name, are aimed at weakening Russia and putting it under outside control. Russia's relations with the West have plummeted to post-Cold War lows after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election, and, most recently, the arrest of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and a sweeping crackdown on protests demanding his release.

Russia increases fines for protest violations after Navalny rallies: Russian President Vladimir Putin approved legislation on Wednesday beefing up fines for offences committed during street protests after thousands were detained at unsanctioned rallies in support of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. The legislation increases fines for insubordination to law enforcement officers to up to 4,000 rubles (\$54.30) from 1,000 rubles in addition to a maximum of 15 days in detention. The amended law also introduces fines of up to 20,000 rubles for protest organisers who violate funding regulations. Police detained more than 11,000 people at nationwide protests this year in support of Navalny, according to OVD-Info, a protest monitoring group. AGENCEZ

Navalny was arrested on 17 January upon returning from Germany. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation and accused Navalny of cooperating with Western intelligence agencies claims which he has ridiculed.

Earlier this month, Navalny was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating terms of his probation while con-

valescing in Germany. The sentence stems from a 2014 embezzlement conviction that Navalny has rejected as fabricated and the European court of Human Rights has ruled to be unlawful.

Without naming Navalny, Putin assailed those in Russia who allegedly serve foreign interests. It's necessary to draw a line between natural political competition, competition between political parties, ideological platforms, various views on the country's development, and the activities that have nothing to do with democracy and are aimed at undermining stability and security of our state, at serving foreign interests, he said.

The Russian president emphasised the need for the FSB to shield the parliamentary elections set for September from any "provocations."

Putin warns of foreign efforts to destabilise Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, 24 FEBRUARY

Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered the nation's top counterintelligence agency Wednesday to redouble its efforts to address what he described as Western attempts to destabilise the country.

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Floyd. And now Daniel Prude, she said. Lawyers for the seven police officers suspended over Prude's death have said the officers were strictly following their training that night, employing a restraining technique known as segreting. They claimed Prude's use of PCP, which caused irrational behavior, was the root cause of his death.

Calls were made to the officers' attorneys. Matthew Rich, who represents four officers, said we're still taking it in and that the attorneys would speak to the press later.

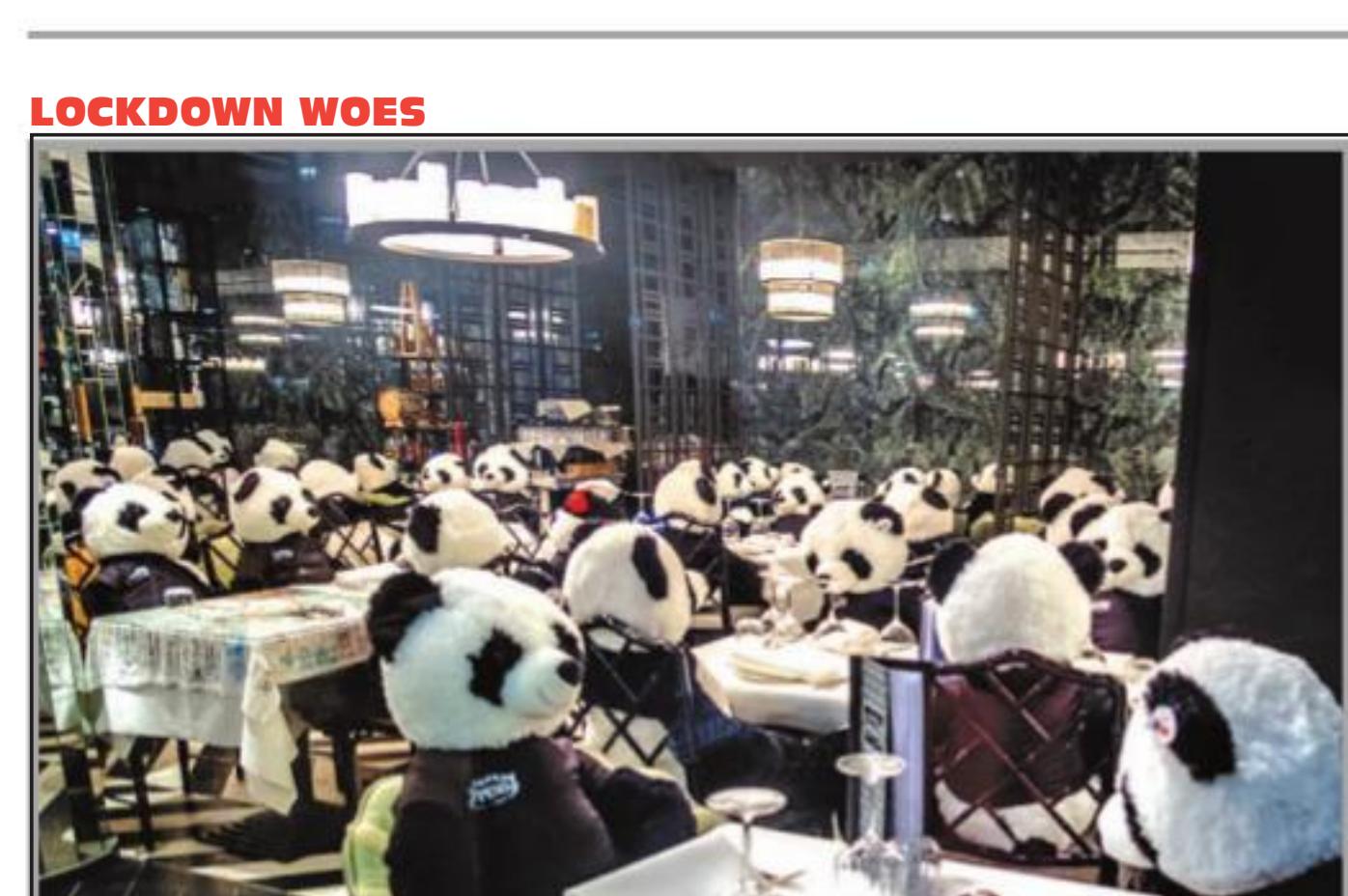
Hundreds of protesters gathered Tuesday evening on the street where Prude was detained. The system failed Daniel Prude again," Prude family lawyer Elliot Shields said of the grand jury's decision.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin also reasserted China's claim to a string of tiny, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea controlled by Japan.

