



TMC AND BJP ARE
EVIL FORCES: ADHIR



P7

NAVALNY ROW:
RUSSIA SAYS READY
FOR SPLIT WITH EU



P11

MORI GONE BUT GENDER
ISSUES REMAIN



KOHLI'S INDIA
SEEK REDEMPTION

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Dense fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 27 and 10 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100%	Min: 51%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 27.4°C (+ 4)	Min: 10.2°C (0)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
07:00 hrs	18:10 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
8:44 hrs	19:42 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Schools reopen in Bengal for class 9 to 12 in line with Covid-19 safety rules. At Jogesh Chandra Girls' School, Howrah on Friday. SNS

Kharge to be Leader of Opposition in RS: Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge will be the leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, succeeding Ghulam Nabi Azad whose tenure comes to an end on Monday. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu for appointing Kharge to the post as Azad is retiring. Kharge, a Dalit leader from Karnataka, was the leader of Congress in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019.

6.1 magnitude quake jolts north India: A high intensity earthquake of magnitude 6.1 hit Delhi NCR and several other parts of north India on Friday night, causing people to rush out of their homes. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the epicentre of the quake was Amritsar. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 km at 10.34 pm, it added. However, there were no immediate reports of any loss of life or damage to property. Tremors were also felt in Pakistan, Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia.

'India hasn't conceded any territory to China'

MoD refutes Rahul Gandhi's claims of India ceding areas at Pangong to China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY



Reacting sharply to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim that India has surrendered its land to China in eastern Ladakh, the government today asserted that the country has not conceded any territory to the neighbouring country as a result of the agreement on disengagement at the North and South Banks of the Pangong Tso Lake.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry refuted as "categorically false" Gandhi's claim that Indian territory was up to Finger 4. "The territory of India is as depicted by the map of India and includes more than 43,000 sq km currently under illegal occupation of China since 1962. Even the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as per the Indian perception, is at Finger 8, not at Finger 4. That is why India has persistently maintained the right to patrol up to Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China," it added.

At a press conference earlier, Mr Gandhi had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "ceding" Indian territory to China, saying why Indian troops are moving back from Indian territory of Finger 4 to Finger 3. The mountain spurs in the region are referred to as Fingers.

Gandhi questioned why the prime minister did not make a statement on the LAC situation, and said Singh "sheepishly" made a statement on the issue in both

Finger-4 is our territory, that is where our post used to be. So, now we have moved from Finger-4 to Finger-3. Why has Prime Minister Modi given up Indian Territory to the Chinese?

RAHUL GANDHI

Rather than conceding any land, India has enforced observance and respect for LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo.

DEFENCE MINISTRY

Houses of Parliament.

"Why has he asked the Defence Minister to make the statement, the Prime Minister should say-I have given Indian land to China, this is the truth," he alleged.

He said it has emerged that Indian troops are now going to be stationed at Finger 3 at Pangong Tso lake.

"Finger-4 is our territory, that is where our post used to be. So, now we have moved from Finger-4 to Finger-3. Why has the Prime Minister Modi given up Indian Territory to the Chinese? This is the question that needs to be answered by him and by the Defence Minister," Gandhi said.

The ministry said permanent posts of both sides at the north bank of Pangong

Tso were long-standing and well-established.

On the Indian side, it was Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 and on the Chinese side, east of Finger 8. The current agreement provided for cessation of forward deployment by both sides and continued deployment at these permanent posts.

The statement said rather than conceding any land, India has enforced observance and respect for LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo.

The ministry said the factual position on the agreement has already been clearly communicated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his statements in both Houses of Parliament yesterday. However, there were still

some misinformed and misleading comments being amplified in the media and on social media regarding the disengagement under way at Pangong Tso.

The statement said the effective safeguarding of India's national interest and territory in the Eastern Ladakh sector has taken place because the government has reposed full faith in the capabilities of the armed forces.

"Those who doubt the achievements made possible by the sacrifices of our military personnel are actually disrespecting them," it added.

Last year, the Chinese military built several bunkers and other structures in the area between Finger 4 and 8 and had blocked all Indian patrols beyond Finger 4, triggering strong reaction from the Indian Army.

In the nine rounds of military talks, India specifically insisted on withdrawal of Chinese troops from Finger 4 to Finger 8 on the North bank of Pangong Lake.

FM defends Budget, rejects Opposition's charge it's for the rich

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY



In spite of whatever the government did to help the poor, it had become a habit for some in the Opposition to constantly allege and create a false narrative that the government works only for the cronies.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

were given special bonds in place of subsidy.

She said it was true that the word Defence was not mentioned in her speech but the Budget Appendix would show there were increased allocations for Defence pensions and capital expenditure.

For the core Departments of Health, Ayush and Health Research, the allocations were substantially higher, she said.

Economies suffered all over the world because of the pandemic, the finance minister said. The Budget had provided greater allocations for health and defence, and the MGNREGA had been taken out of the mess it was during the UPA tenure, and provided much more funds during the Covid period, she said.

More than 2.11 lakh km of roads were built under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. "Whose lifeline are these roads, are these roads for the rich?" she asked.

Nine crore fellowships were provided to students. Under the e-NAM portal, 1.69 crore farmers registered themselves.

During 2016-2020, as many as 3.6 lakh crore transactions were done under UPI. Are these transactions done by the rich, she asked. Did they help some "damaads"

(sons in law), she asked, in an apparent reference to Priyanka Gandhi's husband, Robert Vadra.

She said that during the pandemic a Rs 3 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme was announced for MSMEs and 91 lakh borrowers were sanctioned Rs 2.43 lakh crore and Rs 1.78 lakh crore was disbursed already.

Giving data how the Modi government's policies had benefited the poor and the underprivileged, she said the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana had provided 1.67 crore houses to the poor. More than 2.67 crore houses were electrified under the Saubhagya scheme. The Government had placed orders worth Rs 8.22 lakh crore on the e-market, which were supplied by the MSMEs only.

The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi amount was small by Rs 10,000 crores because West Bengal had failed to join the scheme and give the list of its 69 lakh farmers, she said.

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The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi had benefited nine crore farmers, Rs 27,000 crore loans were given under MUDRA, most of the beneficiaries of these schemes were poor. The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi had benefited 11 crore small and medium farmers with Rs 6,000 for each farmer yearly.

Debris blocks Rishiganga river, forms new lake in flood-hit area

RAJU GUSAIN
DEHRADUN, 12 FEBRUARY



A new glacial lake has formed in the upstream of the Rishiganga river in the flash-flood affected area in district Chamoli in Uttarakhand.

According to the Central Water Commission, the lake is 350 metres in length, with a height of 60 Mts and slope of 10 degrees.

Debris flowing from the landslide triggered by a snow avalanche has blocked the river to form the lake.

The development has forced the Chamoli administration to take fresh precautions. A team of scientists and experts of DRDO's Defence Geo-Informatics Research Establishment

damage in the valley, said authorities.

Air surveys of the lake have been conducted and high resolution photographs taken.

There are plans to use drones and the expertise of Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory Drones (Chandigarh) will be used.

Meanwhile, rescue teams battled on for a sixth day to get to some 25-35 people trapped in a sludge-choked tunnel at the Tapovan hydel project site. According to authorities, the rescue teams have successfully punctured the safety tunnel. RP Aahirwar, General Manager of NTPC said: "This has released the pressure and now we will attempt pumping by widening the hole."

The temporary lake, if breached, can cause further

India's active tally falls to 1.36 lakh; only one state reports over 1,000 cases

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

India's tally of active Covid-19 cases has fallen to 1.35 lakh, making up only 1.25 per cent of the total infections, while the distribution of new cases in a span of 24 hours shows only one state - Kerala - reporting over 1,000 cases, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday.

The distribution of daily deaths among states and union territories also reflects a significant decline with 18 states and UTs not reporting any new deaths in a span of 24 hours. Thirteen states and UTs have reported between 1-5 new deaths, the Ministry noted.

"The distribution of new cases in India in the last 24 hours shows a positive picture with only one state reporting over 1,000 cases while the rest of the states and UTs reporting less than 1,000 new cases," it said.

While 13 states and union territories that have not reported any new cases in a span of 24 hours, a total of 13 states and UTs have reported between 1-5 new deaths, the ministry said. It said while 9,309 new confirmed cases were recorded in a span of 24 hours in the country, 15,858 new recoveries were registered in the same period.

A total of 87 case fatalities have been reported in a span of 24 hours, the seventh time

daily fatalities were recorded below 100 in February.

The national recovery rate (97.32 per cent) continues to be one of the highest globally. The total recovered cases have surged to 1,05,89,230.

Till 8 a.m. on February 12, over 75 lakh (75,05,010) beneficiaries have received vaccination under the country-wide Covid-19 vaccination exercise.

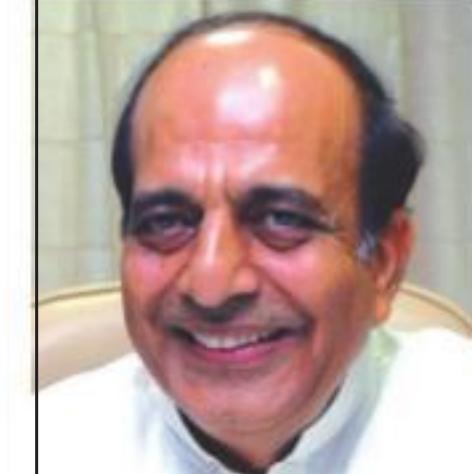
Most - 79.87 per cent - of the new cases are from six states.

Delhi adds 141 cases, 3 deaths: Delhi today recorded 141 fresh Covid cases and 3 deaths, even as its positivity rate stood at 0.22 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

(SEE P2)



Dinesh Trivedi resigns from Rajya Sabha



In an unexpected move, Trivendrum Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Trivedi today declared that he would step down as a Member of Parliament as he was feeling suffocated.

Mr Trivedi, who is representing West Bengal in the Rajya Sabha for the third time and was a former railway minister, announced his resignation in the house during a debate on the Union Budget, saying he cannot speak about the violence in his state. He handed over his resignation to chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and it has been accepted.

"I was feeling suffocated as I was sitting idle here and people are suffering in West Bengal. So I decided to tender my resignation," he was quoted as saying in the Upper House.

"If you sit here quietly and cannot do anything, then it is better that you resign from here and go to the land of Bengal and be with people," he said.

Mr Saugata Roy, Dum Dum MP told The Statesman, "It is unexpected that Mr Trivedi would resign at this juncture when we have Assembly polls. He lost Lok Sabha election in Barrackpore in 2019 to Arjun Singh but Mamata Banerjee made him Rajya Sabha MP".

Details on Page 4

Centre, Twitter served SC notice on content regulation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and Twitter India on a plea seeking a mechanism for regulating content and advertisements spreading hatred through fake news and instigative messages via bogus accounts.

A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notice to the Centre and Twitter Communication India Pvt Ltd on the plea filed



Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, special care will be taken to ensure that the problems of every sections of the society are resolved. Special care will be given to health, education, employment, self-reliance and self-respect.

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR
HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi Metro wants to run with full seating capacity

It has urged the Centre to revise Covid safety protocols to allow it to run with at least full seating capacity to make up for its revenue losses due to lockdown; city logs 141 fresh virus cases, 3 deaths

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi Metro has appealed to the Centre to revise the safety protocols to allow it to operate trains with at least full seating capacity to make up for the revenue shortfall.

After being closed for over five months due to the pandemic-induced lockdown, Delhi Metro on September 7 had resumed services with curtailed operation of the Yellow Line, before assuming full operations from

September 12, all in compliance with the latest safety guidelines issued by the government.

The 169-day closure of services from March 22 onwards had already financially hit the urban transporter and post resumption, regulated number of commuters further impacted its financial health.

The DMRC has reportedly written to the Centre to revise the safety protocols so as to allow it to operate trains with at least full seating capacity to augment its revenue. It had written to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and also

cited the permission given in October last year to buses in Delhi to carry to their full seating capacities. Besides, the DMRC has already sought financial assistance of Rs 1,648.4 crore from the Centre and the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, where it runs operations.

While the DMRC has resumed service since September, as per Covid safety norms each commuter has to sit on alternate seats, leaving a seat between them vacant. Also, standing riders have to maintain a stipulated distance between



them, thus further reducing the carrying capacity of a coach. This is leading to less number of commuters at a time in any train, and also longer queues at Metro stations. Due to these

"new normal" restrictions, only 50-60 passengers in total can now travel in a coach, which in pre-Covid time carried 300-350 people during the peak hours. One Metro coach's full seating capacity is about 50.

After resuming services on September 7, the DMRC had also kept only 269 of the 682 entry-exit gates open due to safety norms. At present, that number has been increased to 447, amid improvement in the Covid situation here. The DMRC has 10 lines spanning 242 stations, and 264 stations including the Rapid Metro in Gurgaon.

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 141 fresh Covid cases and 3 deaths, even as its positivity rate stood at 0.22 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The fresh cases were detected out of 63,022 tests, which included 41,945 rapid antigen tests and 41,077 RTPCR/CNAAT/TrueNet tests.

The national capital's coronavirus tally mounted to 63,670, the health bulletin said.

The city lost three more lives due to the coronavirus infection, which pushed its Covid toll to 10,889, the bulletin stated.

The number of Covid patients who recovered during the last 24 hours was 136, which raised the city's cumulative number of such recoveries to 6,24,728.

There were 1,053 active Covid cases in Delhi now, of which the number of patients under home isolation was 420. The count of containment zones in the city stood at 746.

Of the current 5,770 hospital beds meant for Covid patients, 5,289 remained unoccupied, the bulletin added.

Delhi had yesterday logged 142 Covid cases and two fatalities.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. UMED KUCH GREWAL ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE-02 (West)
Room No. 127, 1st Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi PC No. 3/2021
Archana Versus State & Ors.

CITATION UNDER SECTION 283 OF THE ACT OF 1925

Whereas my application under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of Probate of the Will or for Letters of Administration to the estate of Late Sh. Shanti Jana / s/o Late Sh. Krishna Padma Jana, r/o T 22/3 A, Gali No 21, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi, died on 29th October 2017 at Delhi has been made by Mrs. Archana, w/o Mr. Rattan Mann, a/w Mr. Kunwar Singh Chowk, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110091.

Whereas the 05th day of April, 2021 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the deceased if he/she desires to appear in this court on the above said date and see the proceedings of the Grant of Probate (or for Letters of Administration).

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 06th day of February, 2021.

Addl. District Judge-02 (West)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Seal of the Court

FMC

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82)

In the Court of Shri Chaudhary Metropolitan Magistrate Court-01, East District Court Room No. 14, 1Ind Floor Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-32

Case No. 2446/19 P.S.-Gandhi Nagar

Sandeep Versus

Aditya Jain

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Aditya Jain, r/o 2510, Gali No. 5, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-93, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under Section 488 of the Act of the said person. On 01.02.2021 he has returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Aditya Jain cannot be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Aditya Jain has absconded (or concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that Aditya Jain is required to appear before Court No. 14, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi to answer the said complaint on the 20th day of March, 2021.

Dated this 1st day of Feb, 2021.

Metropolitan Magistrate Court-01, East District Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-32

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. NIKHIL CHOPRA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

PC No. 2/2021 Date of hearing : 29-04-2021

Sh. Ajit Singh Tokas, s/o Shri Rohsan Lal, r/o 60A, Munirka Prateek Market, New Delhi-110067.

— Petitioner

— Defendant

Whereas the petitioner abovementioned has applied for a petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of Letters of Administration or Probate or Succession Certificate in respect of the estate of deceased Sh. Basant Lal, s/o Sh. Durga Deon, r/o F-579, Dakshinpur, Dr. Arambek Nagar, New Delhi-110062.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public having any interest in the Letters of Administration or Succession Certificate of the Estate of the abovementioned deceased may if he/she desires, appears in this court on the 18th day of April, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. and participate in the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration/Probate/Succession Certificate or if desire to oppose the application of the petitioner aforesaid, he/she should enter appearance in persons in this court on the aforesaid date and be present to adduce on that day any documentary and oral evidence which he/she may desire to adduce in support of his/her claim to opposition to the application of the petitioner aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on the 8th day of February, 2021.

Additional District Judge-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. NIKHIL CHOPRA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

PC No. 2/2021 Date of hearing : 29-04-2021

Sh. Ajit Singh Tokas, s/o Shri Rohsan Lal, r/o 60A, Munirka Prateek Market, New Delhi-110067.

— Petitioner

— Defendant

Whereas the petitioner abovementioned has applied for a petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of Letters of Administration or Probate or Succession Certificate in respect of the estate left by the deceased Sh. Sant. Kamla Devi, a/w Mr. Ravi Chatur, r/o 617/7, Lakshmi Colony, Pimpri, Mithapur, Extn., New Delhi, died on 03-04-2007.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public having any interest in the Letters of Administration or Succession Certificate of the Estate of the abovementioned deceased may if he/she desires, appears in this court on the 29-04-2021 at 10.00 a.m. and participate in the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration/Probate/Succession Certificate or if desire to oppose the application of the petitioner aforesaid, he/she should enter appearance in persons in this court on the aforesaid date and be prepared to adduce on that day any documentary and oral evidence which he/she may desire to adduce in support of his/her claim to opposition to the application of the petitioner aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on the 8th day of February, 2021.

Additional District Judge-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. NIKHIL CHOPRA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

PC No. 2/2021 Date of hearing : 29-04-2021

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— Petitioner

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Additional District Judge-02 (South)

Saket District Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. NIKHIL CHOPRA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE-02 (South)

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AAP is outsider, faceless in Punjab: Amarinder

Punjab Cong goes after Oppn AAP, Sunil Jakhar asks it to clear stand on Centre's farm laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 12 FEBRUARY



The ruling Congress party in Punjab today unleashed a scathing attack on the principal Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh said it was "ridiculous" that the "faceless" AAP in Punjab was talking of having a "grand" CM face in the 2022 Assembly elections in the state.

