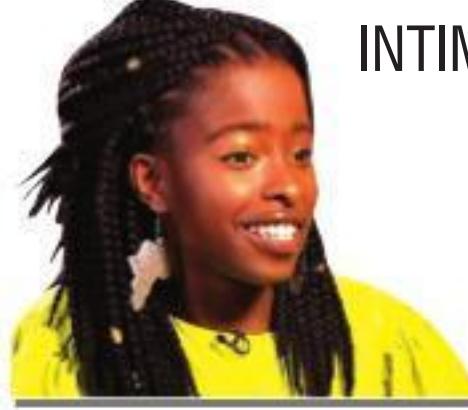




Pages 12 | ₹5/LC

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



INTIMATE SELECTIONS



TRUMP ACQUITTAL EXPECTED IN SENATE VOTE

P6



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION MYANMAR PROTESTS ENTER SECOND WEEK

P11



MEDVEDEV ADVANCES

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Dense to very dense fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 27 and 12 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 49%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 26.6°C (+4) Min: 10.8°C (0)

SUN RISES

07:00 hrs

MOON RISES

9:15 hrs

SUN SETS

18:11 hrs

MOON SETS

20:37 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A health worker being vaccinated against Covid-19 as the second phase of vaccination, Corona Vaccination 2.0, was launched across the country. At Max Hospital, Patparganj, in the Capital on Saturday.

(P2)

Mahua urges security withdrawal from home: Trinamul Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Saturday took strong exception to the stationing of three armed security personnel at her home in the national capital, wondering whether she was under "some sort of surveillance" and asked the Delhi Police chief to withdraw them. "The conduct of these armed officers indicate that they are making notes of movements to and from my residence," she stated in a letter.

Five elephants die within 13 days in Odisha: Five elephants have died within a gap of 13 days inside Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi district of Odisha, officials said. All the carcasses were found near water bodies, they said. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Sashi Pal said, the elephant deaths were due to some bacterial infection. "The water bodies in the sanctuary may have been infected," he said. Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South), Ashok Kumar said water samples have been collected from different spots for testing.

Farmers seek judicial enquiry into R-Day clash

NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Protesting farmer unions on Saturday demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into the violence that took place during the tractor rally in Delhi on 26 January and the alleged "false" cases slapped on the farmers.

Addressing a press conference at the Singhu border, Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders asked farmers who are getting police notices not to appear before the force directly and, instead, approach the legal cell constituted by the unions for any assistance. According to SKM leaders, 16 farmers who had participated in the tractor parade are still untraceable.

No new Covid deaths in 17 states, UTs

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

The distribution of daily deaths among states and Union territories in a span of 24 hours reflects a significant decline, with 17 of them not reporting any new Covid-19 fatality, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The states and Union territories that have reported any new deaths in the last 24 hours are Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Ladakh, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura, Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Altogether 13 states and UTs

have reported between 1-5 new deaths due to Covid. India's total Covid active caseload currently stands at 1.36 lakh comprising just 1.25 per cent of the total infections.

A total of 12,143 daily new cases were registered in a span of 24 hours, it said, adding that 86.01 per cent of the new cases are from six states. Kerala continues to report the highest daily new cases at 5,397, followed by Maharashtra with 3,670, while Tamil Nadu reported 483 new cases.

Further, 103 deaths were recorded in a span of 24 hours. Six states account for 80.58 per cent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum of 36 casualties. Kerala follows with 18 daily deaths, while Karnataka

and Punjab reported 8 deaths each.

A total of 1,06,00,625 people have recovered so far with 11,395 patients getting discharged in the previous 24 hours. Kerala has reported the maximum number of single-day recoveries, with 5,332 newly-recovered cases.

Delhi logs 126 cases & no death: Delhi today recorded 126 fresh coronavirus cases and no Covid-linked death, while the positivity rate stood at 0.21 per cent, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government's health department. This was the second time this month when the single-day Covid fatality count was stated to be zero.

(SEE P2)



Indian-origin employee aims for top job at UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS, 13 FEBRUARY

An Indian-origin employee at the UN has announced her candidacy to be its next Secretary-General, the first person to throw her hat in the ring against incumbent Antonio Guterres, who is seeking a second five-year term beginning January 2022 as chief of the world organisation.

Aroa Akanksha, 34, working as an audit coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said she will run for the post of the world's top diplomat and launched her campaign #AroaForSG this month.

People in my position aren't supposed to stand up to the ones in charge. We are supposed to wait our turn, hop on the hamster wheel, go to work, keep our heads down and accept that the



ASHA RAMACHANDRAN
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Celebrating the 10th year of World Radio Day on 13 February and over 110 years of this medium, radios around the globe are connecting with their communities in various ways.

Proclaimed in 2011 by the member states of UNESCO and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day, 13 February became World Radio Day (WRD).

On this occasion, UNESCO also called on radio stations to observe this day through three themes - evolution, innovation and connection.

Despite inroads made by the electronic media, including TV, Internet and social media, radio continues to hold its own and remains, even today, the most powerful medium of communication.

In its message, UNESCO said, "Radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse. At the global level, radio remains the most widely consumed medium. This unique ability to reach out the widest audience means radio can shape a society's experience of diversity, stand as an arena for all voices to speak out, be represented and heard."

Radio stations should serve diverse communities, offering a wide variety of programs, viewpoints and content, and reflect the diversity of audiences in their organizations and operations.

In India, radio has evolved over the years to adapt and innovate according to the ever-changing world.

It has proved to be invaluable during natural disasters, epidemics and emer-

gency situations, emerging as a resilient and sustainable form of communication.

When the entire world stood challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, the local community radio stations continued their broadcasts to keep people informed and connect local authorities with the community



gencies situations, emerging as a resilient and sustainable form of communication.

In this context, community radios (CRs) have played an important role in providing the last mile link for people, who either live in media-dark areas, remote villages, or are affected by disasters.

More recently, when the entire world stood challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic in

early 2020, the local community radio stations continued their broadcasts to keep people informed and connect local authorities with the community.

The community radios also became the bridge between medical departments and the local people.

"Since community radio caters to a small geographic area, the new media such as

outbreak of the pandemic.

Covid response at the radio station began as early as February 2020 and continued to focus on awareness generation about the virus and prevention. The very first broadcasts at the station were done with the district magistrate, the chief medical officer and senior medical officer of the nearest hospital.

The Covid programming ensured that listeners receive timely updates on the pandemic, clear information from credible sources and on the do's and don'ts to safeguard themselves from Covid-19, together with sharing on positivity and mental well-being through psychologists. Rural schoolchildren have tuned in to radio for education amidst the pandemic.

Alfaz-e-Mewat's Radio School programme reached out to children across a number of villages in the Haryana district.

FM: Rahul becoming doomsday man for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Finance minister
Nirmala Sitharaman said the former Congress chief was creating fake narratives but does not have patience to listen to replies on allegations levelled against the GoI

keep accusing others," she said. "Hum Do Hamare Do" expression was used by the former Congress chief in his speech on Thursday, during which he talked about farm laws but declined to speak on the Budget, referring to the fact that only four persons are ruling this country including two business houses. Retorting to this, the Finance Minister said this expression fits on the Gandhi family.

With regard to the second tendency of Congress, she said, "We will put allegations, use abusive language, but when under Parliamentary procedure they have to respond to... they only shout and walk out."

She criticised the Con-

SC: Right to protest cannot be anytime & everywhere

NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere, the Supreme Court said as it dismissed a plea seeking review of its verdict passed last year in which it had held that the occupation of public ways during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests at Shaheen Bagh here was not acceptable.

The top court said there may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public place affecting the rights of others.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Kiranma Murari said, "We have perused the review petition and record of the civil appeal and are convinced that the order of which review has been sought, does not suffer from any error apparent warranting its reconsideration."

The bench, which has passed the order recently, said it has considered the earlier judicial pronouncements and recorded its opinion that the Constitutional scheme comes with a right to protest and express dissent but with an obligation to have certain duties.



It never fails to amaze me how most of the J&K administration, both civil & police, grovels in front of BJP functionaries. The state president pins badges & ranks in a police passing out parade having no position of authority in J&K whatsoever. Shame on this government.

OMAR ABDULLAH
FORMER J&K CHIEF MINISTER

Covid vaccination: 1,856 get second dose in Delhi

The administering of second Covid-19 shots get underway for healthcare workers who had received their first jabs 28 days ago; city logs 126 new coronavirus cases and no fresh death

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

The vaccination drive against Covid-19 picked up further momentum in Delhi as 1,856 healthcare workers, who had received their first shots on day one of the exercise four weeks ago, turned up to get their second dose today. However, the turnout for the second dose was about 43 per cent only.

Under the nationwide mega Covid vaccination drive launched on 16 January, a total of 4,319 health workers (53 per cent of the targeted figure of 8,117) were administered the shots at 81 centres across the city on day one.

The second dose is given to a beneficiary after a gap of 28 days.

Today, altogether 13,768 beneficiaries received the Covid jabs, even as the admin-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

istering of the second dose began for healthcare workers who had received the first jab 28 days ago, a senior official said. "Out of the total number of healthcare workers, 1,856 received second dose today and 3,530 got the first jab. Also, 8,382 frontline workers also got their first shots today," he said.