The verbal exchange followed reports that two Chinese coast guard ships on Sunday twice entered Japanese territorial waters surrounding the islands, known by Japan as Senkaku and by China as Diaoyu. Chief Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby on Tuesday said China had continued to flout international rules.

Wang did not directly address the criticism but said the islands were China's inherent territory." The US-Japan security treaty is a product of the Cold War, which should not harm a third party's interest or endanger regional peace and stability," Wang said. China has long accused those who challenge its behaviour as maintaining a Cold War mentality.

The 1960 security treaty assures the US would come to Japan's aid in the event of an outside attack on Japanese forces or territory.



The owner of a closed restaurant has placed plush panda bears at the tables in central Frankfurt on Tuesday as Germany is still in a partial lockdown.



A crowd gathers near the site of Daniel Prude's encounter with police officers in 2020, in Rochester, New York.

Attorney General Letitia James, whose office took over the investigation, said her office had presented the strongest case possible to the grand jury

Relevant in these times

This is an excellent translation for which Sushmita Ghosh is to be highly congratulated, apart from her educated and intelligent set of notes to elucidate the text... A review

KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

Among a recent spate of biographies of national leaders and historical notables comes this welcome book on Chittaranjan Das (1870-1925) written by his daughter and eldest child Aparna Devi in 1954, and lately translated by his great grand-daughter Sushmita Ghosh. Appropriately and not a moment too soon, it places in the right context this Bengali stalwart for independence who gave his life and belongings for the cause of independence. The author's marriage was the first inter-caste (Hindu-Brahmo) wedding, and Aparna explains the rift between all three groups – the Adi, Shadaron and Nabobidhan Brahmans.

In regard to his all-embracing attitude towards race, caste, social status and creed, never discriminating between Hindu and Muslim, Das ranks no lower than any other Indian patriot including Gandhi, and his life and principles are especially relevant in our current polarised times.

Das did his BA from Presidency but failed the ICS exam twice. He was called to the bar and helped Dadabhai Naoroji win a seat in the Commons. He returned to India in 1894 and married in 1897, inheriting all his family's debts. He was declared insolvent in 1906, which was his status till 1913. He thought nothing of this obligation, saying "I am in everyone's debt".

Das had genuine empathy for the poor and underprivileged and was a follower of Sri Chaitanya and the poet Chandidas. He rebelled against any formulaic approach to religion and the narrow-mindedness of some Brahmo Samajists. He "throws his entire being into whatever task he undertakes. He never does anything superficially... he thinks of everyone but himself... I have never seen someone so oblivious to his own needs". He once attended council meeting on a stretcher.

After the Bengal Partition of 1905, Das' political activism began, unafraid of sparking national political debate. In 1907 he defended Upadhyay and Bipin Chandra Pal against charges of sedition after which came the Alipore Bomb case in 1908 when Aurobindo Ghosh was acquitted. By 1911 Das had set his focus on self-government, which later transformed into absolute freedom. In 1916 he spoke publicly for self-government, saying in 1918, "Bengalis will draw the respect of the entire world; they will... stand as a people on the global stage... A day will come when the entire world will have to listen attentively to what India has to say".

Das was strongly against secret killings but respectful of the spirit of patriotism. He met the British Secretary of State (Minister) for India in 1917 and was described as "an extremist but a most sensible fellow". Upon Annie Besant's detention, he joined her Home Rule League and

stated that independence should be granted "definitely within 15 years".

From chapter 20 (out of 29) in the book, the sessions of Congress Party and Bengal provincial conferences are detailed. At some of these, Das' wife Basanti attended and even chaired them in her husband's absence.

In 1920 Das launched the non-

own land". He gave up his entire belongings one by one and all the women in his family gave away their jewellery to fund the national cause.

Aparna writes "when Baba first donned a thick khadi dhoti my heart cried out for him". In 1921 he was arrested along with Bose, Azad and others and released in 1922 in poor health.

Das was twice the president of the

Party as such. Gandhi withdrew the non-cooperation movement, ignored an invitation for an Indian Round Table Conference and declined to support Das' call to contest the Legislative Councils, while he believed that non-cooperation would work best from inside the councils. Around this time, the term Deshbandhu started to be used for Das but it is not known who bestowed that title on him. It might have been Tagore, who had coined many other such titles, and after Das' death wrote a poignant poem in his honour. Devi's text notes that Tagore also introduced the custom of Rakhi Bandhan.

Das was elected to the Bengal Council in 1923, declined an invitation to form the government, and drew no salary. In 1924 he was elected the first Calcutta mayor with Subhrawardi his deputy and Bose the chief executive. He urged power-sharing between Hindus and Muslims and said Swaraj would be impossible without such unity. Had this been approved, notes Aparna, the Swaraj party would not have died after Das' death nor would communal tensions have risen. The last Congress Party session attended by Das was at Faridpur in May 1925; he died on 16 June.