"With just a year to go for the Assembly polls, AAP could not find a face from Punjab to campaign in the municipal elections and had to drag in non-entities from Delhi for electioneering. And now they claim they'll find a CM face that will be the pride of Punjab," Capt said.

He charged that the AAP "neither knows nor cares what Punjabis are all about". Far from "learning from their mistakes" of the past five years, the AAP continues to "blunder" its way through Punjab, with "absolute-no understanding or concern" about the problems of its people, he said.

"All they see here is another

its Delhi model of governance is welcome in Punjab, which is faring better than the national capital on almost every key index of development."

Meanwhile, Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar said the AAP should clear its stand on the Centre's controversial farm laws.

In a statement, Jakhar charged that the "AAP keeps changing its stand on farmers laws time and again". He said the Kejriwal-led party first supported the Bills brought by the Amarinder government against the central laws and then opposed them.

He claimed that the AAP government in Delhi similarly first issued notification to implement the Centre's new farm laws and "then AAP members pretended to tear up copies of the same laws in the Delhi Assembly".

The Punjab Congress chief said that despite the point that the vigilance department is under the jurisdiction of the Chief Minister of Delhi, it was not investigating the reasons behind the "torture" of farmers by some officers and employees of Delhi Police and was pretending to understand the plight of the farmers.

er state to rule, another seat of power. They do not see the pain and the problems of our people," said the CM, adding that the AAP is an "outsider in Punjab and will remain so as long as it continues to be disconnected from the state's ground realities".

The "exodus" of AAP leaders and members from the party's Punjab unit over the past two to three years is "just the tip of the iceberg" as "they have no roots here", said the CM.

Arvind Kejriwal's party has no existence outside Delhi, and will soon be wiped out from there too, given their shameless collusion with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at whose behest they have been trying to befool the lakhs of farmers camping outside their city for more than two months now," Capt alleged.

Punjab "neither wants nor needs" such a party, he claimed, adding that "neither AAP nor



S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Year ended
1.	Total Income from Operations	31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	31.12.2020 (Unaudited)
2.	Profit before exceptional items, net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	49,504	49,059	202,518	214,976	27,761	49,387
3.	Profit before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	27,436	26,397	140,431	150,575	177,251	27,620
4.	Profit before tax after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance	3,269	26,397	111,091	150,575	176,642	3,453
5.	Net Profit after tax from continuing operations	25,279	27,340	128,398	156,799	195,936	25,555
6.	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net profit after tax and other comprehensive income after tax	19,551	21,201	101,924	125,245	165,189	19,757
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share : ₹ 10/- each)	19,340	20,810	101,298	124,073	163,387	19,546
8.	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve	392,980	392,980	392,980	392,980	392,980	392,980
9.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹ 10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)						
	- Basic & Diluted	0.04	0.52	2.23	3.06	3.80	0.04
10.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹ 10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)						
		0.50	0.54	2.60	3.19	4.20	0.50
							0.55
							2.61
							3.21
							4.23

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Nine Months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website <http://www.sjvn.nic.in> and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> & <http://www.nsindia.com>.

2. The Board of Directors has declared interim dividend of ₹ 1.80 per share (on face value of ₹ 10/- each) for the financial year 2020-21 in its meeting held on 12.02.2021.

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors

Sd/-
(Nand Lal Sharma)

Chairman & Managing Director DIN: 03495554

CIN : L40101HP1988GOI008409

Regd. Office : SJVN Corporate Office Complex, Shanan, Shimla-171006. HP (INDIA)

Liaison Office : NBCC Complex, Tower-I, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.

Telephone : 0177-2660075, Fax: 0177-2660071

Email : investor.relations@sjvn.nic.in Website : www.sjvn.nic.in

We are taking all necessary COVID-19 Precautionary Measures.

BLAZERS SUITS & JACKETS SALE

Formals & Wedding collection

Raymond ColorPlus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE

• 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

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड
SJVN Limited
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
A Mini Ratna & Schedule "A" PSU

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LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY IN COORDINATION WITH DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE

is organizing GHAR-GHAR LOK ADALAT

on 14.02.2021 from 10.00 AM to 03.30 PM

FOR SETTLEMENT OF TRAFFIC CHALLANS

All Compoundable traffic challans (ON THE SPOT AND CAMERA-BASED CHALLAN) pending in Virtual and Regular courts shall be taken up

Disposal of Challans will be done at Court Complexes i.e. Tis Hazari, Karkardooma, Patiala House, Saket, Rohini & Dwarka

NAME OF DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (DLSA)	PLACES WHERE GHAR-GHAR LOK ADALAT WILL ORGANISED ON 14.02.2021 (SUNDAY)
Central District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 287, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Tel.: 23932321 (O), Tel. 23929035, central-dlsa@nic.in	1. Janki Devi Memorial College, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi -110060. 2. Delhi Tribunal STAT, Old Parachute Building, Timarpur, Delhi-110054. 3. Ramjas School No. 5, RD Block, Karol Bagh, Delhi.
West District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 295, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Tel.: 23966052, 23950919, E-mail: west-dlsa@nic.in	1. Shivaji College, Gandhi Marg, Shivaji Enclave, Raja Garden, New Delhi. 2. Rajdhani College, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Block-C, Raja Garden, New Delhi-110015 3. Community Hall, Sanatan Dham Mandir, B-Block, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, Outer Ring Road, Delhi-110063
East District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 36, Ground Floor, Karkardooma Courts Complex, Delhi Tel.: 22101336, 22382490, E-mail: east-dlsa@nic.in	1. Mayur Public School, IP Extension, Delhi-110092 2. Mother's Global School, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 3. Sports Complex, New kondi, Police Line, East District, Delhi-110096
North-East District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 35A, Ground Floor, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi Tel.: 22101456, 22306870, E-mail: northeast-dlsa@nic.in	1. Jag Parvez Chandra Hospital, Shastri Park, Delhi 2. DCP Office, North East District, Delhi 3. Govt. Sr. Sec. School, C-Block, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi
Shahdara District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 35A, Ground Floor, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi Tel.: 22101456, 22306870, E-mail: shahdara-dlsa@nic.in	1. JHARKHANDI RWB Shahdara, 33, Sholmar Park, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 (Near East Azad Nagar Metro Station). 2. Delhi School Teacher's Co-operative Building Society Ltd., Shikhar Seva, Community Centre B' Block, Surajmal Vihar, Delhi 3. GTB Enclave Police Station, Tahirpur Village, Dinaid Garden, Delhi
South District Legal Services Authority, Ground Floor, Utility Block, Saket Courts, New Delhi Tel.: 29562440, E-mail: south-dsa@nic.in	1. Holiday Club D-Block, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi. 2. Culture Club, D-Block opposite Sai Mandir, Saket, New Delhi 3. Go Green Residents Welfare Association Office, Geetanjali Enclave, Adjacent to Ram Mandir, New Delhi
South-East District Legal Services Authority, Ground Floor, Utility Block, Saket Courts, New Delhi Tel.: 29561040, E-mail: southeast-dlsa@nic.in	1. Co-operative Society Meeting Room, Pampush Colony, Near Samovar, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi 2. Community Hall, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-110003 3. Govt. Primary School behind Police Station Amar Colony, New Delhi
New Delhi District Legal Services Authority, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Tel.: 23072418, E-mail: nddl-dlsa@gmail.com	1. Ramjas School at R.K. Puram, Delhi 2. Kalyan Kendra at Vasant Vihar, Delhi 3. Ryan International School at Vasant Kunj North, Delhi
North District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 405, Rohini Courts, Delhi Tel.: 27557310, E-mail: north-dlsa@nic.in	1. VSPK International School, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi 2. B. R. Ambedkar Hospital Rohini, Delhi 3. Shaheed Sukhdev Singh Collage, K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
North-West District Legal Services Authority, Room No. 405, Rohini Courts, Delhi Tel.: 27555336, E-mail: northwest-dlsa@nic.in	1. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi 2. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi 3. KIIT World School, Zone H-4, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
South-West District Legal Services Authority, SA, Admin. Block, Dwarika Courts, New Delhi Tel.: 28041480, E-mail: southwest-dlsa@nic.in	1. MRV School, Sec-13, Dwarka, Delhi 2. Govt. Boys Sr. Sec. School, Sec-3, Dwarka, Delhi 3. Govt. Coed Sr. School, Sec-17, Dwarka, Delhi

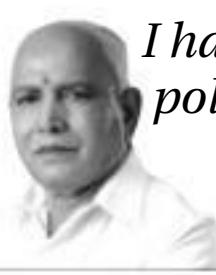
Note:- Traffic Lok Adalat will be organized physically keeping in view all safety measures of social distancing etc. due to the present COVID situation.

Follow us on: <https://twitter.com/dtptraffic> <https://facebook.com/dtptraffic/dtptraffic>

24 hrs. Traffic Helpline: 1095, 25844444
Delhi State Legal Services Authority : 1516

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.snsrivastava@deltahipolice.gov.in | Write to CP, Delhi at PO Box No. 171 GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 | **TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**



I have a piece of advice to the senior officials that people visiting the police station should be treated with utmost respect and humility.

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER B S YEDIYURAPPA

WHILE DISCUSSING ISSUES DURING A MEETING WITH STATE POLICE OFFICIALS



All Assam Trained Home Guard Association members during a protest demanding for the regularization of their jobs in Guwahati.

IANS

Death in custody: A youth's death allegedly in police custody in UP's Buxa area triggered protests by locals who blocked a national highway and indulged in stone pelting, leading to injuries to policemen.

PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Inter-caste marriages will possibly reduce caste and community tensions, the Supreme Court has said while noting that the educated younger boys and girls are now a days choosing their life partners which is a departure from earlier societal norms.

The top court said that youngsters face threats from the elders and the courts

have been coming to the aid of these youngsters.

It said the way forward to the police authorities is to counsel the Investigating Officers (IO) and lay down some guidelines and training programmes on how to handle such socially sensitive cases.

The remarks came by a bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy which quashed an FIR lodged by the parents of the girl, who had married a boy

of her choice against the wishes of elders, at Belgavai district of Karnataka.

The top court in its recent verdict said that it hopes that the parents of the girl will have a better sense to accept the marriage and re-establish social interaction not only with her but even with her husband.

That, in our view, is the only way forward. Under the garb of caste and community to alienate the child and the son-in-law will hardly be a

desirable social exercise, the bench told the parents of the girl, who has sought quashing of the FIR lodged against her.

The top court said, Educated younger boys and girls are choosing their life partners which, in turn is a departure from the earlier norms of society where caste and community play a major role.

Possibly, this is the way forward where caste and community tensions will

reduce by such inter marriage but in the meantime these youngsters face threats from the elders and the Courts have been coming to the aid of these youngsters.

Referring to earlier verdicts of the top courts, the bench said it has been held that the consent of the family or the community or the clan is not necessary once the two adult individuals agree to enter into wedlock and that their consent has to be piously given primacy.

Ker CPI to implement 3-term criteria

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
12 FEBRUARY

CPI in Kerala has decided not to field those who have contested elections more than 3 times in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The CPI state council meeting held here on Friday decided to implement the 3-term policy strictly in the party.

Going by the criteria, Six CPI MLAs including three ministers won't be able to contest in the upcoming Kerala Assembly polls. E Chandrasekharan will be the only CPI minister to contest in the Assembly polls, as per

the new rule.

Three ministers - VS Sunil Kumar (Thrissur), P Thilothaman (Cherthala) and K Raju (Punalur) - in addition to three other sitting MLAs - C Divakaran (Nedumangad), Mullakkara Ratnakaran (Chadayamangalam) and ES Bijimol (Peerumedu) - won't be able to contest this time.

CPI state secretary Kanam Rajendran said here on Friday that the party has taken such a decision to give opportunity to new faces.

He also said that this decision is taken not to sideline anyone.

At present, the CPI has 19 MLAs in the 140-member assembly.

Inter-caste marriages will reduce tension: Apex court

SC says youngsters face threats from the elders & courts have been coming to their rescue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 'NOTICE INVITING TENDERS'

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bhawana Division HP.PWD. Bhawana on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP.PWD. (BSP) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules and also registered under the HP General Sales Tax Act 1968 so as to reach his office on or before 06/03/2021 up to 11:00 AM. And the same shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of IO/Intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender documents can be had from his office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 05/03/2021 up to 4:00 P.M. and the application for issue of tender form shall be received on 04/03/2021 up to 12:00 noon.

The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/saving account of the Post off/ice/Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of the XEN must accompany with each tender. Conditional/ incomplete tenders & tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The XEN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or drop the proposal of tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender form
1	C/o Saman to Thural road Km 0/0 to 8/0 (SW-C/o R/wall at RD 3/990 to 4/010) (Under SCSP)	3,17,860/-	6400/-	Three Month	350/-
2	C/o Link road from Naura Panchayat Ghar to village Bahkti via Katham Basti Km 0/0 to 2/210 (under NABARD) (SW- Protection work)	4,85,398/-	9800/-	Three Month	350/-
3	A/R & M/o on Manira Tappa road Km 0/0 to 1/700 (SW-P/L C.C- Pavement at various Rd 0/075 to 0/105/0/360 to 0/390)	4,25,156/-	8500/-	Three Month	350/-
4	C/o Link road Henja to Bhawana Khas via Garla Da upto Swargjan Km 0/0 to 4/300 (SW-C/o Both side approaches to 4/00)	4,16,326/-	8400/-	Three Month	350/-
5	Restoration of rain damages on Pira Sukhar Bherar road (Saheed Gajeh Singh Marg) (SW-P/L C.C- Protection work)	4,83,633/-	9700/-	Three Month	350/-
6	Restoration of rain damages on Pira Sukhar Bherar road (Saheed Gajeh Singh Marg) (SW-P/L C.C- Protection work)	1,96,384/-	4000/-	Three Month	350/-
7	C/o Link road from Basketar to Khabil Km 0/0 to 1/610 (SW-C/o 3/00 mtr. span RCC slab culvert at RD 0/570) under SCSP	4,41,379/-	8900/-	Three Month	350/-
8	C/o Link road Challian Dholia Gadiara Dhol road Km 0/0 to 2/250 (SW-C/o 2/00 mtrs. Span slab culvert at RD 0/0)	490302/-	9800/-	Three Month	350/-
9	Balance work of Link road from Thandol to Thandol via Shri Lanka Km 0/0 to 1/750 (C/o R/wall at RD 0/431 to 0/469) 0/533	499671/-	10000/-	Three Month	350/-
10	C/o Link road from Harizan Basti Mahadev in GP Ghametta Km 0/0 to 0/600 (SW-P/L G-III, C/o CC Pavement work at RD 0/367 to 0/600) (Leg-II)	351080/-	7100/-	Three Month	350/-
11	C/o Link road from Harizan Basti Mahadev in GP Ghametta Km 0/0 to 0/600 (SW-P/L G-III, C/o CC Pavement work at RD 0/240 to 0/500) (Leg-I)	399860/-	8000/-	Three Month	350/-
12	C/o Link road from Sat to Bharanta road Km 0/0 to 1/0 (SW-C/o 4/00 mtrs. Span culvert at RD 0/250)	4,87,348/-	9800/-	Three Month	350/-
13	C/o Link road from Sat to Bharanta road Km 0/0 to 1/0 (SW-P/L GSB, WBM G-II & WBM G-III at RD 0/0 to 0/500)	4,65,042/-	9300/-	Three Month	350/-
14	C/o Link road from Bharanta to Maller Km 0/0 to 1/0 (SW-P/L GSB, WBM G-II & WBM G-III in Km 0/650 to 1/0) (Under MMGSY)	3,04,870/-	6100/-	Three Month	350/-
15	R/D Santoshi Mata Mandir road (SW-C/o B/wall at RD 0/655 to 0/685)	1,17,518/-	2400/-	Three Month	350/-
16	Providing road safety on various roads under Dehra Sub-Division (SW-P/L Thermoplastic paint on Sultan Raipur road Km 0/0 to 1/0 & Henja to Bhawana Khas via Garla Da upto Swargjan Km 0/0 to 2/0)	2,46,540/-	5000/-	Three Month	350/-
17	P/L Road safety work on HSTM road (SW-P/L W-beam crash barrier at Rd 30/102 to 30/142 & 44/460 to 44/502)	257324/-	5200/-	Three Month	350/-
18	C/o Thurai to challai road Km 0/0 to 4/690 (SW-P/L W-beam crash barrier at Rd 1/575 to 1/725)	470116/-	9400/-	Three Month	350/-
19	C/o Thurai to challai road Km 0/0 to 4/690 (SW-P/L Hume pipe at Rd 0/00 to 0/070)	4,99,520/-	10000/-	Three Month	350/-
20	Restoration of rain damages Ballah to Trutti Batt via Khal Km 0/0 to 3/200 (SW- Removal of slips & C/o Katcha drain at various Rd's)	4,70,500/-	9400/-	Three Month	350/-
21	A/R & M/o on HSTM road Km 24/135 to 59/775 (SW-P/L Mastic asphalt on Nagri bridge at Rd 46/995 & Naun bridge near Degree collage Thurai Rd 36/150)	4,95,048/-	9900/-	Three Month	350/-
22	A/R & M/o AE Residence at HPPWD Bhawana (SW- Protection work)	4,90,120/-	9800/-	Three Month	350/-
23	A/R & M/o on HSTM road Km 24/135 to 59/775 (SW-P/L Soling ,wearing in extended portion in Km 55/700 to 56/700)	4,50,874/-	9000/-	Three Month	350/-

Terms & Conditions:-

Following documents should accompany the application for tenders.

1. Sale tax No. with latest Sales tax clearance certificate.
2. Copy of G.S.T. number.
3. Valid copy of Registration.
4. Machinery will be of the contractor where required.
5. Certificate regarding possession of machinery.
6. Telegraphic/Fax tenders are not acceptable.
7. The tender documents can be received by registered/ Insured post which should be received in this office on or before the date of opening of tender by 11:00 A.M positively.
8. Contractor should have successfully executed two works of similar nature of 1/3 amount of estimated cost or similar single work of amount equal to estimated cost during the last preceding three years.
9. The Contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he has not more than two works in hand. Next tender will be issued only after completion of previous works in hand.