The number of centres where vaccination was carried out yesterday stood at 257 with a turnout of about 57 per cent, as over 14,800 people received the Covid shots in the national capital during the fourth week of the inoculation drive.

The second dose delivery began at LNJP Hospital as well and 25 people received the second shots, a senior

official at the facility said, adding that a total of 137 persons were vaccinated there on Saturday. Thirty-two healthcare workers were vaccinated on 16 January at LNJP Hospital, from where Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had officially started the drive.

A senior doctor at Centre for Chest and Respiratory Illness, and other healthcare workers at the BLK Super Speciality Hospital also received second shots today, a spokesperson of the hospital said.

A senior doctor at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital said, "110 people got vaccinated in total, out of whom five beneficiaries were those who got their second shots today".

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 126 fresh coronavirus cases and no Covid-linked death, while the positivity rate stood at 0.21 per cent,

according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government's health department.

This was the second time this month when the single-day Covid fatality count was stated to be zero.

On 9 February, no fatality from coronavirus was registered in the national capital after a gap of nearly nine months.

Today's fresh Covid cases were detected out of 60,876 tests conducted the previous day, which included 38,921 RT-PCR tests and 21,955 rapid antigen tests, the health bulletin said.

These cases pushed the city's coronavirus infection tally to 6,36,796 while its Covid death toll stood at 10,889.

The national capital's active cases tally dropped to 1,041 from yesterday's 1,053, the bulletin stated.

Delhi had yesterday recorded 141 Covid cases and 3 deaths, while its positivity rate was 0.22 per cent.

The DPCC president said it was a question of empowering these poor children through education, and the Delhi government and the MCDs should take the help of all the agencies to bring them back so that they could resume their "broken education".

students' data," Kumar alleged.

He said that under the Rights to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, passed by the previous Congress-led UPA government, it is the responsibility of the State to bring out-of-school children to an educational system, but despite lakhs of students remaining "untraced", the Arvind Kejriwal government and the MCDs have "not bothered to make any sincere effort to find them".

Kumar said that nearly 31,000 students from the Delhi government schools, 44,000 students from the South Delhi Municipal Cor-

poration, 58,000 students from the Centre's New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and 33,600 students from the East Delhi Municipal Corporation, have gone "missing" from their school rosters.

He said it was a matter of "serious concern", especially considering that these children hailing mostly from economically weaker sections of migrant labourers - who suffered the worst impact of the Covid pandemic lockdown - might have been forced to return to their respective native villages and might have been engaged in child labour.

He wondered that if their educational institutions had not done anything to trace these children, what steps the Delhi government and the MCDs have taken to trace them.

The DPCC president said it was a question of empowering these poor children through education, and the Delhi government and the MCDs should take the help of all the agencies to bring them back so that they could resume their "broken education".

Delhi Police chief reviews security at border points

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Delhi Police commissioner S N Shrivastava today reviewed the law and order situation and arrangements at various borders points of the national capital in view of the continuing agitation by farmers protesting the Centre's controversial agriculture laws.

During his review meeting with senior officers, the city police chief also took stock of

action taken against criminals involved in burglary and other cases related to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), Excise Act and gambling, according to a statement issued by Delhi Police.

To reduce such crimes, Shrivastava stressed on the need to take effective and sustained steps, it said.

He insisted on carrying out regular checking of listed criminals, including those in jail or

bail/parole released, temporal and special analysis of crime incidents as well as optimal use of available human resources and technology, the police statement said.

The police commissioner said that the performance of anti-snatching teams and use of crime teams be regularly assessed.

During the meeting, special commissioner of police (operation) also briefed Shrivastava about the progress

in the ongoing Covid vaccination of Delhi Police personnel, said Anil Mittal, Additional PRO, Delhi Police.

Shrivastava also rewarded the police team involved in cracking the "Reliance Jewellery showroom dacoity" case that took place under the Maurya Enclave police station in January. Eight people who were found involved in the crime and six receivers (who bought the stolen articles from the accused) were arrested through

technical and local intelligence.

The police team had also recovered 6.5 kg of robbed jewellery articles besides two cars from the accused, the statement added.

The police commissioner said that the performance of anti-snatching teams and use of crime teams be regularly assessed.

technical and local intelligence.

The police team had also recovered 6.5 kg of robbed jewellery articles besides two cars from the accused, the statement added.

avoid any untoward incident.

Additional Public Relations Officer (Delhi Police) Anil Mittal said that the case has now been transferred to the crime branch for further investigation.

According to police, on Wednesday night, when both the victim and the accused men were attending a birthday party, an argument broke out between them over their food joints in Rohini.

They also allegedly slapped and threatened each other at

the party, following which they left. The two parties had similar tussles over the same issue sometime back as well, police said.

Later, the four men went to Sharma's house where the victim along with his elder brother were already standing outside with sticks. A scuffle broke out between the two sides again during which the accused stabbed Sharma and fled from the spot, a senior police officer had said on Thursday.

Sharma's brother Mannu (19), however, alleged that Rinku Sharma was killed as he was actively participating in the donation drive for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

However, the Delhi Police denied any communal angle to the murder and said the fight at the birthday party took place over a business rivalry.

So far, Tazuddin, Zahid, Mehtab, Danish and Islam have been arrested in connection with the incident, police said.

JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST



LEGAL NOTICES

P.L.A. No. 142 of 2020
IN THE HIGH COURT
AT CALCUTTA

Testamentary and
Intestate Jurisdiction
President of the Union of India
Petition for Probate
In the goods of:

Nabin Chand Chander @
Nabin Chand Chander,
son of Late Raghu Moni
Chander @ Raghunani
Chander, lately residing at
3/1F, Subal Chandra Lane,
Amherst Street, Kolkata -
700009 a Hindu inhabitant
since deceased.

All persons claiming to have
any interest in the estate of
the abovenamed deceased are
hereby cited to come within 2 (Two)
weeks from the date of the publication
and affixation of the citation and
see the proceedings, if they think fit,
before the grant of Probate in the
above goods.

You are hereby informed
that free legal services from
the High Court Legal Services Committee
are available to you and in case
you are eligible and desire
to avail of the free legal services,
you may contact the above Legal Services Committee.

Witness : Mr. Thottathil B.
Radhakrishnan, Chief
Justice at Calcutta
aforesaid, this 15th day of
January, 2021.

Sd/-

For Registrar
01.02.2021

Somnath Saha
Advocate
7, Old Post Office Street
First Floor, Room No. 15
Kolkata - 700 001

COURT NOTICE
(U/O Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
MS. SONIA SHEOKAND

Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Gurugram

Adarsh Vir Singh
Versus

General Public.

CNR No. HRGR02-000502-
2021

Notice to :

General Public.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear in person or
through counsel on 26-07-
2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&dis-trict=gurugram.

Dated, this day of 10-02-
2021.

Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Gurugram

Seal of the Court

P.L.A. No. 246 of 2019
IN THE HIGH COURT
AT CALCUTTA

Testamentary and
Intestate Jurisdiction
President of the Union of India
Petition for Probate
In the goods of :

Smt. Manjula Sen, Wife of
Late Dwigwida Nath Sen,
Lately resident of 12, Ganguly
Bagan East Road, Post Office -
Garia, South 24 Parganas,
within the Testamentary &
Intestate Jurisdiction of the
Hon'ble High Court, a Hindu
inhabitant deceased.

All persons claiming to have
any interest in the estate of
the abovenamed deceased are
hereby cited to come within 2 (Two)
weeks from the date of the publication
and affixation of the citation and
see the proceedings, if they think fit,
before the grant of Probate in the
above goods.

You are hereby informed
that free legal services from
the High Court Legal Services Committee
are available to you and in case
you are eligible and desire
to avail of the free legal services,
you may contact the above Legal Services Committee.

Witness : Mr. Thottathil B.
Radhakrishnan, Chief
Justice at Calcutta
aforesaid, the 24th day of December in
the year two thousand and
Twenty.

Sd/-

For Registrar
12.01.2021

Rabi Ghosh
Advocate
11, Old Post Office Street
Ground Floor
Kolkata - 700001

SITUATION VACANT

ANSAM HR Services
LLP requires Telecaller (M/F),

fluent in English only

immediately contact : +91

7044852497, +91

8697711293, +91

9674765317.

BARRACKPORE
RASTRAGURU

SURENDRANATH COLLEGE

Wanted one Trainer and
one Non-teaching staff for

the Department of CEL of 6,

Riverside Road campus of

the college. Qualification: For

Trainer - Master Degree with
at least 65% Marks,

Certificate in Students

Counselling preferable. For

The Sunday Statesman

KOLKATA

Tel: 0177-2815000
Email:
delhistatesman@gmail.com
shirma@thestatesmangroup.com

HYDERABAD

The Statesman Limited, 2nd Floor, UNI
Building,

A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004,
Ph.: 040-2339 1739

Email:
delhistatesman@gmail.com
hyderabad@thestatesmangroup.com

BANGALORE

No. 68, First Floor, Gold Tower,
50 Residency Road, Bangalore-560025.