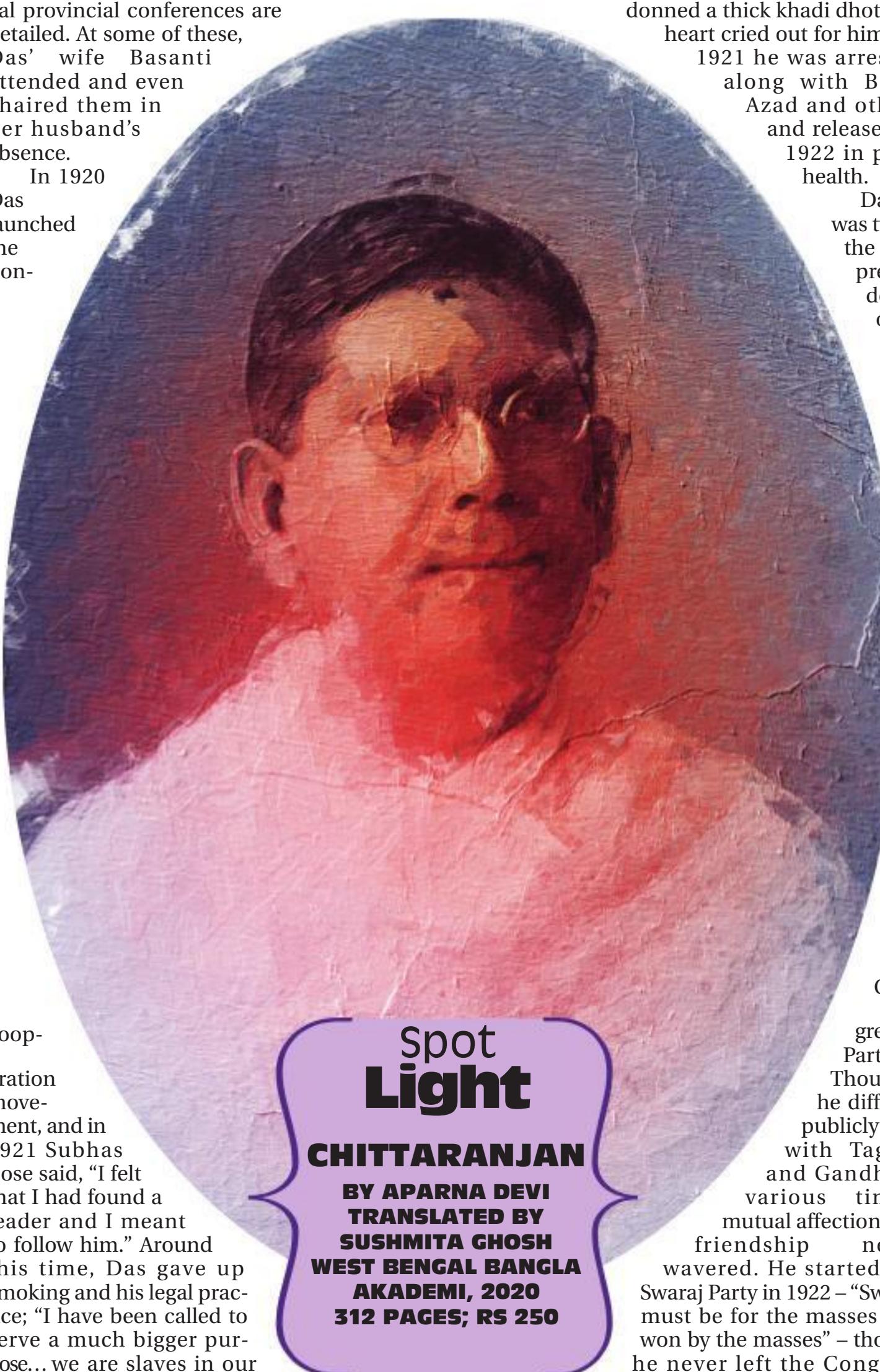
The personal traits listed are interesting. Das was deaf in his left ear, a powerful speaker but absent minded; a poet with three books to his credit who wrote short stories, loved music, recitation and songs. He founded and wrote for many journals and felt "true education is service for your country". He had no knowledge about how a household functioned; thefts of food and gatecrashers were met with compassion, and he always offered food to visitors. He once sheltered a murderer in his house, saying the felon needed love and affection; the bandit later absconded with a trunk full of stolen silver. During his last illness at Darjeeling, Das had faith only in homeopathy.

The life and times of Das were such that the text is a who's who of nation-wide famous names; it seems that everybody of note passed through his doors on Russa Road, where Chittaranjan Seva Sadan on SP Mukherjee road now stands.

One could wish that Aparna had used real names instead of nicknames (dak-nams) but her familiar usages impart humanity to the narrative. There is an explicatory table, but an index would have been an asset to the book.

It has to be underlined that this is an excellent translation for which Sushmita Ghosh is to be highly congratulated, apart from her educated and intelligent set of notes to elucidate the text. Retailed at an extraordinarily low price, this book deserves the widest circulation possible.

The reviewer is India's former foreign secretary



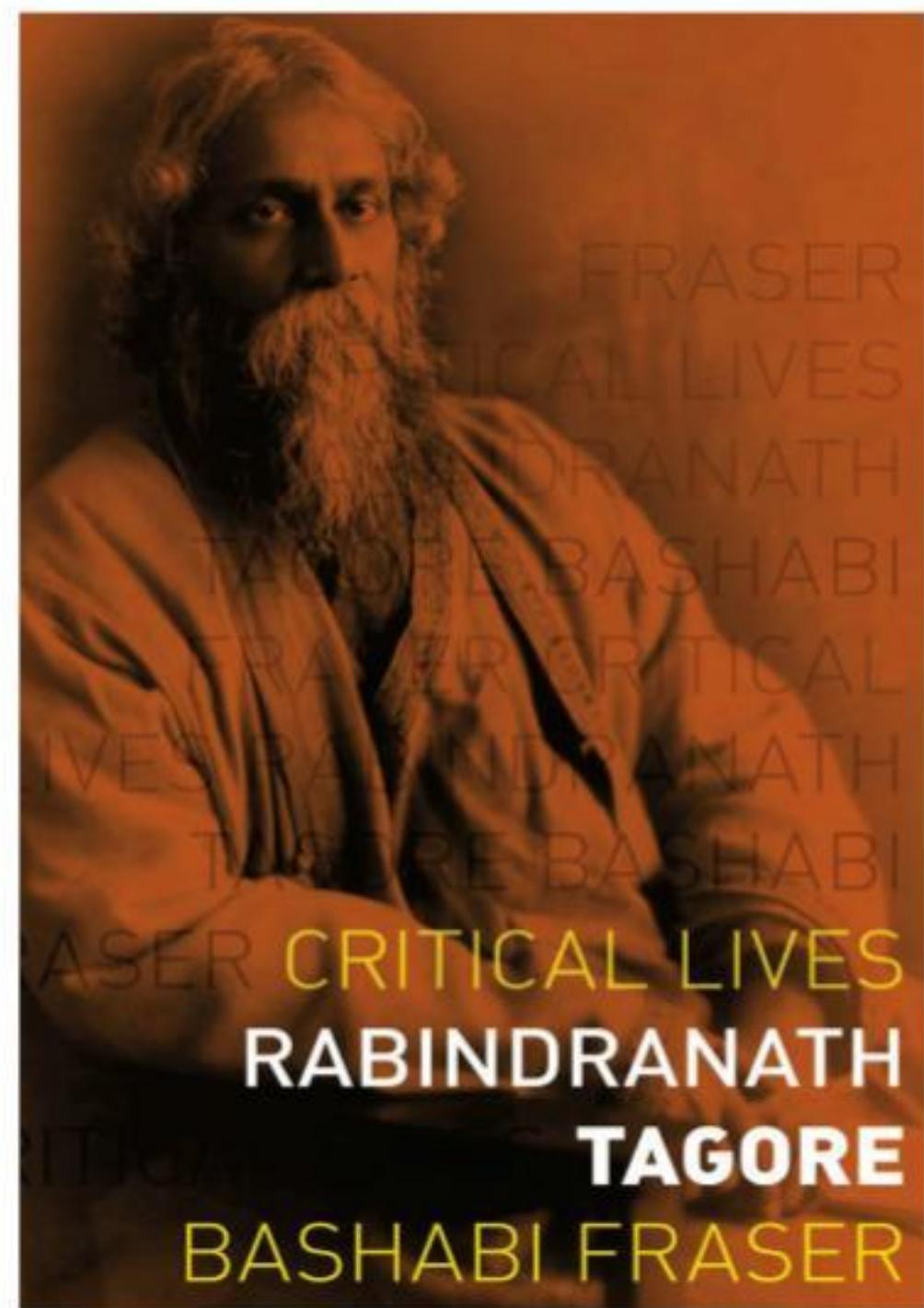
Spot Light
CHITTARANJAN
BY APARNA DEVI
TRANSLATED BY
SUSHMITA GHOSH
WEST BENGAL BANGLA
AKADEMI, 2020
312 PAGES; RS 250