Executive Engineer,
Bhawana Division,
HPPWD. Bhawana

5777/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 'NOTICE INVITING TENDER'

Short terms tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer Bangana Division HP.PWD. Bangana on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted in HPPWD as per latest instructions so as to reach and open in his office as per time schedule given below. The offer of the tender will be kept open for 120 days from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

1. Date of receipt of applications for the tender Form a/w requisite documents:- 01.03.2021 upto 5.00 PM.
2. Date of issue /sale of tender forms against Cash payment (Non-refundable):- 02.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
3. Date of receipt of tenders:- 03.03.2021 upto 10.30 AM.
4. Date of opening of tenders:- 03.03.2021 at 11.00 AM.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time Limit	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1	C/O UAM Road km. 19/000 to 39/700 (SH- C/O R.C.C. Hume pipe 600mm dia & U-Shape Drain in km. 27/000 to 27/380)	349597	7000	Two month	350	Class-D & C
2	C/O UAM Road km. 19/000 to 39/700 (SH- C/O R.C.C. Hume pipe 600mm dia & U-Shape Drain in km. 1/180 a/w wing wall)	349597	7000	Two month	350	Class-D & C
3	C/O Link road from Naloot					



THUMBNAILS



People commute amidst a foggy morning, in Gurugram on Friday. IANS

Bhim Singh JKNPP head: Supreme Court lawyer and patron of the J&K National Panthers Party Bhim Singh was on Friday unanimously elected President of the party. Singh's election to the post has come amidst the power struggle within the family to control the party that was established by Singh in 1982. SNS

Cong MLA passes away: Congress MLA and former minister, Sujan Singh Pathania, 78, died in Fatehpur area in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh after prolonged illness. A seven-time MLA, Pathania was known as a forthright leader in Himachal politics. SNS

Agri laws are for PM's pals: Rahul

Addressing a mahapanchayat in Pilibanga, Cong leader claims laws will impact 40% of Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, 12 FEBRUARY

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of trying to clear the path for his "friends" through the three new agri-marketing laws, saying he is threatening farmers when he cannot stand up to China. Addressing farmer "mahapanchayats" in Pilibanga town of Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district, he claimed the laws will impact 40 percent of Indians.

He also referred to the India-China agreement on disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh, alleging that the Modi government ceded territory between fingers 3 and 4 on the banks of Pangong lake.

He would not stand before China but threatens farmers. This is the reality of Narendra Modi, Gandhi charged.

He addressed another Congress-organised farmers' meeting in Sri Ganganager's Padampur town on the first day of his two-day Rajasthan trip.

Instead of chairs, cots were placed on the dais for party leaders to sit upon in Hanumangarh. In Sri Ganganager, there were rustic mudda chairs on the dais.

Gandhi said the new laws



do not affect just the farmers, adding his party will ensure that they are withdrawn. Even the British couldn't stand before farmers, he said.

He said Modi should first withdraw the laws if he wants to talk to farmers. Forty percent of people in the country who include farmers, traders and labourers will be hit by the implementation of the laws, the Congress leader claimed.

They are not just farmers; they are traders, labourers, traders, adhikaris (middlemen). This is the business of Bharat Mata that feeds the nation, he said in Sri Ganganager.

"The objective of the laws is to shift the business of 40 percent people to two or three people. What will happen to those who sell grain, fruit and vegetables on

roads if only one company starts selling grain, fruit or vegetables of the entire country?" he said. Gandhi said the new farm laws are another blow to the people of the country after demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Earlier, it was the demonetisation and I had said it was not a fight against black money, and the backbone of the country was being broken. But people didn't understand this at that time, Gandhi said.

After this, the GST was implemented, which was an attack on small and midsize businesses. Narendra Modi wants to clear the way for his friends, Gandhi alleged, without naming anyone but apparently referring to big businesses. The Congress leader

claimed that with the implementation of the new laws, government mandis will shut down and big businessmen will monopolise the purchase of farm produce.

He claimed there will be hoarding. If a single person wants to purchase the country's entire grain, it can be done. What mandi system will remain then? he said.

The first law is meant to finish the mandi system. The second law is about unlimited hoarding. It means one person can control prices, he said. The third law is about snatching the right of farmers to seek justice, he claimed.

Narendra Modi says the laws were brought for farmers. But if this was so, why are the farmers disappointed and agitating and why 200 farmers died, he asked.

The Congress leader was referring to the thousands of farmers now camping at Delhi's borders for weeks, demanding the repeal of the new laws.

Several have died of various causes, including accidents and suicide in Punjab and Haryana during the protests. But the exact number is unverified. Farmer unions and opposition parties say the new laws will weaken the minimum support price (MSP) system through which farm-

ers sell their crops in mandis. They claim that the system benefits private businesses.

But the government says the laws give farmers the option to sell their produce anywhere, and they are still free to sell them at mandis at the MSP.

AICC general secretaries Ajay Maken and K C Venugopal, state Congress chief Govind Singh Datasra, former deputy CM Sachin Pilot and other party leaders attended the event. Gandhi referred to the speech made during his Lok Sabha speech yesterday for two minutes of silence as a mark of respect to farmers who died during the agitation. He said it is shameful that no BJP MP stood up for it.

Meanwhile, BJP took a dig at Rahul Gandhi on Friday for his allegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ceded Indian territory to China, saying it was an acknowledgement of the realisation in the Congress that Jawaharlal Nehru had made a "Himalayan blunder" by "gifting" over 38,000 square kilometres of land to the neighbouring country. Gandhi questioned the government on Friday over its agreement with China on troops disengagement in eastern Ladakh and alleged that Modi has "ceded" Indian territory to the Chinese.

people including union ministers, yet he continues to remain untraceable to the Madhya Pradesh Police that has been searching for him for the past nine years, on an arrest warrant issued by a court in MP in connection with a case against him of attempt to murder and inciting riots.

The case relates to the Anuppur district of MP dating back to 2012, in which the court had issued an arrest warrant against Tikait for not appearing in hearings.

In that incident, Tikait, along with others, was accused of attempt to murder and leading a rioting mob under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Union against the thermal power plant of Moser Baer Company located in the Jaithari block of the district.

Thousands of farmers are encamped at Delhi's border points of Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur since November with a demand that the Centre repeal the three farm laws enacted in September and make a new law to guarantee minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

2012 case against Tikait in MP court: Even though Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Singh Tikait is openly leading the farmers' protest near New Delhi and publicly interacting with numerous

Tikait to join seven 'mahapanchayats'

SNS & PTI
GHAZIABAD, 12 FEBRUARY

Beginning Sunday, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait would be attending seven farmers' meetings planned across Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan to garner support for the ongoing stir against the new farm laws.

The farmers' meetings,

which will culminate on 23 February, are part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's outreach programme, BKU's media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said. These "kisan mahapanchayat" are scheduled to be held in Haryana's Karnal, Rohtak, Sirsa and Hisar districts, and Maharashtra's Akola and Rajasthan's Sikar, he said.

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Over the Phone

The comity of nations has been kept guessing over what actually transpired through the ether, but Thursday's telephone interaction between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping was as diplomatic as it could be. Sure, the Presidents of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China dwelt on issues close to the bone. It thus comes about that Biden underlined the need for a "free and open" Pacific and Xi's caveat suggested that a "confrontation would be a disaster for both nations". But America's message regarding the choppy waters of the Pacific has been conveyed despite China's attempt to establish mastery over the sea. While the US President has offered to cooperate on "global priorities of mutual interest", President Biden has warned his counterpart in Beijing that its aggressive policies abroad (an allusion to the border kerfuffle with India) and human rights violations at home (a reference to the persecution of Uighurs in Xinjiang province) were decidedly unacceptable. To that was added China's "coercive and unfair economic practices, the crackdown and expansionist designs in its protectorate of Hong Kong", and "increasingly assertive actions in the region", including Taiwan. It is a measure of the importance of the conversation over the telephone that it continued for two hours and the two leaders also discussed the "shared challenges of global health in the context of the pandemic, climate change, and preventing the proliferation of weapons". The interaction quite obviously transcended diplomatic courtesies. Xi was emphatic that a "confrontation would lead to disaster and the two nations must re-establish the means to avoid misjudgments". The Chinese President followed a hardline stance regarding the areas of international contestation, primarily Taiwan, Xinjiang and Hong Kong, areas that are chronically in geopolitical ferment though Xinjiang intrinsically represents the ethnic cauldron. Xi is reported to have told Biden that the three storm-centres represented "sovereignty and territorial integrity" and hoped that the United State would approach the issues at stake cautiously. The telephone interaction comes after the US President's talks with leaders of his key allies in the Indo-Pacific - Australia, Japan, South Korea and India. Biden is expected to follow the Trump administration's confrontational policies regarding China's territorial claims in Asia, defending Taiwan's independence and cracking down on China's cybertheft and hacking. Going by the briefing of the US administration, the tariffs that Trump had imposed on China's exports to America would continue. No less critical is Biden's announcement that the Pentagon has established a task force to furnish recommendations to address the challenge posed by China. "It will require a whole-of-government effort, bipartisan cooperation in Congress, and strong alliances and partnerships. That's how we'll meet the China challenge". President Biden has outlined the matrix; it remains for President Xi to respond. On Thursday, both leaders agreed to disagree.

The Ordeal Ends

Saudi Arabia's decidedly prominent women's rights activist, Loujain al-Hathloul, who was arrested in 2018 for her spirited campaign to allow women to drive in the theocratic kingdom, has been released. This in itself is a victory for Saudi women. And yet the cruel irony of her predicament must be that she was put behind bars just weeks before the ban was lifted by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, reckoned as a liberal by the standards of the palace in Riyadh. With liberal winds blowing across the desert sands, human rights ought to have prompted the release of 31-year-old Loujain much earlier. If indeed a few weeks separated her arrest and royalty's affirmation of a woman's right to be seen at the steering wheel, the doughty Loujain deserved to be freed long ago, and arguably not arrested at all. It bears recall that she was jailed not the least because the palace was impervious to the global outcry. In December a court found her guilty of seeking to change the political system and damage public order. Allowing a woman to drive is intrinsically a societal issue, one that has little or nothing to do with the political system, let alone cause damage to public order. And yet she was sentenced to nearly six years in a maximum security prison; two years and 10 months were suspended, however. And in the immediate aftermath of her freedom, it has transpired that Loujain was offered freedom "if she denies torture". The tag of "conditions apply" mirrors the certitudes of a theocratic land. It is hard not to wonder whether her freedom also addresses the problems of human rights. Such misgivings can be contextualised with her family's warning that she is "not free" and will face numerous restrictions while on probation, including a five-year travel ban. "Loujain is at home!", Hathloul's sister Lina tweeted on Wednesday, breaking the news that she had been released after 1,001 days in prison. The imprisonment was incredibly out of proportion to her "offence". Hathloul became a symbol of the suppression of dissent in Saudi Arabia following her detention in May 2018 along with about a dozen other women activists who had also campaigned for women to be allowed to drive. Loujain has over the past few years become the face of dissent in the kingdom, verily a symbol of Saudi Arabia's crackdown on any form of protest. Her family has alleged that she was initially held incommunicado for three months, and that she was subjected to electric shocks, whippings, and sexual harassment. They also alleged that that she was offered freedom if she agreed to say that she was not tortured. President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, welcomed her release from prison, describing it as "a good thing". UN experts have binned the charges as "spurious", saying she had merely been exercising her fundamental rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. Well may the fundamental structure of Saudi Arabia endure.

Shaving the Barber~II

An individual independent director cannot play an influential role in isolation. Even if he is highly committed, he can only 'watch' wrongdoing and, at best, initiate a discussion. He alone cannot stop a decision, and neither can he turn whistleblower because board proceedings are considered confidential



The country's biggest-ever corporate accounting fraud, namely the Satyam scam, put the role of independent directors in the spotlight. However, Satyam is not an exception. Earlier in Enron, WorldCom and Lehman Brothers, these directors failed miserably. Recently ILFS, Dewan Housing Finance Ltd, Kingfisher, Jet Airways, Amrapali Builders, PMC Bank, Lakshmi Vilas Bank, CG Power and Yes Bank joined the list. So much so that in the case of ILFS, the company's Risk Management Committee is alleged not to have met for three years.

The present corporate governance structure hinges on the independent directors who are supposed to bring objectivity to the board's oversight function and improve its effectiveness. Stakeholders place a high expectation on them. But is the expectation misplaced? Perhaps, yes.

An individual independent director cannot play an influential role in isolation. Even if he is highly committed, he can only 'watch' wrongdoing and, at best, initiate a discussion. He alone cannot stop a decision, and neither can he turn whistleblower because board proceedings are considered confidential. It may not be out of place to mention that in certain companies, banks and public sector undertakings the nominee directors from Government, financial institutions and the regulators have been found to be wanting in their role to protect the interests of various stakeholders.

The only way independent directors can stop wrong choices is by collaborating. Even then, they can seldom be expected to prevent 'management fraud' since turning independent directors into policemen in the board room will have detrimental effects on the managers' freedom of enterprise.

In discharging its responsibility of ensuring adequate and effective internal control, the board must depend on other corporate governance institutions such as internal audit, external audit, and legal counsel. Therefore, the effectiveness of independent directors depends significantly on the independence and effectiveness of those institutions. While they cannot magically prohibit the scams from happening in a company, they must put checks and balances on each company's activity.

Surprisingly in recent times without even having examined the full facts establishing the guilt of independent directors, in certain cases bank accounts of such directors were frozen and notices were issued to all independent directors.

In the ILFS case, no such action was taken against certain directors including the nominee directors. Can it be presumed that a nominee director's liability is lesser than that of an independent director? In our opinion it should be the other way round as nominee directors are privy to certain information which independent directors may not be to.

It can be safely estimated that the need for the introduction of the Independent Directors Rules results from various corporate governance lapses and fiascos. This is

one per cent of its profit. The number of independent directors taking home over Rs 1 crore annually is on the rise.

The government looks to cap the remuneration of independent directors to ensure their impartiality. It is widely perceived that higher compensation tends to dilute the effectiveness of independent directors. Simultaneously, without an adequate compensation mechanism, it is impossible to find top-notch talent particularly in case of companies requiring a turnaround, thereby creating a paradoxical situation in the

It is also observed that certain bureaucrats, bankers and other officials having handled the companies' files in their official capacity have been undertaking board positions, post retirement, in the same companies. It may be fine legally but is it ethically justified? And, will this not be a fit case of quid pro quo? We leave it for the readers, regulators and government to decide.

Significantly the 2013 Act confers powers on the Independent Director for the fair and smooth functioning of the Board of Directors and the company, which are being widely believed as a change in the way principles of corporate governance are upheld through the renewed role of Independent Directors.

Whether in reality this is practiced or not, "majority rule-minority protection" is the central canon for effective functioning of a sensible and responsible corporate. To make them more potent in counterbalancing managerial infirmities, ensuring maintenance of legally, morally and ethically approved corporate behavior and above all holding the corporate reputation high, there is need for constant reform of the factors which have potential to impair independence.

These factors include selection criteria, remuneration mechanism, defining accountabilities and protection or immunity available in eventuality etc. In the end, the litmus test for an effective Independent Director in the context of ideal corporate governance lies in the independence of judgment and absence of a material pecuniary relationship.

(Concluded)



The writers are chartered accountants

likely to weed out the practice of appointing (distant) relatives and (at times) friends and domestic help as independent directors. This is expected to infuse some sanity in the entire process, and they will uphold the very objective of having independent directors in the first place. The independent director, unless exempted, is now required to take an online proficiency self-assessment test, and only those passing that can act as independent directors.

According to the law, independent directors can be paid up to Rs 1 lakh as sitting fees per board meeting. Companies have the flexibility to pay more as a commission on profits in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2013.

The total commission paid to all non-executive directors including independent directors in a company can be as much as

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A talk with Mr Biden

SIR, US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to each other for the first time since the US President assumed office on January 20. Interestingly, as per White House issues readout: "The President underscored his desire to defend democratic institutions and norms around the world."

People wonder to see the Modi government's duplicity. One side several American celebrities and influencers, including US Vice-President Kamala Harris's niece Meena Harris, have expressed concern at the crackdown, immediately it seems as per government instigation, our celebrities started veiled attack against those foreign celebrities, that it's Indian internal matter.

On the other side the news channel and the print media remain silent on neither PM Modi's

tweets nor the readout issued by the external affairs ministry that the President Biden also lectured Modi over "desire to defend democratic norms".

Even our celebrities particularly actress Kangana Ranaut and others silent raised a question when Mr Biden direct advice to the PM Modi about democratic norms then no one have courage to say the US that the farmers agitation is our internal matter instead to save the face the Modi government at first try to ignore it, but later, India issues readout: "They noted that the India-US partnership is firmly anchored in a shared commitment to democratic values and common strategic interests." This is not the first time in the first conversation between them following the November election victory of Biden, then, too, Biden had talked about strengthening democracy at home and abroad.

Yours, etc., Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad, 10 February

HIMALAYAN TSUNAMI

SIR, The glacial burst on Nanda Devi that triggered an avalanche and caused floods in the Rishiganga and Dhauliganga rivers in Uttarakhand brought back memories of a similar devastating incident in the State in 2013, which was dubbed as "Himalayan tsunami." Uttarakhand is no stranger to disaster and the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region is prone to floods and landslides. But what is clear from this and earlier disasters is that our monitoring of vulnerable areas is highly inadequate. ("150 missing after U'khand flash

ROMANCE AND JIHAD

SIR, This refers to "Love in the time of Jihad" (9 February). Sunil Sharan is adept and adapt at interpreting socio-political mores of the American society. The socio-marital relationship between the blacks and whites in America has a history and may have its origin before the dawn of Christianity in America. It bears no relationship to the inter religion marriages between Hindus and Muslims in India which is of eight hundred years vintage. The so-called "Love Jihad" in present day India is not of that antiquity. To link "Love Jihad" in India to the inter racial context of different hues between the blacks and whites in America is not logical. The "Love Jihad" phenomenon has its roots in religious and political antagonism of these two communities over the centuries. Sunil Sharan has gone into the psychophysiological reasons which underpin the relations between the blacks and whites in America. These factors do not have politics behind them like what we see in India today. Psycho-physiological reasons have nothing to do with "Love Jihad" in India. "Love Jihad" cannot be juxtaposed with black-white relationships in America.