Tel: 080-22229129, 080-22234813

Email:
delhistatesman@gmail.com
bangalore@thestatesmangroup.com

MUMBAI

5, Kasturi Buildings, Jamshedji Tata
Road, Mumbai-400 020

Email:
delhistatesman@gmail.com
mumbai@thestatesmangroup.com
manuelfrancis@thestatesmangroup.com

CHENNAI

Fagun Mansion (4th floor), 26, Ethiraj
Road, Chennai-600 008, Tel: (044)

28278037, 28224800

Email:
delhistatesman@gmail



We then went before the people with a manifesto on what we will do. We brought out a progress report every year and now looking back on what we did, we have been able to do all what we promised

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 14 FEBRUARY 2021

Cops take Sidhu to Red Fort to recreate scene

Delhi Police Crime Branch takes Deep Sidhu and another accused Iqbal Singh to the historic monument to recreate the scene of violence that unfolded there on 26 Jan during farmer's tractor parade

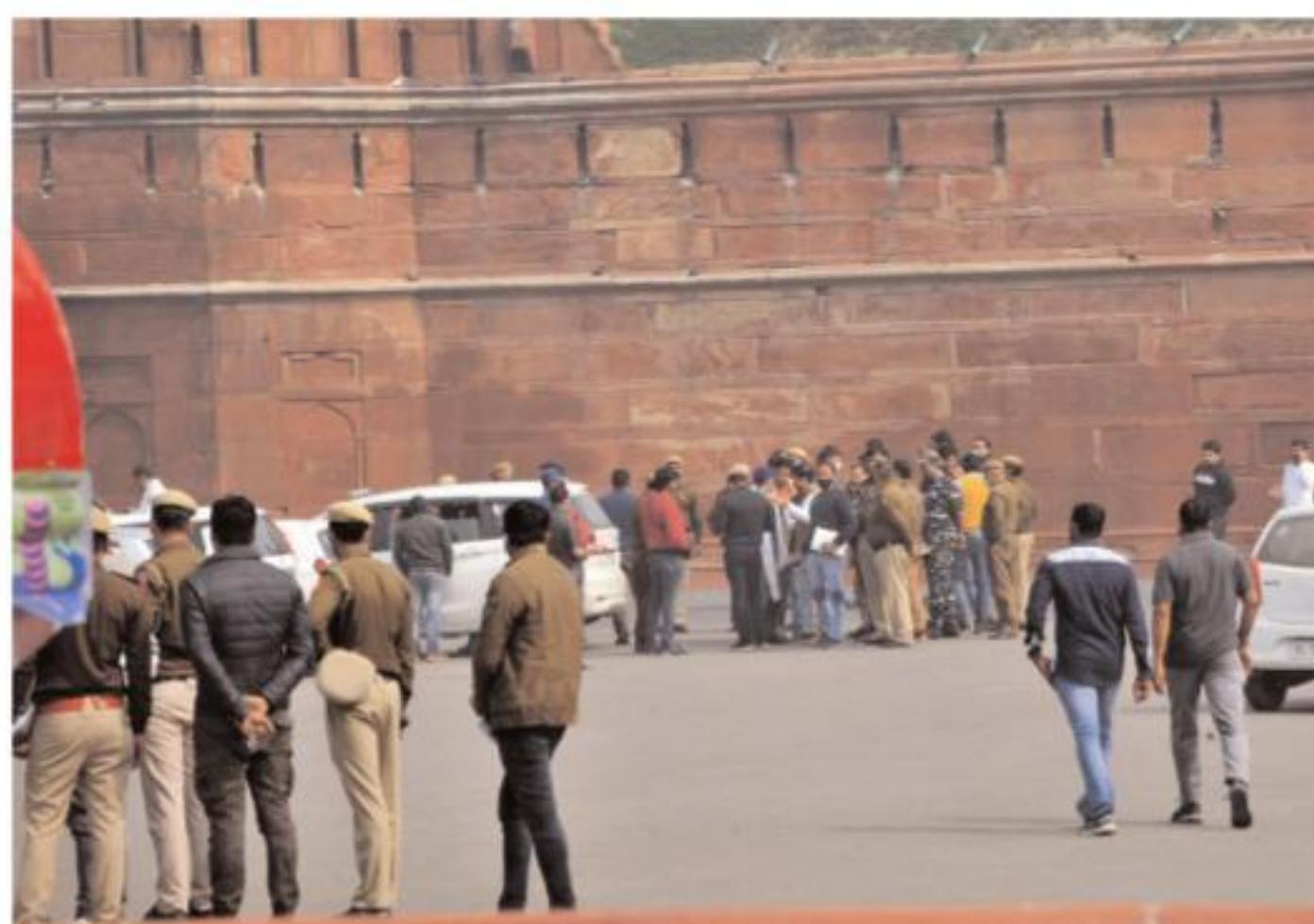
PTI
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

The Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Saturday took actor-activist Deep Sidhu and another accused Iqbal Singh to the Red Fort to recreate the scene of events that unfolded at the historic monument on Republic Day during the farmer's tractor parade, a police officer said.

Sidhu, according to police, was a "prominent player" behind the January 26 violence and vandalism at the Red Fort. He was arrested from Karnal bypass in Haryana on Monday night by a team of Delhi Police's Special Cell.

On Tuesday, Sidhu was sent to seven-day police custody by a city court here.

A senior police officer said Sidhu and another accused arrested in the case Iqbal Singh were taken to the Red Fort by a crime branch team to recreate the scene of events that unfolded on Republic Day at the monu-



ment.

The team probing the case will inspect the spot to ascertain and corroborate the route taken by them, their activities at the Red Fort and how things unfolded at

the monument on Republic Day when the violence broke out, the officer added.

Iqbal Singh, who was carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his arrest, was nabbed from Hoshiarpur in Punjab

on Tuesday night by the northern range of Delhi Police's Special Cell.

The Delhi police had announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for information that can lead to the arrest of

actor Sidhu, Jugraj Singh, Gurjot Singh and Gurjant Singh who hoisted flags at the Red Fort or were involved in the act.

A cash reward of Rs 50,000 each was also announced for Buta Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Jajbir Singh and Iqbal Singh for allegedly instigating protesters.

Of them, Sidhu, Iqbal Singh and Sukhdev Singh have been arrested. Police said raids are being conducted to nab the other accused.

Thousands of farmers protesting the Centre's new agriculture laws had clashed with the police during their tractor parade on January 26.

Many of the protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and entered the monument. Some protesters even hoisted religious flags on its domes and a flagstaff at the ramparts, where the national flag is unfurled on Independence Day.

Over 500 police personnel were injured and one protestor died on that day.

Rohtak killings: Police announce reward for info on prime accused

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 13 FEBRUARY

The Haryana Police has announced a reward of Rs one lakh for sharing information about a wrestling coach, a prime accused in the killing of five people in Rohtak last evening, police said on Saturday.

Five people were killed and two others injured in a firing incident at a wrestling venue adjacent to a private college in Rohtak on Friday evening.

Prima facie, because of this grudge, he (Sukhvinder) committed the crime, said Sharma.

The SP said the Haryana Director General of Police has announced a reward of Rs one lakh for sharing any information about Sukhvinder, who is on the run.

The identity of the person who shares any information about Sukhvinder will be kept secret, said Sharma, stressing that the Haryana DGP is monitoring the probe.

The SP said they are also coordinating with police of neighbouring states to arrest the accused.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising two deputy superintendents of police have also been formed to investigate the matter, he said.

The SP said as per available information as of now, there was only one accused

but he also did not rule out the possibility of the involvement of some other people.

Police are collecting evidence from the crime scene and the CCTV footage is also being collected, Sharma said.

However, the SP said he is not in a position to tell the motive of the crime. It is a matter of investigation, he said, adding that no eyewitness has come forward as of now.