co-operation movement, and in 1921 Subhas Bose said, "I felt that I had found a leader and I meant to follow him." Around this time, Das gave up smoking and his legal practice; "I have been called to serve a much bigger purpose... we are slaves in our

Congress Party. Though he differed publicly with Tagore and Gandhi at various times, mutual affection and friendship never wavered. He started the Swaraj Party in 1922 – "Swaraj must be for the masses and won by the masses" – though he never left the Congress

Writer, artist & pragmatist

This biography invites readers to discover Tagore as text, an extraordinary life-narrative stranger than fiction... A review



SANJUKTA DASGUPTA

Bashabi Fraser's critical biography of the life and career of the iconic Rabindranath Tagore can by no means be dismissed as just another volume in the catalogue of Tagore studies. Fraser's slim paperback is a commendable example of this skilful biographer's wide scholarship that has enabled her to undertake a rigorous sifting process, a process of judicious selection and rejection, foregrounding and showcasing various milestones and signposts that span the seven decades of Tagore's life as a "root-

ed cosmopolitan".

Due to the overwhelming volumes of data available about the poet's phenomenally super active life – some reliable, some fictitious, some a blend of fact and imagination – the tasks of abbreviation, concision and juxtaposing contextual parameters and the textual representations, bear evidence of Fraser's deep engagement. Fraser combines intellectual incisiveness and sensitivity while meticulously mentioning Tagore's varied literary texts. Primarily, the biography invites readers to discover Tagore as text, an extraordinary life-narrative stranger than fiction.

turalism. It did not imply surrender of one's own regional identity; it merely highlighted the embracement of the entire world as one's own. This transcendent position understandably led to Tagore being severely criticised by those who were unable to comprehend that a poet's creative spirit could not be entrapped within designated political territories.

In 1913, Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature and was the first Asian to have been awarded the prestigious prize. One cannot help but notice that Tagore received the prize as a British subject. Fraser writes, "Interestingly, the Nobel Prize was given to Tagore for Literature in English". The prestigious Time Literary Supplement had said of the poems that "they are prophetic of the poetry that might be written in England if our poets could attain the same harmony and pronounced 'Thakur'" as "Tagore", but ethnic pronunciation could not be an essential issue, when trade was the primary target. Though Calcutta has now been renamed as Kolkata, Tagore has remained the international brand name of Rabindranath. But in Bengal, the surname "Thakur" has permanently replaced "Kushari", which was after all the original family surname.

Fraser narrates how Tagore was propelled by a surge of patriotism, at the time when Lord Curzon proposed the Partition of Bengal in 1905. Tagore was at the forefront of protest rallies and meetings but soon after, he drifted away, perhaps realising that active politics was not his domain. Even before the Partition of Bengal was revoked in 1911, in 1910, Tagore's novel Gora broke free from all rigid boundaries of caste, religion, class and race and celebrated complete freedom from such cultural compartmentalisations. Probably from the post-Nobel Prize period of his career as a public intellectual, Tagore became the voice of universal humanism, internationalism and trans-cul-

ture. He had to bear the bitter criticism of his detractors life-long, both for his literary output as well as his independent views about nationalism that distanced him from the nationalistic fervour of the times. Interestingly, Fraser refers to Gandhi seeking Tagore's opinion about considering Hindi as "the national language of India" and Tagore agreeing that Hindi was the "only possible national language".

In fact, Tagore's difficult friendship with Gandhi has been referred to in some detail in the biography. Tagore could not support the boycott of foreign goods and the non-cooperation movement initiated by Gandhi, nor could he support the call for armed resistance. These were the times when the revolutionary poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was jailed for sedition, the novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's book was banned, Aurobindo Ghosh had to seek refuge in Pondicherry, revolutionary leader Surya Sen raided the Chittagong armoury, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose formed the Indian National Army, Tagore renounced his knighthood, Gandhi called for satyagraha – all of them denoted exceptional measures in exceptional times.

However, Tagore's fearless mind, did not permit him to entrap himself within a specific ideology. Probably such fearlessness and freedom of spirit can only be claimed by poets and visionaries, rather than those who adhere rigidly to a well-defined set of parameters that define certain fundamentalist tenets. It is a well-known fact that any dogmatic position that compromised rational analysis had always been anathema to Tagore. So when Gandhi invited Tagore to recognise the spinning wheel as a symbol for the struggle of Swaraj, Fraser refers to Tagore's jocular word-play as he replied, "Poems I can spin, Gandhi ji, songs and plays I can spin, but of your precious cotton, what a

mess I would make."

In this finely structured, concise, critical biography Bashabi Fraser has provided readers curious about Tagore, with a brilliant primer that informs them about an outstanding multifaceted achiever, whose towering eminence is unrivalled. It is not often in human history that we find a poet who experimented with multiple literary genres with remarkable success, a public intellectual whose lectures and views opened up new doors of perception at home and abroad, a peripatetic poet, who took up painting lessons around the age of 60, had his first art exhibition not in India but Paris, and has left behind 2,400 paintings, apart from 2,200 songs with their notations and over 20 volumes of his writings.