Yours, etc., RC Jain, 10 February

flood", 8 Feb.). Unfortunately, there is no clarity on where and when exactly the tragedy originated, and what was the magnitude at the place of origin. It is the lack of these credible and vital information in time that led to the tragedy in 2013. We need to have a workable disaster management plan and a mechanism to at least minimise such natural calamities in future.

Yours, etc., Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai, 11 February

DEMOCRATIC NORMS

SIR, Seeing a tear in the eyes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday at the end of the latter's term in the Upper House inspires confidence in democratic norms and etiquette still being plasticized. One recalls

Opposition leaders in the past such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Madhu Limaye who had a personal rapport with late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, despite their trenchant opposition to the Congress government. That both lavished praise on each other for their qualities and contribution to the cause of democracy makes one wonder why such courtesies are reserved only for farewells.

The treasury and the opposition benches can be nice to each other instead of resorting to loud-mouthed invectives. One hopes that personal tolerance and mutual respect between political adversaries would translate into building a political culture where consensus-building gets prioritized over unrelenting hostility as default behaviour.

Yours, etc., SS Paul, Chakdaha, Nadia, 11 February



Joe Biden opted to go big

Biden had two goals at the outset: to go big and to make the process bipartisan. They turned out to be incompatible.

"We got a chance to do something big here," the president said Friday in a meeting with House Democrats. "Real live people are hurting, and we can fix it."

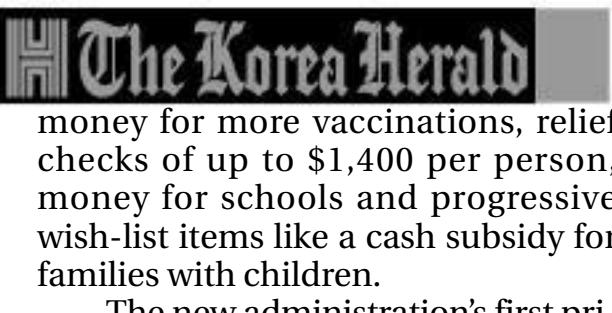
But even relatively moderate Republicans balked at the \$1.9 trillion the president wanted to spend. The Republican senators who met with Biden offered an opening bid of \$618 million, less than a third of his target, and they didn't sound too willing to meet in the middle. Susan Collins of Maine, perhaps the least conservative Republican in the Senate, said even \$900 billion would be too much. Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas denounced Biden's request for aid to state governments as a subsidy for "fiscal irresponsibility".

Biden's first experiment in bipartisan deal making ended with hurt feelings and Republican Party complaints.

"Notwithstanding all the talk about bipartisan unity, Democrats are plowing ahead," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky groused.

But there's an upside. Biden is now on track to get the kind of bill he wanted – even though he may have to win it with only Democratic votes. And that, in the president's hierarchy of needs, is clearly more important than making the process bipartisan.

White House aides say the success of the Biden presidency could hinge on the relief bill, which includes



money for more vaccinations, relief checks of up to \$1,400 per person, money for schools and progressive wish-list items like a cash subsidy for families with children.

The new administration's first priorities, one aide said, are "COVID, COVID, COVID".

Biden and his advisers say two experiences during the administration of Barack Obama have shaped their actions. One is the economic stimulus bill of 2009, which they trimmed to \$787 billion in hopes of winning Republican Party support. The measure wasn't big enough to jump-start the economy, and unhappy voters revolted against Democrats in the 2010 midterm election.

"We can't do too much" this time, Biden said Friday. "We can do too little and sputter."

The second experience was Obama's fruitless search for bipartisan support on his health care legislation in 2010, a months-long quest that nearly torpedoed the entire bill. Biden said it was "an easy choice" to avoid similar negotiations this time.

His calculation is straightforward: In 2022, voters are more likely to remember whether he delivered enough aid to revive the economy than whether the bill passed with Republican votes.



'Both TMC & BJP are evil forces'

As leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, **ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY** has been mandated to lead the principal Opposition party in taking on the BJP and steer the Opposition's strategies and direction in the House of the People. A Congress stalwart from West Bengal, Chowdhury, 65, has vast experience as a parliamentarian and is known as a political firebrand. In the 2019 general elections, he got elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth term from the Baharampur constituency. In September 2020, he was again appointed as president of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee—a role in which he will have to now lead a debilitated party in the upcoming Bengal Assembly elections that would essentially be a fierce battle between the incumbent Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamul (TMC) and the resurgent BJP. In a freewheeling interview with **ABHIJEET ANAND**, Chowdhury candidly spoke on a range of burning issues. Excerpts:

Q. What are the issues on which the Congress will contest the Bengal assembly elections?

A. There are a plethora of issues in West Bengal. It has been recognised as a laggard state in the country and over the years no development worth its name has taken place. Industry has been left high and dry. Unemployment has been going up astronomically. So that is why there is no dearth of issues. Second thing, West Bengal now has been drifting towards a state of anarchy. On the one hand, TMC-led anarchy has descended on the state. Now BJP-led communalism has also been penetrating into the societal framework. Both forces are inimical to the stability of Bengal. On the one hand, it is the forces of autocracy, atrocities, violence, and corruption, which are ruling the state. And on the other, the fanatical forces, the communal forces are also rearing their ugly head in West Bengal. So both these forces must be defeated. That is the agenda and sole objective of our party.

Q. Did the TMC approach the Congress for an alliance for the coming elections?



A. I don't have any idea about this.

Q. The TMC and the BJP are the only two major political parties in West Bengal. By not allying with the TMC, are you not making it easier for the BJP?

A. I have already told you, both parties are inimical to the growth, stability, and progress of the state. For years the TMC has been ruling Bengal and they have taken it to a state of anarchy, corruption, violence and atrocities. On the other hand, as I just said, the BJP is rearing its head, which is also detrimental and antithetical to the state of Bengal. I recognise both these parties as evil forces, which are to be defeated.

Q. The NCP and the RJD are close to the Congress. They are now allying

with the TMC. So, what will be the Congress's strategy?

A. See... I don't know what kind of alliance has been made between the NCP and the TMC. In Maharashtra, they (NCP) are certainly having an alliance with us. They have their own agenda. They are an individual political entity. I don't know what kind of alliance they are going to nurture with the TMC. In West Bengal, I do not have any idea of a NCP-TMC alliance.

Q. The Congress is forging an alliance with the Left for the Bengal elections?

A. Yes. The process is going on. Earlier also in 2016 we had stitched an alliance with the Left parties and fought jointly. An electoral alliance had taken place at that time. Again, in 2021 both parties have agreed to

fight the two evil forces jointly. So, we are in the process of having an electoral alliance with the Left. Both parties will be fighting the election as allied forces.

Q. Is the Congress allying with the Left because it does not have a base in Bengal?

A. Who says that the Congress does not have any base in West Bengal? If Congress does not have any base then how has it been able to win 44 MLA seats in the state. We have also secured 2 MP seats... We are not a dominant force, but certainly we are a force to be reckoned with in Bengal.

Q. What would be the seat sharing arrangement between the Congress and the Left?

A. It is a process that has been going on. We will be sharing our seats

in consultation. It will be a mutual discussion, based on mutual assessment of the seats that will be determined especially in view of the wettability. Where they are strong we will offer them seats, and where we are strong they will offer us seats. A mutual strategy will be adopted with a single objective of winning more seats to defeat both the TMC and the BJP.

Q. The AAP has charged that the Congress is not raising the farmers' issue aggressively in Parliament?

A. See... this is the Congress party which first waged agitation against the central government on the farmers issue. The tractor rally, which is now popular among the common masses, was set in motion after the Rahul Gandhi-led tractor rally in Punjab. The Congress party has been holding numerous political programmes in support of farmers' agitation against the Centre's farm laws across the country. The BJP wants to suppress these rallies. But the Congress has been waging nationwide agitation against its regime on the farmers' issue. Every day we are fighting in Parliament and outside on this issue.

Q. What is your stand on the Modi government's three farm laws?

A. Our stand is loud and clear. We are pressing for repeal of these three farm laws and it has already been enunciated by our party on a number of occasions.

Q. Do you have plans to sit among the farmers and protest against the Modi government on the issue?

A. Farmers of our country are competent to deal with the government. If any kind of cooperation is sought by them, the Congress is always ready to offer cooperation on each and every thing required by farmer leaders. We are very much in support of farmers' agitation. Our leader Priyanka Gandhi visited the families of the persons who lost their lives during the farmers' agitation to offer her condolences to them. We are very much in the thick of agitation on the farmers issue.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The long expected encounter between the two foremost chess-players of the world, Lasker and Capablanca, will soon take place. A Reuter message informs us that Lasker is to sail from Amsterdam next Wednesday to meet the challenger for the world's championship at Havana. It is a matter of congratulation to chess enthusiasts that, instead of tamely surrendering his title, Lasker is taking the sporting course of defending the championship and thus giving another exhibition of first-class play. It must be admitted that, excepting to advanced students, first-class play is often apt to be dull. In the style generally associated with Steinitz, brilliancy is sacrificed to a caution which is content to aim at a small advantage of position or strength and work it out to a winning result. This, perhaps, is an inevitable result of the exhaustive analyses to which every opening and line of play have been subjected. The result is that a contest between modern masters is a subject rather for abstruse study than for the lighter kind of recreation wanted by the average player. When the master-players do get a chance, however, their combinations and attacks are scarcely less brilliant than those of the old school. Both players may be said to represent the modern school, and their coming contest will be the most interesting event of recent years in the chess world.

NEWS ITEMS

THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

Bombay, Feb 12

In spite of the active propaganda which is still being carried on, the non-cooperation movement has not made much headway among the college students in Bombay. Many of those who were led away by momentary enthusiasm have been returning to their colleges. In St. Xavier's college, where there are 1,100 students on the roll, almost all Indian boys, about two hundred absented themselves when picqueting was at its height a fortnight ago. More than half of this number have returned. At this college the number of real non-cooperators now stands at 89. The same is the case with the other two Bombay Arts college. At Ahmedabad the Government Gujarat College has lost about 50 students out of 450 and one professor, one assistant professor and two demonstrators.

RAID ON RAILWAY DEPOT IN IRELAND

Allahabad, Feb 12

On Monday evening about 100 men with handkerchiefs tied over the lower portions of their faces, and all armed, entered the Dublin goods yard of Great Northern Railway and held up the station, says a special cable to the Pioneer. There they dismantled the telephones in the engine room shunters' hut and power house. The object of the raid is not known. They left after about three-quarters of an hour. Beyond the cutting of telephone wires no damage was done. Officially it is said that the invading force entered the goods yard from at least two directions. They carried rifles slung over their shoulders, and were also armed with revolvers. Guards were placed on all entrances and exits and numbers of the staff were isolated and placed under armed guards while a search was made.

CHANGES IN THE PRAYER BOOK

At a convocation of clergy at Canterbury it was decided that the Prayer Book should be revised in accordance with modern developments and the advance of democracy. Airmen are now included in the prayer for His Majesty's Forces, and the prayer for the Lords in Council and Nobility becomes a prayer for Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament. New prayers for guidance during times of election and for the maintenance of industrial peace have also been added. Drastic alterations in the Marriage Service have been made and the statement that marriage was ordained for the procreation of children has been eliminated and now reads marriage was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections implanted by God should be followed and controlled.

LORD READING AND HIS NEW DUTIES

Speaking at the annual dinner of the City of London Solicitors Company, Lord Reading said that this was almost the end of his career in the legal profession, at any rate for the moment. He was passing from the profession to another sphere of occupation in which there were great responsibilities. But what position was worth having if it did not carry heavy responsibilities, and was full of difficulties which had to be faced? Continuing he said he would go to India to discharge his duties there encouraged immensely by support he had received from many friends, and from many more from whom he least expected it.

The counter-revolution in Nepal

HISILA YAMI

February 13 marks the 25th year of the start of the 'People's War' by the Maoists in Nepal. In 2012, I remember my daughter Manushi telling me, 'Mother, you are so lucky to be part of the history in making this country a republic. We may not have any contribution to make in our lifetime.' I had said, 'Don't worry, a revolution is generally followed by a counter-revolution, and you may be required to fight against it.' I am baffled to note how fast the counter-revolution has come in Nepal.

Before delving into revolution and counter-revolution, let us examine the positions of the political parties before the Maoist conflict started. Although all of them were working to weaken the monarchy, there were different tendencies. The Nepali Congress was known for fighting for democracy, but they could not go beyond multiparty democracy under the monarchy. Various brands of communist parties, particularly the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) were fighting for a republic, but they could not go beyond abstract class issues. There were small parties such as the Janmukt Party and Sadbhawana Party that were campaigning for federalism, but they could not go beyond identity issues. There was only the Maoist Party that pursued a package programme of democracy, republicanism, federalism and secularism making it a holistic movement.

It is interesting to note how the



parties were functioning when the People's War was going on. Most of them, including the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML, would condemn the Maoists as extremists when they were out of power; but when they were in government, they were keen to engage with the same Maoists. At the same time, the Maoist Party was spreading throughout the country because it not only addressed class issues but also nationalist, regional, gender, Dalit and other issues. There was also synchronised leadership during this period.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda played a pragmatic role in infusing power to the party while Baburam Bhattarai gave vision and direction, and Mohan Baidya made sure the party was not deviating from the path of classical revolution. A critical examination showed that Dahal represented a petty, bourgeois demagogue who named the party's ideology after himself, as 'Prachanda Path'. Bhattarai represented an idealist leader who was more theoretical and was involved in developing Marxism in the present context. Baidya represented a dogmatist leader who liked to bask in the past.

Despite various lacunas, the People's War created a situation for launching the second People's Movement in cooperation with other parties, resulting in the promulgation of the constitution through a Constituent Assembly. However, after the promulgation of the new constitution, the structure of most of the political parties didn't change. They

engaged in power-mongering instead of pursuing transformative action, and they are still hesitating to make their parties inclusive as demanded by the constitution. They still have a hangover of the feudal mindset whereby democratic norms are hardly practised within the party.

Ironically, the counter-revolution today is not being led by former king Gyanendra and his regressive forces, but by KP Oli, the so-called proletarian president of the Nepal Communist Party. Dahal, former Maoist leader and co-chairman of the Nepal Communist Party, is on the streets demanding the reinstatement of the dissolved Parliament. At the same time, many people are asking questions about the actions, or lack thereof, of the former Maoists in the Nepal Communist Party. How is it that the women's

movement has taken a back seat?

The Dalits were much empowered during the People's War and were known for making and maintaining arms and ammunition for the Maoists. But the recent brutal killing of a Dalit youth and his friends by former Maoists in Rukum, once a hot spot of the People's War, shocked the nation. The young man had dared to love the daughter of a so-called upper caste Thakuri for which he lost his life. Even then the Dalit organisation of the Nepal Communist Party said not a word.

Take the case of the Janajatis who had autonomous provinces based on identity during the People's War, but who kept their mouths shut when the provinces were formed without any regard to the spirit of identity and federalism. During the People's War, martyrs and disappeared persons

were honoured by having landmarks named after them. But today the former Maoist leaders are in no hurry to conclude the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

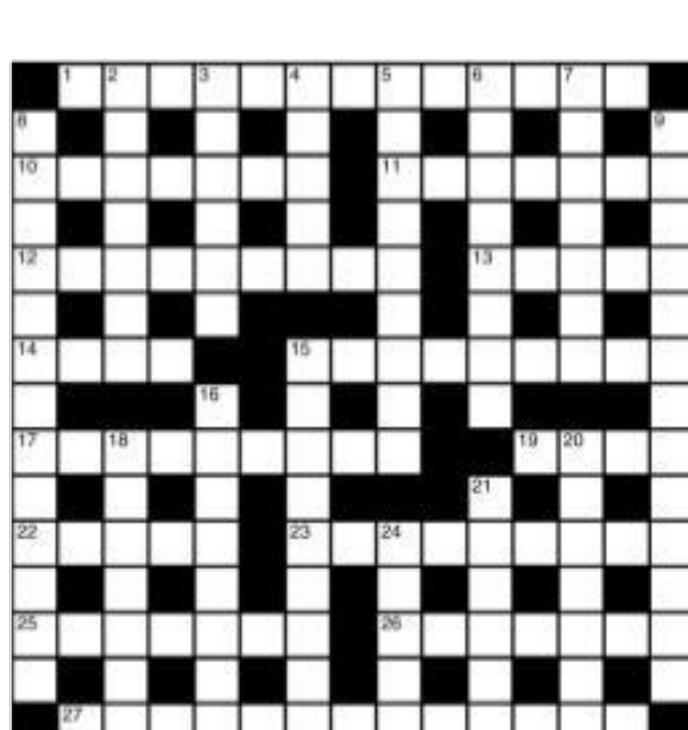
Why have the Maoists lost steam? How come their vision has become nearly void? This is mainly due to Prachanda's hunger for power at the cost of principles and issues. There is a potential for conflict if ethnic and regional oppression is not addressed. If the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is not effectively implemented, renewed conflict may result. But KP Oli wants to turn the clock back by trying to replace the 2015 Constitution with the 1990 Constitution. No wonder dust is gathering in the streets for another storm, the third Jana Andolan!