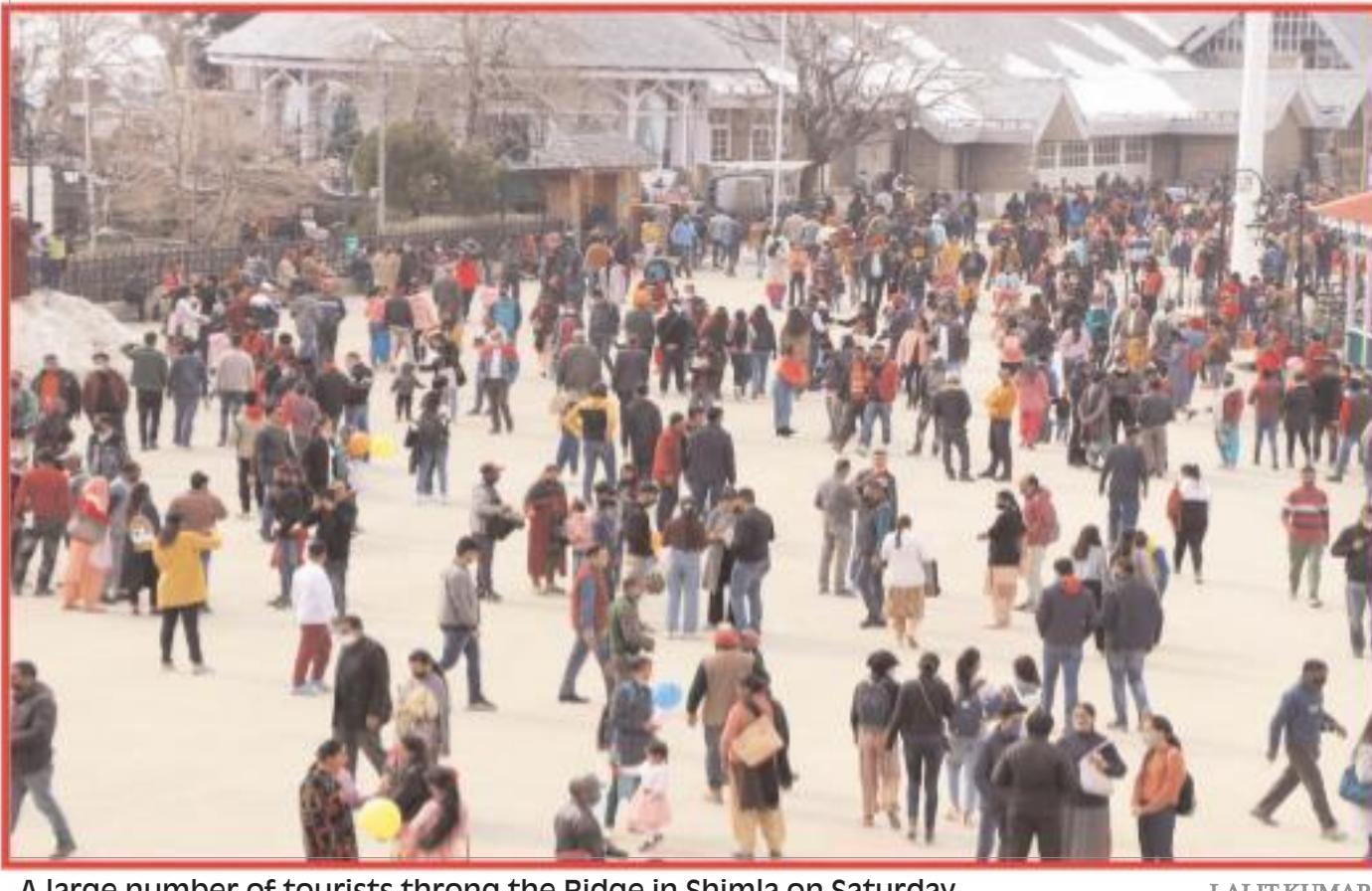
As per the feedback we got, there should be more eyewitnesses there, he said.

On the number of bullets fired, Sharma said, The post-mortem of the dead is going on. Anything can be said about the number of bullet injuries only after the post-mortem. Before this, it will be very difficult to say how many shots were fired.

Sharma said, Sukhvinder, a resident of Gohana, did not have any licensed weapon. It is being investigated from the college authorities whether Sukhvinder was given appointment in written or on contract.

We are collecting documents. Whether he was convened in written about his termination of services or was communicated verbally, the SP said.

CRAVING NORMALITY



A large number of tourists throng the Ridge in Shimla on Saturday.

LALIT KUMAR

Septuagenarian Punjab farmer dies at Singhu

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 13 FEBRUARY

A 72-year-old Punjab farmer who was participating in farmers' agitation at Delhi's Singhu border has died of cardiac arrest, police said on Saturday.

Hansa Singh was a resident of Moga district, a police official posted at Kundli police station in Haryana's Sonipat said.

Singh died of heart attack

Thursday night, police said, adding his post-mortem was conducted on Friday.

Thousands of farmers

Hansa Singh was a resident of Moga district, a police official posted at Kundli police station in Haryana's Sonipat said.

have been protesting since late November at Delhi borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, demanding a rollback of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price

Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the Centre has maintained that the new laws will bring better opportunities to farmers and introduce new technologies in agriculture.

Min temp above normal in Punjab, Haryana

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 13 FEBRUARY

ital of the two states, recorded a low of 11.1 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal.

In Haryana, the minimum temperature of Ambala, Hisar and Karnal settled at 10.5, 10.4 and 10.8 degrees Celsius respectively, up to two degrees above normal.

Narnaul, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Sirsa registered their respective lows at 6.4, 12.6, 11.5 and 10.3, the MeT office said.

Fog enveloped several places including Chandigarh, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ambala, Hisar, Karnal, Rohtak and Bhiwani on Saturday morning.

Farmers' stir: Some people protesting for protest's sake, claims Khattar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 13 FEBRUARY

Expressing hope for an end to the ongoing farmers' agitation against new farm laws, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday claimed that some people were protesting just for the sake of protest and it also showed their "vested political intent".

Speaking to reporters after a pre-budget meeting with the Members of Parliament (MPs) of Haryana, the CM said the Central government is clearly of the view that the three agricultural laws are for the benefit of the farmers and



will certainly boost the economic prosperity of the agricultural sector.

"Some people are protesting just for the sake of protest

and it also shows their vested political intent. However, if through positive dialogue, any amendment in these laws is required, then the Central

Government is and will always be ready for making the required amendments. I am hopeful that soon the issue would be resolved," said the CM.

Earlier, Khattar said the state's budget for 2021-22 would focus on education, health security, employment and self-reliance. The budget, to be presented in the state Assembly when the session starts next month, will take care of all sections of the society, Khattar, who also holds the finance portfolio said.

The CM said like last year, this year too the state budget 2021-22 would be prepared and

presented after holding discussions and seeking suggestions from MPs of the state.

After the meeting with the MPs of Haryana, Khattar said during the pre-Budget meeting, various discussions were held with the MPs regarding their requirements and expectations for the development of their respective constituencies.

The valuable suggestions given by the MPs would definitely be incorporated in the upcoming State Budget. Besides this, discussions were also held with MPs regarding increasing Haryana's participation in the Union Budget, informed the CM.

Himachal Governor takes a ride on Shimla-Kalka world heritage rail line

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 13 FEBRUARY

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Saturday took a ride in a rail car from Shimla to Kalka on the world heritage railway line.

During the journey, he stayed for a short period at Barog and visited the railway station and received information about this historical station.

The Governor and Lady Governor Vasantha Bandaru were welcomed at Barog by Station Superintendent Dharam Dutt Upadhyay.

The Governor visited the office building and tunnel and with keen interest attained knowledge regarding the same. This office building was built in 1902.

Upadhyay informed the Governor about the historical background of Barog station and also about Colonel Barog and British officer Harrington.

The Governor also enquired of the Nails Token Instrument system, with the help of which the train runs.



HP Governor Bandaru Dattatraya in a rail car on the Shimla-Kalka heritage railway line on Saturday.

SNS

The Governor said that when he was the Minister of State for Railways, he worked towards the promotion of heritage railway track.

"Shimla-Kalka railway track is an international heritage and is truly a center of attraction," he added.

He expressed satisfaction over the cleanliness and

maintenance of Barog railway station.

He said that this station should be further developed and additional facilities should be provided so that more and more tourists could visit this place and which would also give a further boost to the tourism activities in the state.

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

SHIRT TROUSER & JEANS SALE

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MEN & WOMEN

By Economy Sales: 45086168

ARROW ColorPlus PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE

• PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)

• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)

• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543

• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP

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

E-Auction Sale Notice

APPENDIX - IV A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties, 2021

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor (State Bank of India & Punjab National Bank), the Physical / Symbolic Possession mentioned below of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis on 02-03-2021 for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditor from Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors. The reserve price is mentioned below and the earnest money to be deposited is mentioned respectively.

Name of Borrower (B)/ Guarantor/s (G) / Corporate Guarantor/s (CG) with address/es	Address of Security charged covered under Auction	Reserve Price(RP)	EMD Amount 10% of The Reserve Price	Outstanding Dues for recovery of which properties are being sold	Date of E-Auction / Time for 60 minutes each	Date and time for submission of request letter of participation, KYC Documents, PAN Card, Proof of EMD etc.
M/s. Jagat Agro Commodities Pvt. Ltd	Industrial Land & Building plot measuring 42 Kanals and 4 Marlas situated at 38/39 Km Stone in the area of Village Rai, Distt. Sonipat in the name of M/s Shree Balaji Agro Industries vide registration no. 4093 dated 28.11.1991 (Physical Possession with the Bank)	₹ 1930.00 Lac	₹ 193.00 Lac	Outstanding Dues towards M/s Jagat Agro Commodities Pvt Ltd for recovery of which properties are being sold	02-03-2021 From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each.	On or before 25.02.2021 upto 4.00 P.M. personally (Hard Copy) and online through RTGS/NEFT.
		₹ 1.00 Lac		(1) Name of Bank : State Bank of India, Date of Demand Notice : 13.10.2016 Amount dues : Rs. 374,77,17,968.82 (as on 06-01-2018) plus future interest On contractual rate of interest from 07.01.2018 + expenses, cost, less recovery vide auction dated 31-01-2018 & 07-09-2018 & 10-12-2018, 05-01-2019, 06-01-2020, 21-01-2020 & 26-11-2020 + other charges thereon.		
				(2) Name of Bank : Punjab National Bank, Date of Demand Notice : 18.11.2016, Amount dues : Rs. 78,58,54,929.14 (as on 20.12.2017) plus future interest On contractual rate of interest from 21.12.2017 + expenses, cost, less recovery vide auction dated 31-01-2018 & 07-09-2018 & 10-12-2018, 05-01-2019, 06-01-2020, 21-01-2020 & 26-11-2020 + other charges thereon.		