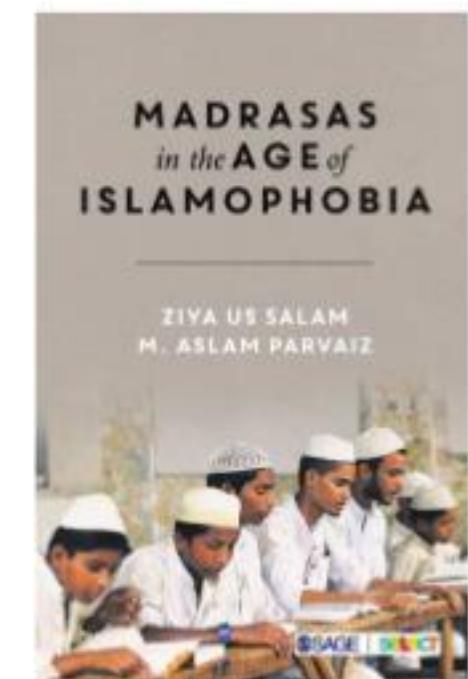
Moreover, Tagore commands our attention for his contribution to education and experiential learning and his founding of Visva Bharati University and Sri Niketan, a unique feat and unprecedented till date. The financial administration of Visva Bharati University was dependent on donations and self-financing. It was for this reason that Tagore had to travel extensively around the world, delivering lectures, leading song and dance troupes despite ill health and age.

The relevance of Tagore, who died in 1941, seems to have become increasingly important now, notes Fraser as she comments, "In a world of rising conflict, alarming friction and widening fissures, Tagore's syncretism remains a lasting legacy".

The reviewer is a former professor of English, Calcutta University

BOOKS RECEIVED

Much-maligned institutions



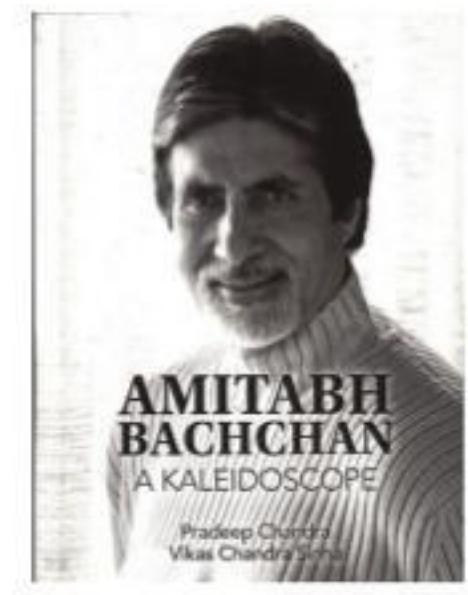
MADRASAS IN THE AGE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA
BY ZIYA US SALAM & M ASLAM PARVAIZ
SAGE SELECT
NON-FICTION, 180 PAGES, RS 395

In the age of Islamophobia, *madrassas* are at the crossroads – infamously labelled as "dens for terrorism" where the "youth are misguided, motivated and recruited to resort to anti-Indian activities". It is little known that in the golden past, *madrassas* schooled reformers and personalities such as Rajendra Prasad, Raja Rammohun Roy and many other noteworthy scholars.

Through *bona fide* stories of products of *madrassas*, the authors narrate the decline of *madrassas* from being centres of excellence to institutions of restricted learning with dark clouds of stigma surrounding them.

Ziya Salam is an associate editor at *Frontline* and *The Hindu*, and M Aslam Parvaiz is vice-chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

Complete oeuvre

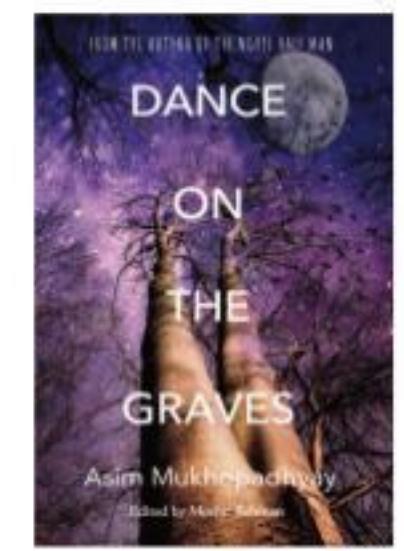


AMITABH BACHCHAN: A KALEIDOSCOPE
BY PRADEEP CHANDRA & VIKAS CHANDRA SINHA
NIYOGI BOOKS, BIOGRAPHY, 408 PAGES, RS 1,500

Pradeep Chandra and Vikas Chandra Sinha have embarked on the near impossible task of chronicling the course of Amitabh Bachchan's life, from his early days till date. Filled with personal anecdotes from the man himself; quotes from his immediate family, closest friends and colleagues who have been witness to his rise to mega stardom as well as his plummet; a collection of rare and never-seen-before photographs, paintings, sketches and movie stills, the book is a must read for every Bachchan fan as well as every art and cinema aficionado. The book also gives a bird's eye view of the many facets of Bachchan – the actor, the struggler, the family man, the businessman, the politician, the activist and above all, the fighter.

Chandra has been a photographer, writer and painter in a career stretching over four decades while Sinha is a first-time author and a lifelong Bachchan fan.

Kashmiri unrest



DANCE ON THE GRAVES
BY ASIM MUKHOPADHYAY
EDITED BY MOSIUR REHMAN
WOVENWORDSPUBLISHERS.COM
FICTION, 262 PAGES, RS 599

While humanity sleeps in the darkness of the night, Hasanath, an old farmer from Malali, digs graves for young men whom Wazed Wani's followers called "martyrs". The authorities, who carry out these undocumented encounters, have found their cover in the poor man's hunger.

Fear of death by hunger or by the bullet, has brought upon an occupational change, turning farmers into grave diggers, whether on the Indian or Pakistani side.

Asim Mukhopadhyay is known for his investigative journalism and research in South Asian studies. His debut novel, *Half Man* is based on the Naxal movement and *Narmada Bachao Andolan*.





THE OPTIMIST
Jose Mourinho (*in photo, left*) is confident he will be remembered for the right reasons at Tottenham despite overseeing a collapse in Spurs' form during his first full season in charge. Mourinho's men, top of the Premier League early in December, have taken just 12 points in 13 games since to slip to ninth.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Indians unwanted: Some more of the best players in world cricket have been signed up to play in The Hundred, the new fast-paced family-friendly 100-ball cricket competition to be launched this summer, but no Indian is in any of the eight franchise teams.

