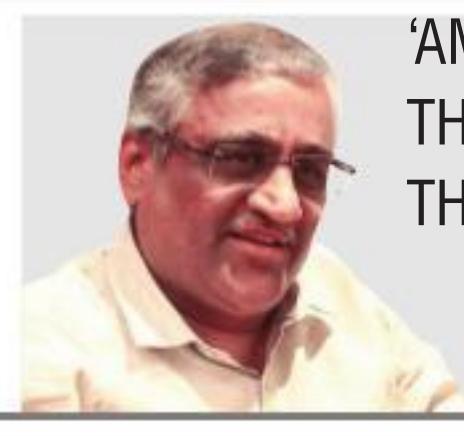




DECODING  
THE FUTURE  
OF SASIKALA

P7



'AMAZON PLAYING  
THE DOG IN  
THE MANGER'

P8



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

MYANMAR ARMY  
DENIES COUP  
THREAT CLAIMS

P11

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'CLASS OF 2012  
WAS ONE OF  
THE BEST'

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky, shallow to moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 22 and 05 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 97% Min: 42%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 21.5°C (-1) Min: 05.4°C (-3)  
SUN RISES SUN SETS  
07:09 hrs 18:00 hrs  
MOON RISES MOON SETS  
20:41 hrs 09:41 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Indian Youth Congress activists pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, in the Capital on Saturday. ■ SUBRATA DUTTA

Rajib Banerjee, other ex-TMC leaders join BJP: Former West Bengal minister Rajib Banerjee, who recently quit the Trinamool Congress, joined the BJP in the national capital on Saturday along with a few other leaders of the state's ruling party after meeting senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Banerjee and MLAs Prabir Ghosal and Baishali Dalviya, who was recently expelled from the TMC, and former Howrah Mayor Rathin Chakraborty met central BJP leaders.

10 killed in mishap on Agra Highway: At least 10 people were killed and around a dozen received injuries when a private bus collided with a truck on the Moradabad-Agra Highway on Saturday morning owing to poor visibility due to dense fog, an official said. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief and announced a financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of the deceased. The accident took place at around 8 am on the Nanpur-Chandusi stretch of the highway near Nanpur village under Kundarki Police Station. ■ P4

## POCSO row: SC collegium takes back approval for judge's permanent aptt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

The Supreme Court Collegium is understood to have withdrawn its approval to a proposal for the appointment of an additional judge of the Bombay High Court, Justice PV Ganeidiwala, as a permanent judge of the court following her two controversial verdicts in sexual assault cases.

The decision was taken after the judge faced flak for her interpretation of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, a source said.

Justice Pushpa Ganeidiwala recently acquitted a man

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT  
Justice Pushpa Ganeidiwala recently acquitted a man accused of groping a 12-year-old girl's breast because he did not make skin-to-skin contact and days earlier, ruled that holding the hands of a five-year-old girl and unzipping the trousers do not amount to "sexual assault" under the POCSO Act

On 27 January, the Supreme Court stayed the Bombay High Court order acquitting the man after Attorney General K K Venugopal said the order would set a dangerous precedent.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, at a meeting held on 20 January, had okayed the proposal for making Justice Ganeidiwala a permanent judge.

In two other judgments this month, Justice Ganeidiwala acquitted two men accused of raping minor girls after noting that the testimonies of the victims did not inspire confidence to fix criminal liability on the accused.

accused of groping a 12-year-old girl's breast because he did not make skin-to-skin contact and days earlier, ruled that holding the hands of a five-year-old girl and unzipping the trousers do not amount to "sexual assault" under the POCSO Act

ment said.

The health secretary pointed out that Covid-19 vaccine is available in sufficient quantity and technical glitches on CoWIN have now been resolved. Over 37 lakh beneficiaries have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in the country till now with 57,00,000 vaccinations conducted in the last 24 hours, according to the health ministry.

Delhi's positivity rate dips to 0.27 pc: Delhi today reported 183 fresh Covid cases and 8 coronavirus-linked deaths, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city's Covid caseload mounted to 6,34,956, while its positivity rate slipped to 0.27 per cent, the health bulletin said.

"While some states and UTs have more than 50 per cent coverage, they were all advised to improve the percentage coverage of vaccinated beneficiaries as there are many states and UTs that need to improve their performance on this parameter," the state

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Today, it was the eighth time that the daily Covid count stood below the 200-mark in Delhi in January so far. (SEE P1)

FACT FILE  
TOTAL CASES  
**1,07,33,131**  
ACTIVE CASES  
**1,69,824**  
NEW CASES  
**13,083**  
NEW RECOVERIES  
**14,808**  
TOTAL DEATHS  
**1,54,147**

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.  
SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2021

## India pre-eminent partner of US: Blinken

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 30 JANUARY

### STRATEGIC TIES

► In the new US Secretary of State Tony Blinken's first telephonic conversation with India's external affairs minister Jaishankar, they discussed issues of mutual concern, including Covid-19 vaccination efforts, regional developments and next steps in expanding bilateral ties.

US partner in the Indo-Pacific and the importance of working together to expand regional cooperation, including through the Quad

► Blinken underscored India's role as a pre-eminent

mutual concern, including Covid-19 vaccination efforts, regional developments and next steps in expanding bilateral

ties, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said on Friday.

Blinken underscored India's

role as a pre-eminent US partner in the Indo-Pacific and the importance of working together to expand the regional cooperation, including through the Quad, Price said. "Both agreed to coordinate closely on global developments and look forward to meeting in person at the earliest opportunity, Price said in a readout of the call, which was the first communication between them after 20 January when Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States.

"I was delighted to speak today with my good friend @DrJaishankar to discuss US-India priorities. We reaffirmed

the importance of the US-India relationship and discussed ways we can better seize new opportunities and combat shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific and beyond," Blinken wrote on Twitter.

In New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry said Jaishankar and Blinken expressed their commitment to consolidate and expand the multi-faceted strategic partnership. "They appreciated the robust defence and security ties, growing economic engagement, productive health-care collaboration and strong people-to-people linkages as its important pillars," it said in a Press release.

**Sabse Pehle Life Insurance**

Premium stops.

**FACT FILE**

**TOTAL CASES**  
**1,07,33,131**

**ACTIVE CASES**  
**1,69,824**

**NEW CASES**  
**13,083**

**NEW RECOVERIES**  
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How can the Centre give citizenship to those who are already citizens...

TMC VICE PRESIDENT SUBRATA MUKHERJEE

CLAIMING THAT MATUAS HAVE ALWAYS HAD CITIZENSHIP IN BENGAL

## R-Day violence: Forensic experts visit Red Fort to collect evidence

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

Delhi Police has so far registered 38 cases and arrested 84 people in connection with the violence during a tractor parade by farmers here on the Republic Day, officials said today.

The tractor march by farmers protesting against the Centre's three controversial farm laws had turned violent, leading to chaotic scenes on the streets of the national capital on 26 January

**The tractor march by farmers protesting against the Centre's three controversial farm laws had turned violent, leading to chaotic scenes on the streets of the national capital on 26 January**

on 26 January.

Thousands of protesting farmers had clashed with the police personnel during the

tractor parade. Many of them, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and entered the monument. They also hoisted flags on the domes and placed a flagstaff at the ramparts of the national monument.

The city police had asked nine farmer leaders to join the investigation in the case yesterday, but no one turned up.

Delhi Police's crime branch along with forensic experts today visited the Red Fort to collect evidence in connection with the Republic Day violence.

A team of Delhi police also reached Jalandhar yesterday to trace the miscreants involved with the violence.

The crime branch is investigating this violence and several teams have been formed to identify the miscreants.

"A team of forensic experts visited Red Fort and it is collecting evidence," an official said. Delhi Police has also issued an appeal in newspapers, asking people to share any evidence or information about the violence.

## JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

### LEGAL NOTICES

**DISTRICT-SOUTH 24 PARGANAS BEFORE THE LEARNED 7TH CIVIL JUDGE (SR. DIV) AT ALIPORE EJECTMENT SUIT NO. 17 OF 2018 OM PRAKASH KEJRIWAL Plaintiff -Versus- LAXMIPAT JAIN @ LAXMIPAT BHADANI Defendant NOTICE**

It is notified that Sri Om Prakash Kejriwal, son of late Uma Shanker Kejriwal, residing at Flat No. 5, 1st floor of the Premises no. 87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala, Police Station – Behala, Kolkata- 700034, has instituted the above mentioned suit in respect of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder against Sri Laxmipat Jain @ Laxmipat Bhadani, residing at Flat No. 8, 2nd Floor, of 87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala Police Station- Behala, Kolkata-700034, who is hereby called upon to appear before the Learned Court in the above mentioned suit on 2.3.2021 at 10:30 a.m., failing the suit will be heard ex parte against him.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY AS REFERRED ABOVE**

All that the Flat No. 8, situated on the 2nd floor, measuring about 650 square feet, more or less, consisting of one bedroom, with balcony, bath and lavatory, store room, one sitting and dining room, and kitchen, lying situate at the Premises no.87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala, Kolkata 700 034, under Police Station-Behala, in the District of South 24 Parganas.

Date: 17.12.2020 By Order Sd/- Srishthadar 7th. Court, Sr. Divn, Alipore, South 24 parganas

**DISTRICT-SOUTH 24 PARGANAS BEFORE THE LEARNED 7TH CIVIL JUDGE (SR. DIV) AT ALIPORE EJECTMENT SUIT NO. 16 OF 2018 OM PRAKASH KEJRIWAL Plaintiff -VERSUS- M/s. CHOWDHURY STEEL Defendant NOTICE**

It is notified that Sri Om Prakash Kejriwal, son of late Uma Shanker Kejriwal residing at Flat No. 5, 1st floor of the Premises no. 87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala, Police Station – Behala, Kolkata 700 034 has instituted the above mentioned suit in respect of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder against M/s. Chowdhury Steel, a Partnership Firm, represented by its Partner, Sri Bimal Kumar Chowdhury of 32/1, Rowland Road, of 87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala P.S. Behala, Kolkata 700034, who are hereby called upon to appear before the Learned Court in the above mentioned suit on 2.3.2021 at 10:30 a.m., failing the suit will be heard ex parte against them.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY AS REFERRED ABOVE**

All that the Flat No. 8, situated on the 1st floor, measuring about 1200 square feet, more or less, consisting of two bedrooms, sitting and dining room, bath and lavatory, kitchen, store room, etc. lying situate at the Premises no.87/88, Jadunagar Colony, Behala, Kolkata 700 034, under Police Station-Behala, in the District of South 24 Parganas.

Date: 17.12.2020 By Order Sd/- Srishthadar 7th. Court, Sr. Divn, Alipore, South 24 parganas

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)**

In the Court of Deepak Kumar-I Commercial-Civil Judge- cum-Additional Rent Controller Room No. 255, IInd Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Suit No. CS-13/2020 In the matter of: Syndicate Bank, Block-B2, DD Market, Near Gurudwara, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063. Through its Authorized Representative/POA. — Plaintiff Versus Mohit Arora — Defendant To, 1. Mr. Mohit Arora (Borrower), s/o Sh. Arinder Arora, r/o H. No. 275, Janta Flats, Site-1, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018. — Defendants The Defendant above-named.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 25th day of March, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 29th day of January, 2021.

Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Seal of the Court

**IN THE COURT OF DR. SHIRISH AGARWAL Admin-Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Court Room No. 323, 3rd Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi N.D.O.H.: 06-02-2021 SC-102/2020**

1. Veerwati, w/o Late Hari Chand, r/o H. No. 177, Gali No. 5, Village Jagatpur, Burari, Delhi-110084. — Petitioners Versus The State & Ors. FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To, All concerned.

Where in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Hansraj Sharma and Late Sh. Kumar Sharma, deceased.

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

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 29th day of January, 2021.

Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Seal of the Court

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Whereas the 06-02-2021 at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing on the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and

2. Sh. Hans Raj Sharma, s/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma, r/o House No. C-6, Double Storey, Qutub Minar Khana, Palika Bazaar, New Delhi-110005.

3. Smt. Padma Sharma, d/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma, r/o 19/10A, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015.

4. Smt. Anita Saluja, d/o

5. Sh. Yash Pal Sharma, s/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma, r/o B-4/439, Near MCD School, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

6. Sh. Mohit Arora, s/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Sharma, r/o 19/10A, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015.

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The unity we desire will last only if we cultivate a yielding and charitable disposition towards one another. Homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary. May his ideals of non-violence and communal harmony guide our nation towards prosperity

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 31 JANUARY 2021

03

# Fake degrees scam: HP pvt university's assets attached

The ED has attached a Solan-based varsity's Rs 194 cr assets for alleged sale of thousands of fake degrees to students in multiple states, says HP DGP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 30 JANUARY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties and assets worth Rs 194 crore of a Solan-based private university, Manav Bharti University, for alleged sale of fake degrees, according to Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu.

Talking to media persons in Shimla today, Kundu said the HP Police had unearthed the "biggest and one of its kind scam" in the country in which over 36,000 fake degrees were sold to students from across 17 states of the country.

"Further investigations in the matter are on and we are in the process of extrading the family of chairman of the private university, Raj Kumar Rana, namely his wife Ashwani Kanwar, son Mandeep Rana and daughter Aaina Rana from Australia," the DGP said.

Kundu said Rana earlier used to run a small pharmacy institute in Karnal in Haryana and later founded Manav Bharti Trust on the basis



HP DGP SANJAY KUNDU

of which he was given a Letter of Intent (LoI) for opening a private university in Solan district in 2009.

Rana opened the university at Dharampur in Solan district and later founded Madhav University in Udaipur in Rajasthan.

The DGP said that the police had confiscated 55 hard disks belonging to the university and on their analysis the record of 41,000 degrees issued by the university was found, out of which 36,000 degrees were found to be fake.

"We have unearthed record of properties worth Rs 440 crore that are owned by Rana, his family members and associates and out of this, properties and assets worth Rs 194 crore are found to be proceeds of crime. We intimated ED about the money laundering

after which the assets were attached by the agency," Kundu said.

He added that 275 persons were questioned in this fake degrees scam case and 8 persons were arrested out of which 6 were on bail while 2 accused were in judicial custody.

Significantly, the investigations into this fake degrees scam were launched after the University Grants Commission (UGC) wrote a letter to the HP government in February 2020 about "sale of fake degrees" by Manav Bharti University and the Shimla-based APG University.