In many ways, parallels can be drawn between Aung San Suu Kyi, who was hailed as the leader of democracy in Myanmar for fighting against the military junta, and Dahal, who was hailed as a leader who fought against the monarchy to make Nepal a federal republic. In course of time, Aung San Suu Kyi succumbed to the same military authority, disappointing those who had conferred the Nobel Prize on her. Recently, she has been stabbed in the back by the military that has imprisoned her. Similarly, Dahal succumbed to Oli who was against federalism and republicanism, disappointing those who stood for inclusive issues. Today, he is being stabbed in the back by Oli who has sent him to the streets. I wish he is not imprisoned like Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar!

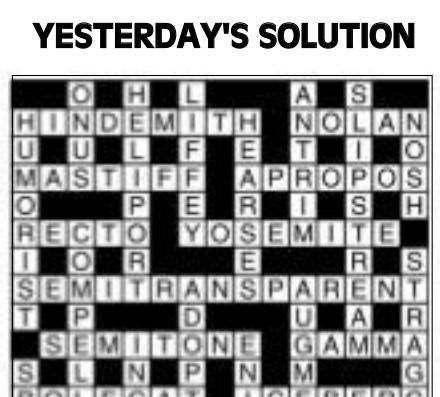
The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28824

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



SOLUTION FOR 06 FEBRUARY

ACROSS

- 1 He and I condoned my dodgy tax-free dealings? (6,7)
- 10 People poetic at heart compose for organ, perhaps? (7)
- 11 Late exercises stopping at one (2,5)
- 12 Not about to cut south, going west by old burial site (6,3)
- 13 Work force turning back time (5)
- 14 Violent guards in part look here (4)
- 15 Attention grabbers safe to assume extremely cushy numbers (9)
- 17 Get trim on too much sport in an OTT way (9)
- 19 Little boat's deviation from course line (4)

DOWN

- 2 Momentum member occupying fancy suite (7)
- 3 Tyrant some Parisian beat up (6)
- 4 Nick cannot choose trousers (5)
- 5 Nonces dispersed after tea dances (9)
- 6 Woman, one to write about old boy network? (8)
- 22 Ingredient of Christmas pickle, that's clear (5)
- 23 Danger Man's back, a light touch around half-nine? (9)
- 25 Gas almost left in property (7)
- 26 Mark again needs relative - second son (7)
- 27 US agency initially sent in to hide Republican immorality (6,7)

7 God, an incarnation of Vishnu, returning to embrace new country (7)

- 8 Iraqi construction of phonetics translated with cunning (9,4)
- 9 Without pity, detective dominated inferior in bank (13)
- 15 Old racer clever tho' eccentric (9)
- 16 Censor stopping course, reportedly upsetting teacher (8)
- 18 India blocking exile, European, to make up for mistake (7)
- 20 Bitter cabin crew finally cut out (7)
- 21 In a month, a lot of potential surrounding island (6)
- 24 Briefly conceal what makes for a slippery slope (5)

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



Changes made in the FDI norms last year are fully compliant with New Delhi's commitments under WTO

SOM PARKASH
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

TPCI seeks incentives for SEZs: The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) on Friday suggested the commerce ministry to announce measures such as incentives for special economic zones (SEZs) in the next foreign trade policy with a view to boost the country's exports. FTP (2020-25) is under formulation by the ministry. SEZs contribute significantly to exports and employment generation in the country, it said. PTI

Grasim profit: Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries Ltd on Friday reported over a two-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,152.33 crore for the third quarter ended 31 December. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,039.82 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, Grasim Industries said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations during October-December 2020 rose by 12.72 per cent to Rs 20,986.35 crore, against Rs 18,616.76 crore in the year-ago period. PTI

Udaan expansion: Udaan, a business-to-business (b2b) e-commerce platform, has announced that it supply chain and logistics capability to serve small businesses across the country, through UdaanExpress, has been strengthened to over 10 million sq ft of warehousing space. It has been made possible through capacity expansion and addition of new warehouses, taking the total number of warehouses to 200, spread across the country, the company said. SNS

Haier launch: Home appliances & consumer electronics maker, Haier has unveiled 14 new variants of direct cool refrigerators in 5 star range, adding prime finesse to its wide line-up of appliances. This new series would be available in 195L capacity with 6 glass, 6 floral and 2 plain modifications, the company said in a Press release. SNS

Bajaj Auto supports JanaJal WOW: JanaJal WOW (Water on Wheels), an IoT-based proprietary technology solution three-wheeler developed by a Noida-based JanaJal to deliver safe drinking water to the doorsteps of households, has been approved by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as one of five technologies to deliver the ₹50 billion drinking water scheme under the National Jal Jeevan Mission. JanaJal WOW has been recommended to all state governments and Union Territories to accelerate their respective 'Har Ghar Jal' targets, said the Press release. SNS

Palm oil imports: India's crude palm oil imports in January jumped by 44.99 per cent year-on-year to 7.67 lakh tons, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said on Friday. The crude palm oil imports during January 2020 stood at 5.29 lakh tons, SEA said in a statement. PTI

Govt extends bid deadline for SCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

The government today extended the deadline for submission of preliminary bids to buy Shipping Corp of India to 1 March.

The department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) in December had invited expressions of interest for strategic disinvestment of its entire stake of 63.75 per cent in Shipping Corp of India, along with the transfer of management.

The last date for submitting the bid was 13 February. The last date for submission of EoI has been extended to 1 March, the Dipam said in a notice.

Industrial production shows one percent growth in Dec

Primarily due to better performance of the manufacturing sector, according to official data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Industrial production grew by one per cent in December, entering the positive territory after a month gap, mainly due to better performance of the manufacturing sector, official data showed today.

The manufacturing sector - which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) - recorded a growth of 1.6 per cent in December 2020, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Mining sector output declined by 4.8 per cent in December 2020. However, power generation grew by 5.1 per cent.

The index had grown by 0.4 per cent in December 2019. The industrial production had plunged by 18.7 per cent in March last year following the Covid-19 outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output posted growth of one

MANUFACTURING PICKS UP



► The manufacturing sector which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) recorded a growth of 1.6 per cent in December 2020, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

► Mining sector output declined by 4.8 per cent in December 2020. However, power generation grew by 5.1 per cent.

percent in September. The IIP had grown by 4.2 per cent in October. In November 2020, the factory output contracted by 2.1 per cent, a tad higher than the provisional estimates of 1.9 per cent decline.

The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections on 25 March 2020. The ministry had also given

a disclaimer that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the data for the months preceding the Covid-19 outbreak.

The manufacturing sector had recorded a contraction of 0.3 per cent in December 2019.

Mining sector output increased by 5.7 per cent, but electricity generation shrank by 0.1 per cent in December 2019.

The output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, rose by 0.6 per cent in December 2020 as against a contraction of 18.3 per cent.

Consumer durables output surged by 4.9 per cent, compared to 5.6 per cent contraction in December 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production grew by two per cent, compared to a contraction of 3.2 per cent a year ago.

The IIP for the April-December period has contracted by 13.5 per cent, according to the data. It had registered a flat growth of 0.3 per cent during the same period last fiscal.

Inflation eases to 4.06% in January

NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Retail inflation eased to 4.06 per cent in January, mainly on account of a decline in vegetable prices, as per government data released here today.

The inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.59 per cent in December 2019.

The rate of price rise in the food basket was 1.89 per cent in January, significantly down from 3.41 per cent in December, revealed the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

"We are also looking at medium to long-term sustainable growth which will keep India in that kind of growth trajectory which will maintain us as one of the fastest growing economies in the world," she said.

With coronavirus pandemic affecting economic

Budget provides strong stimulus for long-term growth: Sitharaman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the Budget is aimed at making India self-reliant and provides strong stimulus for medium to long-term sustainable high growth.

While replying to the discussion on the Budget 2021-22, the minister also attacked former finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram for suspecting the Budget numbers. She, however, did not mention his name.

Stressing that the Budget is for Aatmanirbhar Bharat, she said: "Attempt made in this Budget is to provide strong stimulus and provide such a stimulus which can bring in that kind of a multiplier effect..."

"We are also looking at medium to long-term sustainable growth which will keep India in that kind of growth trajectory which will maintain us as one of the fastest growing economies in the world," she said.

She said bonds were issued to oil marketing companies and fertiliser manufacturers in lieu of cash subsidy to "make balance sheet attractive".



activities in the country, India's GDP growth is estimated to contract to a historic low of 7.7 per cent in the financial year ending March 2021. The economy is likely to pick up in the next fiscal and expand by about 11 per cent, as per various estimates.

Referring to Chidambaram's remark that major numbers are suspect in the Budget presented by her on 1 February, Sitharaman said it was the Congress finance minister who had artificially increased capex numbers during 2007-08 when UPA was ruling the country.

"We are also looking at medium to long-term sustainable growth which will keep India in that kind of growth trajectory which will maintain us as one of the fastest growing economies in the world," she said.

With coronavirus pandemic affecting economic

Ather Energy to invest ₹635 cr in expansion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Hero MotoCorp-backed electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy today said it would invest Rs 635 crore in the next five years at its manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu to scale up production.

The company, which began operations from the factory in Hosur, from 2 January this year, has achieved 90 per cent localisation of parts, including battery pack which is made in-house, Ather Energy said in a statement.

The plant has an annual capacity of 1.1 lakh scooters and 1.2 lakh battery packs.

"It's been a great journey for us so far, and the opening of this facility is truly a milestone for Ather. The consumer demand has increased

Baytree sells Bajaj shares worth ₹249 cr

NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Baytree Investments (Mauritius) Pte Ltd today sold more than 98 lakh shares of Bajaj Consumer Care Ltd worth over Rs 249 crore through an open market transaction.

Baytree Investments is a subsidiary of Singapore headquartered Temasek.

As per the bulk deal data available on the BSE, Baytree Investments offloaded 98.63 lakh shares of the company at an average price of Rs 252.81 apiece. This took the total deal value to Rs 249.36 crore.

According to the company's latest shareholding pattern, Baytree Investments (Mauritius) Pte Ltd held 6.69 per cent stake in Bajaj Consumer Care as a public shareholder. PTI

Petronet Q3 profit rises by 30%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

Petronet LNG Ltd, India's largest gas importer, today reported a 30 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit as demand reached pre-Covid levels.

The company's net profit in October-December 2020, stood at Rs 878.47 crore, or Rs 5.36 per share, compared with Rs 675.18 crore, or Rs 4.50 a share, in the same period a year back.

"The strong financial results for the quarter ended 31 December 2020, was achieved due to resurgence of demand to pre-Covid-19 level, operational efficiency and effective commercial planning by the company," Petronet's new managing director and CEO AK Singh said on a media call.

Petronet imports natural gas in its liquid form (known as LNG) in ships, converts it

back into its gaseous state before sending it out to users such as fertiliser units and power plants who use the fuel to manufacture urea and generate electricity.

India witnessed a demand shrinkage post imposition of a lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus in end-March 2020. Demand has rebounded with the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

The firm's main liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Dahej in Gujarat processed 222 trillion British thermal units of gas in the third quarter of the current fiscal, the same as the volume handled a year back.

Bharat Forge loss: Auto components major Bharat Forge on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 210.45 crore in the third quarter ended 31 December 2020. The company had posted a

consolidated net profit of Rs 40.44 crore in the same quarter nine months earlier.

Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,723.11 crore as compared to Rs 1,830.86 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

During the quarter, the company said it incurred Rs 5.5 crore expenses for the quarter in stand-alone results on account of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for its employees at Mundhwa and Satara Plant.

On a consolidated basis, during the quarter, it had expenses of Rs 19.17 crore for the quarter on manpower optimisation in overseas subsidiaries.

Moreover, during the third quarter, Germany's National Competition regulator (Federal Cartel Office) concluded the settlement with the company's German subsidiaries. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 87.95 crore in the same quarter last fiscal year, Volta said in a regulatory filing.

Total income during the period under review stood at Rs 2,046.26 crore, up 32.29 per cent, as against Rs 1,546.76 crore in the year-ago quarter, the company said.

Franklin Templeton: SC upholds validity of e-voting for winding up MF schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 FEBRUARY

proportion to unit holders' interest in the assets.

Earlier, the apex court had dealt with the issues related to objection to the e-voting process for winding up of the six mutual fund schemes of Franklin Templeton, and said disbursal of funds to unit holders will continue.

The e-voting with regard to the winding up of Franklin Templeton's six mutual fund schemes had taken place in the last week of December and it has been approved by a majority of unit holders.

The apex court had on 2 February entrusted the State Bank of India (SBI) Mutual Fund to disburse the money as all the lawyers gave consent to the court's order.

It had granted liberty to the litigating parties to approach the court in case of any difficulty in the disbursal of money to unit holders.

It had said that disbursal of money would be done in

ary had said it would first deal with the issues related to objection to the e-voting process for winding up of the six mutual fund schemes and distribution of money to the unit holders.

Prior to this, it had granted three days for filing of objections to the e-voting.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India shall appoint an observer regarding the e-voting of unit holders which is scheduled between 26 December and 29 December 2020. The result of the e-voting would not be announced and would be produced before us in a sealed cover along with the report of the Sebi, the Supreme Court had said in its order passed earlier.

It had said that Sebi would also file a copy of the final fore-

sic audit report before the court in a sealed cover.

The apex court is hearing an appeal filed by Franklin Templeton against the high court's order which stopped the fund house from winding up its debt fund schemes without prior consent of the investors.

On 7 December 2020, Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund had said it has sought consent of the unit holders for the orderly winding up of the six fixed income schemes.

On 3 December last year, the apex court had asked Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund to initiate steps within one week for calling a meeting of unit holders to seek their consent for closure of six mutual fund schemes.

The top court had observed that the issue is big and people wanted a refund.

Arcelor announces \$1 billion cost-reduction programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/LONDON, 12 FEBRUARY

Global steel giant ArcelorMittal has announced a \$1 billion fixed cost-reduction programme under which the company would be reducing 20 per cent of its corporate office employees by 2022.

ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and primary steel making facilities in 17 countries. It employs around 190,000 people.

In an update for the October-December quarter of 2020 and full year 2020, ArcelorMittal said the \$1 billion structural fixed cost reduction plan aims to maintain competitiveness in the post Covid-19 environment.

The plan includes 20 per cent reduction in corporate

office headcount, reducing contractors, reallocation of resources etc, the company said.

"These savings implemented are expected to limit the increase in fixed costs as activity and production levels recover, thus leading to lower fixed costs per ton. In total, \$1.0 billion of structural cost improvements are identified within the programme, with the majority of savings expected in FY 2021 and fully realised in FY 2022 relative to scope-adjusted FY 2019," it said in the update issued on Thursday.

The company has already implemented a footprint optimisation, including the permanent closure of a blast furnace and steel plant in Krakow (Poland), the permanent closure of the Florange coke oven battery and the closure of the Saldana facility in South Africa.

SENSEX RISES 813 PTS THIS WEEK

► The 30-share BSE Sensex gyrated 543.96 points before closing 12.78 points or 0.02 per cent higher at its new closing record of 51,544.30 points.

► The broader NSE Nifty, however, slipped 10 points or 0.07 per cent to 15,163.3

We are at the moment not free from that fear. People are so much in fear that they can't even talk about it.

WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR JAGDEEP DHANKHAR
ASSERTED THAT PEOPLE OF BENGAL HAD NO PLACE FOR FEAR IN THEIR MINDS

Naveen disburses ₹1272 crore to farmers under KALIA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 FEBRUARY

In the wake of farmers protest over non-procurement of their paddy stock, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today sought to assure them by disbursing Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) assistance to the tune of Rs. 1272 crore to 53 lakh farmers of the state (Rs.200/- each).

The amount was transferred to bank accounts of farmers (DBT) and the CM interacted with a few farmers via video conference.

KALIA scheme had been launched in 2019 and the initial round of financial assistance had been disbursed.

"I want that farmers of



my state must get fair prices for their produce and lead life with dignity, said the CM today.

Praising the farmers, he said at a time when all sectors of the economy were affected by the pandemic, farmers were able to revive and keep the agriculture sector going. "I salute their efforts", he said.

The Odisha government has been repeatedly demanding that MSP needs to be doubled, he observed while informing that the state government has taken steps to strengthen the marketing infrastructure for agricultural produce.

KALIA scheme is tailored to relieve the debt ridden

farmers from the debt trap, keeping a pragmatic vision to directly attack poverty by providing financial assistance to the vulnerable agriculture households, landless labourers as well as marginal cultivators of the state. It covers 92 per cent of cultivators in the state.

The disbursement of assis-

NALCO registers 240 cr profit in 3Q of FY21

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 FEBRUARY

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSU, clocked a net profit of Rs.240 crores for the 3rd quarter ended December 2020.

The net profit has jumped by 123 percent over the previous quarter of current fiscal, which was Rs.107 crore.

The net profit for the nine months ended December 2020 has grown more than tenfold to Rs.364 crore as against Rs.35 crore in corresponding period of last year. The total income in Q3 of FY21 witnessed a growth , logging Rs.2,415 crores compared to Rs.2,137 crores in Q3 of FY20, said a release issued by the company today.

On the sales front, the net sales of alumina hydrate for Q3 of FY21 was 3.44 lakh tonnes compared to 3.33 lakh tonnes achieved in the corresponding period of last year. Aluminium export also grew, with sales volume of 1.38 lakh tonnes during the first nine months of FY21 as compared to 0.50 lakh tonnes during the same period of FY20.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal,



NALCO achieved production of 53.48 lakh tonnes of bauxite, 15.07 lakh tonnes of alumina hydrate while metal production was 3.06 lakh tonnes.

Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO, said, "NALCO has shown overall growth and resilience to script a turnaround after the peak period of COVID19 outbreak. The employees and workers delivered, when it mattered under challenging circumstances. The Company is geared up to meet the increase in demand with the gradual opening up of the market and the economy. The Company is also focused on operationalizing the ongoing projects, viz. Utkal-D-Coal block, 5th Stream Alumina Refinery & Caustic Soda JV projects etc., which will substantially bolster the bottom line of the Company."