Gayle's gone: Chris Gayle's parting words before he headed home for the West Indies' Twenty20 International series against Sri Lanka were he had enjoyed coming to Pakistan after 15 years. He top-scored for Quetta in both their Pakistan Super League matches.

Stadium go-ahead: Politicians in the UK gave the go-ahead to plans by Premier League club Everton for a riverside stadium costing \$712 million despite a call by Unesco to reject the plan because of the impact it will have on Liverpool's maritime World Heritage Site.

Buffon unsurprised: Gianluigi Buffon said after Juventus' 3-0 win at Crotone on Monday night they would continue to chase Inter, but revealed that he was unsurprised by the form of Antonio Conte's men, who topped Serie A after 23 games with 53 points.

Maradona probe: Argentina's public prosecutor's office will convene a medical board on 8 March to decide whether Maradona was given proper treatment before his death. He died of a heart attack in November, weeks after undergoing brain surgery on a blood clot.

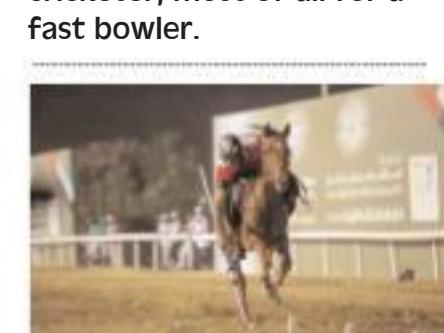
Leeds rise: Leeds moved into the top half of the Premier League table as Patrick Bamford, Stuart Dallas and Raphinha struck in the second half to earn a 3-0 win over Southampton on Tuesday. After topping the table earlier in the season Saints are not yet safe.

Murray upset: Andy Murray was dumped out of the Association of Tennis Professionals event in Montpellier on Tuesday after suffering a straight-sets defeat in the opening round by Belarusian Egor Gerasimov. The former world No 1 lost 7-6 (10-8), 6-1.

Halep out: World No 3 Simona Halep has pulled out of next week's Qatar Open, organisers of the event announced on Tuesday. The Romanian's withdrawal follows her Australian Open quarter-final loss to Serena Williams. "I've decided to withdraw," she said.

Bikini ban: Beach volleyball players will be able to wear bikinis for a tournament in Qatar, the sport's governing body said on Tuesday, after two Germans and their coach had vowed to boycott the event amid a row over dress regulations, essentially an apparent bikini ban.

Tendulkar lauds Ishant: Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday lauded Ishant Sharma ahead of his 100th Test, and said playing that many matches of the game's most challenging format is a great landmark for any cricketer, most of all for a fast bowler.

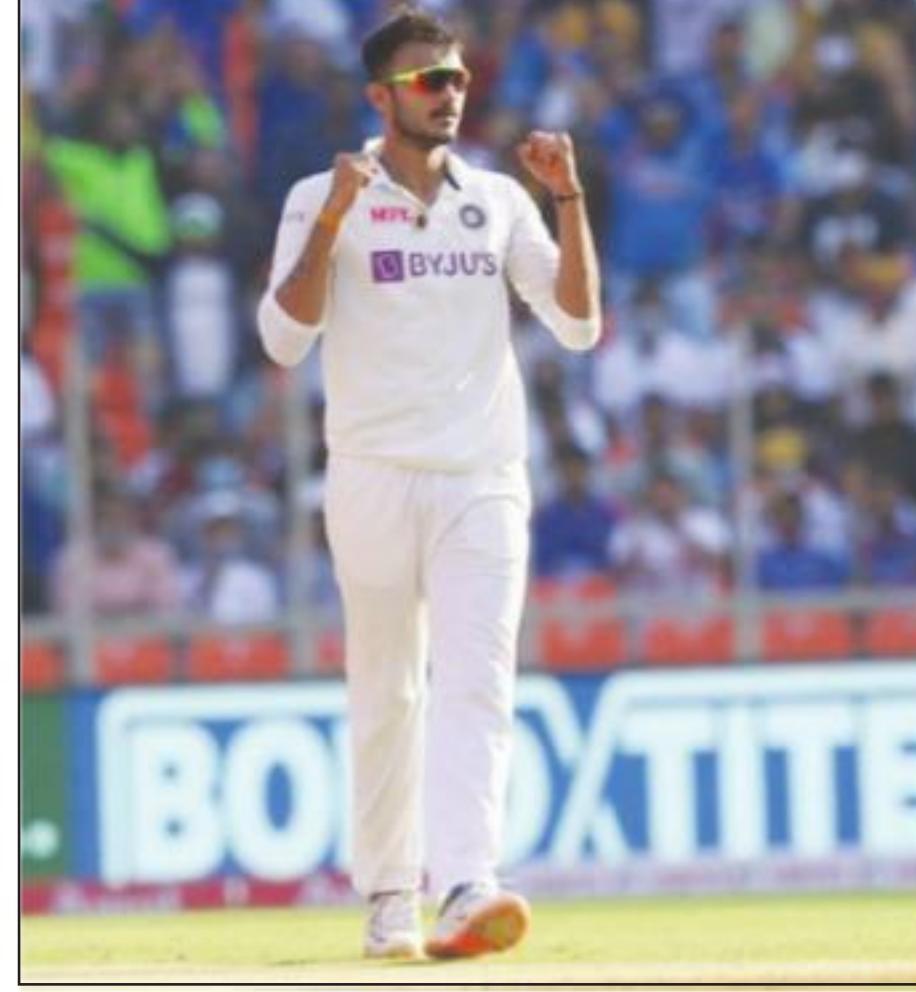


Equestrian World Cup Qualifiers: Equestrian Federation of India in association with Equi-wings Sports are organizing World Cup Qualifiers for Equestrian Tent Pegging scheduled to be held in Greater Noida from 11 to 14 March 2021. A total of seven countries including Russia, USA, Belarus, India, Pakistan, Sudan & Bahrain will be competing with each other at World Cup Qualifiers. Out of these seven teams, top two will qualify for the World Cup which is going to be held in South Africa in 2023.

Ashwin-Axar take early control of pink-ball Test

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, 24 FEBRUARY



Axar Patel's (*in photo*) devastating six-wicket haul baulked England out for 112 before Rohit Sharma's languid elegance shone through in an unbeaten half century that handed India the edge on the opening day of the day-night third Test here on Wednesday.