Manav Bharti University had allegedly sold around 4.5 lakh fake degrees in the last 7 years while APG University had allegedly sold 15,000 degrees with the help of agents located in 17 states of the country.

These two private universities had allegedly sold degrees including that of technical education courses under which there were only limited seats allocated to these educational institutes, the UGC had stated in its letter.

With a density of 2.78 per 100 sq km on an average in Himachal Pradesh, the feral dogs are causing loss to biodiversity and deprivations of wildlife species, especially in Lahaul and Pangi landscape where these species are competing with large carnivores like Snow Leopards.

These findings were revealed in the first-of-its-kind study conducted on feral dogs by the HP forest department's wildlife wing in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata.

The study was conducted to understand the distribution pattern, population status and feeding resources of feral dogs in the Lahaul and Pangi landscape under the Union government's GEF-UNDP SECURE Himalaya Project.

"Based on the SCER model, feral dog density was found to be 2.78 individuals per 100 sq km in the Lahaul and Pangi landscape," he added.

Archana Sharma, Chief Wildlife Warden cum State Project Director, SECURE Himalaya said the issue of feral dogs in high altitude areas which are habitat of globally significant wildlife species like Snow Leopard is a bit concerning.

"Since the feral dogs are reported to lead to biodiversity loss, deprivations of wildlife

species and also competing with large carnivores like Snow Leopard, the phenomenon has caused concern among wildlife experts.

As globally, few studies are available documenting the impact of feral dogs on wildlife, hence, in order to understand their current population status and impacts in Lahaul-Pangi landscapes, the study was conducted with the help of ZSI, Kolkata.

ZSI Kolkata scientist Dr Lalit Kumar Sharma said multi-pronged approach of camera trapping, trail sampling, non-invasive genetics and questionnaire survey was used to gather information on the feral dogs in Lahaul-Pangi landscape.

The study was conducted to understand the distribution pattern, population status and feeding resources of feral dogs in the Lahaul and Pangi landscape under the Union government's GEF-UNDP SECURE Himalaya Project.

Archana Sharma, Chief Wildlife Warden cum State Project Director, SECURE Himalaya said the issue of feral dogs in high altitude areas which are habitat of globally significant wildlife species like Snow Leopard is a bit concerning.

"Since the feral dogs are reported to lead to biodiversity loss, deprivations of wildlife

but the diet is dominated by domestic livestock which is

a matter of great concern.

Although the population density of feral dogs in the landscape was not at an alarming stage yet this is the right time to start mitigation planning of this imminent threat in these high range Himalayan ecosystems, he added.

He further stated that if required, in future along term monitoring and more intensive studies will be undertaken to understand possible impact by feral dogs on wildlife using the different monitoring protocols.

The State government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with other line departments and local community based organizations will start the implementation of strategy proposed by ZSI for dog management.

Under this, activities as dog sterilization and awareness generation activities on responsible dog ownership will be carried out on priority this year.

"UNDP is working closely with the State Forest department and other departments to ensure sustainable management of the high range Himalayan ecosystems and to address their conservation and livelihood challenges under SECURE Himalaya Project."

## BJP using 'lies' to divert attn from farmers' plight and struggle: Captain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 30 JANUARY

With Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tarun Chugh accusing Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh of insulting his Army background and the grace of Republic Day by supporting those "farmers" who insulted the national flag during a tractor parade at Red Fort in Delhi, Capt Amarinder on Saturday said that the BJP was desperately trying to "divert" public attention from the genuine plight and struggle of the farmers by resorting to "theatrics and lies".

"What was wrong in my statement that 'maligned the farmers (for the Red Fort violence) could cause the

morale of the armed forces, 20 per cent of which is from Punjab, to go down? How does that amount to insulting the Republic Day grace and my own Army background?" asked an angry Captain Amarinder, hitting out at the BJP's national general secretary Chugh.

"What happened to the grace of the R-day when the Central government, which the BJP leads, trampled over the federal and Constitutional rights of the states to unilaterally bring in the farm ordinances without consulting anyone? Where is the grace in letting the poor farmers, who are feeding you along with the billion plus people of India every day, shiv-

er out in the cold on the roads, with many of them dying out there?", Amarinder asked.

Reacting to Chugh's accusations that he had backed the ones who had insulted the tricolour at the Red Fort, Amarinder said he was among the first to outright condemn the violence and the dishonour to the symbol of independent India.

The CM reiterated his demand for a thorough probe into the incident to expose the conspiracy and unveil the role, if any, of any political party or any third country.

Neither Chugh nor his party could relate to the anguish of those very soldiers on seeing their farmer fathers and brothers being beaten up and tear gassed while fighting for their rights, said the CM.

## HRERA Gurugram serves notices to real estate promoters, agents for selling unregistered projects

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 30 JANUARY

Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA), Gurugram, on Saturday said real estate promoters and agents were violating the provisions of the RERA Act by advertising and selling units in their real estate projects, online as well as offline, without getting the projects registered with the Authority.

HRERA, Gurugram, chairman KK Khandelwal said promoters such as 'M/s Adani M2K Projects LLP' and others were not getting their projects registered. Expressing his displeasure and dissatisfaction on 'malicious and

unprofessional' conduct of the promoters, the chairman said he is of the view that such promoters must be meticulously punished.

He said the promoters as well as real estate agents not only try to sell the unregistered projects but also do not get themselves registered with the Authority.

The RERA Act mandates no real estate agent can participate in advertisement or sale of any project without getting himself or his association registered with the Real Estate Authority.

The chairman said it has come to the notice of the Authority that the promoter M/s Adani M2K Projects LLP

has neither applied for registration nor submitted the requisite documents containing details of the property being built by it.

This clearly invites criminal proceedings against the promoter for non-compliance of the directions regarding registration of the project under Section 59(2) of the RERA Act.

The Authority served a show cause notice to the promoter and directed it to produce records pertaining to the property they have sold as required under Section 3 and also under Section 59(1) of the RERA Act which empowers the Authority. If any promoter contravenes the provisions of Section 3 of this law, he will be liable to a penalty which may extend up to ten per cent of the estimated cost of the real estate project as determined by the Authority.

The Authority headed by Khandelwal took a serious view and issued notice to the promoter concerned and 'Naveen Associates' (real estate agent) for violation of Section 3 and sections 9 & 10 respectively, of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

The Authority also directed to initiate penal proceedings against them wherein the penalty of violations may go upto Rs 12 crore against the promoter and Rs 2.7 crore against the real estate agent.

## 'Glaring gaps in HP blood banking mechanism'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 30 JANUARY

Umang Foundation has urged Himachal Pradesh health minister Dr Rajeev Saizal to ensure that blood transfusion in the state is done as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Chairman of Umang Foundation and a disability rights activist, Ajai Srivastava said that the mechanism related to blood banking is in 'coma' in Himachal Pradesh.

Srivastava had a meeting with the health minister and submitted a 15 point memorandum on the issue.

The minister assured him to take all necessary steps to

improve the situation.

Srivastava revealed that in 1996, the Supreme Court had directed the Centre and all states to constitute Blood Transfusion Councils to take the responsibility of blood transfusion work. Accordingly, Himachal Pradesh also established the State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC).

"But it remained defunct throughout and for the last five years it failed to convene even a single meeting," Srivastava said, demanding that the government should reconstitute SBTC immediately.

He apprised the minister that there is always scarcity of blood in the state.

"The situation could be eased out if component therapy is done in a proper manner. Only three hospitals, Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, Tanda Medical College and Mandi Hospital have component separation machines which are not used as per the requirement," he pointed out.

He said normally three components are derived from the wholesome blood and can be transfused to three different patients as per need. "It should be done for optimum use of blood," he said.

Srivastava said there is a severe shortage of staff at IGMC Shimla and other blood banks in routine. "Haemoglobin test facility for blood donors is not available at IGMC and other blood banks. The information of the blood group is also not given to the donors," he said.

He said no publicity campaign for blood donation is carried out by the health department.

Srivastava said in 2018, the Union government had directed that blood banks across the country be renamed as Blood Centres. But no action was taken in the state.

He said that a special facility for Thalassemia patients should be created at IGMC and Tanda Medical College. He said the Blood Centres at every hospital should be opened 24x7.

## Migratory birds tally at Asan Conservation Reserve rises

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 30 JANUARY

The number of migratory birds at Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun has marginally improved this winter. Last year 4,466 winged guests had arrived at Asan and this year the number has jumped to 4,497. The annual bird count at the conservation reserve, located 40 kms from Dehradun, concluded on Saturday.

The Asian Conservation reserve is the first wetland from Uttarakhand to get the Ramsar site status. The reserve got this coveted tag last year. A team of wildlife scientists and bird experts conducted the bird count.

This time a total of 899 Eurasian Coot, 852 Ruddy Shelduck, 764 Red-Crested Pochard, 525 Eurasian Wigeon and other bird species were spotted at Asan. The number has declined since 2019, when over 6,000 migratory birds used to come here. The arrival of migratory birds begins at

central Asia, the migratory birds make Asan their home for four-five months. Many listed as globally endangered species in the IUCN's Red Data Book like Brahminy Duck, Pintail, Red

Crested Pochard, Gadwall, Common Pochard, Mallard, Coot, Wigeon, Common Teal, Tufted Duck, Shoveller provide a treat to bird-watcher here, every winter.

We are taking all necessary COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

### Pulse Polio Immunization facts

- India has been declared Polio Free. However, Polio Vaccination will continue till global eradication of polio is achieved until danger of Polio virus importation from neighbouring countries persists.
- Routine immunization is the key to sustaining polio free status of the country.
- Routine immunization to infants & young children is essential. It protects children from 12 serious diseases and is available free of cost at all govt. health facilities through out the year.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, DELHI GOVERNMENT  
PULSE POLIO CELL: 23813210  
7th Floor, C-Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054



दिल्ली सरकार  
जन की सरकार





## Independence and War

The enmity has deepened. China has toughened its stance towards Taiwan on Thursday, warning the island that "independence means war" and that its armed forces were acting in response to provocation and foreign interference. The warlike posturing follows the recently stepped-up military operations near the island. Taiwan, claimed by China as its own territory, reported multiple Chinese fighter jets and bombers entering its south-western air defence identification zone last weekend. This had provoked the United States to urge China to stop exerting pressure on Taiwan. China believes that Taiwan's democratically-elected government is moving the island towards a declaration of formal independence. However, the Taiwan President, Tsai Ing-wen, has repeatedly stressed it is already an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name. Asked about the recent activities of China's air force, the Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman, Wu Qian, was emphatic that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. "The military activities carried out by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in the Taiwan Strait are necessary actions to address the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and to safeguard national sovereignty and security," was Mr Wu's defence of what Taiwan deems irresponsible. These represent "a solemn response to external interference and provocations by 'Taiwan independence' forces," he added. More basically, China has accorded the short shrift to Taiwan's essay towards independence; the respective geostrategies can be contextualised with Mr Wu's rather contrived claim that only a "handful" of people in Taiwan were seeking the island's independence. Which would suggest that its independence is more basically Taiwan's minority perception.

The Pentagon's stand has been rather ambiguous. In its reckoning, articulated in the immediate aftermath of China's posturing, it maintained that tensions in Taiwan "don't need to lead to anything but confrontation". "We warn those 'Taiwan independence' elements: those who play with fire will burn themselves, and 'Taiwan independence' means war," has been the supplementary of the US defence headquarters. While China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, it was unusual until recently for Beijing to make such overt, verbal threats of conflict. The Pentagon spokesman, John Kirby, has reaffirmed the long-standing US military support to Taiwan's self-defence. "We have obligations to assist Taiwan with their self-defence and I think you're going to see that continue," said Kirby, a retired admiral. President Joe Biden's government, in office for a week, has reaffirmed its commitment to Taiwan as being "rock solid." At another remove, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council said China should think carefully and not underestimate the island's determination to defend its sovereignty and uphold freedom and democracy. The geopolitical plot thickens as China displays increasing belligerence in the Straits, as it has elsewhere in its neighbourhood.

## Key man

Given the customary plentitude of attributable characters around bigtime success and a tireless social media's unerring eye for the easiest person to peg a story on, it was perhaps inevitable that India's Test series triumph down under would come in due course to be embellished with its Sourav Ganguly angle. We knew little about how the currently ailing president of the Board of Control for Cricket India was doing, presumably at home, when YouTube came up with a video, narrating how Ganguly had called up stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane after the Adelaide disaster, urging calmness and confidence in both self and team so things could be turned around. The rest-is-history note that ended the presentation, somewhat heavy with its verbosity, was not really over-emphasised, which was just as well, leaving it to the viewer to conclude that they also served who only saw and advised picking up the pieces. It, of course, goes without saying that India's eventual victory in the see-saw contest would never have been possible if Rahane himself did not believe it possible. And all that has so far been said - by standees as well as grantees - about how he resurrected the team that had lost the first Test slumping to their lowest innings score and never fuelled any waffling about regular skipper Virat Kohli's absence is quite correct in its entirety. So you do not really try and pick a hole when illustrious elder statesmen of cricket - Sunil Gavaskar, for one - assert that credit should be given where it is due and point at Rahane. Well might many people have admired him the more for the firmness, tempered by understated self-respect, with which Rahane dealt with the situation that arose as racial abuse from fans directed at India caused screaming headlines. He did not lay it on with a trowel despite a very strong provocation where others might not have been so restrained. The game, after all, is what matters most. And that is why it is important to take a fresh look at the resources Rahane had at his disposal as the fourth Test was gone into. India's is a magic victory because unlikely neophytes pulled it off. In Pakistan, seasoned campaigners of yesteryear have chosen to specify Rahul Dravid as the man who has made it possible even without being anywhere around the squad in any capacity whatsoever. The former national captain's patient, away-from-the-limelight and strenuous labours with a remarkably large array of aspirants over the past few years in and out of the national academy have been cited as the reason why India's second string appeared just as primed as any other lot anywhere when they missed so many of their first-choice but injured players. Virtually each of the new ones is said to have had the benefit of training at some time under the erstwhile Karnataka stalwart. He enjoys his job. To each his own.

# A modern saint

Many of his brother monks who sought salvation through meditation and penance were against this idea of social service, but Vivekananda could convince them that their duty was to serve others as the visible manifestation of God

**O**n 12 January, Swami Vivekananda's 157th birth anniversary was observed in different parts of the country as the national youth day. Formal celebrations and customary speeches will serve no purpose unless we introspect and seek to carry forward the torch left by him. Vivekananda was a towering colossus - an epic hero of modern times. Rooted in the past, he was refreshingly modern in his thinking and scientific in his outlook. This gives his thoughts an irresistible appeal to our modern minds.