Authorised Officer : Sh. K.S. Meena, Mob. No. 813033248 / 9814065356 Date/Time of on - site Inspection of Property 24-02-2021 from 12.00 Noon to 03.00 PM

The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT / RTGS in the Account No. 65156762491, in name of the beneficiary the Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SAM Branch-II, New Delhi, IFSC Code: SBIN0017891

Original physical copy of RTGS/NEFT acknowledged by remitting bank must be submitted to SBI Authorised office, Bidder must visit office in-person to submit bid with all original KYC Documents

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:

1. E-Auction is being held on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is Basis" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s C1India Pvt. Ltd. (Contact No.



Carnival parade inauguration in Panaji by Goa tourism minister Manohar Aagaonkar on Saturday. IANS

UP to withdraw lockdown violation cases: The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to withdraw cases registered against people for violation of the coronavirus lockdown guidelines, provided the complaints are not of "serious" nature. Uttar Pradesh has also become the first state in the country to take back cases that were registered for breaking Covid protocol. Cases were registered against over 2.5 lakh people. PTI

TETE-E-TETE



Parrot and a Crow taking a drink water from a water container in Amritsar on Saturday. IANS

Tainted CPM leader may join BJP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 FEBRUARY

There was a flutter in political circles on Saturday before the Assembly elections following the announcement of BJP state vice-president and MP Arjun Singh that the CPI-M leader of North 24 Parganas and elected panchayat member, Jakir Baluk, who was accused in Amdanga shooting case, will join the saffron party.

CPI-led panchayat samity member Jakir was one of the key accused in the shootout case in which three Trinamul Congress leaders and a CPI-M party worker were killed.

Party sources said he was maintaining a very close relationship with Singh for the past few weeks.

Jakir was a prime organiser of the CPI-M in this area.

Singh on Saturday announced that this CPI-M leader expressed his willingness to join the BJP and the party will induct him in its fold. Jakir, an influential leader of the CPI-M, was accused in a shootout case at Obdei village during the formation of Farabaria gram panchayat in 2018.

Several rounds of fire were exchanged and bombs were thrown following the clash of the CPI-M.

Jakir refused to comment. A CPI leader said that the BJP is now sheltering persons who are involved in the shootout case.

TENDER**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

SWAMI DAYANAND HOSPITAL
DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095

Expression of Interest

Medical Superintendent/SDN Hospital invites Expression of interest for Installation, commissioning, Operational training and maintaining for Conversion of MCH ward 1 into three Modular OT & Recovery Area on turnkey basis in Swami Dayanand Hospital.

All eligible bidders can participate in the expression of interest and download documents from EDMC website edmc.tenders.com. Other detailed specification and terms & condition of the expression of interest are available on above website. Submit the bid online only, any kind of manual documents will not be received except Tender fees. S.No. 1, Tender No: 16513, Name of Items: Installation, commissioning, Operational training and maintaining for Conversion of MCH ward 1 into three Modular OT & Recovery Area on turnkey basis.

Schedule: Sr. No. 1, Health Departmental Stage: Purchase and download of Tender Documents, Start date & Time: 16.02.2021 at 10:01 AM, Expiry date & Time: 09.03.2021 at 11:00 AM.

Sr. No. 2, Health Departmental Stage: Online bid preparation and Hash submission Start date & Time: 16.02.2021 at 10:01 AM, Expiry date & Time: 09.03.2021 at 12:00 PM.

Sr. No. 3, Health Departmental Stage: Technical and financial lock, Start date & Time: 09.03.2021 at 12:01 PM, Expiry date & Time: 09.03.2021 at 13:00 PM.

Sr. No. 4, Health Departmental Stage: Re-encryption of online bids, Start date & Time: 09.03.2021 at 13:01 PM, Expiry date & Time: 12.03.2021 at 11:00 AM.

Sr. No. 5, Health Departmental Stage: Technical bid opening, Start date & Time: 12.03.2021 at 11:01 AM, Expiry date & Time: 13.03.2021 at 11:00 PM.

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
SDN Hospital
R.O. No. 85/DPI/EDMC/2020-21
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
By Chief Engineer (Construction)-II, North Western Railway, Jodhpur through or on behalf of the concerned of India invites e-tenders under "Two packet system for the following work :- 1. Under NO DYCEC-II-JU-MTD-RKB-05, 2. Name of the work with its location:- Laying and linking of Broad Gauge main line, loop lines, spreading of ballast tamping of track, transportation of P w/w materials and other ancillary works from Km 521.740 to Km 578.700 (excluding Main Road to including Main Road) in connection with Rai ka Bazar-Begana Canal Project Phase-II. 3. Actual cost of work :- Rs. 18,33,29,958.21 4. Earnest Money to be deposited:- Rs 10,66,700.00. 5. Tender Closing date & Time:- 10.03.2021 upto 15:00 hrs. 6. Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filled up: www.reps.gov.in/, Email ID: dyce2jodhpur@gmail.com.
Please join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRailways)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FLOOD MECHANICAL****DIVISION Baramulla Khawaja Bagh**

Telefax No. 0195-235275 e-mail Id: xenfmdbaramulla@gmail.com

Subject: Manufacture, Supply, Laying, Fitting, Testing and Commissioning of 325mm inner dia HDPE Floaters for floating HDPE Pipes of Two No. Cutter Suction Dredges.

Ref:- This office Fresh Short Term e-NIT No. 18 to e- NIT No. 15 of 2020-21 Dated: 14/01/2021

Extension Notice 01

Due to poor response to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:

i. Clarification end date :- 15/02/2021 from 1600hrs

ii. Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date :- 17/02/2021 upto 1700 hrs

iii. Date and time of Bid opening :- 18/02/2021 at 1400 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original eNIT.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla

No. DIPK-12962/20
Dated 12-02-2021



Now people chosen by the masses will rule Jammu and Kashmir, not those born to kings and queens

HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

ATTACKING POLITICAL PARTIES IN KASHMIR

India

Sri Lanka says it scrapped port deal as Indian firm rejected terms

Sri Lankan govt has decided to run ECT as a fully-owned operation of the state-run ports authority



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, FEB 13

Sri Lanka has said it scrapped the trilateral deal with India and Japan to develop the Colombo Port's Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) as the Indian firm involved in the project refused to agree to its new terms.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office on 1 February said that his government has decided to run the Colombo Port's Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) as a fully-owned operation of the state-run ports authority.

Answering the Opposition's query in Parliament on Thursday on the deal, ports minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena said a Cabinet sub-committee appointed to examine the deal had proposed new terms.

"We entered talks from a favourable position to us, then that company refused to go ahead with our conditions," Abeygunawardena told Parliament, adding that the Indian company's refusal forced Sri Lanka to scrap the deal.

India, Japan and Sri Lanka had inked an agreement in 2019 on development of the terminal project.

"The governments of India, Sri Lanka and Japan had signed a memorandum of cooperation in May 2019 to develop

and operate the East Container Terminal of Colombo Port in a trilateral framework," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing in New Delhi on February 4, three days after Colombo cancelled the deal.

India, Japan and Sri Lanka had inked an agreement in 2019 on development of the terminal project.

"We sincerely believe that the development of infrastructure in Sri Lanka, in areas such as ports and energy, with foreign investment from India and Japan will be a mutually

beneficial proposition," he said.

Srivastava said the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo was in talks with the Lankan government on the issue.

On Friday, India said its interest to participate in the Colombo port project is a long standing one as most of the goods handled at the facility are from and to India.

"We had, in principle, agreed

from the Sri Lankan government in this regard," Srivastava said in New Delhi, evading a reply to a question whether Sri Lanka offered India a project to develop the western container terminal project in Colombo port instead of the ECT.

Srivastava further said: "Current government has, however, expressed a preference in engaging investors directly. I understand discussions are still underway."

The state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) signed a memorandum of cooperation in May 2019 with India and Japan to develop the ECT during the previous Sirisena government.

a memorandum of cooperation in May 2019 with India and Japan to develop the ECT during the previous Sirisena government.

The Colombo port trade unions opposed the proposal of investors from India and Japan buying 49 per cent stake in the ECT. They demanded the ECT to remain 100 per cent owned by the SLPA as opposed to the 51 per cent.

They claimed that the proposed deal with India's Adani Group was a sell-out of the ECT.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had declared that he wanted the India-Japan deal on the ECT to go ahead.

However, after a week of protest, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa agreed to scrap the deal, prompting India to demand Sri Lanka to abide by its commitment to the trilateral deal with it and Japan.

Japan has also conveyed its unhappiness with the Sri Lankan government.

Gold smuggling case: Two booked for attempting to attack Customs official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 13 FEBRUARY

Two people were taken into custody for allegedly attacking Customs Commissioner Sumit Kumar, who is probing into the Kerala gold smuggling case.

The incident happened on Thursday when the official was on his way to Karipur from Kalpetta in Wayanad district.

Following a complaint filed by Sumit Kumar, the Kondotty police have taken Mukund Jaseem and Thanseem into custody.

In his complaint to the police, Customs Commissioner Sumit Kumar had stated that some people travelling in a car and some in motorcycles followed his vehicle with intent to harm him, while he was travelling from Kalpetta in Wayanad district to Karipur airport on Thursday.