The spin combination of left-arm Patel and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin exploited the turning Motera pitch at the newly-inaugurated renamed Narendra Modi stadium to the full and England's first innings folded in just 48.4 overs after the visitors opted to bat.

Patel (21, 4-6-38-6) grabbed his second five-for in his second Test while Ashwin (16-6-23-3) took three.

At stumps, India were 99 for 3 from 33 overs with Rohit batting on 57 off 82 balls. Ajinkya Rahane (1) was giving his company following skipper Virat Kohli's dismissal in the second last over of the day.

Kohli was dismissed for 27 off 58 balls by left-arm spinner Jack Leach (10-1-27-2).

India trailed by just 13 runs with seven first innings wickets in hand.

Before this, it was a nightmare that unfolded for England with the 47-run stand for the third wicket being their best.

They lost their last six wickets in the second session. The last seven wickets yielded just 38 runs.

This was after Ishant Sharma, only the second Indian fast bowler after Kapil Dev to play in 100 Tests, fittingly took India's first wicket in the third over to open the floodgates for the hosts.

He was accorded a guard of honour by his teammates after being felicitated by President Ram Nath Kovind and Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of his landmark game.

In reply to a below-par score, India negotiated the opening spells of much-vaunted England seamers James Anderson and Stuart Broad without any damage in the tricky twilight peri-

od. Rohit and Shubman Gill (11) did not face too much trouble seeing out the precarious phase.

Anderson and Broad did not get much the desired movement with the pinkball and the dew factor did not have a big role either.

But Jofra Archer (5-2-24-1) gave England the breakthrough in the 15th over with Gill, trying a pull shot from the offstump, top-edged for Zak Crawley to end the 33-run opening partnership.

India lost another wicket soon after in Cheteshwar Pujara took a low catch off Ashwin, though the TV umpire took time to confirm the deci-

sion.

Ashwin sent Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a

reduce India to 34 for 2.

After that, Rohit and Virat shared 64 runs for the third wicket, rotating the strike and finding the gaps as well for regular boundaries. Kohli was dropped by Ollie Pope when he was on 24. Pope also put down a difficult chance to dismiss Rohit when the batsman was on 52.

Earlier, after Ishant had taken the first wicket, it was an Ashwin and Patel show as the duo bamboozled the England batsmen to complete the submission. Crawley (53 off 84 balls) was the lone exception and hit a delectable half-century. Crawley's brilliance was, however, neutralised by the Indian spinners as England were left reeling at 81 for 4 going into tea after an exciting opening session.

Two wickets fell in as many overs after the resumption of the second session, with Ashwin and Patel taking one each, to reduce England to 81 for 6.

Ashwin sent Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a

beauty of a delivery, bowling round the wicket, before Patel trapped Ben Stokes (6) LBW in the next over with a ball that spun in.

Jofra Archer (11) did a tad better as he hit a four off the second ball he faced and another boundary off Ashwin. But Patel dismissed him soon, cleaning up his off-stump to send England innings into a mess.

England's rapid slide continued with Jack Leach edging one to the gully where Cheteshwar Pujara took a low catch off Ashwin, though the TV umpire took time to confirm the deci-

Crawley's effort was the only silver lining for England. Having missed the first two Tests due to a freak wrist injury, the stylish right-hander's driving was elegance personified as he hit 10 boundaries during his innings. Captain Joe Root was the second highest scorer for England with a 37-ball 17 before he was dismissed by Ash-

win. Ashwin sent Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a

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LED lights go off for a minute, stop play in 3rd Test

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, 24 FEBRUARY

The LED lights at the new stadium in Motera went off for about a minute and stopped play in the second session of the first day's play in the first India-England Test on Wednesday.

The incident happened in Indian innings' second over and just before Shubman Gill was seemingly caught in slips but recalled after the replays showed that Ben Stokes had grassed the ball.

The LED lights at the Motera stadium are unique as all the other stadia in India had floodlights on tow-

ers. Here the lights are on the rim of the roof that covers the stands. It is meant to avoid shadow of the players.

It is part of the unique Rs.800 crore reconstruction of the stadium.

Lights going off during a match is nothing new. The Eden Gardens in Kolkata has witnessed floodlights going off on multiple occasions. Back in 2009, the India-Sri Lanka ODI was affected by it with the lights going off for 26 minutes.

A 2016 World T20 game between New Zealand and Bangladesh too was affected as lights went off for about 15 minutes.

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings:	Zak Crawley lbw b Axar 53
	Dominic Sibley c Rohit b Ishant 0
	Jonny Bairstow lbw b Axar 0
	Joe Root lbw b Ashwin 17
	Ben Stokes lbw b Axar 0
	Ollie Pope lbw b Axar 6
	S Gill c Zak Crawley b Jofra Archer 11
	Ben Foakes c Axar 12
	Jofra Archer b Axar 11
	Jack Leach c Pujara b Axar 3
	Stuart Broad c Bumrah b Axar 3
	James Anderson not out 0
Extras:	(8-1,1B-2,NB-3) 6
Total:	(all out in 48.4 overs) 112
Fall of Wickets:	1-2, 2-27.3, 3-74.4, 4-80, 5-81, 6-81.7, 7-93, 8-98, 9-105, 10-112.

3 (b 2, lb 0, w 1, nb 0, p 0)
S Gill c Zak Crawley b Jofra Archer 11
Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Jack Leach 0
Virat Kohli (c) b Jack Leach 27
Ajinkya Rahane batting 1

Extras: 3 (b 2, lb 0, w 1, nb 0, p 0)
Total: 99 (3 wkt, 33 Ov)

Bowler: James Anderson 9-6-11-0; Stuart Broad 6-16-0, Jofra Archer 5-2-24-1, Jack Leach 10-1-27-2, Ben Stokes 3-0-19-0.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth were handed tough draws at the 2021 All-England Championships. Reigning world champion PV Sindhu will face lower-ranked rivals in the initial rounds before potentially coming up against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi and Spanish Olympic champion Carolina Marin.

Nehwal has drawn the in-form Danish player Mia Blichfeldt, who beat Sindhu in the first round of the first Thailand Open in January. Srikanth starts against Indonesian Tommy Sugiarto. World championships' bronze medalists B Sai Praneeth faces France's Toma Junior Popov. Sindhu, seeded fifth, will face Malaysia's Soniia Cheah in her first-round match.