First and foremost, he was a prince among the patriots with unbounded love for his country and countrymen. To him, India was a holy land and the very dust of India was holy, a place of pilgrimage. Sister Nivedita, his ardent devotee, said, "Not a sob was heard in the country that did not produce an echo in his responsive heart". After his historic address at the Parliament of Religions (1893), he virtually conquered the souls of many American men and women, which in turn, kindled great interest in India and Hinduism. No other religious leader before him was treated with so much respect and honour in 19th century America.

Vivekananda put Hinduism on the map of the world and asserted the eternal glory of India. Well known historian K M Panikar called him the "New Shankaracharya" - unifier of Hindu theology. With his vast erudition, superb oratorical power and tremendous inner spiritual force, Swamiji's thundering oration in the Parliament of Religions mesmerised the audience. He introduced Hinduism as a "mother of all religions" - a religion that taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. Stressing the spirit of tolerance, which distinguished Hinduism, he said "We believe not only in universal toleration but also accept all religions as true."

Swamiji will be particularly remembered in world history because he virtually initiated what Dr CEM Joad called the "counter-attack from the East". In the dim past, Indian missionaries travelled to South East Asia and China, preaching Buddhism and Hinduism and then a thou-



sand years later, Vivekananda was the first Indian leader who made an impression outside India.

On his return to India, he received a hero's welcome wherever he went. A victorious general would have envied such a response. In India, his mission was to arouse the nation from the vicious grip of lethargy, torpor and superstition, and instill into his countrymen new sparks of life. He advised the youth of the country to develop strength and manliness. He asserted that strength and manliness are the message on every page of the Upanishads. Freedom was never to be attained by the weak. Eminent scholar Will Durant said that he preached to his countrymen a

more virile creed than any Hindu has offered since the Vedic times.

He also gave a new turn to monasticism by stressing that service to suffering human beings was the highest form of service to God. Many of his brother monks who sought salvation through meditation and penance were against this idea of social service, but Vivekananda could convince them that their duty was to serve others as the visible manifestation of God. This was the kernel of Ramakrishna's teachings. According to Romain Rolland, the French biographer and

savant, this conversion of the brother monks from the individualistic to the universalist idea of religious life was one of the great-

est triumphs of Vivekananda.

Swamiji was also deeply stirred by the sorrow and sufferings of Indian women. He ardently believed that India would always remain in darkness and degradation till women were educated, uplifted, and equipped to play their rightful role in society. He contrasted the condition of Indian women with their American counterparts and expressed righteous indignation in a long letter written to a brother monk from Chicago. He said, "We are horrible sinners and our degradation is due to the way we have treated our women. Our women are like Divine Mother incarnates and I shall die in peace if I can raise a thousand such Madonnas."

Nowadays, many champions of Hindutva swear by the name of Vivekananda, but the important fact should not be forgotten that he was not a sectarian monk or a missionary of Hinduism. He was perhaps "the strongest Hindu challenge to what Hindus have turned their religion into."

He believed and preached divinity in man and was an ardent admirer of the equality and brotherhood of Islam. He envisaged that India could reclaim its greatness by combining the two great systems - Hinduism and Islam, that is Vedanta brain and Islamic body. One of his disciples, who accompanied him on one of his voyages, describes how thrilled Vivekananda was when the ship touched Gibraltar and the Mahomedan lascars threw themselves on the ground before him crying "the Din" "the Din".

Admittedly, Vivekananda was against any form of insularity or xenophobia and urged his countrymen not to become frogs in the well. In an angry letter to his beloved disciple Perumal Alasingha (27 October 1894) he wrote: "No man, no nation can hate others and live. India's doom was sealed the very day the Hindus invented the word 'mlechas' (untouchables)."

Swamiji was not just the patron saint of India but a noble citizen of the world. His strident patriotism was enriched and ennobled by love and a quest for salvation of mankind. "He was", said Romain Rolland, "the personification of the harmony of all human energy".

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
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**ASIAN VOICES**

## Admit them young

**T**he Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has woken up to the chronic delay in the process of producing medical graduates. By the time a doctor completes his or her internship he or she is about 30 years old, it has said, calling for action to ensure that students gain admission to medical faculties at the age of 18 and pass out when they turn 23.

The GMOA's call must have struck a responsive chord with all students who are dreaming of becoming doctors, and their parents. This problem affects undergraduates in other faculties as well, and action must be taken to enable all students who pass the GCE A/L examination in the first attempt to enrol for university education when they turn 17 or 18.

This is something eminent educationists have been calling for, through the pages of this newspaper, for the

**The Island** Online

last so many years. We have editorially supported their campaign. But successive governments have ignored the issue.

In fact, what is being urged is tantamount to reinventing the wheel. Dr BJC Perera, a senior paediatrician, who contributes valuable articles to this newspaper, informs us, in a letter published on the opposite page today, that he entered the Colombo Medical Faculty when he was about 18 years and graduated at the age of 23 in 1965. Something has gone radically wrong in the education sector over the years.

It looks as though the Sri Lankan universities had become adult education centres of sorts, given the average age of graduation. By the time Sri Lankan students complete their first degrees, those in the same age cohort, in other countries, have obtained post-graduate qualifications and secured employment. Failure on the part of successive governments to take remedial action has not only placed the Sri Lankan youth at a disadvantage but also contributed to youth unrest, which finds expression in brutal ragging and bloody clashes in universities.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**DATTA HEM CHANDRA (Dadu) and Prithimoyee (Dida)** — Dadu left us on July 21, 2011 and Dida also left us on January 31, 2015. Both are together again in Heavenly Abode. Bless us to calm all worries and fears. Stay well.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Need for consensus on amendments

**SIR**, After seven decades, it is not unusual to assess and reflect on the working of the country's Constitution that is considered as the supreme law of the land. It appears that it is in this spirit that Mr Prafull Goradia has written his incisive article, 'Of the Constitution' (January 26). However, before embarking on a critical review of the actual working of the Constitution, one must also bear in mind the constraints of the time that was marked by the immediate anxiety of framing a Constitution urgently after attaining independence in 1947.

The Constituent Assembly consisted of eminent members of the country's think-tank, though the main architect was Dr BR Ambedkar. By way of an immediate reference, the Government of India Act, 1935, framed by the British for governing India, came in handy in this connection. Further, the British ruled over India for about 190 years and had gained sufficient experience of governance. They utilised this experience while framing the Act. So, the Constituent Assembly members preferred to highlight those provisions of the Act that would be relevant to governance of independent India.

It has been observed that till January 2020 there were as many as 104 amendments to the Constitution. These were effected according to the changing requirements of time. The Constitution has thus become the world's most bulky statute.

Britain, on the other hand, does not have any written Constitution. It governs the country primarily on the basis of conventions, customs, and judicial pronouncements and judgments by the Courts. The USA, Russia and certain other countries have slimmer Constitutions for governance. These countries had, however, been enriched with a longer tradition of gover-

nance and a higher level of culture that can hardly match with India's.

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution mentions certain ideals like liberty, equality and fraternity as the guiding principles for working of the Constitution, and these ideals have been borrowed from those on the basis of which the French Revolution of 1789 and the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The noted British political scientist, Sir Ernest Barker, in his book, *Principles of Social and Political Theory*, has praised the Preamble to the Indian Constitution for incorporation of these ideals. Subsequently, by way of amendments, the ideals of secularism and socialism were incorporated in the Pre-

amble. It is in the spirit of these ideals that the Indian Constitution was framed as the supreme law of governance of an independent India.

Over time, the compulsions of governance led to amendments. The tradition of faithful adherence to conventions and customs has not been built up over the years, and the cultural traits of political leadership in the country are yet to reach the level required for abiding by conventions and customs.

Yes, as Mr Goradia has suggested, it is after the passage of long seven decades that a fresh Constituent Assembly could be constituted to frame afresh a thinner Constitution with provisions of



### TIME FOR MATURE INTROSPECTION

**SIR**, The 72nd Republic Day was an occasion for mature introspection. Leaders do so in decades and hence their perceptions relate both to the macro and the micro. It would have been refreshing to see the larger picture on the eve of this year's R-Day instead of debating over transient aberration - social, political or economic. True we have not declined to the level of a failed state as have quite a few other nations that attained independence around the same time. We owe this to the legacy bequeathed by our philosophy and culture, the tenets of which runs through our genes. The Vedas and Upanishads had long delineated a vibrant ethos of public and private good.

Time and tide have posed questions and options and we have quite often chosen the right course. We have tried to make amends to the wrongs. Every era gets defined by the mix of thinkers and leaders it offers. We never seem to find their right proportion and this has remained an enigma. And no nation is an exception. Let us celebrate the abiding legacy we have inherited and strive to pass it on to generations that follow.

Yours, etc., R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 28 January.

And for this rare quality in the party, he was praised among Congress workers. The country's youth and the majority of the representatives wanted his second term as president. On the other hand, the senior leadership of the Congress was determined to relinquish him. In the 52nd Congress session at Tripuri, only three names were proposed for re-election as the party president.

They were Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Subhas Chandra Bose. But the rightist leaders never agreed to elect Subhas for second term as president as they realised if he became the president, the federation's proposal would be cancelled. Even Mahatma Gandhi opposed his re-election without any reason Netaji had an independent outlook, a personality trait that Gandhi resented. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel remarked his re-election would be harmful for the country.

Yours, etc., Dilip K Dutta, Midnapore, 29 January.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**SIR**, The Post Graduate Government Institute of Physical Education at Banipur, North 24-Parganas is the second oldest College of Physical Education in the country and was established in 1932.

This age-old institution is on the verge of closure due to its inability to fulfil the conditions as laid down by the National Council of Teacher Education and that too at a time when Physical Education has been made compulsory from K.G. to P.G. in the new education policy. Being an ex-student of the institute (1959-60), I would like to bring the matter under the kind notice of the Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of West Bengal through your esteemed newspaper to look into the matter and save the college from its untimely death.

Yours, etc., Tapan Mohan Chakraborty, Kolkata, 28 January.

## The dangers of packaged food

ALIYA NAZ,  
ABHIROOP CHOWDHURY AND  
ARMIN ROSENCRANZ

Packaged food is impacting the food availability of millions of marginalized people. It increases the market value of raw materials in the supply chain and makes large food processing companies major players in the market. Packaged food also poses dangers to human health.

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2020 indicates that acute hunger has increased across the globe since the pandemic began in 2013. Amongst the 50 partner nations of GRFC, the number of people enduring food insecurity has risen from 112 to 123 million between 2019 and 2020. This crisis is especially acute in nations under conflict such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Climate change-linked droughts and economic shocks are the major drivers of hunger in Haiti, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. With the prospect of hunger looming large over millions, processed food has gained popularity in both developed and developing nations.

An estimate says that the global market share of packaged food will reach US\$ 463.65 billion by 2027, from \$ 304.98 billion in 2019. Food habits have changed markedly worldwide in last few decades. In India, the packaged food market value was estimated to be \$ 26.28 billion in 2019. This is expected to rise to \$ 122.78 billion by 2025 – an almost five-fold increase. The food processing industry accounts for 32 per cent share of India's food market.

Artificial food additives are used in packaged food to improve taste, add colour and increase shelf life. But most of the chemicals in food additives and artificial colour may cause cancer and negatively impact health.

According to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), there are about 11000 permitted food additives. Aspartame, saccharin and corn syrup are the most popular additives used in packaged food, as artificial sweeteners for beverages, candies and chewing gums.

Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), is used to enhance the flavour of food. It is associated with metabolic and neurological disorders, obesity and adverse effects on the repro-



NOW AND AGAIN

## A blessing in disguise

BUDHDEV NANDI

I am extremely conceited about being a staunch follower of the adage "Self-help is the best help". Unlike other members of our family, never did I allow even maidservants to wash my clothes or any female member of the family to make my bed, iron my clothes and even sew a button of my shirts and trousers. I revere Gandhi as the embodiment of self-help.

I did not feel uncomfortable about advocating self-help until the pandemic visited us. Maidservants whom I had so far thought did nothing special were dismissed. The onus of the daily chores of the family were distributed among adult members except my octogenarian father, a retired high school teacher. I was entrusted with the duty of washing utensils. For the first few days I enjoyed the task and was praised for washing utensils better than the maidservants.

Gradually, the task became so tedious that I would recoil from the sound of utensils being placed in the kitchen sink. Then I thought sweeping and swabbing floors might be less boring though more laborious. After a few days, the disillusionment set in. Only then did I realise the importance of maidservants who performed a large part of the household chores.

Over eight months, there were many challenges. The first one that the family had to face was that the toilet bowls and the long, narrow but shallow drain needed to be cleaned. I contacted our sweeper. But he declined as he was sure he would contract the virus from the drain. I cleaned the toilet pans with a brush and a toilet cleaner. For the long, narrow drain I had to use a bladed spade.

The wooden door of the bathroom broke. The carpenter known to me was told by his wife to stay at home. Finding no other solution, I bought a small hand saw, a chisel, a hand drill, a small hammer and other simple tools to repair the door and make it usable.

But when the super cyclone Amphan ravaged our garden uprooting two big trees in mid-May, a portion of our huge compound wall was razed. I had the same trouble as before when I went in search of a mason. I was forced to buy a set of trowels of different shapes and sizes and other simple masonry tools to repair the wall myself.

With the progress of time, we faced multifarious problems that called for electricians, plumbers, and so on. I purchased the necessary tools to surmount ordeals caused by the absence of handymen. Once I even sustained a mild electric shock while changing the condenser of a slow fan.

Now carpenters, electricians, plumbers and masons are available almost as before. But I do not contact them for minor problems. Likewise, a good many neighbours acquainted with me, facing similar troubles, have become adept in different chores that had seemed to them quite exotic before the invasion of the virulent pandemic.



100 YEARS AGO

**A "LORD SINHA ROAD"**

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - To commemorate the name of Lord Sinha of Raipur the Madhupur Municipality has named a road after him. It is known by the name of "Lord Sinha Road". True, it is the duty of the people to preserve the name of those who are held in high respect, but we really fail to understand why the word "Lord" has been prefixed to his name in connection with a road named after him. There are many streets, roads, parks, public halls and libraries, etc., in the metropolis of British India which are named after the names of Viceroys and Governor-Generals of India but the word "Lord" has been dropped in the case of one and all. There is a Ripon Street which has been named after our late beloved Viceroy Lord Ripon, there is Clive Street and many other streets and roads named after them who endeared themselves to the people of this country by their noble acts.