Kotia village row: Odisha's petition posted to 19 Feb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 FEBRUARY

The Supreme Court issued notices to Andhra Pradesh government today to file its response to a contempt petition filed by Odisha government alleging that the former is conducting panchayat elections in Kotia of Koraput district by violating orders of the apex court.

Counsels for the Odisha government informed that the bench comprising Justice A.M.Khanwilkar issued notices to AP government and posted the matter to 19 February.

It may be noted here that Odisha government has

objected to the Andhra Pradesh's claim over the bordering villages in Kotia of Koraput district. The status quo has been violated by conducting panchayat elections, contended the Odisha government.

Political leaders of Andhra Pradesh campaigning in Kotia villages however insist that they have been holding elections in the area since long.

Today, a BJP delegation led by state president Samir Mohanty who was in Gajapati district said they had confronted officers of Andhra Pradesh in some of the villages and questioned them about their activities.



Protests against the draft NMA bylaws in front of Lingaraj Temple Bhubaneswar. SNS

Infectious disease claims 4 elephants at Karlapat Sanctuary

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHAWANIPATNA, 12 FEBRUARY

The suspected outbreak of a fatal bacterial disease has claimed four elephants in the past 10 days in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi district.

The death of four female elephants in the sanctuary might have been due to 'haemorrhagic Septicaemia', a fatal bacterial disease that afflicts both the domestic and wild animals, senior forest department officials said

on Friday.

"Carcasses of four elephants have been spotted dead along the Gusrigudi nullah of the sanctuary. From preliminary analysis and testing, the veterinarians suspect that fatality occurred due to bacterial 'haemorrhage septicaemia' infections", said the Acting Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Sashi Paul.

The samples of the carcasses were sent to the laboratory in Centre for Wildlife Health, Orissa University of Agriculture Technology, Bhubaneswar for further pathological study.

As it is a highly contagious animal disease, the wildlife personnel are keeping constant watch to separate herds of elephants in the sanctuary forest.

The entire cattle population in the forest-side villages of Karlapat, Badtikraguda, Tentulipadar, Lilingpadar and Jakam villages is being immunized to contain the spread of the disease. The

stagnant water-bodies in the forest areas are being disinfected to avoid the spread of the disease, he added.

On 1 February the carcass of a female elephant was found near Tentulipadar village inside the sanctuary. From the post mortem conducted it was revealed that the dead elephant was pregnant and the death is due to septicemia. This was followed by casualties on 9, 10 and 11 February near the Ghusurigudi area by the side of a water body, informed

DFO Kalahandi South Division, Ashok Kumar.

He informed that there are 17 elephants in the sanctuary as per the 2018 census.

Villagers have been requested not to send their cattle to forest in view of the situation. Stagnant water is being disinfected.

It is not yet known whether any other species of wild animals are affected, said the DFO.

An expert team from OUAT, Bhubaneswar is on way to Kalahandi, he added.

3 more elephant tusks seized in Odisha, 3 arrested

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 FEBRUARY

The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha police on Friday arrested three persons and seized elephant tusks from them.

This is the third instance of seizure of elephant tusks by the STF since the past one month.

Today's arrest was made on a specific intelligence report, said Deputy Inspector General of police, STF, Jay Narayan Pankaj.

Acting on a tip-off, the STF officials arrested the accused persons Pitabas Barik, Ananda Mohakud and Ambuja Pradhan and seized three tusks during the raid at Kabatbandha Chhak near Brahmani Bridge under Jajpur district. They were nabbed while planning to dispose of the tusks through a middleman.

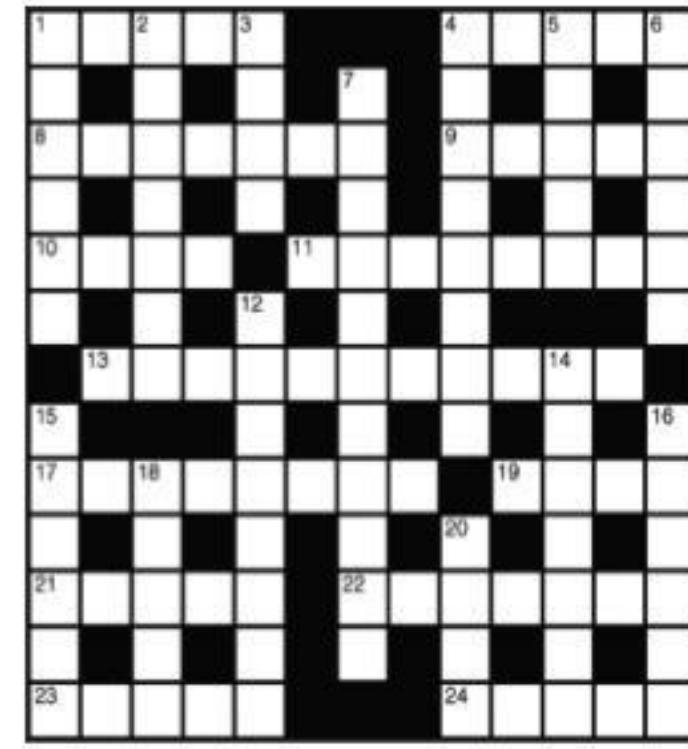
A case was registered under the Wildlife Protection Act for illegal possession of wildlife articles and attempting to sell trophies of scheduled animals.

The accused persons could not produce any valid authority in support of possession of such wildlife trophies. Later they were remanded to judicial custody under sections 379/411 Indian Penal Code and section 51 of Wildlife Protection Act.

The seized elephant tusks are being sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for chemical examination. Further investigation of the matter is continuing.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Used an oar (5)	1 Rebellion (6)
4 Consider (5)	2 Spendthrift (7)
8 Trace (7)	3 Fall in drops (4)
9 Flare up (5)	4 Songbird (8)
10 Cooking fat (4)	5 Habitu ate (5)
11 So to speak (2,2,4)	6 Strong dislike (6)
13 Without facial hair (5-6)	7 Tenacity (11)
17 Particle in blood (8)	12 Negligent (8)
19 Similar to (4)	14 Building (7)
21 Scoundrel (5)	15 Helix (6)
22 Pharmacist (7)	16 Shackle (6)
23 Peers (5)	18 Wrath (5)
24 Curse (5)	20 Not as much (4)

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

... LEISURE

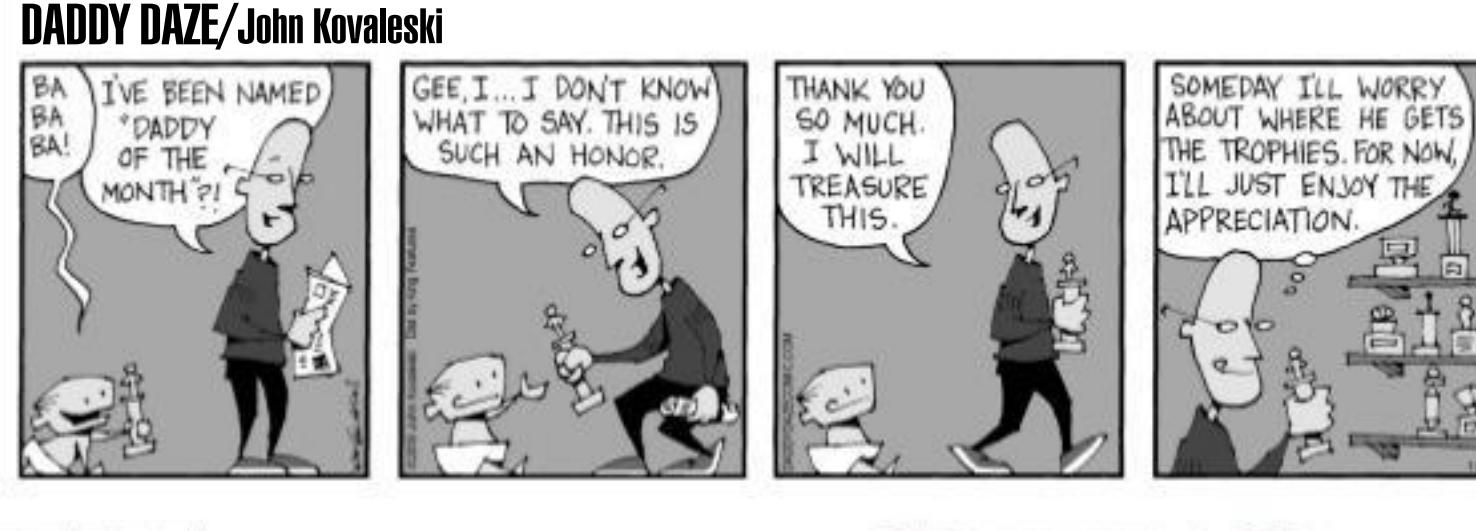
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

& SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

■ ISBT (General Inquiry):

2386836, 23865181

■ Haryana Roadways 23861262

■ Deen Dayal Upadhyay

25494403, 25494403

■ Guru Tegh Bahadur

23717473, 23325320

■ Punjab Roadways 23867842,

23860626

■ Rajasthan Roadways

23864470

■ U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY

■ AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and

Reservation 18001801407

■ INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi

City Office 43513185, Call Cen-

tre 0991038388,

1800180388, Reservation

43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-

port and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE® BRAND

YESTERDAY'S SCRABBLE ADD

RACK 1 = 24 RACK 2 = 67 RACK 3 = 76 RACK 4 = 74 JUDGE'S TOTAL = 241 FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE®

YESTERDAY'S SCRABBLE ADD

RACK 1 = 24 RACK 2 = 67 RACK 3 = 76 RACK 4 = 74 JUDGE'S TOTAL = 241

Directions Make a 2 to 4 letter word for the letters in the rack.

Add points for each word according to the following directions at right. Add 100 point bonus if a blank is used and no point value.

All words must be in a dictionary.

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WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	31	25 H
HONG KONG	22	16 H
TOKYO	16	7 H
LONDON	1	-3 H
DUBAI	25	18 H
SAN FRANCISCO	14	10 S
NEW YORK	-2	-8 H
MOSCOW	-13	-16 H

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

THUMBNAILS



US President Joe Biden pays a visit to the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). AGENCIES

UK variant found in Sri Lanka: For the first time, Sri Lanka has reported the highly contagious new variant of the coronavirus found in the UK, health authorities said on Friday. It was the third variant of coronavirus to be detected in the country. PTI

European nations help Portugal: Portugal is getting more help from its European Union partners to ease pressure on hospitals crunched by the pandemic, with France and Luxembourg the latest countries to offer medical workers. AP

Six killed in 130-vehicle pileup: A massive crash involving more than 130 vehicles on an icy Texas interstate left six people dead and dozens injured Thursday amid a winter storm that dropped freezing rain, sleet and snow on parts of the US. At least 65 people were treated at hospitals. AP

China bans BBC from broadcasting for violating guidelines

BEIJING, 12 FEBRUARY

In an apparent tit for tat move, China has banned *BBC World News* from broadcasting in the country for seriously violating its guidelines for reporting. China's television and radio regulator has announced.

The move comes a week after Ofcom, the British media regulator, revoked the license of Chinese state-owned broadcaster *China Global Television Network's* (CGTN) to broadcast in the UK.

China has criticised the BBC for its reporting on the deadly coronavirus pandemic and the persecution of ethnic minority Uighurs in the restive Xinjiang province and lodged a protest with the British broadcaster.

The BBC said it was "disappointed" by China's decision to ban it.

The Chinese regulator, the National Radio and Television Administration (NRA), said *BBC World News* was found to have seriously violated regulations on radio and television management and on overseas satellite television channel management in its China-related reports.

The BBC coverage went against the requirements that news reporting must be "true and impartial, and undermined China's national interests and ethnic solidarity," it said.

The BBC has never been allowed to broadcast in mainland China or into Chinese homes. *BBC World News* was only available in international hotels and diplomatic compounds.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called China's move an "unacceptable curtailing of media freedom". PTI

After video footage, Trump team on stage

US House Democrats leading the prosecution urge Republican Senators not to acquit Trump for the second time

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 12 FEBRUARY



deadly January 6 riot.

The argument is likely to appeal to Republican senators who themselves want to be seen as condemning the violence without convicting the president. "They haven't in any way tied it to Trump," David Schoen, one of the president's lawyers, told reporters near the end of two full days of Democrats' arguments aimed at doing just that. He previewed the

essence of his argument Tuesday, telling the Senate jurors: "They don't need to show you movies to show you that the riot happened here. We will stipulate that it happened, and you know all about it."

In both legal filings and in arguments earlier in the week, Trump's lawyers have made clear their position that the people responsible for the riot are the ones who actually stormed

the building and who are now being prosecuted by the Justice Department.

Anticipating defense efforts to disentangle Trump's rhetoric from the rioters' actions, the impeachment managers spent days trying to fuse them together through a reconstruction of never-been-seen video footage alongside clips of the president's monthslong urging of his supporters to undo the election results.

Democrats, who wrapped their case Thursday, used the rioters' own videos and words from January 6 to pin responsibility on Trump. "We were invited here," said one. "Trump sent us," said another. "He'll be happy. We're fighting for Trump." The prosecutors' goal was to cast Trump not as a bystander but rather as the

"inciter in chief" who spent months spreading falsehoods and revving up supporters to challenge the election.

In addition to seeking conviction, they also are demanding that he be barred from holding future federal office.

Trump, they said, laid the predicate for the attack by stoking false claims of fraud, encouraging supporters to come to Washington and then fanning the discontent with his rhetoric about fighting and taking back the country. "This attack never would have happened but for Donald Trump," Republican Madeleine Dean, one of the impeachment managers, said as she choked back emotion. "And so they came, draped in Trump's flag, and used our flag, the American flag, to bat-

Vice President Mike Pence, smashing into the building and engaging in bloody, hand-to-hand combat with police.

They displayed the many public and explicit instructions Trump gave his supporters long before the White House rally that unleashed the deadly Capitol attack as Congress was certifying Democrat Joe Biden's victory. Five people died in the chaos and its aftermath. Videos of rioters, some they posted to social media themselves, talked about how they were doing it for Trump.

The US House Democrats leading the prosecution of Donald Trump urged Republican Senators not to acquit him for the second time if they don't want to set a "new, terrible standard" for presidential misconduct.

Democrats push half of Biden's Covid Bill through House panels

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 12 FEBRUARY

Democrats pushed half of President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief plan through a House committee Thursday, advancing \$1,400 payments for millions of Americans and other initiatives that Republicans call too costly, economically damaging and brazenly partisan.

The Ways and Means Committee approved its \$940 billion chunk of Biden's proposal on a 25-18 party-line vote, highlighting a frenzied week that's seeing a dozen House panels fashion contributions to the sprawling measure. On Wednesday, the Education and Labour Committee approved another top Democratic priority, a boost in the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 hourly over five years.

"Yes it will. We're very proud of that," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters when asked if the overall House bill would include the minimum wage increase. Its fate remains precarious in the more moderate Senate.

The House bill would provide hundreds of billions for state and local governments to boost vaccination efforts, raise tax credits for children and increase unemployment benefits and federal health care assistance. Democratic leaders hope for House passage later this month, with Senate approval and a bill on Biden's desk by mid-March.

In committee after committee, Republicans futilely launched waves of amendments at the Democratic measures in an attempt to derail the new president's top initial priority, a massive bill aimed at stemming the deadly pandemic and resuscitating an economy that's shed 10 million jobs and shuttered countless businesses.

And while Democrats fended off the amendments off, their control of the House and Senate is razor thin. Divisions between progressives and moderates and solid GOP opposition means the bill's final contours will still shift.

Republicans' amendments spotlighted what they see as

EU aims to release virus recovery fund by summer

BRUSSELS, 12 FEBRUARY

Top European Union officials on Friday urged member countries to swiftly submit plans for how they would use their share of the bloc's massive coronavirus recovery fund so that the sorely-needed money can be released starting this summer.

The call came as the officials signed an agreement on a 672.5 billion-euro (\$814 billion) Recovery and Resilience Facility made up of loans and grants devised to help the EU's 27 countries breathe new life into their virus-ravaged economies.

The facility is the central pillar of the 750 billion-euro (\$908 billion) recovery plan adopted by EU leaders last year. It must still be endorsed by national parliaments, hopefully within weeks.

Once that is ratified, "the (European) Commission will go to the market, raise money, and disburse," Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. AP

political soft spots they can exploit. Their themes were clear: Democrats are overspending, hurting workers and employers' job markets, being too generous to some immigrants, inviting fraud and rewarding political allies allegations that Democrats dismiss as ludicrous.

And while the GOP amendments were beaten back, they forced Democrats to take positions that could tee up GOP campaign ads for the 2022 elections.

GOP proposals would put strings on emergency funds to help schools reopen safely, required that schools offer in-person classes or give the money to parents for education savings accounts if they remain closed.

Melbourne begins 3rd lockdown due to cluster

MELBOURNE, 12 FEBRUARY

Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, will begin its third lockdown on Friday due to a rapidly spreading Covid-19 cluster centered on hotel quarantine.

The five-day lockdown will be enforced across Victoria state to prevent the virus spreading from the state capital, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said.

The Australian Open tennis tournament will be allowed to continue but without spectators, he said. Only international flights that were already in the air when the lockdown was announced will be allowed to land at Melbourne Airport. Schools and many businesses will be closed. Residents are ordered to stay at home except to exercise and for essential purposes.

A population of 6.5 million will be locked down from 11:59 p.m. until the same time on Wednesday because of a contagious British variant of the virus first detected at a Melbourne Airport hotel that has infected 13 people. AP

Biden govt to allow 25,000 asylum-seekers into USA

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN DIEGO, 12 FEBRUARY

The Biden administration on Friday announced plans for tens of thousands of asylum-seekers waiting in Mexico for their next immigration court hearings to be allowed into the United States while their cases proceed.