Kondotty police registered a case under IPC sessions 283 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation) and 279 (rash driving) and 120B of the Kerala Police Act in connection with the incident. The Customs Commissioner even revealed that this is not the first time he was targeted.

He and his staff had on multiple occasions faced attacks. "Such gangs tried to assault me three or four instances earlier too. The investigations into these instances haven't reached anywhere," said Kumar.

Sumit took to Facebook to reveal that the alleged attackers tried to make it look like an accident.

"The Syndicate tried to attack me on road and show it as an accident on my return back from Kalpetta, an FIR has been registered and CCP (Customs Commissionerate [Preventive]) units are also looking for the attackers," Sumit Kumar wrote.

The Syndicate tried to attack me on road and show it as an accident on my return back from Kalpetta, an FIR has been registered and CCP (Customs Commissionerate [Preventive]) units are also looking for the attackers," Sumit Kumar wrote.

Andhra Pradesh will get Rs 280.78 crore and Bihar Rs 1,255.27 crore for floods during the South-West monsoon.

Shah-led committee approves ₹3,113 crore for five states as disaster relief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday approved around Rs 3,113 crore to five states that faced natural disasters and pest attacks in 2020.

The states and union territory that will get the additional central assistance from the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh, a home ministry statement said.

The committee, under the chairmanship of the home minister, has approved the additional central assistance to the five states and UT, which were affected by floods, cyclones (Nivar and Burevi) and pest attack during 2020.

Andhra Pradesh will get Rs 63.14 crore for cyclone 'Nivar' and Rs 223.77 crore for cyclone 'Burevi' - a total Rs 286.91 crore.

The Union Territory of Puducherry will get Rs 9.91 crore for cyclone 'Nivar'. Madhya Pradesh will get Rs 1,280.18 crore for the pest attack during the Kharif season, the statement said.

The central government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) immediately after the calamities without waiting for the receipts of memorandum from the affected state governments.

Tamil Nadu will get Rs 63.14 crore for cyclone 'Nivar' and Rs 223.77 crore for cyclone 'Burevi' - a total Rs 286.91 crore.

While approving the additional central assistance, the home minister said the union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to help the people of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh who braved these natural disasters.

In addition, during the financial year 2020-21, till date the central government has released Rs 19,036.43 crore to 28 states from the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and Rs 4,409.71 crore to 11 states from NDRMF, the statement said.

The central government has

deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs)

immediately after the calamities without waiting for the receipts of memorandum from the affected state governments.

The statement said

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deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs)

immediately after the calamities without waiting for the receipts of memorandum from the affected state governments.

The statement said



Radio has a worldwide reach and this powerful and very cheap medium of communication is suitable for residents of rural and remote areas

RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT
HAILING RADIO AS EFFECTIVE MEDIUM TO REACH OUT TO MASSES

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 14 FEBRUARY 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A roadside vendor arranges rose flowers on the eve of Valentine's Day, in Bengaluru on Saturday.
IANS

Maoists killed in MP: Two Maoists, including a woman, were shot dead in an encounter with a joint team of the Madhya Pradesh Police and the state's anti-naxal 'Hawk Force' on Friday in the forests of Lalpur area in Mandla district. According to sources, the killed Maoists had a reward of Rs 1 lakh on their heads. SNS

NIA charges ex-J&K cop: The NIA on Saturday filed a supplementary charge-sheet against a former Jammu and Kashmir policeman, who deserted the force and joined the Pakistan-based terrorist group Hizbul Mujahideen, for his alleged involvement in attacking a CRPF convoy in 2019, an official said. PTI

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



Aditya Mathew
General Public is hereby informed that a boy named **Aditya Mathew**, S/o Jose J. Methew R/o 314, Asia House, K.G. Marg, New Delhi. Age: 17 years (now 24 years), Height: 5'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Eyes: Black, Hair: Small Black Wearing: Polo, Wrist Watch, Violet Colour Shirt, Khaki Pant and Black Sport Shoes in his feet has been kidnapped from his house on 24.10.2013 at 11.30 PM. In this regard a case FIR No. 181/13, U/s 363 IPC, dated 24.10.2013 has been registered at P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far, if any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

ACP
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
Crime Branch, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27892844, 9871288287,
9312143026
DP/76/Crime/2021



JAGATJIT INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number : L15520PB1944PLC001970

Registered Office: Jagatjit Nagar – 144 802, Distt. Kapurthala (Punjab)

Phone: (0181) 2783117 Fax: (0181) 2783118; E-mail: jil@jagatjit.com; Website: www.jagatjit.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS
FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter Ended 31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	11,557	11,041	7,117	32,682	19,022	27,331
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(72)	(309)	(1,377)	(644)	(4,309)	(6,973)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(72)	(309)	(1,377)	(644)	(4,309)	(4,140)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items from continuing operations)	(72)	(309)	(1,377)	(644)	(4,309)	(4,875)
5	Net Profit / (Loss) from discontinuing operations	(1)	(12)	(6)	(16)	(40)	(61)
6	Share of Profit/(Loss) of associates	(6)	(4)	(3)	(12)	2,774	477
7	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after discontinuing operations, minority interest and share of Profit/(Loss) from associates)	(79)	(325)	(1,386)	(672)	(1,575)	(4,459)
8	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(79)	(325)	(1,401)	(672)	(1,620)	(4,737)
9	Equity Share Capital	4,615	4,615	4,615	4,615	4,615	4,615
10	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year						(24,632)
11	Earning Per Share (of Rs 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (in Rs.)						
1. Basic		(0.19)	(0.75)	(3.17)	(1.54)	(3.61)	(10.22)
2. Diluted		(0.19)	(0.75)	(3.17)	(1.54)	(3.61)	(10.22)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					
		Quarter Ended 31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2020 (Unaudited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	11,557	11,041	7,117	32,682	19,022	27,331
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(72)	(309)	(1,375)	(644)	(4,307)	(6,970)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(72)	(309)	(1,375)	(644)	(4,307)	(4,102)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items from continuing operations)	(72)	(309)	(1,375)	(644)	(4,307)	(4,826)
5	Net Profit / (Loss) from discontinuing operations	(1)	(12)	(6)	(16)	(40)	(61)
6	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after discontinuing operations, minority interest and share of Profit/(Loss) from associates)	(73)	(321)	(1,381)	(660)	(4,347)	(4,887)
7	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(73)	(321)	(1,396)	(660)	(4,392)	(5,165)

Notes to the Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31.12.2020:

- The above results is an extract of detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with Stock Exchange under Regulations 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the Quarter and nine months ended 31.12.2020 is available on the Stock Exchange's website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's Website (www.jagatjit.com).
- Figures for the prior periods / year have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever required, to conform to the classification of the current period.
- The remarks/ qualifications made by the Statutory Auditors on the Financial Results as stated in their Limited Review Report are available on the Stock Exchange's website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's Website (www.jagatjit.com).

Place: New Delhi
Date : 13.02.2021

For JAGATJIT INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Sd/-
RAVI MANCHANDA
Managing Director

Radio has a worldwide reach and this powerful and very cheap medium of communication is suitable for residents of rural and remote areas

RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

HAILING RADIO AS EFFECTIVE MEDIUM TO REACH OUT TO MASSES

The Sunday Statesman

NEW DELHI, 14 FEBRUARY 2020

'PM wants to hand over entire agri biz to his pals'

Rahul Gandhi alleges that PM giving options of hunger, unemployment & suicide



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, 13 FEBRUARY

cent people, which includes farmers, small and medium businessmen, traders and labourers. Narendra Modi wants to give this entire business to his two friends. This is the objective of the farm laws," he claimed but did not name anyone.

"Narendra Modi said he is giving options but the options are: hunger, unemployment and suicide," he alleged.

Gandhi, wearing a Rajasthani sofa or turban, reached the rally venue driving a tractor with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotsara sitting with him.

The former Congress chief spoke while standing on a platform made of two tractor-trailers while the farmers sat or stood on tractor-trailers around the platform.

Later in another rally at Nagaur's Makrana, Gandhi said the backbone of the country is being broken, which started with demonetisation. Future is being snatched from the youth. In front of your eyes, the backbone of the country is being broken. It began with demonetisation, after which the GST/Gabbar Singh Tax was brought and small businesses were hit, Gandhi said in the farmers' rally. Farmers, labourers,

traders are being sidelined and the path is being cleared for two-three businessmen. During the coronavirus lockdown, labourers requested the prime minister to give them tickets to go home but he did not yield to it and waived loans of Rs 1.5 lakh crore of the rich, he alleged.

Gandhi said it was his responsibility to tell the truth and it is for the people to listen or not to listen.

In February last year, I had said 10-15 times that Bharat Mata is going to suffer drastic losses due to coronavirus. Farmers, labourers and the poor are going to be badly hit but 'press wale' (media) said he is not a farmer, he is anti-national, he said. Gandhi said he kept silence in Parliament as a mark of respect to 200 farmers who died during the agitation against the farm laws but not a single BJP MP stood for it.

The Speaker said I should give in writing. Now, I will give in writing to the Speaker that all members in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha should observe a two-minute silence, he said while expressing confidence that the Speaker will allow this. About the farm laws he said, The first law is about finalising the mandi system, the

Mahatma's grand daughter visits Ghazipur site: Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee on Saturday visited Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border to extend support to the farmers' movement against the Centre's contentious farm laws, according to a BKU statement.