MADHUPURITE.

Madhupur.

**THE UNREST AT MADHUPUR**

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - The strike of cooks and sweepers of the European population in this station has continued since January 26. The boycott of butchers, bakers and vendors has not so far been successful. There seems to be nothing to satisfy the strikers, so far as the conflicting rumours go, as it is stated that some will not resume duty unless they receive 100 per cent increment and others unless they receive orders from some of Mr. Gandhi's followers. So far no action seems to have been taken by any of the authorities or perhaps if they have, they have not been any way successful. The state of affairs is very deplorable, more especially in the railway colony itself, where men tired out from a hard day's work have everything to do for themselves. Further, from all appearances, the insanitation is likely to cause illness. It is time that some measures were adopted by the authorities concerned.

W.M.

POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR

## Decoding the future of Sasikala

The evolution as a leader of Vivekanandan Krishnaveni Sasikala, a close associate of late Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalitha, was cut short in an abrupt manner when the top court intervened and convicted her in the disproportionate assets case in 2017. She almost became the chief minister after Jay's sudden demise. Emerging from the shadows of her leadership she staked her claim to the top slot, but nemesis caught up with her.

After serving her four-year term, Sasikala is now out of prison. What will be her future? Much has changed in the politics of the country and the state in the last four years. She had the hold of AIADMK for over three decades as Jay's shadow. Regardless of the pros and cons of her return it is clear that she continues to be in the news. She could have become a factor in the upcoming Tamil Nadu polls, but there is not much time.

As a convicted person, she is not the same Sasikala as four years ago. Two of her handpicked leaders in the AIADMK have become the current rulers and are against her. E Palaniswamy (EPS) is the chief minister, and O Panner Selvam (OPS) is his deputy. Both have consolidated their positions within the party and the government. Moreover, the BJP, which hopes to improve its Tamil Nadu's fortunes, has been pulling strings from Delhi on the AIADMK



leaders after Jay's demise.

The "Mannargudi mafia," as Sasikala's extended family was called, has lost its influence in the party. Sasikala has no house to return to. Jay's residence, Veda Nilayam where she lived with Jay earlier, has come under the government control. That is why she is

building a palatial home near Veda Nilayam, which is getting ready for her occupation. Above all, she cannot contest elections for the next years upon being convicted. She has to play politics from behind. In short, the political landscape remains complicated now.

EPS and OPS have full control

of the party and government now. The duo has gained confidence with a comfortable administration in the state besides retaining power with BJP and other small allies. While the BJP was persuading the two leaders to accept Sasikala in the AIADMK front, EPS reportedly told PM Modi during his meeting with him last week that there was no chance of such a thing. EPS opened a Rs. 79 crore memorial for Jayalalitha to make it clear that Sasikala has no claim to the late Chief Minister's legacy.

Sasikala has few options, although she has plenty of money to spend. An obvious choice is to rejoin AIADMK by reaching an agreement with Panneerselvam and Palaniswami that she will preside over the party and run the government. After tasting power, Palaniswami is not ready for this.

The second is to lead the third front. The party Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, floated by Sasikala's nephew T V Dhinakaran in 2017, has been waiting for her return. Sasikala still wields some influence among her Thevar community, which dominates the AIADMK. EPS is from the other influential Gounder community. The AMMK won about 4 per cent of the voting share in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, about 15 per cent of the AIADMK votes. Last time (2016) to fight the opposition by splitting anti-

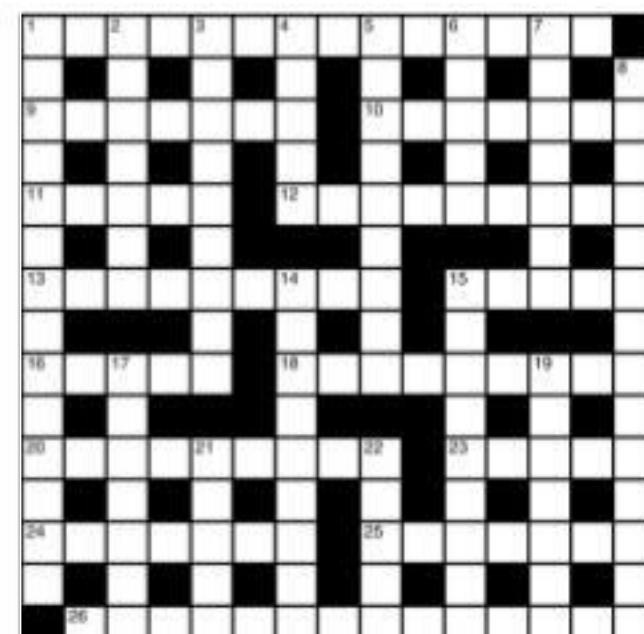
government votes, a third front was launched. Among the other parties joining the third front such as a scenario are S Ramadoss' PMK and Captain Vijayakanth's DMK.

The third choice is to prepare for the next Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. People close to her claim that this might be the best option for her. She could choose this option if nothing else materialises.

The last and least preferred choice is to withdraw from politics citing health reasons like superstar Rajnikant did last month. But Sasikala is a strong personality and knows the intricacies of politics. Many remember how she slammed the Jaya memorial. With eyes full of tears, she hit at the memorial thrice with her fists before going to prison. AIADMK interpreted the three thumps as indicating that she would overcome hurdles, treachery, and the plotting against her. Those who have been working closely with her believe that she won't give up.

The big question is not what impact Sasikala will have on AIADMK, but how much impact it will have. She could split the party, but only if the AIADMK loses the elections. The DMK remained united even after Jayalalitha's death. One thing is sure. Sasikala is used to political intrigue. With abundant knowledge of Tamil Nadu politics, she is not likely to remain quiet. Also, it all depends on how BJP looks at her political career. Whether Tamil Nadu welcomes her or shuns her is the key to her future.

CROSSWORD



**SOLUTION FOR 24 JANUARY**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Fun was had in bed cavoring as newlyweds? (7,3,4)
- 9 Ignorant article in Le Monde about American conflict? (7)
- 10 Complain about name-dropping in club? (5)
- 11 Heather regularly spent years in Chad? (5)
- 12 Lurking wild lion and tiger? (9)
- 13 Eve maybe one on board? (5,4)
- 15 Charlie meets unknown cleric? (5)

**16 Australian funds prestigious award? (5)**

**18 Revolutionary character runs into Lot and Abraham? (9)**

**20 Statesmen arranged financial enquiry? (5,4)**

**23 Group included in ban on Etonians? (5)**

**24 Urine's a little vile? (7)**

**25 The reverberation effect made on lutes originally? (7)**

**26 Three car makers organised test of public opinion? (6,8)**

**DOWN**

- 1 Keeps nursing old leader of French general legislature? (5,2,7)
- 2 Joint that is primarily raunchy and more disreputable? (7)
- 3 Mineral article absorbed by metal kitchen implement? (9)
- 4 Live with women in small valley? (5)
- 5 Careless man from Newcastle holds informal party? (9)
- 6 What Shakespeare did with Henry the Fourth or the

**7 equivalent? (5)**

**8 Dissension following trial? (7)**

**9 Old description of Smilodon? (4,2,3,5)**

**14 Attending twice today? (2,7)**

**15 Chemical engineer defends right to telephone customers? (9)**

**17 Important lady found in wreckage of Nazi car? (7)**

**19 Enmity encountered in Tehran courthouse? (7)**

**21 Vocal supporter for one who delivers babies? (5)**

**22 People in authority briefly entertaining computing tax? (5)**

NO 28811

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



The country would witness revival of animal spirits with 11 per cent growth rate next financial year

K V SUBRAMANIAN  
CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

## THUMBNAILS

**CAIT criticises USIBC:** Traders' body CAIT on Saturday criticised US-based business lobby group USIBC for reportedly urging the Indian government not to tighten foreign direct investment rules for e-commerce as it will limit the e-commerce firms from leveraging their scale. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) shot off a letter to US-India Business Council (USIBC) president Nisha Biswal, stating that "without knowing the true facts and under pressure of Amazon, Walmart and others, the USIBC's intervention is unwarranted which runs against the interest of the 85 million traders of India". PTI

**Forex reserves up:** The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.091 billion to \$585.334 billion in the week ended 22 January, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended 15 January, the reserves had declined by \$1.839 billion to \$584.242 billion. It had touched a life-time high of \$586.082 billion in the week ended 8 January. In the reporting week ended 22 January, the reserves rose on account of an increase in foreign current assets, a major component of the overall reserves. FCA increased by \$685 million to \$542.192 billion, the RBI weekly data showed. PTI

**Power Grid projects:** State-run Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCL) has won two electricity transmission projects in Rajasthan under tariff-based competitive bidding. PGCL has been declared as the successful bidder under tariff-based competitive bidding to establish two transmission systems, the company said in a BSE filing. The company, however, did not disclose the value of these two projects. PTI

**Shree Cements profit:** Shree Cements on Saturday posted over two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 631.58 crore for the third quarter ended 31 December 2020. It had reported a net profit of Rs 311.83 crore in October-December period a year ago. Shree Cements said in a filing to BSE. Revenue from operations was up by 12.57 per cent to Rs 3,541.38 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 3,146.01 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. PTI

**Tata Motors:** Tata Motors on Saturday said it has launched a limited edition trim of its entry-level hatchback Tiago priced at Rs 5.79 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The launch commemorates the first anniversary of the introduction of the updated version of the model, Tata Motors said in a statement. The new variant comes with additional features like black alloy wheels, reverse parking display with sensor, voice command recognition among others, the company statement said. PTI

# ICICI Bank's Q3 net profit rises by 17.7% to ₹5,498 cr

On a standalone basis, the lender recorded a 19.12% rise in post-tax profit to ₹4,939.59 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 30 JANUARY

**I**CICI Bank today reported a 17.73 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 5,498.15 crore for the quarter ended 31 December 2020, as against Rs 4,670.10 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. On a standalone basis, the country's second largest private sector lender by assets showed a 19.12 per cent rise in the post-tax profit to Rs 4,939.59 crore for the reporting quarter, up from Rs 4,146.46 crore in the October-December 2019 period.

Its total income increased to Rs 24,416 crore from the year-ago's Rs 23,638 crore, while the total expenditure was lower at Rs 15,596 crore as against Rs 16,089 crore.

The reported gross non-performing assets ratio was at 4.38 per cent, but would have been 5.42 per cent if not for the Supreme Court order asking banks not to classify non-paying loan accounts as NPAs.

## REPORT CARD

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Its overall provisions increased to Rs 2,741 crore from the year-ago period's Rs 2,083 crore.

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crore in provisions for the pandemic made earlier.

As of 31 December 2020, the bank held an aggregate Covid-19 related provision of Rs 9,984.46 crore, including contingency provision amounting to Rs 3,509.46 crore, it said.

It said the provisions held by it are more than what is required by the RBI and the bank's capital and liquidity position are strong. Its overall capital adequacy stood at 18.04 per cent as of 31 December 2020.

crore in provisions for the pandemic made earlier.

As of 31 December 2020, the bank held an aggregate Covid-19 related provision of Rs 9,984.46 crore, including contingency provision amounting to Rs 3,509.46 crore, it said.

During October-December quarter of financial year 2020-21, the company's total income jumped to Rs 19,997.31 crore from Rs 16,714.87 crore in the year-ago period.

Its total expenses stood at Rs 16,406.81 crore, compared to Rs 17,312.64 crore a year ago.

## CII, EEPC voice concerns over engineering exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, 30 JANUARY

Leading industry bodies CII and Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) have expressed concerns about the problems faced by engineering exporters in the last two three months.

Chairman of CII committee on exports and imports Sanjay Budhia said the engineering exporters are facing tough times due to factors like high steel prices and increased ocean freight.

Engineering exporters are going through one of the most turbulent and trying times. Out of India's total merchandise export of \$320 billion, the sector contributes more than 25 per cent and is one of the biggest employment generator in the country", he said.

Budhia said unfortunately, in spite of being such an important sector, the engi-

neering exporters are now on the verge of losing a sizeable portion of their business to other countries which will lead to large-scale layoffs and permanent closure of factories.

Budhia listed that the main factors causing worry are a steep increase in steel prices. He said there has been a continuous increase in steel prices from July 2020. He said engineering exporters should get steel at least 20 per cent lower than the current price so that this hard sector can be saved.

According to him, the

other main dampener is the abnormal rise in ocean freights by 70 per cent to 80 per cent.

"Shipping lines are operating almost like a cartel and asking freight rates which are never heard of and just not affordable. If rates are not brought under control then Indian exports will come to a grinding halt," he said.

He said the other main problem is the increase in prices of other inputs like corrugated boxes needed for packaging purposes.

Chairman of EEPC Mahesh Desai said the MSME engineering exports are facing problems as credit is not available at the right interest rates.

The other two main factors are rise in steel prices and ocean freights to North America and Europe, he added.

Desai said EEPC has requested to make credit available at LIBOR plus two to 2.5 per cent.

ther strengthen Happiest Minds' offerings and leadership in the digital transformation space, the company added.

It will also help create greater digital capital for customers and facilitate onboarding more customer logos of strategic consequence. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions and is expected to close in the quarter ended 31 March 2021.

The filing noted that PGS has a strategic partnership with Pimcore Austria for delivering solutions around Pimcore, an open-source framework which helps enterprises establish a robust digital presence through seamless data and experience management.

The acquisition will fur-

## Happiest Minds to buy US firm for ₹60 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

Happiest Minds Technologies Ltd will acquire US-based Pimcore Global Services for \$8.25 million (about Rs 60 crore).

Houston-based Pimcore Global Services is a digital e-commerce and data management solutions company.

"Happiest Minds Technologies Ltd has concluded and signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 per cent ownership interest of PGS Inc (doing business as Pimcore Global Services) for a consideration of \$8.25 million," Happiest Minds said in a regulatory filing late Friday night.

The acquisition will fur-

ther strengthen Happiest Minds' offerings and leadership in the digital transformation space, the company added.

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The filing noted that PGS has a strategic partnership with Pimcore Austria for delivering solutions around Pimcore, an open-source framework which helps enterprises establish a robust digital presence through seamless data and experience management.