The first of an estimated 25,000 asylum-seekers in Mexico with active cases will be allowed in the United States on February 19, authorities said. They plan to start slowly with two border crossings each processing up to 300 people a day and a third crossing taking fewer. Administration officials declined to name them out of fear they may encourage a rush of people to those locations.

The move is a major step toward dismantling one of former President Donald Trump's most consequential policies to deter asylum-seekers from coming to the US. About 70,000 asylum-seekers were enrolled in "Remain in Mexico," officially called "Migrant Protection Protocols," since it was introduced in January 2019.

On Biden's first day in office, the Homeland Secu-

rities department suspended the policy for new arrivals. Since then, some asylum-seekers picked up at the border have been released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court.

Biden is quickly making good on a campaign promise to end the policy, which the Trump administration said was critical to reversing a surge of asylum-seekers that peaked in 2019. But the policy also exposed people to violence in Mexican border cities and made it extremely difficult for them to find lawyers and communicate with courts about their cases.

"As President Biden has made clear, the US government

Meghan Markle wins privacy claim against UK newspaper

LONDON, 12 FEBRUARY

Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, has dubbed her victory in holding the Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL) to account as a comprehensive win for privacy and copyright because the damage they do runs deep.

The wife of Britain's Prince Harry also thanks her husband for his support through the process, after a London High Court ruling in February 2019 that published extracts of a personal and private letter to her estranged father.

The former actress' legal team had sought a summary judgment in the case, which was granted by Justice Mark Warby in the claim for misuse of private information against the publisher of the *'Mail on Sunday'* and *'Mail Online'*. After two long years of pursuing litigation, I am grateful to the courts for holding Associated Newspapers and The Mail on Sunday to account for their illegal and dehumanising practices, said Markle in a statement after the judgment. PTI

PROTEST PITCH



Demonstrators hold placards to protest against holding the planned Tokyo 2020 Olympic games in Tokyo on Friday. Yoshiro Mori resigned Friday as the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee following sexist comments.

AGENCIES

Amazon faces biggest union push in its history



ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 12 FEBRUARY

es and its Whole Foods grocery stores.

Attempts by Amazon to delay the vote in Bessemer have failed. So too have the company's efforts to require in-person voting, which organisers argue would be unsafe during the pandemic. Mail-in voting started this week and will go on until the end of March. A majority of the 6,000 employees have to vote yes" in order to unionise.

Amazon, whose profits and revenues have skyrocketed during the pandemic, has campaigned hard to convince workers that a union will only suck money from their paycheck with little benefit. Spokeswoman Rachael Lighty says the company already offers them what unions want: benefits, career growth and pay that starts at \$15 an hour. She adds that the organisers don't represent the majority of Amazon employees' views.

Fed up, Bates and a group of workers reached out to the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union last summer. She hopes the union, which also represents poultry plant workers in Alabama, will mandate more breaks, prevent Amazon from firing workers for mundane reasons and push for higher pay.

They will be a voice when we don't have one, Bates says. But according to Sylvia Allegretto, an economist and co-chair of the Center on Wage and Employment Dynamics at the University of California, Berkeley, history tells us not to be optimistic.

UK economy suffers biggest drops since 1709 Great Frost

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 12 FEBRUARY

FIGURES SHRINK

► The economy shrank 9.9 per cent last year, more than twice the figure for 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis

► Covid-19 has hit Britain's economy harder than most other industrialised democracies. The French GDP shrank 8.3 per cent last year, Germany's 5 per cent and the USA's 3.5 per cent

bat Covid-19. A rebound in growth during the fourth quarter has been stifled by England's third lockdown, which has closed schools, restaurants and non-essential shops since mid-December. Tough restrictions also remain in place in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Today's figures show that the economy has experienced a serious shock as a result of the pandemic, which has been felt by countries around the world, the UK's top treasury official, Chancellor Rishi Sunak, said in a statement.

While there are some positive signs of the economy's

resilience over the winter, we know that the current lockdown continues to have a significant impact on many people and businesses. Sunak said he would announce new plans to protect jobs and bolster the economy when he delivers his annual budget statement to the House of Commons on March 3.

Covid-19 has hit Britain's economy harder than most other industrialised democracies. French GDP shrank 8.3 per cent last year, Germany's 5 per cent and the US's 3.5 per cent.

The service sector, which accounts for about 80 per cent of the UK economy, shrank 8.9 per cent last year, with output from accommodation, food and beverage

businesses down more than 55 per cent from February levels. Manufacturing fell 8.6 per cent and construction 12.5 per cent.

In hopes of relaxing the restrictions that have devastated the economy, the UK has moved to rapidly vaccinate its most vulnerable residents. More than 13.5 million people, or about 20 per cent of the population, had received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine by Wednesday. Andy Haldane, chief economist for the Bank of England, said the vaccination drive is helping Britain turn a corner. Lifting Covid-19 restrictions is likely to unleash a wave of spending by consumers and businesses that will trigger a rapid recovery later this year, he said.



If you want peace, you must prepare for war

RUSSIA FOREIGN MINISTER SERGEY LAVROV
ON RUSSIA'S SPLIT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Statesman

11

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2021

THUMBNAILS

Four soldiers killed in Pak: Terrorists attacked a security post in a former Taliban stronghold in a tribal district in northwest Pakistan on Friday, triggering a shootout that killed four soldiers and as many insurgents. The attack took place in Makena area in the South Waziristan district, bordering Afghanistan.

Draft law shows the military's intent to permanently undermine internet freedom in the country

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK, 12 FEBRUARY

A draft cybersecurity law due to be implemented in Myanmar has raised protests that it will be used to quash dissent rather than protect privacy.

Human rights advocates issued statements Friday urging the country's military leaders to drop the plan and end internet disruptions that have intensified since a 1 February coup.

The draft law shows the military's intent to permanently undermine internet freedom in the country, said Matthew Bugher, head of the Asia program for the group Article 19, which issued a statement condemning the plan along with the Open Net Association and the International Commission of Jurists.

He urged coup leaders to consider potentially devastating impacts on the Myanmar economy and people.

Norway's Telenor, a major mobile service provider, said it was facing several dilemmas. "Access to telecom services is essential for people to exercise their basic right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to gain information," the company said.

The company said it was assessing each government order according to its legality, impact on human rights, necessity and transparency. It listed five active directives from the government since 1 February to block IP addresses and said it was urging authorities to maintain an open internet.

A group of 158 Myanmar

peaceful protests across the country, despite efforts by authorities to enforce order by disrupting internet services.

That has put internet service providers and other telecommunications companies in a bind.

Jeff Paine, managing director of the Asia Internet Coalition, a group of leading global internet companies including Facebook and Google, said the Bill would give the military unprecedented power to censor citizens and violate their privacy, contravening democratic norms and fundamental rights guaranteed under international law."

It would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, senior general Min Aung Hlaing said.

Historical lessons have taught us that only national unity can ensure the non-disintegration of the Union

Coup leader: Join hands with army for democracy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON, 12 FEBRUARY

Myanmar's coup leader used the country's Union Day holiday on Friday to call on people to work with the military if they want democracy, a request likely to be met with derision by protesters who are pushing for the release from detention of their country's elected leaders.

Min Aung Hlaing's 1 February coup ousted the civilian government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and prevented recently elected lawmakers from opening a new session of Parliament. It reversed nearly a decade of progress toward democracy following 50 years of military rule and has led to

nongovernmental organizations also has released a statement protesting the draft law. Before the coup, the government had been working on a master plan for internet management and cybersecurity.

The law demands the elimination of online comments considered to be misinformation or disinformation, that might cause hate" or disrupt stability, and any comment that might violate any existing law.

Its provisions call for a sentence of up to three years and/or a fine for any person convicted of creating misinformation with the intent of causing public panic, loss of trust or social division in cyberspace. The law also would require internet service providers to keep usernames, IP addresses and other personal data for up to three years. The data has to be kept in a place designated by the government.

and the perpetuation of sovereignty, he added.

In addition to the military commander's message published Friday in the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper, the new junta also announced it would mark Union Day by releasing thousands of prisoners and reducing other inmates' sentences.

The military has said it was forced to step in because Suu Kyi's government failed to properly investigate allegations of fraud in November elections, though the election commission has said there is no evidence to support those claims.

The rallies against the coup now daily occurrences in Myanmar's two largest cities, Yangon and Mandalay have drawn people from all walks of life, despite an official ban on gatherings of more than five people. Factory workers and civil servants, students and teachers, medical personnel and people have all come out in force.

UN rights body discuss military coup:

The UN's top human rights body held an urgent session on Friday to discuss the military coup in Myanmar, facing a call for the release of people arbitrarily detained including civilian government leader Aung San Suu Kyi and more action by UN officials to increase scrutiny of the country.

The Human Rights Council has no power to impose sanctions but can train a potent political spotlight on rights abuses and violations. Friday's session comes shortly after the Biden administration, which has already imposed sanctions on top coup leaders, revised US participation at the 47-member Geneva body.

While China and Russia faulted attempts to politicise the situation and called it a domestic matter, many Western countries, the UN human rights office and others decided to impose measures against Cuba.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused Ukraine of failing to implement the 2015 Minsk agreements saying: Over those six years, we still haven't gotten an answer to two very important questions: How exactly does Ukraine intend to peacefully resolve the conflict, and how

widespread protests in cities around the country.

The military has said it was forced to step in because Suu Kyi's government failed to properly investigate allegations of fraud in November elections, though the election commission has said there is no evidence to support those claims.

The rallies against the coup now daily occurrences in Myanmar's two largest cities, Yangon and Mandalay have drawn people from all walks of life, despite an official ban on gatherings of more than five people. Factory workers and civil servants, students and teachers, medical personnel and people have all come out in force.

the coup and state of emergency and said it must end.

The seizure of power by the Myanmar military earlier this month constitutes a profound setback for the country after a decade of hard-won gains in its democratic transition, said the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada al-Nashif. The world is watching.

A draft resolution, presented by Britain and the European Union, calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint, and other top officials in the government, a lifting of restrictions on the internet and unimpeded humanitarian access, among other things.

It also calls on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet to give the independent UN special rapporteur on Myanmar.

Navalny: Russia says ready for split if EU imposes new curbs

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 12 FEBRUARY

structure, our interests, Russia must be ready in advance for such unfriendly steps, Peskov said during a call with reporters. We must be self-reliant. We must ensure our security in the most sensitive strategic areas and be prepared to replace everything we could be deprived of with national infrastructure in case madness prevails and such unfriendly actions take place.

Russia-EU relations have sunk to new lows over Navalny's arrest and imprisonment. The Opposition leader was arrested 17 January upon his return from Germany, where he spent five months recuperating from the nerve agent poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have denied the allegations.

Last week, a court in Moscow sent Navalny to prison for two years and eight months for violating terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany.

Police raid Navalny headquarters: Russian police conducted a late-night search of the headquarters for jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny, whose arrest last month set off nationwide protests.

The search by a dozen police ended about 1 a.m. It was not immediately clear if the police took away items as potential evidence, but photos posted by Navalny's staff on social media showed them bagging material including a coffee mug.

There was no statement from police about the reason for the search; the *Mediazona* news website that focuses on political repressions and human rights abuses cited a Navalny staff member as saying that police said they had received a report that pornography was being published at the office.

Hundreds rally in Kathmandu: Hundreds of women's right activists and their supporters rallied in Nepal's capital on Friday to call for an end to violence and discrimination against women and the scrapping of a proposed law that would restrict travel for many women. The protesters marching in Kathmandu chanted slogans demanding equality.

AP

Tornado injures 16 people: A small tornado struck a town on Turkey's Aegean coast, leaving a path of destruction and injuring 16 people, officials and reports said Friday. The tornado touched down late on Thursday in the resort town of Cesme, some 90 km west of the city of Izmir. It uprooted trees, blew off roof tiles, swept up cars and knocked down a crane. At least four boats capsized. 16 workers were hurt, including one hospitalised with a broken leg.

AP

'I am a child!': Racial injustice sparks outrage in America

WASHINGTON, 12 FEBRUARY

The 9-year-old Black girl sat handcuffed in the backseat of a police car, distraught and crying for her father as the white officers grew increasingly impatient while they tried to wrangle her fully into the vehicle.

This is your last chance, one officer warned. Otherwise pepper spray is going in your eyeballs.

Less than 90 seconds later, the girl had been sprayed and was screaming. Please, wipe my eyes! Wipe my eyes, please! What started with a report of family trouble in Rochester, New York, and ended with police treating a fourth-grader like a crime suspect, has spurred outrage as the latest example of law enforcement mistreatment of Black people.

As the US undergoes a new reckoning on police brutality and racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's death last May, the girl's treatment illustrates how even young children are not exempt.

There's a point in the video where an officer says, You're acting like a child! to which the girl replies, I am a child! The officers have been suspended pending an investigation. More video footage released Thursday showed the wait until an ambulance arrived for the girl.

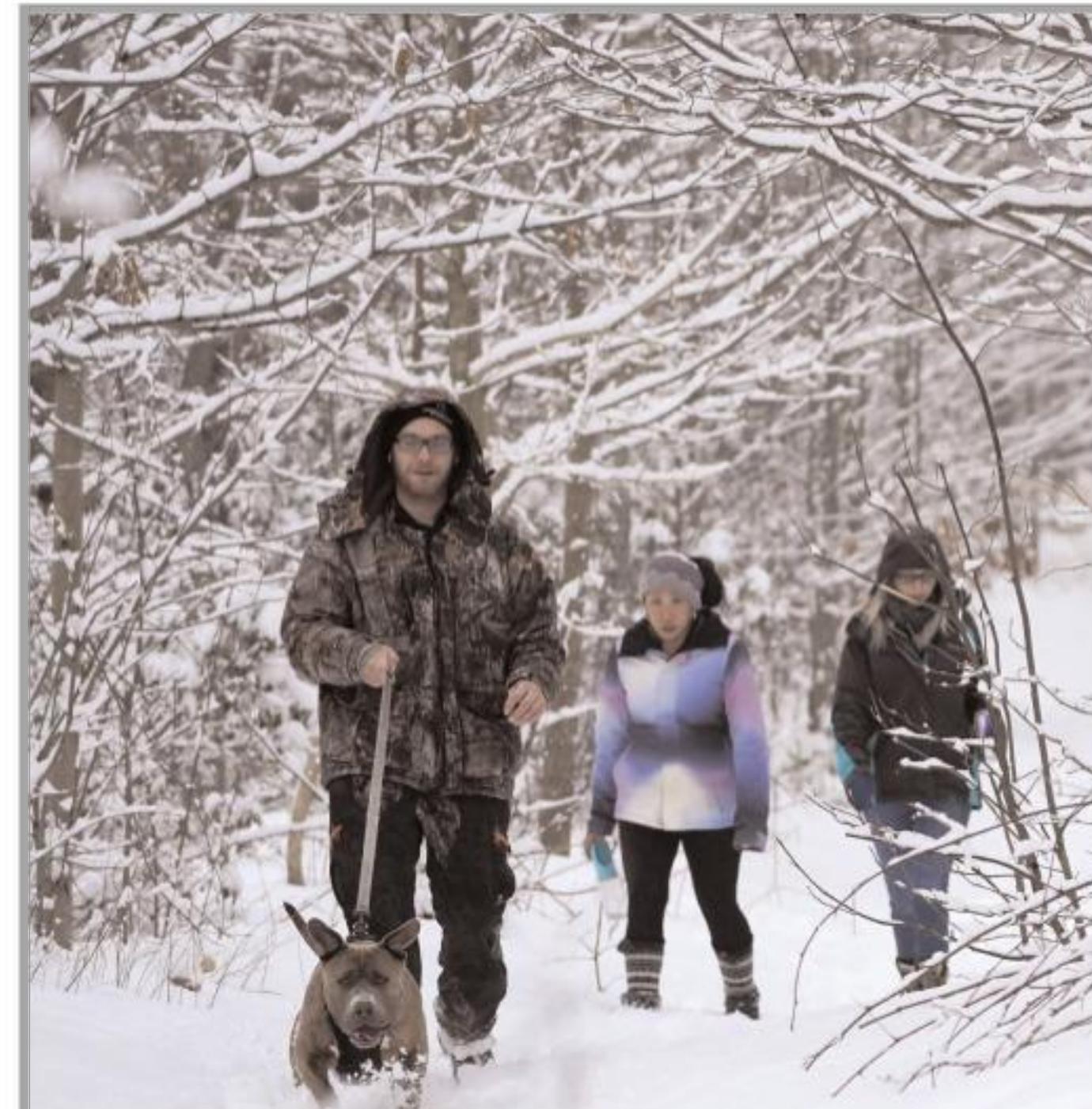
Research shows Black children are often viewed as being older than they are, and are more likely to be seen as threatening or dangerous.

Advocates have long said that leads to police treating them in ways they wouldn't dream of treating white children. In some cases it's led to fatalities like the killing of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old Black boy shot by a white police officer in Cleveland in 2014.

Black children have never been given their opportunity to be children, said Kristin Henning, law professor and director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative at Georgetown Law. A study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found Black children and teens were six times as likely to die from police gunfire as white children.

AP

WHITE WASHED



Will Wilson (left) follows his pit bull Loki while hiking at Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville on Friday.

Cuban official asks Biden admin to reconsider sanctions

HAVANA, 12 FEBRUARY

A top Cuban official said on Thursday that declassified US documents pointing out deficiencies in the response to health issues reported by American diplomats on the island show some of the falsehoods the Trump administration used to impose measures against Cuba.

Johana Tablada, deputy director for US affairs at Cuba's foreign ministry, said the new US government should consider reversing measures imposed by Trump against the island after tensions increased because of the health incidents and other issues.

Between late 2016 and May 2018, several US and Canadian diplomats in Havana complained of health problems from an unknown cause.

Trump's administration officials suggested that Cuba may have been behind the incidents or allowed alleged sonic attacks against the diplomats, something the island has always denied.