The 84-year-old, who is also the chairperson of National Gandhi Museum, exhorted farmers to remain peaceful in their protest and urged the government to take care of the farming community.

She was joined by Gandhi Smarak Nidhi chairman Ramchandra Rahi, All-India Sarv Seva Sangha managing trustee Ashok Saran, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi director Sanjay Singh and National Gandhi Museum director A Annamalai.

second is about allowing unlimited hoarding and the third is about snatching the rights of farmers to go to courts," AICC general secretary Ajay Maken, chief minister Ashok Gehlot, state Congress president Govind Singh Dotsara and former deputy CM Sachin Pilot also addressed farmers.

Parliamentary panel on defence to visit Galwan, Pangong: Sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

The parliamentary standing committee on defence intends to visit the Galwan Valley and the Pangong lake in the eastern Ladakh region which has been witness to a violent stand-off between the troops of India and China, sources said. However, it may seek the permission before visiting the strategically-located areas, they said.

The 30-member committee, chaired by senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Jual Oram and of which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a member, intends to visit the eastern Ladakh region in the last week of May or June, the sources said on Friday.

Similar action will take place on the south bank of the lake as well, Singh said.

India has not "conceded" any territory to China by firming up an agreement on the disengagement process in Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, and other outstanding "problems" including in Delsang, Hot Springs ad Gogra will be taken up at the upcoming talks between military commanders of the two countries, the defence ministry said on Friday. The statement by the ministry came hours

in the north and south banks of Pangong lake that mandates both sides to cease forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

On Thursday, defence minister Rajnath Singh made a detailed statement in Parliament on the disengagement pact. According to the agreement, China has to pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank while the Indian personnel will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region.

Similar action will take place on the south bank of the lake as well, Singh said.

Meanwhile, Union minister Anurag Thakur asserted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has strengthened its defence sector and even "forced" China to buckle down. Addressing women entrepreneurs at a Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha event, the Union Minister of State for Finance also claimed that the Congress did not do much for the defence sector during its 10-year rule.

after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government has "ceded" Indian territory to China and raised questions over the agreement on the disengagement process.

The ministry also dubbed as "categorically false" the assertion that Indian territory is up to Finger 4 in the Pangong Tso area, adding the permanent posts of both sides in the area are "longstanding and well-established".

"India has not conceded any territory as a result of this agreement. On the contrary, it has enforced observance and respected for LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo," the ministry.

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Addressing women entrepreneurs at a Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha event, the Union Minister of State for Finance also claimed that the Congress did not do much for the defence sector during its 10-year rule.

Gangster Act invoked against SP MLA Hasan, mother in UP

Coastal concern

Even as Indian and Chinese troops disengage along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, there's growing concern about China's militarisation of its maritime authority in the South China Sea which will have an impact on the geopolitics of the larger Indo-Pacific region. On 1 February, new China Coast Guard (CCG) laws came into effect which provide a regulatory framework for China's law enforcement operations in areas under its maritime jurisdiction. Till 2018, China's coast guard operated under a civilian agency but then the Central Military Commission took over. The message was clear: Coordination between the PLA Navy, CCG and the People's Armed Forces Maritime Militia to advance Chinese claims especially in the South China Sea (SCS) would be the name of the game. As a recent report by leading think-tank Gateway House points out, China not only has the largest navy in the world in terms of numbers of ships, but also the largest Coast Guard. "Unsurprisingly, global anxieties have risen with the operationalising of the new laws," says the report. India's worry is, if anything, even more pressing.

For there is wide consensus among strategic experts that the new CCG laws have left the term "jurisdiction" geographically undefined, creating ambiguity over its applicability in disputed maritime zones. This is precisely the playbook adopted by Beijing along the LAC, so a feeling of *déjà vu* in South Block would not be misplaced. According to the Gateway House report, the move "gives the CCG greater latitude for grey zone activities like attacking third-country fishing vessels, and creates uncertainty for smaller nations in the region... The ambiguity in the CCG's jurisdictional limits, and China's appetite for grey zone operations, has increased the likelihood of a confrontation between CCG and warships of other nations within the SCS." Vietnam, Philippines, and Japan are among the nations in the region which have been victims of China flexing its maritime might. Vietnam has in the past urged India to stand its ground on the exploration of two oil blocks it has inked an agreement with ONGC Videsh for ~ in the face of China claiming the blocks for itself. The Philippines has been the worst sufferer but the regime in Manila has pivoted away from Washington and towards Beijing lured by economic benefits while Japan has been actively raising the issue of aggressive Chinese maritime claims in the Quad. If New Delhi wants a second front in what is likely to be a long-running battle of attrition with China, reclaiming its historical role of being the "net security provider in the Indo-Pacific" is certainly a way to do it. A possible Quad+France architecture would have the heft, if structured sensibly, to enable a rules-based Indo-Pacific region including in the South China Sea. But such a strategy must adhere to a cardinal principle if it is to succeed: Smaller nations in the region whose economies are dependent on China should not be pressurised to take a tough stand against Beijing; the heavy lifting has to be done by the biggies.

Home discomfiture

It perhaps is just as well for the cricketers in Chennai's bio-secure bubble that the second Test against England was fixed for a Saturday start after the Tuesday conclusion of the first, which India lost to be left somewhat unexpectedly playing catch-up. When the series shifts to Ahmedabad for two more Tests, the combatants will be obliged to familiarise themselves with another set of Covid-19 restrictions ~ mild or severe ~ but the fact that India, in Australia, and England, in Sri Lanka, were also made to endure life in isolation would appear considerably to have ratcheted up the psychological pressure on them. So "the-faster-the-better" could well be a functional principle, in hopes of a quick getaway. And India confront a new reality in that, as the global reaction to England's victory in the first Test drove home, they are the team to have a go at in the wake of the stunning series triumph they pulled off down under. The current contests had initially been previewed in terms of their centrality to the World Test Championship table equations ~ they are important enough still ~ but India's defeat in the first Test bunged in sub-plots aplenty. Kevin Pietersen's I-told-you-so tweet in Hindi rubbed it in quite unmistakably, serving to ensure greater popular curiosity for the second Test than might have been possible otherwise. But there is also a raw hicktown feel to the Pietersen natter, especially his warning against excessive celebrations after the triumph in Australia, which provokes questions about his self-proclaimed prescience. Did he know in advance how Chepauk's wicket would be? Did he anticipate Joe Root's correct call at the toss? Was he sure that the quality of the balls would leave the hosts bristling? Did he really know that England would simply bat India out of the match in the first innings itself? Pietersen alone can come up with the answers but hollow attention-seeking is a new social media aspect of normality which, quite ironically, reduced an impressive array of erstwhile superstars to clownish levels during the Australia series. Of much greater importance is how India propose to deal with themselves now. The wicket, the ball and, of course, the toss are beyond their control.

Having vowed a fightback, though, they have to make sure that they do not flop with the bat again. Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane will be counted on to salvage their reputations after, euphemistically speaking, failing to make themselves useful in the first match. While Ravichandran Ashwin will continue to be the lead spinner, Kuldeep Yadav need not be cold-storaged with an inflexible insistence on a putative need for theoretical variety, even if both bring the ball in to the right-hander. If India set themselves the right side up in Australia after taking the nasty toss in Adelaide, they should be all buck and ginger at home too.

Intimate Selections

Gluck's poems centre on relationships, they centre on responses to the non-human world; the empirical and the epistemic are fused seamlessly in her poems, so protagonists from the Greek classics blend in with the contemporary American landscape and soulscape, braided with a sense of universal humanism and deep empathy for sentient life-forms

On 21 January 2021, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. The inauguration ceremony included the reading of the poem, "The Hill We Climb" by the American National Youth Poet Laureate, 22-year-old Amanda Gorman, who instantly grabbed the attention of netizens worldwide. Gorman, an African American poet born in California, read her poem with confidence and youthful fervour. Recently Michelle Obama interviewed Gorman and complimented her for succeeding in making poetry seem "cool".

The following few lines from Gorman's poem that has gone viral reveal not just her passionate commitment to a cause, but prove how poetry can resonate with clarity and lyricism and instantly touch the hearts and minds of the people. Here is a brief excerpt from the poem she read at the inauguration:

"... We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy And this effort very nearly succeeded But while democracy can be periodically delayed it can never be permanently defeated In this truth In this faith we trust..."

However, I was a bit surprised that Louise Gluck, the first American woman poet, to have won the Nobel Prize in literature in 2020, was not invited to read a poem at the same inaugural event. Perhaps, Gluck's nuanced interiorized poetic style, a style diametrically opposite to Gorman's, would have been difficult for a diverse audience to respond to so readily. If Gorman's poetry was "cool" Gluck's poems could well be considered "uncool". One can well wonder whether Gluck's lines in her poem, "Snowdrops" included in *The Wild Iris* for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992, would have created the same impact with the audience as Gorman's had done. Gluck had written:

"... I did not expect to survive, earth suppressing me. I didn't expect to waken again, to feel in damp earth my body able to respond again, remembering after so long how to open again in the cold light of earliest spring ~ afraid, yes, but among you again crying yes risk joy in the raw wind of the new world"

Born in 1943, Louise Gluck has published twelve collections of poetry and some volumes of essays on poetry. All are characterized by deep subjectivity. Childhood and family life, the close relationship with parents and siblings are iterated often in her poetry. Gluck's poems centre on relationships, they centre on responses to the non-human world; the empirical and the epistemic are fused seamlessly in



her poems, so protagonists from the Greek classics blend in with the contemporary American landscape and soulscape, braided with a sense of universal humanism and deep empathy for sentient life-forms.