Revenue realisation was hit by disruptions in normal business activities following the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns.

According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit at the end of December in the previous financial year was 132.4 per cent of the Budget Estimate (BE) of 2019-20.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs 11,58,469 crore at December-end, as per the data.

For the current fiscal, the government had pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs 7,96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in

the Budget which was presented in February 2020.

The fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and

## SAIL posts ₹1,468-cr profit in Dec quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

State-owned steel maker SAIL has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,468 crore in the quarter to December 2020, mainly on account of higher income.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 343.57 crore during the same quarter a year ago, the Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) said in a BSE filing.

During October-December quarter of financial year 2020-21, the company's total income jumped to Rs 19,997.31 crore from Rs 16,714.87 crore in the year-ago period.

SAIL, under the ministry of steel, is the country's largest steel maker having an installed capacity of about 21 million tons per annum.

## Amara takes charge as new MD of SBI Card

NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) today said Rama Mohan Rao Amara has taken charge as the new MD & CEO of the company.

His appointment is with effect from 30 January 2021 for a period of two years, subject to all the requisite approvals, including that of the shareholders.

Amara takes over from Ashwini Kumar Tewari, SBI Card said in a release.

Amara is a veteran banker, with a successful career spanning over 29 years at State Bank of India (SBI). Prior to taking charge at SBI Card, he was the chief general manager, SBI Bhopal Circle, where he managed two key states, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, managing director, SBI welcomed Amara as the MD & chief executive officer of SBI Card.

PTI

## Need to make efforts to get rating upgrade: CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

India will have to persistently make efforts for improvement in its sovereign rating by different global agencies in line with its economic fundamentals, chief economic adviser K V Subramanian said today. The Economic Survey expressed concern over lower sovereign rating assigned by agencies like Fitch, S&P and Moody's to India despite its strong economic fundamentals.

"We have made the case very very forcefully (to rating agencies)... These changes happen over time. They don't happen instantaneously, but you have to continue making efforts," he said.

The Survey said sovereign credit ratings methodology must be amended to reflect economies' ability and willingness to pay their debt obligations, and suggested that

developing economies must come together to address this bias and subjectivity inherent in sovereign credit ratings methodology.

"Never in the history of sovereign credit ratings has the fifth largest economy in the world been rated as the lowest rung of the investment grade (BBB-/Baa3). While sovereign credit ratings do not reflect the Indian economy's fundamentals, noisy, opaque and biased credit ratings damage FPI flows," the survey said.

It is, therefore, imperative that countries engage with credit rating agencies to make the case that their methodology must be corrected to reflect economies' ability and willingness to pay their external obligations.

Global ratings agencies have the lowest investment-grade rating on India, which is just above the junk status. In June, Fitch Ratings

revised India's outlook to "negative" from "stable" and affirmed the rating at "BBB-".

Moody's Investors Service had downgraded India's sovereign rating to "Baa3" from "Baa2", saying there will be challenges in the implementation of policies to mitigate risks of a sustained period of low growth and deteriorating fiscal position.

S&P Global Ratings retained the "BBB-" rating for India for the 13th year in a row in June last year.

The survey said it is imperative that sovereign credit ratings methodology be made more transparent, less subjective and better attuned to reflect economies' fundamentals.

## LOWER REVENUE REALISATION

Fiscal deficit soared to Rs 11.58 lakh crore or 145.5 per cent of the Budget estimate at the end of December 2020, mainly on account of lower revenue realisation.

Revenue realisation was hit by disruptions in normal business activities following the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns.

As per the data, the Government of India received Rs 11.21 lakh crore (50 per cent of corresponding BE 2020-21 of total receipts) up to December 2020.

For the current fiscal, the government had pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs 7,96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in

the Budget which was presented in February 2020.

The fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and

revenue had breached the annual target in July this year.

As per the data, the Government of India received Rs 11.21 lakh crore (50 per cent of corresponding BE 2020-21 of total receipts) up to December 2020. Of this, Rs 9,62,399 crore was tax revenue, Rs 1,26,181 crore was non-tax revenue and Rs 33,098 crore was non-debt capital receipts.

Non-debt capital receipts consist of recovery of loans (Rs 14,202 crore) and disinvestment proceeds (Rs 18,896 crore).

The total receipts till December 2020 works out to be 49.9 per cent of the BE. The receipts were 56.6 per cent of the BE 2019-20 at the end of December 2019.

The CGA also said that Rs 3,11,640 crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by

Fiscal deficit had soared to seven-year high of 4.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in financial year 2019-20, mainly due to poor revenue realisation.

# Biyani says Amazon 'playing the dog in the manger'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

Future Group promoter Kishore Biyani has alleged that Amazon is "playing the dog in the manger" and trying to create a confusion about the group's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Industries.

Seeking to assuage concerns of employees amid the ongoing tussle with e-commerce giant Amazon, Biyani said the organisation is on firm legal footing and that has been vindicated by the regulatory approvals received for the deal from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the bourses.

The development comes

"...Amazon is playing the dog in the manger, going all out to create a ruckus... For reasons we never believed earlier but quite evident today, this battle is about ownership of the Indian customer at any cost," he said in his letter written on Friday.

Meanwhile, Amazon did not respond to emailed query on the matter.

# Odisha govt allows reopening of Anganwadi centres

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 30 JANUARY

**T**he discernible slowdown of coronavirus prompted the Odisha government on Saturday, through its latest 'unlock' notification, to announce the reopening of more than 72,000 Anganwadi centres across the state from February 1.

The unlock notification issued by the office of Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) however left it to the School and Mass Education Department to decide on the reopening of more classes in schools.

It may be recalled here that the schools in the state reopened for students of Class 10 and 12 on 8 January after

keeping the institutions closed for over nine months.

The Department of School & Mass Education is authorized to further develop detailed Standard operating Procedure (SoP) for the primary schools and decide on opening of such schools with approval of the government, stated the latest notification.

The Unlock notification has also relaxed the cap on the attendance of 200 persons in marriage functions and permitted gatherings up to 500 persons.

According to the SRC office' unlock notification, social, religious, political, sports, entertainment, academic and cultural functions and gath-

erings are allowed with a ceiling of 500 persons.

In closed spaces, a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed while in open spaces an appropriate number of persons will be allowed within the ceiling and as per the size of the open ground.

Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Consumers (B2C) exhibitions shall be allowed in exhibition halls with participants/visitors up to 50% of the hall capacity complying with the COVID-19 safety protocols. In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/ open space in view, an appropriate number of persons will be allowed and permission shall be given by respective collectors, municip-

al commissioners.

Spitting in public places will be punishable with fine and consumption of paan, gutka, tobacco products in public places is prohibited.

The department of Higher Education has been authorized to take appropriate decisions with regard to the date of reopening of Colleges/ Higher Education Institutions and hostels under its control as has the department of skill development and technical education with regards to engineering colleges and technical institutes under it.

All medical colleges in the state have opened from 1 December. Places of worship have opened based on local assessment of the situation.

## Cong targets BJD over nexus with BJP

Odisha bandh on 15 Feb over fuel price

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BERHAMPUR, 30 JANUARY

In a major show of strength, the Congress mobilized support from several districts and held a public meeting castigating the BJP and BJD as comrades in arms who work together to cling to power by giving false promises and propaganda.

The Congress declared that if the fuel prices were not reduced by Rs 10 per litre within 15 days it will organize a Odisha Bandh on 15 February.

Both the BJD and BJP are working in tandem, the BJD does utter a word against the BJP despite the fuel price hike, anti farmer and anti labour policies of the central government, charged the OPCC president Nirjan Patnaik.

The BJD used to take to the streets on fuel price hike during the UPA regime but not

during the BJD government and this in itself shows the nexus between the two parties, he noted.

The legendary Biju Patnaik was a fighter all his life. He was a freedom fighter and continued to fight to safeguard democracy and was against communal forces. Naveen Patnaik has all along been supporting the BJD and never raised his voice against the assault of democracy, farmers and free speech, charged veteran Congress leader Narasingha Mishra.

Biju Patnaik had done a lot for Odisha when he was in the Congress party, noted OPCC president Nirjan Patnaik.

There is no official notification of a 5T department and yet it dominates governance in the state, he charged.

The BJD demands CBI probe in each and every instance but does not speak of the cases that the CBI has been sitting over decades in Odisha, he said.

A string of senior Congress leaders including AICC in charge of Odisha, Dr A Chellakumar delivered fiery speeches citing examples of how Ganjam district to expose the corruption of the BJD government.

AICC leader Dr A Chellakumar dwelt on the controversial farm laws and BJD's silent support to the BJD.

The BJD and BJP have a joint strategy of announcing a scheme a day, a slogan every day and false propaganda to befool the people, alleged the Congress leaders.

## Maoists kill two villagers in Kandhamal district

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PHULBANI, 30 JANUARY

Armed Maoists killed two persons, one each at Bhandarangi and nearby Guchhaguda village in Kandhamal district last night.

As many as 20 armed ultras suddenly appeared at the house of Ms. Droupadi Patra, the lady sarpanch of Bhandarangi panchayat and dragged her son Bhawani Shankar Patra out of the house and shot him dead.

They went to the nearby Guchhaguda village and shot one Hemant Patra declaring him as a police informer, said Monoj Kumar Pujari the SDPO, Baliguda. The police had not received

the village till 5 pm in the evening. Villagers were in a state of panic and many had deserted their homes in the two villages.

After executing the murder, the rebels left behind leaflets and posters warning the locals against turning police agents or informers.

All the police informers should surrender before the Praja Court in 15 days, or else they too will meet the same fate. Those who will not surrender will be awarded capital punishment. The Naveen Patnaik government and Odisha Police will be responsible for the loss of lives of civilians", the Maoists' posters declared.

## No fresh COVID 19 cases in 10 districts of Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 30 JANUARY:

As many as ten districts in Odisha did not report fresh COVID-19 cases while the remaining 20 districts accounted for 108 positive cases in the past 24 hours, according to the Health and Family Welfare Department officials.

No COVID-19 death was reported in the state for the fourth consecutive day and the overall death toll remains static at 1906.

The case fatality rate currently stands at 0.56% in Odisha in comparison to national average of 1.44% CFR.

The state's recovery rate has shot up to 99.06% with as many as 3,31,824 patients cured of the disease so far.

Odisha currently has 1,175 active cases.

A total of 76,85,776 sample tests have been conducted in the state so far, including 25,213 on Friday.

Chilika home to 22% of India's Sea Grass reserve

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAGATSINGHPUR, 30 JANUARY:

The women groups under the banner of Dalit Mahila Sangh launched a hunger strike in front of the Erasama police station for its failure to rescue an abducted minor girl.

## Chilika home to 22% of India's Sea Grass reserve

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 30 JANUARY

Chilika, country's largest brackish lake along the east-coast, is home to 22% of India's sea grass reserve, according to the latest annual study report of the flora and fauna of the internationally acclaimed Ramsar wetland site.

Despite declining trends elsewhere in the world, sea grass is found abundantly in Chilika, re-establishing the water body as an ideal hot-spot of biodiversity.

Five species of sea grasses were reported during the Flora and Fauna Monitoring of Chilika Lake on January 15.

like Development Authority (CDA), Sushanta Nanda.

The lake is a unique assemblage of marine, brackish and freshwater ecosystems with estuarine characters. It is one of the hotspots of biodiversity and shelters a number of endangered species listed in the IUCN red list of threatened species.

The lake is an avian grandeur and the wintering ground for more than one million migratory birds and is a Ramsar site.

There has been an increase of three square kilometre area in sea grass cover as last year 152 square kilometre area was found enriched with sea grass cover, said Chief Executive, Chilika.

## Youth impersonates as 'sadhu' to meet girlfriend, gets caught

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAJPUR, 30 JANUARY

A youth madly in love tried to meet his girlfriend in the guise of a 'sadhu' but got caught by people who suspected him to be a child lifter.

The youth identified as Ayusktanta Behera of Angul district had dressed up like a sadhu with a wig and a false long beard, rudraksha mala et al and was found moving suspiciously near the Feruary Gate Colony here.

Since the girl's parents

were averse to any such relationship, he had conjured the idea of turning up in the outfit and gaining entry to the house.

Locals who grew suspicious of his movements and felt that the body did not match with the long beard and hair confronted him. Initially they suspected him to be a child lifter.

Nityananda Das, a local resident said he found the face to be younger and slightly pulled the beard which fell off. His large knot of hair was then pulled out.

The locals handed him over to the police.

Police said the youth is a Plus II student of a Bhubaneswar based private college and resident of Angul and he was in love with a girl of the same college who is living here.

As family members of the youth's lover were not accepting their relationship and the marriage of the girl has been finalized elsewhere, Behera thought up an idea to visit his girlfriend's area and meet her as sadhu.

## Pradhan wants ASI to explore heritage structures in Ekamra Kshetra area

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 30 JANUARY

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought the intervention of his ministerial colleague Prabhat Singh Patel and depute an expert team of the ASI to study and conduct thorough scientific excavation of the Ekamra Kshetra area in Bhubaneswar.

Several heritage structures which may lie buried under encroachments need to be explored, said Pradhan while referring to the chance recovery of the invaluable remains of a 10th-11th century tem-

ple floor barely two days ago. The Bhubaneswar Circle of

the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) recently chanced upon invaluable remains of a Somavamsa period temple floor on north-west corner of the Sari temple, while carrying out scientific cleaning of the two acre land adjacent to the Suka-Sari temple complex in the heritage Ekamra Kshetra of 'temple-town' Bhubaneswar, he noted.

This means that there is a high chance of additional heritage structures lying buried under encroachments in the Ekamra Kshetra, stated Pradhan.

There is an urgent need to act quickly in order to salvage and preserve what remains of this priceless ancient Odisha architecture.

The ASI also discovered two other structures, believed to be the remains of small shrines,

and a portion of the Sari temple. These findings have led ASI experts to believe that the Sari temple complex was built on the Panchayatana model where the main temple is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.

This means that there is a high chance of additional heritage structures lying buried under encroachments in the Ekamra Kshetra, stated Pradhan.

It is pertinent to note that the Odisha government has rolled out a grand plan to develop Ekamra Kshetra by acquiring land in and around the Lingaraj Temple area.