AP

Russia clashes with US and West over conflict in Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, 12 FEBRUARY

Russia clashed with the United States and its Western allies Thursday over the nearly seven-year conflict in eastern Ukraine, and the UN warned that the current fragile ceasefire risks being reversed if peace negotiations become deadlocked.

Russia called the Security Council meeting to mark Friday's sixth anniversary of the signing of the Minsk peace plan brokered by France and Germany. It aimed to resolve the conflict between Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists that flared in April 2014 after Russia's annexation of Crimea and its support for the separatists in the mostly Russian-speaking industrial east called Donbas.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused Ukraine of failing to implement the 2015 Minsk agreements saying: Over those six years, we still haven't gotten an answer to two very important questions: How exactly does Ukraine intend to peacefully resolve the conflict, and how

does Kiev envisage special status of Donbas within Ukraine?

The answers to those questions will entirely determine any prospects for a settlement because after the beginning in 2014 of Kiev's use of force and the ongoing shellings of residential areas by the Ukrainian army, which continue to this day the people of Donbas have not felt any connection with Ukraine, he said.

The United States and European allies France, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Norway, Belgium and the United Kingdom blamed Russia for fueling the conflict, which has killed more than 14,000 people, by providing financial and military support to the separatists.

US political coordinator Rodney Hunter, speaking on behalf of the Biden administration, said Russia instigated the conflict in Donbas and has blocked meaningful progress in diplomatic negotiations while arming, training, funding, and leading its proxy forces and supporting the self-proclaimed authorities on the ground.

The United States reaffirms its

unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said, accusing Russia of escalating its oppression of any dissent to its brutal occupation of Crimea.

We will never recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea, Hunter said. As a result, US sanctions on Russia in response to its aggression in eastern Ukraine and occupation of Crimea will remain in place unless - and until - Russia reverses course.

The Minsk agreements envisage that Ukraine can regain control over its border with Russia in the separatist-held regions only after they are granted broad self-rule and hold local elections.

The accord helped reduce the scope of hostilities, but Ukrainian forces continued to exchange artillery salvos and gunfire. While the July 2020 cease-fire has largely held up, UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo said there has been an increase in security incidents in several hotspots in recent months.

This dangerous trend needs to be quickly reversed, she said.

UN: Over 2 million Yemeni children may starve this year

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, 12 FEBRUARY

Yemen are also projected to be acutely malnourished this year.

These numbers are yet another cry for help from Yemen, where each malnourished child also means a family struggling to survive, said David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program, which jointly issued the report with the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

The crisis in Yemen is a toxic mix of conflict, economic collapse and a severe shortage of funding, Beasley explained. In 2020, humanitarian programs in Yemen received only USD 1.9 billion of the required USD 3.4 billion, the report said.

UNICEF estimates that virtually all of Yemen's 12 million children require some sort of assistance. This can include food aid, health services, clean water, schooling



and cash grants to help the poorest families scrape by. But there is a solution to hunger, and that's food and an end to the violence, Beasley said.

Yemenis have suffered six years of bloodshed, destruc-

tion and humanitarian catastrophe. In 2014, the Iran-allied Houthi rebels seized the capital and much of the country's north.

A Saudi-led coalition launched a sweeping military intervention months later to restore the UN-backed government. Despite relentless Saudi airstrikes and a blockade of Yemen, the war has ground to a stalemate.

Last week, President Joe Biden announced that the US will no longer support the Saudi-led coalition. But reaching peace will be a difficult path.

Biden also reversed the Trump administration's designation of the Houthis as a terrorist organization.

That move has been hailed by aid groups working in Yemen, who feared the designation would disrupt the flow of food, fuel and other goods barely keeping Yemenis alive.

Malnourished children are more vulnerable to diseases...

It is a vicious and often deadly cycle, but with relatively cheap and simple interventions, many lives can be saved," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. (Representational image)

UN: Burkina Faso on brink of protracted humanitarian crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KAYA (BURKINA FASO), 12 FEBRUARY

Burkina Faso is on the brink of becoming a protracted crisis after extremist violence displaced over 1 million people, a senior United Nations official said this week during a visit to the West African nation.

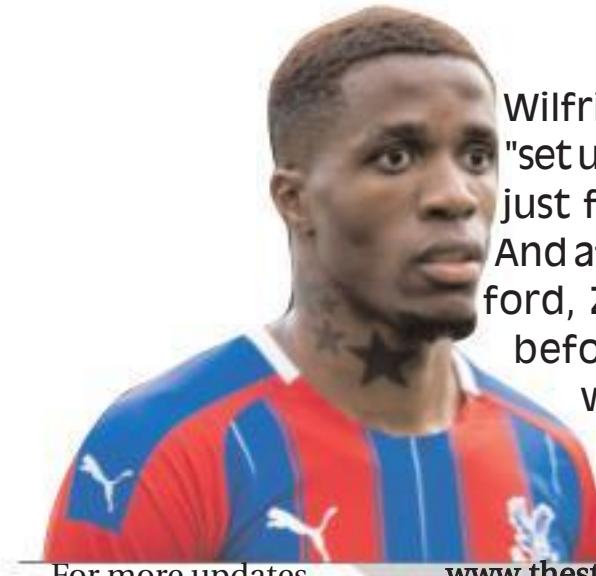
UN acting assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs Ramesh Rajasingham spoke to *The Associated Press* after visiting the hard-hit Center North and Sahel regions in the country that has been engulfed in extremist violence for more than five years.

You'll see Yemen on the headlines, you'll see Syria on the headlines, Libya, Mali

perhaps, but Burkina Faso, we've had such a spike in displacement, Rajasingham said.

If we don't raise the profile, you're going to see a loss of life, increased morbidity and a deteriorating situation that will then further compound the Sahel situation. It's the tip of the iceberg."

Burkina Faso is the latest country under threat from extremist attack in the Sahel, a belt of semi-arid land south of

**'SET UP TO FAIL'**

Wilfried Zaha (in photo, left) has said he was "set up to fail" at Manchester United. He made just four appearances under David Moyes. And after a tough transition to life at Old Trafford, Zaha was sent out on loan to Cardiff, before returning under Louis Van Gaal, who he claims forced him to fit in as a striker.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Alonso accident: Spanish Formula One driver Fernando Alonso was involved in a road accident while cycling in Switzerland, his Alpine team said on Thursday after a report suggested he might have suffered fractures. He is to make his F1 comeback this season.

Neymar out: Neymar has been ruled out of PSG's Champions League first-leg tie with Barcelona after picking up a groin injury. He picked up the strain on Wednesday night in the Coupe de France clash with SM Caen. He will be missing for at least four weeks.

Barca beaten: Barcelona's hopes of winning the Copa del Rey were left hanging by a thread on Wednesday after Sevilla won the first leg of their semi-final 2-0. Jules Kounde scored a solo goal before Ivan Rakitic came back to haunt Barca by adding a second.

FA Cup: Chelsea's impressive start to Thomas Tuchel's reign continued with a 1-0 win at Barnsley to move into the FA Cup quarter-finals on Thursday, while Southampton put their miserable Premier League form behind them to reach the last eight by beating Wolves 2-0.

Formula One: Formula One teams will vote on Thursday to decide whether sprint races should be added to Grand Prix weekends. F1 chiefs have proposed the idea of introducing a shorter race on Saturdays in place of qualifying to determine the grid for Sunday's race.

Bayern win Club Cup: Bayern Munich beat Mexico's Tigres UANL 1-0 on Thursday thanks to Benjamin Pavard's winner on the hour, to win the Club World Cup title and earn their sixth trophy in less than nine months. Pavard scored in the 59th minute following a VAR review and in front of around 12,000 spectators allowed into Education City Stadium, after Tigres keeper Nahuel Guzman had stopped a Robert Lewandowski header.

Simran, Yadav win gold: Indian para-athletes continued their good show at the 12th Fazza International World Para Athletics Grand Prix event, winning five medals, including two gold, on the second day of the competitions here on Friday. Simran clinched the gold in women's 100m T13 final, clocking 12.74 seconds. Neeraj Yadav won the other gold for India in men's discus throw F55 event with an effort of 35.49m.

Bangladesh trial: Pacer Shannon Gabriel put on an inspirational bowling show as West Indies took control of the second test against Bangladesh on Friday. West Indies was dismissed for 409 in its first innings after resuming on 223-5. Gabriel (2-31) helped to reduce Bangladesh to 105-4 still 304 runs behind at stumps on the second day.

Sangwan to lead Delhi: Left-arm seamer Pradeep Sangwan was on Friday appointed captain of the Delhi team for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy national 50-over championships ahead of India opener and senior batsman Shikhar Dhawan.

Rajput wins gold: Seasoned rifle shooter and Tokyo Olympics quota holder Sanjeev Rajput on Friday continued his good form by winning gold in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions T4 national selection trial in Delhi. The two-time Olympian thus won three of the four trials held this year. He made it to all four finals.

Kho Kho League: The Kho Kho actions resumed in the country post COVID-19 pandemic in New Delhi on Friday as in the Pool A matches Rhinos beat Ninjas 37-32 while Cheetahs registered a thrilling 40-39 win in a closely-contested game against Jaguars in New Delhi on Friday. In the Pool B matches, Frisky Rangers beat Sharks 40-36 and Panthers held draw against Pahadi Bills with a score of 35 points each.

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 12 FEBRUARY

A desperate India have decided to go for the jugular by opting for a spicy turner against a well-prepared England side in the second Test starting Saturday, well aware that it can boomerang and cost them a spot in the World Test Championship final.

The honeymoon of the Australian series is over after a sobering 227-run defeat in the first Test which must have shaken a complacent team out of its stupor ahead of three high-stake Test matches.

But it is an perfect stage for India's mercurial skipper Virat Kohli, who loves to bring his game to the fore when the chips are down.

With crowd back inside the heated cauldron ready to egg him on, something he thrives on, the Indian captain would be eyeing a good slugfest against a very resolute opposition.

India need to win two matches and not lose any of the games to make the WTC final. England will have a new wicketkeeper in Ben Foakes and Stuart Broad will replace James Anderson as part of workload management. Also in the mix is Moeen Ali, a known nemesis of India, in place of last match's first-innings top wicket-taker Dom Bess.

Jofra Archer's elbow injury might make way for bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes, who is

a handy batsman apart from being a fine pacer in his own right.

Jofra is a slight setback but hopefully he is fit and ready for the third Test, "skipper and the team's No. 1 batsman Joe Root said on the eve of the game. A look at the newly-laid dark-coloured Chepauk track is an indication that unlike the strip used during the first Test, this one will offer turn earlier than expected.

Ravichandran Ashwin will need a lot of support from the other end in terms of both restrictive and attacking options.

A fit-again Axar Patel is the closest to being a like-for-like replacement for an injured Ravindra Jadeja. Patel's Test debut looks imminent as Ashwin will need someone to hold on at the other end.

However, one can't be so sure about Kuldeep Yadav, who in his short-six-Test career has played some tough games.

He would fancy his chance for being a better attacking option than Washington Sundar. The 20-year-old Washington Sundar might go on to become a fine all-rounder in the Ravi Shastri mould in the coming years but as of now, he is not good enough to play as a specialist third spinner.

Kuldeep is an excellent attacking option but the team management's continued reluctance to play him is an indication of lack of faith in the Uttar Pradesh wrist spinner's abilities of late.

However, it is learnt that looking at the track, Kuldeep is set to be inducted into playing XI for this particular game. The Indian team management, after a drab first two days at the Chepauk during the opening game, had two options going into the second Test.

The first option was to leave a liberal sprinkling of grass and then get tested by Broad, who would have got the SG Test to land on seam and move around off the pitch.

The second option, which they have taken, is shaving off the grass and very little water-

ing of the pitch, leaving it to bake in the sun. The ball will bounce and turn and the strip will break much earlier but then India have had instances where this kind of track has back-fired.

Rewind to June 2017, when Steve Smith punished them on a rank turner on the first day. The home team didn't have a clue that the ball will turn so much.

Or perhaps the best innings ever played in India -- Kevin Pietersen's epic 186 in Mumbai in 2012, India played a single pacer in Zaheer Khan with Ashwin and Pragyan Ojha open-

ing the bowling. In both games, it was the rival spinners (Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar in 2012 and Steve O'Keefe in 2017) who made the most of the conditions and rattled the Indian batsmen in their own den.

The toss will be very crucial and even if turns square, Kohli will look to bat first and expect Rohit Sharma to go beyond the two or three pretty shots that he has been managing so far.

He would have to give the team a big hundred which it desperately needs from him.

Kohli gave a master-class on how to play the reverse swing

in the first Test but it always takes two to tango. Whether it's a Cheteshwar Pujara or an Ajinkya Rahane or a Rishabh Pant, the Indian skipper will need some support to keep his team's chances alive of booking a flight to London.

The toss will be very crucial and even if turns square, Kohli will look to bat first and expect Rohit Sharma to go beyond the two or three pretty shots that he has been managing so far.

He would have to give the team a big hundred which it desperately needs from him.

Kohli gave a master-class on how to play the reverse swing

Agarwal, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Shardul Thakur.

England (from): Joe Root (captain), Dominic Sibley, Rory Burns, Ollie Pope, Dan Lawrence, Ben Stokes, Ben Foakes (wk), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, Olly Stone.

(Match starts at 9.30 AM).

England leave out Anderson, Bess

England have left out James Anderson and Dom Bess for the second Test against India, with the visitors naming Stuart Broad, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and paceman Olly Stone in their 12.

With speedster Jofra Archer ruled out due to an elbow injury, Olly, who played his only Test in July 2019, or Woakes are expected to partner Broad in the Test starting on Saturday in Chennai.

"(Stone) is certainly looking very good in and around training," captain Joe Root told reporters on the eve of the Test.

"As with a lot of players in the current time that they are in, they have to make the most of the little chances we get to play." Root said: "(Stone) has a big heart, huge amount of skill and pace as well, and will give variety within the attack if he gets the opportunity to play."

The England skipper said they can have either Stone or Woakes making the starting line-up which will be decided after looking at the pitch.



India seek redemption on rank turner

Mori is gone but gender issues remain for Tokyo Olympics

AGENCIES
TOKYO, 12 FEBRUARY



and he had talked with the 83-year-old Mori and was likely to be his successor.

That news that another elderly man was taking over exploded Friday morning on national television and social media. A few hours later, Kawabuchi withdrew his candidacy at the board meeting and told Moto to make it public.

He (Kawabuchi) is not thinking of becoming president, even if he is asked he will decline, Moto said. Mori's departure comes after more than a week of non-stop criticism about his remarks earlier this month.

He initially apologized but refused to step away, which was followed by relentless pressure from television commentators, sponsors and an online petition that drew 150,000 signatures.

"As of today I will resign from the president's position," Mori said to open an executive board and council meeting.

Mori was appointed in 2014, just months after Tokyo won the bid to host the Olympics. My inappropriate comments have caused a lot of chaos, he said, repeating several times he had regret over the remarks.

Politics in Japan, and Moto acknowledged that the organizing committee has too few women in leadership roles, and no women at the vice-president level. For myself in selecting the president, I don't think we need to discuss or debate gender, Moto said. We simply need to choose the right person.

The front runner is probably Seiko Hashimoto, the current government Olympic minister who was also an bronze medalist in speedskating in the 1992 Albertville Games.

She fits all the bills -- female, a former Olympian, and she's been around the organizing committee. Any pick will be tricky.

On Thursday, 84-year-old Saburo Kawabuchi, the former head of the governing body of Japanese soccer, gave interviews

Pitch is different and it will turn from day 1: Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 12 FEBRUARY

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane (in photo) expects the Chepauk pitch to offer serious turn from the very first day of the second Test against England when his team would bid to level the four-match series and remain in contention for the World Test Championship final.

India lost the first Test by 227 runs on a deck that didn't have anything for bowlers while the fresh pitch, with a darker and drier look, promises to be a spinners' paradise in the game starting Saturday.

"Yeah, it looks completely different. I am sure it will turn from day 1 but again as I have said before the first Test match, you have to wait and see how it plays in the first session and take it from there on," Rahane said at the prematch virtual conference on Friday.

"...but yeah we have to forget what happened in the first Test. We know these conditions really well and we have to put our best foot forward tomorrow and yeah that's it," Virat Kohli's deputy added.

Despite hinting that left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel is available for selection, Rahane didn't divulge the play-

ing XI. "Everyone is in the mix and good thing is Axar is fit and I am not going to tell you who is going to play tomorrow. See all our spinners are really good and given a chance they will all do really well," Rahane kept cards close to his chest.

'Difficult decision'

England's Test captain Joe Root on Friday said skipping the lucrative IPL auction for a third successive year was a "very difficult decision" and he made the call considering the national team's packed schedule this year.

The IPL auction is scheduled on February 18 in Chennai with a total of 292 players set to go under the hammer including Root's compatriots Moeen Ali, Jason Roy and Mark Wood.

"It's a very difficult decision. I am desperate to be part of an IPL season and hopefully a few more beyond," Root, who scored a match-winning 218 to lead England to a massive 227-run victory in the series opener, said here. One up in the four-match series, England are in contention for the only available spot for the inaugural ICC World Test Championship final at the Lord's from June 18-22.

England know that two more wins in their remaining three Tests in India will see them qualify for the WTC final against New Zealand.

Root and Co will take on Kiwis in a two-Test series at home before the coveted five Tests Ashes against Australia series Down Under. They also host India for five Tests starting August.

"With the amount of Test cricket in particular this year, didn't feel like it was the right time, didn't feel like I could throw all my energy into it, which I think it deserves."

"I don't think it would serve English cricket best with what's to come... So, a very difficult decision."

Hopefully next year, there's more of an opportunity to potentially be a part of the IPL, or at least be in the auction."

Taking about the second Test, Root said he is well aware of the challenge his team faces despite winning the series opener convincingly.

"It certainly provides a stern challenge but it's not going to be as not as tough as being 1-0 down. We are in a really good position. We played brilliant cricket and will take a lot of confidence forward into this week. But we won't get ahead of ourselves."