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty face Eloï Adam and Julien Maës of France while women's doubles pair Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy face Benyamin Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard of Thailand.

"It is such an exciting atmosphere here at the largest cricket stadium in the world, doesn't have the traditional floodlight towers but a ring of LED lights around the perimeter of its roof. It is similar to the 'ring of fire' at the Dubai International Stadium, which often poses a challenge to the fielding side."

"If your career is 14 years long and you are still playing, you cannot name just one highlight. It is difficult to pinpoint just one highlight, every sportsperson has the graph going up and down," Ishant said. Prior to the start of the match, Ishant was hailed by the likes of Kohli, Sachin

and Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Ashish Nehra.

Kohli Worried about the lights

Indian skipper Virat Kohli is worried that the lights at the Narendra Modi Stadium here could potentially impact visibility and said the players will need to adapt quickly. The refurbished stadium, the largest cricketing arena in the world, doesn't have the traditional floodlight towers but a ring of LED lights around the perimeter of its roof. It is similar to the 'ring of fire' at the Dubai International Stadium, which often poses a challenge to the fielding side.

"It is such an exciting atmosphere here at the largest cricket stadium. I'm a bit more worried about the lights than the colour of the seats," Kohli said at the toss ahead of the day/night Test against England.

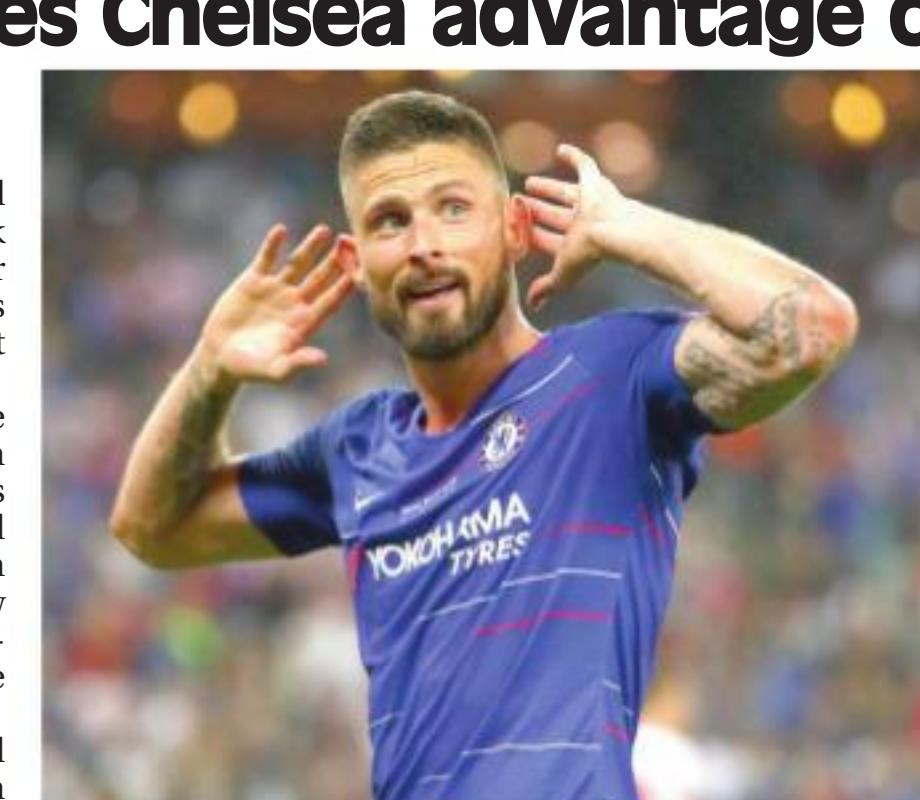
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and Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Ashish Nehra.

Giroud gives Chelsea advantage over Atletico

AGENCIES

LONDON, 24 FEBRUARY



A spectacular Olivier Giroud (*in photo*) overhead kick gave Chelsea a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid in Tuesday's Champions League last-16 first leg in Bucharest.

The French striker broke the deadlock in the 68th minute with an outrageous bicycle kick which was flagged off-side but eventually given following a lengthy VAR review as the ball had come off Atletico's Mario Hermoso before Giroud hit it.

Joao Felix had attempted an overhead effort earlier in the second half but missed the target in one of few chances for Atletico, who were forced to play their home leg over 3,000 kilometres from Madrid due to Spanish restrictions on arrivals from Britain to control the spread of COVID-19 infections.

Chelsea looked more likely to find a second goal than

Atletico did an equaliser but Thomas Tuchel's side would be without Mason Mount and Jorginho in the second leg at Stamford Bridge on 17 March. They will be suspended after being booked. Lewandowski landmark Robert Lewandowski became the Champions League's third top scorer of all time as holders Bayern Munich put one foot in the quarter-finals with a 4-1 thrashing of Lazio in their last-16 first leg in Rome on Tuesday.

The Polish striker pounced on a poorly-judged back pass after nine minutes to steer in his 72nd goal in the competition. In doing so, he surpassed former Real Madrid striker Raul in the competition scoring charts to reach a total only bettered by Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo, with 134 goals, and Barcelona's Lionel Messi, with 119.

Bayern's 17-year-old midfielder Jamal Musiala doubled their advantage with a well-taken strike and Leroy Sane tapped in a third before the break. A Francesco Acerbi own goal stretched the visitors' advantage further early in the second half, but Joaquin Correa soon pulled one back for Lazio, whose unbeaten run in the competition came crashing to an end. It was an 18th consecutive match without defeat for Bayern in the Champions League, 17 of which have been victories, leaving the German champions in a dominant position ahead of the second leg in Munich on 17 March.

Woods is awake and responsive, says Indian-American doctor Anish Mahajan

AGENCIES

LOS ANGELES, 24 FEBRUARY



Golf legend Tiger Woods (*in photo*) is currently "awake, responsive and recovering" after surviving a serious car accident in the Los Angeles suburbs on Tuesday morning, said Indian-American doctor Anish Mahajan, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and interim CEO at Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre.

On his way to a TV shoot, the SUV which Woods was driving suffered a serious accident and the star golfer had to be pulled out through the car's windshield.

Woods suffered serious leg injuries and was trapped but conscious when emergency responders reached the scene of his one-vehicle rollover crash on a stretch of road near Los Angeles in California known for speed and accidents, authorities said. Dr Mahajan said the 45-year-old American golfer suffered open and compound fractures on his lower-right leg and ankle.

A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, who