## Govt enhances monthly stipend of house surgeons

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 30 JANUARY

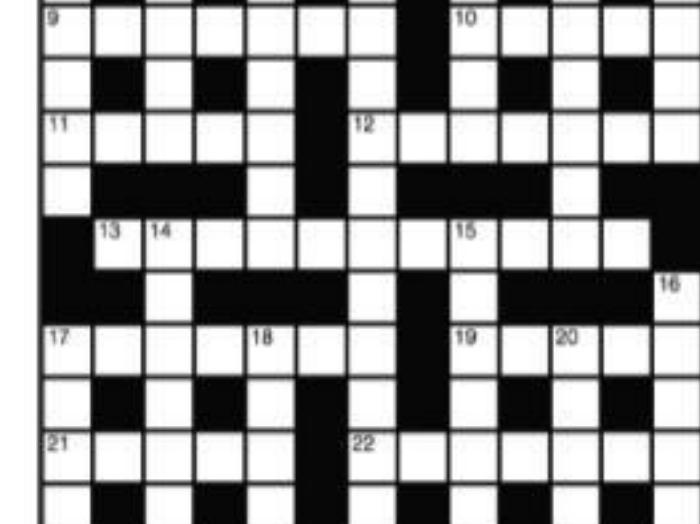
The Odisha government on Saturday announced a 40 percent hike in monthly stipend of house surgeons of the state-run medical colleges and hospitals for the next three years.

It may be recalled here that the house surgeons at the SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur and Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla, had launched a symbolic protest against the government's nonchalance in fulfilling their demand of stipend hike. Since 22 January, they wore black badges during work protesting the government indifference and had given the call for indefinite cease work.

The monthly stipend of house surgeons has been hiked from Rs 20,000 to Rs 28,000. The stipend hike will remain effective from 1 January, said health department officials.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Wait in line (5)

4 Amuse (6)

9 Lawlessness (7)

10 Adolescent years (5)

12 Dreadful (informal) (7)

13 Quandary (11)

17 Hide (7)

19 Talent (5)

21 Skimpy underwear article (5)

22 Chivalrous (7)

23 Large wasp (6)

24 Out of practice (5)

DOWN

1 Crystalline mineral (6)

2 Dodge (5)

3 Cut out (7)

5 Suggest (5)

6 Relative (7)

7 Surpass (5)

8 Branch of medicine (11)

14 Spite (7)

15 Thick scarf (7)

16 Attractive (6)

17 Snag (5)

18 Bird of prey (5)

20 Accumulate (5)

15 Pottery, Speedboat, 4 Cur, 5 Cur,

6 Inhumane, 7 Zeitgeist, 8 Agitated,

9 Geeta, 10 Yo-yo.

11 Checkmate, 12 Agitated,

13 Boater, 14 Tense,

15 Dream, 16 Sentries, 17 Egg,

18 Dream, 19 Geeta, 20 Zeitgeist,

21 Ego.

22 Worm, 23 Yo-yo.

24 Out of practice (5)

25 Large wasp (6)

26 Agitated,

27 Tense,

28 Zeitgeist,



The govt need to pump money into the economy to make sure people are not working on starvation wages.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

AMIDST A DEMOCRATIC PUSH TO RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE TO USD 15 AN HOUR

## THUMBNAILS



Pedestrians wearing face masks walk in Kensington Gardens as snow falls in London on Sunday

**Russia mishap:** Twelve people were killed and 11 others injured in the collision of a tractor-trailer and a minibus in central Russia. An Interior Ministry statement said the collision took place last Friday near Syzran in the Samara region about 730 km southeast of Moscow. AP

**Algeria vaccination drive:** Algeria symbolically launched its Covid vaccination campaign on Saturday in the town where the country's first case of infection with the virus was confirmed in March. A 65-year-old retiree got the first shot of Russia's Sputnik-V vaccine at a hospital in the town of Blida. AP

**Mexico's Prez recovering:** Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador posted a video of himself walking slowly through his offices Friday and talking for about 13 minutes straight, saying he is recovering from Covid. The president said: "The doctors tell me I am getting through the critical stage." AP

# Post-Brexit row over EU vaccine export rules

Under the post-Brexit deal, EU products should still be able to travel unhindered from the bloc to Northern Ireland



People sit after receiving their Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination at Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury, England. Salisbury Cathedral opened its doors for the second time as a venue for the Sarum South Primary Care Network COVID-19 Local Vaccination Service. AP

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BRUSSELS, 30 JANUARY

**T**he European Union introduced tighter rules Friday on exports of Covid vaccines that could hit shipments to nations like the United Kingdom, deepening a dispute with London over scarce supplies of potential lifesaving shots.

But amid an outcry in Northern Ireland and the UK, the European Commission made clear the new measure will not trigger controls on vaccines shipments produced in the 27-nation bloc to the small territory that is part of United Kingdom bordering EU member Ireland.

Under the post-Brexit deal, EU products should still be able to travel unhindered from the bloc to Northern Ireland.

In the process of finalization of this measure, the Commission will ensure that

the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol is unaffected," the EU's executive arm said in a statement late Friday.

Amid a dispute with Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca, EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and British leader Boris Johnson had an unexpected phone call, during which the UK prime minister expressed his grave concerns about the potential impact which the steps the EU has taken today on vaccine exports could have," a statement from the British government read.

The EU unveiled its plans to tighten rules on exports of coronavirus vaccines produced inside the bloc amid fears some of the doses it secured from AstraZeneca could be diverted elsewhere.

The measure could be used to block shipments to many non-EU countries and ensure that any exporting company based in the EU will first

have to submit their plans to national authorities.

The UK and Northern Ireland governments immediately lashed out at the move, saying the bloc invoked an emergency clause in its divorce deal with Britain to introducing controls on exports to Northern Ireland. Goods are supposed to flow freely between the EU and Northern Ireland under special arrangements for the U.K. region designed to protect the peace process on the island of Ireland.

But the EU later said it was not invoking Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol allowing either side to override parts of their deal.

The Commission is not triggering the safeguard clause, it said in its statement, adding that the restricting regulations have yet to be finalized and won't be adopted before Saturday. The phone call between von der Leyen and Johnson somewhat eased what was quickly becoming

## UK marks one year since treatment of 1st Covid patients

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LONDON, 30 JANUARY

The UK reached the one-year mark this weekend of the first confirmed Covid patients being treated by the state-funded National Health Service (NHS) with Prime Minister Boris Johnson issuing an open letter in praise of the collective efforts of the nation through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

While the past 12 months have been tough for all of us, the demands of this pandemic have also brought out the very best in a great many people, Johnson said.

And I'm particularly in awe of the way the parents, carers and guardians of children have risen to the unique challenges with which you have been faced, he said.

NHS England chief executive Sir Simon Stevens paid a visit to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, north-east England, where the first two confirmed patients were cared for.

Since then, hospitals have treated more than 320,000 patients with Covid, with around one person with the virus admitted to critical care every 30 minutes.

a diplomatic flashpoint.

We agreed on the principle that there should not be restrictions on the export of vaccines by companies where they are fulfilling contractual responsibilities," von der Leyen said in a statement.

The EU hit out at AstraZeneca this week after the company said it would only supply 31 million doses of vaccine in initial shipments, instead of the 80 million doses it had hoped to

doses at two sites in Britain to be made available to European citizens.

The UK has legally-binding agreements with vaccine suppliers and it would not expect the EU, as a friend and ally, to do anything to disrupt the fulfilment of these contracts, the UK said.

**Man held over package sent to vaccine plant in Wales:** Police in southeast England have charged a 53-year-old man with sending a suspicious package to a coronavirus vaccine production site in north Wales earlier this week.

A spokesman for Kent Police said Saturday that Anthony Collins has been charged with dispatching an article by post "with the intention of inducing the belief it is likely to explode or ignite."

Collins is set to appear before a court around 40 miles southeast of London. The arrest had taken place on Thursday, a day after all staff had to be evacuated from a site in Wrexham as the package was investigated. The UK arm of Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company Wockhardt is producing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine at the site.

**Germany expects 5M vaccine doses in next 3 weeks:** Germany says drugmakers will deliver at least 5 million doses of coronavirus vaccines to the country in the next three weeks.

The Health Ministry says on Twitter that Germany has already received 3.5 million doses in the past five weeks and administered 2.2 million shots. Health Minister Jens Spahn says the new figures for deliveries from Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca were good news after a difficult start.

Germany has given the first shot to about 2.2% of its 83 million population.

**Novavax news welcomed in South Africa**

JOHANNESBURG, 30 JANUARY

News that the Novavax Covid vaccine has shown about 60 percent efficacy on HIV-positive patients and that it seems to work against the variant of the virus now dominant in South Africa is being welcomed with relief in the country, but further studies are urged.

Results from a small Novavax Inc. study in South Africa suggest the vaccine does work but not nearly as well as it does against the variant from Britain.

Early findings from a British study suggest the vaccine is nearly 96 percent effective against the older coronavirus and nearly 86 percent effective against the new variant there. In South Africa, the new variant now causes more than 90 percent of new cases and is more infectious than the original virus. On volunteers who are HIV-positive, preliminary studies in South Africa show the Novavax appears to be 60 percent effective. That has been welcomed in a country where nearly 7.7 million people live with the disease. The South African Medical Association, which represents health practitioners, welcomed the finding. The country is set to receive its first batch of AstraZeneca from the Serum Institute of India.

It is necessary to get clinical data on chronic illnesses because many of these vaccines are tested on people who are generally healthy, which means we take about three to five years to learn of side effects on people with chronic illnesses, said the association's chair, Angelique Coetzee. AP

## TENDER

**JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS**  
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (Jmu)  
Website :- [www.jkpolice.gov.in](http://www.jkpolice.gov.in), E-mail :- phjk@jkpolice.gov.in  
**TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE**

Due to administrative reasons, date for tender submission and online opening of technical bids in respect of PHQ J&K NIT No. 34 of 2020 dated 18.08.2020 floated for purchasing Total Containment Vessel is rescheduled as per following details:-

I). Last date for tender submission - 03.02.2021

II). Date of Online opening of technical bids - 05.02.2021

Other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- (Rayees Mohammad Bhat) - IPS,  
AIG of Police (Provision/Tpt),  
For Director General of Police, J&K Jammu.

No: DIP/J-10731/20  
Dated: 29.01.2021

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
**JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**  
**CORRIGENDUM**

In Partial modification of this office Press Note (Advertisement) dated 27/01/2021 regarding filling up post of **Drivers on Contract Basis** under Jal Shakti Vibhag the dates for submission of applications has been rescheduled for The Tribal areas the candidates from Lahul Spiti and other Tribal areas can submit their applications w.e.f. 01/02/2021 to 01/03/2021 along with relevant supporting documents i.e. (i) Legitimate proof of age, (ii) Proof of education, (iii) Certificate regarding SC/ST/OBC & other category (iv) Certificate of Bonafide Himachali, (v) Driving License (vi) Income and Asset certificate to be produced by Economically Weaker Sections, (vii) Non-SC/ST/OBC Certificate to be produced by the candidate belonging to BPL Category. Viva Voca & practical test for Driving and maintenance skill may be conducted for which venue and time shall be intimated to the candidates by publication. The Executive Engineer Jal Sahkti Division Baggi or Officer above than reserves the right to fill up the post or withdraw the advertisement at any point of time.

Chairman-cum- Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Division Baggi  
5427/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

## Appeals court allows US to expel children alone at border

HOUSTON, 30 JANUARY

A federal appeals court on Friday ruled that the US government could resume expelling immigrant children who cross the southern border unaccompanied by a parent. The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's stay of a lower court ruling allows President Joe Biden's administration to resume expulsions begun by former President Donald Trump.

The appeals court issued a stay that had been requested by the Trump administration in November shortly after a federal judge barred the practice. All three judges on the panel that issued Friday's order were nominated by Trump, who enacted newly

restrictive measures on immigration throughout his presidency. The judges are Gregory Katsas, Neomi Rao and Justin Walker. AP

## Russia warns Navalny backers over Sunday protests

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
MOSCOW, 30 JANUARY

Russian police have issued a strong warning against participating in protests planned for Sunday to call for the release of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the Kremlin's most prominent foe. The warning comes amid detentions of Navalny associates and opposition journalists and a police plan to restrict movement in the center of Moscow on Sunday.

Navalny was arrested on January 17 after flying back to Russia from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve-agent poisoning.

His detention sparked nationwide protests one week ago in about 100 cities; nearly 4,000 people were reportedly arrested.

The next demonstration in Moscow is planned for Lubyanka Square. The Federal Security Service, which Navalny claims arrange to have him poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent on behalf of

the Kremlin, is headquartered in the square. The Russian government has denied a role in the 44-year-old's poisoning. The city police department said much of central Moscow from Red Square to Lubyanka would have pedestrian restrictions and that seven subway stations in the vicinity would be closed on Sunday. Restaurants in the area also are to be closed, and the iconic GUM department store on Red Square said it would open only in the evening. Russian Interior Ministry spokeswoman Irina Volk

cited the coronavirus pandemic in a Saturday warning against protests. She said participants found in violation of epidemiological regulations could face criminal charges.

The January 23 protests in support of Navalny were the largest and most widespread seen in Russia in many years, and authorities sought to prevent a repeat. Police conducted a series of raids this week at apartments and offices of Navalny's family, associates and anti-corruption organization.

His brother Oleg, top aide Lyubov Sobol and three other

people were put under two-month house arrest on Friday, as part of a criminal probe into alleged violations of coronavirus regulations during last weekend's protests.

Sergei Smirnov, editor of the Mediamzona news site that was founded by members of the Pussy Riot punk collective, was detained by police upon leaving his home on Saturday. No charges against him were announced. Navalny fell into a coma on August 20 while on a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow. He was transferred to a Berlin hospital two days later.

Navalny was arrested when he returned to Russia on the grounds that his months recovering in Germany violated terms of a suspended sentence he received in a 2014 conviction for fraud and money-laundering, a case that he says was political revenge.

Just after the arrest, Navalny's team released a two-hour video on his YouTube channel about a lavish Black Sea residence purportedly built for Vladimir Putin.

## Biden warns of growing cost of delay on economic aid plan

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, 30 JANUARY

President Joe Biden is warning of a steep and growing "cost of inaction" on his \$1.9 trillion Covid relief plan as the White House searched for "creative" ways to win public support for a package that is getting a cold shoulder from Senate Republicans.

In the age of the coronavirus, it's not as simple as jumping on a plane to travel the country and try to gin up a groundswell. And at a time of deep polarization, Biden may struggle to convince Republican voters of the urgency when Congress already has approved \$4 trillion in aid, including \$900 billion last month.

Biden signaled on Friday for the first time that he's willing to move ahead without Republicans.

"I support passing Covid relief with support from Republicans if we can get it," he told reporters. "But the COVID relief has to pass. No ifs, ands or buts."

## Security beefed up at US Cong in era of rising threats

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
WASHINGTON, 30 JANUARY

The House's chief law enforcement officer is tightening security for traveling lawmakers as Congress reassesses safety in an era when threats against members were surging even before Donald Trump's supporters attacked the Capitol.

Capitol Police officers will be stationed at Washington-area airports and the city's Union Station train depot on busy travel days, the acting House sergeant-at arms said in a memo obtained Friday. Timothy P. Blodgett said he's set up an online portal so lawmakers can notify the agency about travel plans, and he urged them to coordinate trips with local police and airport officials and report suspicious activity to authorities.

Capitol Police will not be available for personal escorts, said the email, sent late Thursday. However, they will be in place to monitor as members move through the airport. The steps underscored political divisions that grew increasingly acrid, even potentially dangerous, during Trump's inventive-filled four years as president. In addition to personal verbal attacks against perceived foes, Trump stirred up supporters with relentless streams of bogus conspiracies like his false charge that Democrats stole November's election from him.

The animosity lawmakers face has spread among themselves, with numerous Democrats saying they are wary of GOP colleagues who've said they carry guns in Washington. Republicans have bristled at new screening devices installed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., that lawmakers are required to pass through when entering the House chamber, where carrying firearms is not allowed.

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

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
**E-NIT No:-CEJ/PMGSY/630 of 2020-21 Dated: 23/01/2021**

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 05-02-2021 for each of the following works including Defect Liability Period of 03 years after completion of work.

S. No.	Name of work / Package No	Name of the PIU	Constt Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Maint Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Total (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs)	Earliest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for Completion	Call of tender	Date and Time of Opening of tenders	Class of Contractor
1.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Khungan to Mangu Di Pattian, Package No.JK05-81, Block Akhnoor, District Jammu, Length - 3.230 Kms	Jammu	59.92	7.19	67.11	0.06	1.34	03 Months	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 AM 06-02-2021	Any registered contractor with State Project/CPWD/Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Tender Bidding Documents can tender for the works
2.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Purmandal to Panjowa, Package No.JK05-85, Block Purmandal, District Jammu Length - 7.950 Kms	Reasi	206.63	24.80	231.43	0.06	4.63	03 Months	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 AM 06-02-2021	



The production of crops and dairy products in China is far more than that of Pakistan due to their advanced research and technology

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

STATING THAT PAKISTAN IS COLLABORATING WITH CHINA IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES UNDER CPEC

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 31 JANUARY 2021

11

## THUMBNAILS



Rows of oxygen concentrators for Covid patients sit in the main plaza of the Iztapalapa borough of Mexico City.

AP

**WHO team in Wuhan hosp:** Members of a WHO team investigating the origins of the pandemic visited another Wuhan hospital that had treated early Covid patients on their second full day of work on Saturday. Jinyantian Hospital was one of the city's first to deal with patients in early 2020 suffering from coronavirus.

PTI

**Turkish sailors return:** Three Turkish sailors who were on board a cargo ship attacked by pirates off the West African coast have returned home. Fifteen kidnapped sailors remain missing and one Azerbaijani crew member was killed during the attack. The three sailors, whom the pirates left aboard the ship, arrived in Istanbul early Saturday.

PTI

**Syria blast:** A car bomb on Saturday killed at least four people in a rebel town of northern Syria, opposition activists said. The explosion in Afrin wounded more than a dozen others, hitting an industrial area during the afternoon rush hour on the first working day of the week.

PTI

**Rohingyas sent to island:** Bangladesh's government sent a fourth group of Rohingya Muslim refugees to an island in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, ignoring calls from human rights groups for a halt to the move. The 1,466 Rohingya who had been living in the sprawling refugee camps of Cox's Bazar were sent Saturday to Bhasan Char.

PTI

**Russia & Turkey open monitoring centre for Nagorno Karabakh**

**The centre was officially opened in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan.**

BAKU, 30 JANUARY

Russia and Turkey opened a joint centre on Saturday to observe a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh that was agreed following a flare-up in the conflict in the region last year, Azerbaijan's defence ministry said on Saturday.

The centre, which both countries agreed to set up in November, was officially opened in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan. It will be staffed by up to 60 servicemen each from Turkey and from Russia, the defence ministry said in a statement.

After six weeks of fighting, Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a Russia-brokered ceasefire for the enclave, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but mainly populated by ethnic Armenians.

Turkey said on Friday that one Turkish general and 38 personnel will work at the centre.. The Russian Defence Ministry, quoted by Interfax, said that "monitoring will be carried out through the use of unmanned aerial vehicles as well as the evaluation of data received from other sources".

Turkey backs Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, and has criticised the co-chairs of the OSCE's so-called Minsk Group for not resolving the long-running conflict in decades of mediation. The Minsk Group is led by the US, France and Russia.

AGENCIES

## Ethiopian govt: Tigray back to normalcy; witnesses disagree

Refugees have been targeted by soldiers from Eritrea, who are fighting alongside Ethiopian troops against Tigray forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NAIROBI, 30 JANUARY

**E**thiopia's government has privately told Biden administration staffers its embattled Tigray region has returned to normalcy, but new witness accounts describe terrified Tigray residents hiding in bullet-marked homes and a vast rural area where effects of the fighting and food shortages are yet unknown.

The conflict that began in November between Ethiopia's forces and those of the Tigray region who dominated the government for nearly three decades continues largely in shadow. Some communications links are severed, residents are scared to give details by phone and almost all journalists are blocked. Thousands of people have died.

Ethiopia's deputy prime minister, Demeke Mekonnen, and colleagues briefed a private gathering hosted by the Atlantic Council think tank on Friday. They said nearly 1.5 million people in Tigray have been reached with humanitarian aid, and they expressed unease at false and politically motivated allegations of mistreatment of refugees from neighbouring Eritrea, the



state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported. It said Biden administration staffers attended the meeting.

The refugees have been targeted by soldiers from Eritrea, who are fighting alongside Ethiopian troops against the Tigray forces.

The Biden administration has pressed Eritrea to immediately withdraw them, citing credible accounts of looting, sexual assault and other abuses.

Despite Ethiopia's latest assertions, its recently appointed administrators in Tigray have estimated that more than 4.5 million people, or close to the region's entire population, need emergency food aid and some people have begun dying of starvation.

That's according to leaked documents from a crisis meeting of government and aid

workers in early January.

And a new account by a Doctors Without Borders emergency coordinator in Tigray, Albert Vinas, says we are very concerned about what may be happening in rural areas, with many places inaccessible because of fighting or difficulties in obtaining permission.

But we know, because community elders and traditional authorities have told us, that the situation in these places is very bad, he said in the account posted online Friday.

He described Tigray residents handing his colleagues pieces of paper with phone numbers and asking for help in reaching their families, whom they hadn't heard from for weeks.

We saw a population locked in their homes and living in great fear, he wrote after vis-

iting the city of Adigrat and the towns of Axum and Adwa starting in late December.

In Adigrat, one of Tigray's largest cities, the situation was very tense and its hospital was in a terrible condition, Vinas added, with no food, no water and no money. Some patients who had been admitted with traumatic injuries were malnourished. One woman had been in labor for a week.

Beyond hospitals, up to 90 per cent of health centres between the Tigray capital, Mekele, and Axum to the north toward Eritrea were not functioning, he said. There is a large population suffering, surely with fatal consequences... There have been no vaccinations in almost three months, so we fear there will be epidemics soon. In a separate account posted by the World Peace Foundation on Friday, former senior Ethiopian official Mulugeta Gebrehiwot Berhe in a phone interview from rural Tigray told director Alex de Waal that hunger among peasants is crippling in areas bordering Eritrea after Eritrean forces burned or looted crops just before the harvest.

Soon, we might see a massive humanitarian crisis, Mulugeta said.

Eritrean officials have not

responded to questions nor confirmed their soldiers' involvement, and Ethiopia has denied their presence despite witness accounts.

The food situation in Tigray was already extremely bad before the fighting began because of a locust outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oxfam country director in Ethiopia, Gezahagn Kebede Gebrehana, has told The Associated Press.

When the fighting took place, a lot of people fled into the bush. But when they came back, most found their houses destroyed or all belongings looted, he said. After an assessment in southern Tigray, by some accounts the most accessible part of the region. Food is a very, very prominent necessity, from what we saw. International pressure continues on Ethiopia to allow unrestricted humanitarian access to Tigray, now a complicated patchwork of local authorities, but Gezahagn warned against suspending aid to the government as the European Union recently did.

The donor community might think they will push the Ethiopian government, but the Ethiopian government will never surrender, he said. He acknowledged the good intentions but said it's the people who suffer.

the November 8 election, allowing it to form a government led by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi for another five years. The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party won only 33 seats. The military has publicly complained several times since the polls that there was electoral fraud and called on the government and the Union Election Commission to review the results. It has said it has found 8.6 million irregularities in voter lists in 314 townships that could have let voters cast multiple ballots or commit other voting malpractice. The election commission said there was no evidence to support these claims.

Political tension in the Southeast Asian nation soared this past week after a spokesman for the military said a coup could not be ruled out if military complaints of widespread voting fraud in last November's election were ignored.

The commander-in-chief, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, had told senior officers in a speech Wednesday that the constitution could be revoked if the laws were not being properly enforced. Adding to the concern was the unusual deployment of armored vehicles in the streets of several large cities.

Saturday's statement from the military, known as the Tatmadaw, said that some organisations and media wrote without foundation when they said the military threatened to revoke the constitution. The statement said Min Aung Hlaing's speech was taken out of context, and was actually an observation to senior officer trainees on the nature of the constitution.

The ruling National League for Democracy party captured 396 out of 476 seats in

## Myanmar army deny coup threat claims

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NAYPYITAW, 30 JANUARY

Myanmar's military on Saturday denied that controversial statements by its chief were meant as a threat to stage a coup, claiming the media had misinterpreted his words.

The food situation in Tigray was already extremely bad before the fighting began because of a locust outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oxfam country director in Ethiopia, Gezahagn Kebede Gebrehana, has told The Associated Press.

Political tension in the Southeast Asian nation soared this past week after a spokesman for the military said a coup could not be ruled out if military complaints of widespread voting fraud in last November's election were ignored.

The commander-in-chief, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, had told senior officers in a speech Wednesday that the constitution could be revoked if the laws were not being properly enforced. Adding to the concern was the unusual deployment of armored vehicles in the streets of several large cities.

We urge the military, and all other parties in the country, to adhere to democratic norms, and we oppose any attempt to alter the outcome of the elections or impede Myanmar's democratic transition, said the statement issued by the EU, the U.S., the United Kingdom, Australia and others. Peaceful protests have been held in the past few days by supporters of the military and the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

## 'US backs peace talks aiming to solve Afghanistan conflict'

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, 30 JANUARY

**US, Pak discuss Afghan peace process:** Blinken and Qureshi discussed the importance of continued US-Pakistan cooperation on the Afghan peace process, support for regional stability, and the potential to expand our trade and commercial ties.

Qureshi congratulated Secretary Blinken on assuming his office, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to forging a comprehensive partnership with the US based on the convergence of interests on a whole range of issues, it said.

Qureshi told Blinken that peace in Afghanistan through a negotiated political settlement was one of the fundamental convergences between the two countries. He said it was essential to have a reduction in violence leading to the ceasefire and to work towards securing an inclusive political solution in Afghanistan.

Qureshi said Pakistan had facilitated the Afghan peace process and remained committed to working with the United States as a partner for peace, the Foreign Office said.

The Trump administration signed the peace deal with Taliban in February last year in Doha. The accord drew up plans for withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in exchange for security guarantees from the insurgent group. As part of the deal, the US committed to withdraw 12,000 troops within 14 months. There are currently only 2,500 American troops left in the country.

The Taliban committed to prevent other groups, including Al Qaeda, from using Afghan soil to recruit, train or fundraise toward activities that threaten the US or its allies.

In that context, we will make decisions about our force posture and our diplomatic strategy going forward, Sullivan said.

What the previous adminis-

tration did in terms of setting up and supporting negotiations between the stakeholders in Afghanistan left to the US Institute of Peace, a Congress-funded think-tank.

"We want to support negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban and others to get to that just and sustainable outcome in addition to looking at the US-Taliban agreement and what it means for our forces going forward," Sullivan said.

The peace negotiations are underway. The Taliban has said they will cease violence, or agree on a ceasefire, but all these are possible when there is an agreement on an Islamic government.

"The peace negotiations are underway. The Taliban has said they will cease violence, or agree on a ceasefire, but all these are possible when there is an Islamic government," said former commander Sayed Akbar Agha. As a condition of starting talks

boards and speeches in the capital, Mogadishu, is a sense of frustration as people are urged to support candidates but once again cannot directly take part. "Nobody has ever asked us what we want or whom we would choose as president," said Asha Abdulle, who runs a small teashop.

Every president wants to extend his tenure and at least add one more year, so why can't they make it official and hold elections every five years instead of four? wondered Abdissaq Ali Mohamed as he watched TV at a hotel.

The uncertainty is ripe for exploitation by the Somalia-based al-Shabaab extremist group, which has threatened to attack the polls. Meanwhile, the country is adjusting to the withdrawal of some

## FUN, WITH MASKS



People wearing face masks to protect against the spread of the coronavirus use a chair to skate across the surface of a frozen canal in Beijing, Saturday.

AP

## Pearl's murder case: Blinken dials Pak FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, 30 JANUARY

US Secretary of State Tony Blinken has spoken over phone with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and discussed the accountability of convicted terrorists responsible for the brutal murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, according to the State Department.

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story in 2002 on the links between the country's pow-

erful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said on Friday that Blinken reinforced America's concern over Pakistan Supreme Court's ruling acquitting Pearl's killers.

"Blinken and Qureshi discussed how to ensure accountability for convicted terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and others responsible for the kidnapping and murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, according to a readout of the call.

Qureshi and Blinken also agreed to remain engaged and work together on advancing the two countries' bilat-

eral agenda and promoting common interests in the region and beyond, it said.

A day earlier, Blinken expressed concern over the Pakistan Supreme Court's decision of acquitting those involved in the sensational kidnapping and murder of Pearl.

"Blinken and Qureshi discussed how to ensure accountability for convicted terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and others responsible for the kidnapping and murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, according to a readout of the call.

In a strongly-worded statement, Blinken urged Pakistan to explore all legal options to ensure that the killers of Pearl are brought to justice.

The United States is deeply concerned by the Pakistani Supreme Court's decision to

acquit those involved in Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder and any proposed action to release them, he said.

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed appeals against the acquittal of British-born al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in the kidnapping and murder case of Pearl and ordered his release, a judgement denounced by the American journalist's family as a 'complete travesty of justice.'

In a strongly-worded statement, Blinken urged Pakistan to explore all legal options to ensure that the killers of Pearl are brought to justice.

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## Time running out on Somalia's troubled vote as citizens sigh

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOGADISHU, 30 JANUARY

As Somalia marks three decades since a dictator fell and chaos engulfed the country, the government is set to hold a troubled national election. Or is it?

Two regional states refuse to take part, and time is running out before the Feb. 8 date when mandates expire. A parliament resolution allows President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and lawmakers to remain in office, but going beyond Feb. 8 brings an unpredictable political situation in a country where we certainly don't need anymore of that, United Nations special representative James Swan said this week.

Turkey backs Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, and has criticised the co-chairs of the OSCE's so-called Minsk Group for not resolving the long-running conflict in decades of mediation. The Minsk Group is led by the US, France and Russia.

Amid the campaign bill-

boards and speeches in the capital, Mogadishu, is a sense of frustration as people are urged to support candidates but once again cannot directly take part. "Nobody has ever asked us what we want or whom we would choose as president," said Asha Abdulle, who runs a small teashop.

Every president wants to extend his tenure and at least add one more year, so why can't they make it official and hold elections every five years instead of four? wondered Abdissaq Ali Mohamed as he watched TV at a hotel.

The uncertainty is ripe for exploitation by the Somalia-based al-Shabaab extremist group, which has threatened to attack the polls. Meanwhile, the country is adjusting to the withdrawal of some

2000, and it has the distinction of having Africa's first democratically elected president to peacefully step down, Aden Abdulle Osman in 1967.

But the goal of a direct, one-person-one-vote election in Somalia remains elusive. It was meant to take place this time. Instead, the federal government and states agreed on another



## SONAM SHOCKS SAKSHI

Haryana teenager Sonam Malik (photo, left) shocked 2016 Olympics bronze medallist and her senior statemate Sakshi Malik 7-5 in the 62kg final to win gold at the women's National Wrestling Championship on Saturday.

For more updates

[www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

## THUMBNAILS

ACC President: BCCI secretary Jay Shah was unanimously elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Saturday. The 32-year-old replaces Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Najmul Hasan Papon.

ICC ranking: Virat Kohli remained the highest-placed Indian batsman at fourth position even as Cheteshwar Pujara rose a rung to sixth in the latest ICC Test rankings issued on Saturday. Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane (748) is also in the top-10, hanging on to the eighth spot.

## How Maidan giants are reduced to midgets now

## PULKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

If social media is now being looked upon as sport-lovers' preferred transmission medium, supplanting television, where high-ups aplenty acknowledge it too, much of the energy inherent in it seems to be directed towards the purveying of piffle. Just as nonsense is an integral part of garrulity. Not that television is always substance-conscious.

It can't be, given that it always has to have something on the screen, good or bad, but social media's obvious advantage is that it can stay on a subject probably for a much longer while than television at a purely popular level, thereby getting people

at random talking, at perhaps less than half the expense incurred by yesterday's chosen platform in trying to present a programme.

Which is why no one's expectations would have been pegged very high when the other day a video fea-

the older institution's equals and it would be in the fitness of things if the prefix were dropped from the merged entity's name.

There was an uncomfortable feeling among those airing the grievance that Mohun Bagan, having come

into being in 1889 and achieved a lot more glory than the outfit that had been only an Indian Super League franchise, were slowly but surely being made to accept a marginalised existence. The Mohun Bagan officials in the new mix allegedly no longer addressed the club's deeply disappointed followers, who, going by what

was said quite openly, were now obliged to cope with put-downs and slights here, there and everywhere, day in and day out. The club fans said that they hadn't made a fuss when the merger came about because it was a pioneering venture but found, later on, that Mohun Bagan mattered less in the amalgamated phenomenon than ATK, resulting in the historic green-and-maroon shirt colour scheme of the iconic club being often discarded in favour of ATK's black.

But whom are they being pilloried by? East Bengal loyalists, according to a deficiency of YouTube videos, are trapped between fear of the club's new investor's departure after allegedly running into opposition for trying to regulate the mem-

bers' visiting hours at their Maidan pavilion and finding their own officials rendered surplus to the club's requirements, now said to be determined by the investor's own chosen people.

Everything East Bengal had had was said to have passed into the investor's control. Quite obviously, how sponsorship works in football's advanced world is a sealed book. But if both the clubs are up against it, it at least partially is due entirely to the cavalier way they have led their lives. History is but a card they play without even meaning to live up to it. The way it is in southern Asia, football is easily made to feel small because those dabbling in it rarely know what being big implied.

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## BCCI to hold Hazare Trophy as per state units' wish, no Ranji Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

The BCCI will not be conducting its premier first-class domestic tournament Ranji Trophy for the first time in 87 years as the parent body opted for the Vijay Hazare Trophy as per the wishes of majority of the state units.

The BCCI will also host the U-19 National One Day tournament for the Vinoo Mankad Trophy and the Women's national 50-over tournament as per a letter sent by BCCI secretary Jay Shah to the state units.

While BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Shah were keen to have the blue ribbon and the Vijay Hazare Trophy and follow it up with the Vinoo Mankad Trophy Under-19. This has been decided after having received your feedback on the domestic season 2020-21," Shah wrote a letter to state units.

It is understood that BCCI will probably follow the same groupings and bio-bubble for



the Hazare Trophy that will start next month.

The BCCI during its AGM had decided that players will be compensated in case there is a truncated season and with players missing out on Ranji Trophy match fees, treasurer Arun Dhumal clarified that the premier domestic cricketers of the country will be taken care of financially.

Agreeing with his secretary's view, Dhumal said that

the decision to cancel Ranji Trophy this season was taken after taking every stakeholder into confidence.

"We took feedback from the players, selection committee, state associations. It was felt that 2020 is already gone and rather than having two Ranji events in the same calendar year, it is better to go for white-ball cricket," Dhumal said.

"That way we could have something for junior cricket and women considering the importance of Women's World Cup and U-19 World Cup next year. Rather than having one tournament, we thought to have events in different categories," said Dhumal, adding that players will be duly compensated for not playing Ranji Trophy this season.

Shah in his letter also spoke about how difficult it was to plan out the domestic calendar for the season in the post COVID world.

"As you are aware, we have lost a lot of time and consequently, it has been difficult to

plan the cricket calendar on account of the precautions that are necessary for the safe conduct of the games," Shah wrote.

Shah, in his letter, thanked the state units which successfully conducted the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament.

"I write this with some satisfaction and whole lot of gratitude towards the state associations and staff of the BCCI for the successful conduct of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament so far after having delivered a flawless IPL earlier," Shah wrote.

He also informed the members that preparations for the England series is in full swing.

"The preparations for the England tour of India which commences on 5 February onwards, are in full swing and there is a lot of excitement around it after the historic tour of Australia where, as you are aware, the team had performed miraculously under extremely trying circumstances," he said.

## Aizawl FC strike twice for 2nd win of I-League campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, 30 JANUARY

Aizawl FC beat Neroca FC 2-1 in their fifth round I-League fixture at the Mohun Bagan Ground here on Saturday.

MC Malsawmzuala scored the winner in the 56th minute after Judah Emmanuel Garcia had cancelled PC Lalidimpui's first-half header.

With the victory, the Mizo team now moves up the table with seven points and is placed four points behind leaders Churchill Brothers with one game in hand.

Neroco, who came into the match after a 1-1 defeat against Gokulam Kerala, started with attacking intent and, within three minutes, had two chances to score.

Khanngam Horam latched on a forward pass from Jude Garcia in the second minute but his shot was blocked and sent for a corner. Horam was again in the thick of things but without success.

Aizawl settled in after the early scare and threatened the

Neroco goal through a number of corners. They, however, only tested the keeper in the 15th minute, when C Lalidimpui reached Malsawmluang's corner but the defender's header was straight at the keeper Bishop Singh.

Five minutes later, Bishop Singh was forced to make another save to keep the scores equal as Ramhlunchhunga chested a cross down to his feet and took a shot. The Neroco custodian had to come off his line quickly and deny him the opener.

In the 28th minute, Aizawl were again denied the opening goal as Alfred Jaryan's header was cleared off the goal line.

Aizawl kept threatening and were rewarded for their efforts in the 37th minute. An inswinging cross delivered by Malsawmluang was met by Lalidimpui, who sent his header past a stranded Bishop Singh in the Neroco goal.

The former champions almost doubled their lead in the 40th minute through Jaryan, who grabbed the lead for the second time.

## ATK Mohun Bagan face Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MARGAO, 30 JANUARY

Having suffered their third defeat of the season, ATK Mohun Bagan will aim to get their mojo back and close in on leaders Mumbai City when they take on Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

ATK Mohun Bagan might find themselves in a comfortable spot in the league table, placed second after 14 games. But there's no denying that the former champions have not been at their best lately. Their struggles continued against Northeast United, slumping to their third defeat of the season.

In their last four matches, the Mariners have witnessed a dip in form, notching just one win while losing twice. Their defence has been under the pump, shipping four goals. In their opening nine games, Bagan conceded just thrice, highlighting their defensive struggles.

Upfront, the lack of missed chances has continued to cost them points, with the

Kolkata side scoring just thrice in their last four games. They have netted just 13 goals all season, which is the third-worst tally in the league.

Fresh after acquiring the services of Marcelino, on-loan from Odisha FC, ATKMB coach Antonio Lopez Habas believes his team is improving despite the recent results but has called for his attack to step up.

On the other hand, opponents Kerala are unbeaten in their previous five games and still in contention of reaching the playoffs and are just four points away from fourth place. While form favours Kerala, it was ATKMB who came out on top when the two sides faced each other in the opening game of the ISL season.

In other match, Hyderabad FC are looking to cement their place in their top four while Chennaiyin FC stand a chance at getting closer to a playoff spot when the two teams face each other in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan on Sunday.

## 'Clubs in India's glamour league up against it'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 30 JANUARY

The Indian Super League tournament's current season has turned out to be the hardest for its franchises what with their expenses rising and their earnings dipping, sources familiar with the football market told *The Statesman* here today, ascribing the contrasting financial pattern to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Even before the coronavirus crisis, grinding on in the glamorous ISL was a really

tough ask for the franchises as the annual loss exceeded Rs 40 crore for many of them. While television sold ad time to enrich itself and the organisers took a hefty fee in exchange for participation rights, what the teams got from the central pool dwarfed their expenditures considerably," said the sources anonymously, being linked in various ways with the clubs, adding "Covid-19 has meant that the franchises can't earn anything by way of ticket sales at the ground but having to stay in a bio-secure bubble in Goa

nationally and it's clear to everyone by now that the ISL may not, after all, be how India can professionalise its soccer set-up. If the teams keep haemorrhaging money year in and year out, how can the show go on."

The sources said that I-League clubs, in contrast, were better cared for and looked after. "There are bio bubbles for the I-League too but the teams in it are not obliged to fend for themselves. The tab is picked up by the All-India Football Federation for everything," it was

said. The sources said that one major area of the ISL's failure was throwing up new, home-grown talent of the highest aristocracy.

"The ISL's ironic USP was relying on long-past-prime players in its initial years. Now there are teams in it that tend completely to bypass local talent. The I-League's teams are region-specific and they focus on local talent. That's how countries get better in terms of playing football," the sources said.

## BCCI eyes IPL in India, looks at the possibility of a hub

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 30 JANUARY

The Indian cricket board is planning to host this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) in India and is not ruling out the possibility of holding it in a hub.

The lengthy tournament that is expected to exceed 50 days -- the 2020 edition lasted 53 days -- will present the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) with a variety of challenges, including those like regular testing at venues.

"As of now it has been decided that the IPL should

be happening in India. In case the same situation prevails [with declining Covid-19 cases in India], then it should happen in India," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal told IANS.

"We want to do it in India as the IPL is an Indian league. Hopefully, the situation remains the same. It would depend on how safe it is to have eight venues. Maybe we can think of a hub. We will take the final call according to the situation," he said.

The point of having a hub or multiple hubs could be necessary as IPL entails frequent travel.

As of now, on England's tour of India, players of both sides would be stationed at one venue for a long duration.

Chennai will host the first two Tests while Ahmedabad will host the next two and also the five T20s that follow.

During IPL, teams travel very frequently, often every second or third day. Covid-19 tests are required on arrival at every venue along with a period of quarantine.

That challenge may force the BCCI to go for one or multiple hubs.

## Class of 2012 was one of the best English sides, current team is getting there: Buttler

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, 30 JANUARY

Alastair Cook's team of 2012 remains "one of the best England sides" and although the batch of 2021 under Joe Root is getting there, it is still at a different stage of its journey, feels star batsman Jos Buttler (in photo).

In 2012, Cook's men beat a formidable Indian side, including the likes of Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, 2-1 in its own den in a four-Test series.

Incidentally, current skipper Root made his debut in the final Test of that series in Nagpur.

"Joe made his debut on that tour and has fond memories and learnings on what made us successful. That was one of the best England teams that we have ever had, quite amazing players," Buttler said during the virtual media interaction on Saturday.

"This side is in a little bit of a different stage in terms of journey, but certainly getting towards that point. It's an exciting time

to take up such a challenge against the best team in the world in their home conditions," added Buttler.

The 2012 series will always be remembered for Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar's bowling along with Kevin Pietersen's epic 186 in Mumbai.

In England's seamer-friendly conditions, a first-innings score of 350 is considered to be a good total, but Buttler said this team, with some young players in its ranks, would need to develop an understanding that a good

score in India could well go beyond 600.

"It's about adapting to conditions and playing accordingly. There are times when the ball seams and swings in England. The big first-innings score can be 300 for example and if you play in India, we play on a fantastic batting wicket (for) the first two days, a good score would be 600-650," he said.

"So, I think it is the realisation and understanding as a batsman and as the batting team and having the hunger to go on and score big runs," he added.