Stating that Gluck's poetry resembles the poems of Emily Dickinson, the Swedish Academy evaluated her poetic contribution by stating, "But even if Gluck would never deny the significance of the autobiographical background, she is not to be regarded as a confessional poet. Gluck seeks the universal, and in this she takes inspiration from myths and classical motifs, present in most of her works. The voices of Dido, Persephone and Eurydice ~ the abandoned, the punished, the betrayed ~ are masks for a self in transformation, as personal as in this faith we trust..."

In The Poetry of Louise Gluck: A Thematic Introduction, literary critic Daniel Morris had observed, "Gluck's poetry is also notable for what it avoids." Morris argued that "Gluck's writing most often evades ethnic identification, religious classification, or gendered affiliation. In fact, her poetry often negates critical assessments that affirm identity politics as criteria for literary evaluation. She resists canonization as a hypothecated poet (that is, as a 'Jewish-American' poet, or a 'feminist' poet, or a 'nature' poet), preferring instead to retain an aura of iconoclasm, or in-betweenness".

So Gluck's poetry projects a personal and philosophical paradigm. She is not interested in intersectionality, principally race, class and colour, but interventions of gender concerns are present in some of her poems, but Gluck is not a feminist poet.

Elaborating on this rather insular essence that inspired her to write poetry, Gluck herself observed: "The poems to which I have, all my life, been most ardently drawn are poems of the kind I have described, poems of intimate selection or collusion, poems to which the listener or reader makes an essential contribution, as recipient of a confidence or an outcry, sometimes of a co-conspirator. 'I'm nobody,' Dickinson says. 'Are you nobody, too? Then there's a pair of us ~ don't tell!'"

In the 1960s Gluck did not attend regular college due to ill health. Her first book of poems was published in 1968. Interestingly, mainstream politics and social changes were not overtly represented in her poetry written during this period. She does not refer to the turbulence in contemporary politics and society such as the Vietnam war, the assassination of Martin Luther King and John F Kennedy, the explosive second women's liberation movement, and thereafter the Gulf War, Iraq war and the confrontations with Syria, North Korea and Afghanistan, among others.

The only poem that debunks this observation is October, written in response to the



SANJUKTA DASGUPTA

The writer is former Dean of Arts, Calcutta University and Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi

This assertion of her exclusivity and exceptionalism, sometimes can be attributed to narcissistic elitism. Gluck's concluding remarks in her short Nobel Prize acceptance speech on 10 December 2020 seem remarkable.

She stated with proud conviction, "In art of the kind to which I was drawn, the voice or judgment of the collective is dangerous. The precariousness of intimate speech adds to its power and the power of the reader, through whose agency the voice is encouraged in its urgent plea or confidence. What happens to a poet of this type when the collective, instead of apparently exiling or ignoring him or her, applauds and elevates? I would say such a poet would feel threatened, outmaneuvered."

Gluck added, "Those of us who write books presumably wish to reach many. But some poets do not see reaching many in spatial terms, as in the filled auditorium. I believe that in awarding me this prize, the Swedish Academy is choosing to honour the intimate, private voice, which public utterance can sometimes augment or extend, but never replace."

It is therefore small wonder that she would speak unreservedly when asked how she felt when she was informed that she had won the Nobel Prize for literature. So, Gluck's response to the reporter of the New York Times highlights both race and colour as remarkable issues, but significantly, not gender, "Completely flabbergasted that they would choose a white American lyric poet. It doesn't make sense."

Now my street is covered with journalists. People keep telling me how humble I am. I'm not humble. But I thought, I come from a country that is not thought fondly of now, and I'm white, and we've had all the prizes. So it seemed to be extremely unlikely that I would ever have this particular event to deal with in my life."

Distancing herself from stadium poets and perhaps indirectly pointing towards the committed lyric poems and songs of Bob Dylan, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2016, among many others, Gluck stated: "I was drawn, then as now, to the solitary human voice, raised in lament or longing. And the poets I returned to as I grew older were the poets in whose work I played, as the elected listener, a crucial role. Intimate, seductive, often furtive or clandestine. Not stadium poets..." So, in her intimate, deeply subjective and philosophical response to life and its experiences, Gluck, the thoughtful lyric poet writes in her so far last published volume of poems *Faithful and Virtuous Night* ~

"I think here I will leave you. It has come to seem there is no perfect ending. Indeed, there are infinite endings. Or perhaps, once one begins, there are only endings."

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

ASIAN VOICES

Intergenerational viral disease

Lockdowns were conceived to protect families from getting infected with Covid-19, the viral disease that has assumed pandemic proportions. While adults were allowed to leave home to work or meet the family's basic necessities, seniors and children were prohibited from leaving home unless armed with a health clearance and on an urgent matter. Such an extreme form of "social distancing" for those seen as most vulnerable to the virus is believed to have kept the number of Covid-19 cases in the country to a manageable level. But it has also spawned a "disease" that, while not new, is now proliferating wildly and mutating into various forms.

That disease is violence against women and children, and its most alarming form is the sexual abuse of minors, which has found its most efficient and dangerous expression in what is known as OSEC, or online sexual exploitation of children. Quarantined at home, with plenty of idle time save for an hour or two of online classes, and with a plethora of devices at hand ~ from cell phones to tablets, to laptops and desktops ~ Filipino children are increasingly vulnerable to sexual predators on the internet. Most shockingly and dismally, in many cases, the children's exploitation is being carried out by the people who are supposed to protect them and nurture them: their parents. Lotta Sylvander, speaking for Unicef, says that the "main perpetrators" are family members, with many citing the element of "nonphysical contact" as an excuse since the abusers don't touch their

child, making it a "safe" transaction. According to the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC), since February 2019, 320 children have been rescued from operators engaged in OSEC, with 77 suspects or facilitators charged and four offenders convicted. But since the lockdowns were imposed last year, the US-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has reported a 209-percent (or more than double) increase in cyber-tip reports for the Philippines relating to OSEC. Economic hardships arising from the quarantine have also led to an upsurge in OSEC, with the Anti-Money Laundering Council reporting a 156-percent increase in suspicious transactions linked to OSEC valued at P113 million.

Today, says Unicef, the country is considered to be the "epicenter" of the livestream sexual abuse trade and the "number one global source of child pornography." Per a Channel News Asia report, the justice department receives more than 3,000 reports from overseas of possible cybersex trafficking cases every month. In response, the government has linked arms with private groups and international bodies to address OSEC in the country. Recently, the National Telecommunications Commission issued show cause orders to 47 internet service providers (ISPs) over alleged violations of the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009. The law mandates ISPs to inform civilian law enforcement agencies upon discovery of any child porn materials running through their servers, while ensuring that their company's hardware and software are updated with the technology needed to block web pages that promote or show images of children naked or posed provocatively, if not engaged in actual sex acts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Unprecedented police action

SIR, I refer to the news reading as, 'Left-Cong supporters clash with police' (12 Feb 21) and would like to say that the atrocities resorted to by the police to disperse the peaceful agitation of the DYFI and SFI activists was un-precedented and reminiscent of the tyrannical attacks unleashed by the police of the British rulers upon the freedom fighters of our country and the state's police force who were responsible for the brutal attacks upon the peaceful gatherings might not have had the foresight to realize that yesterday's conduct of the police will have far-reaching impact having its reflections in more than one things in the days not too far.

It was absolutely in conformity with democratic principles intending to hand over a memorandum to the Chief Minister of the state drawing her attention to vital issues like un-employment, education and jobs for the thousands of un-employed youths but the police did not allow

them to do so rather resorted to brutal lathi charge causing serious injuries to the young demonstrators including the young girls who participated in the agitation.

I feel that the intellectuals of Bengal who condemned the police attack upon the farmers at Singhi Border should also express their sympathy for the young boys and girls who were subjected to brutal attacks by the police for holding a peaceful demonstration. One or two photographs published in today's Statesman

are the testimony as to how police dealt with the demonstrators.

Yours, AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 12 February.

AMERICA & DEMOCRACY

SIR, This refers to Naresh Koirala's article 'America is no longer a beacon for democracy' (10 Feb). What Trump provoked his supporters to indulge in, never had happened in American history.

Actually America in the name

of democracy displays a double standard. On the one

hand it wants to retain its

own internal democracy at any cost, on the other, it has helped erect many autocratic regimes elsewhere to keep its global supremacy intact. No doubt, Trump and his supporters have tarred the image of democratic America.

If America, which is perceived as the nerve centre of global democracy, gets carried away by its top leader in such a chaotic and autocratic way, who do the other democratic regimes look at if they fall victims of such disturbances that occurred in the Capitol?

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 12 February.



SKIN CONTACT

SIR, Apropos your sensational report 'Skin to skin contact: SC stays Bombay HC order' (January 28) I would like to comment that the Bombay High Court was probably err in holding that the offence committed by the accused cannot be termed as sexual assault, but it did constitute the offence of outraging the modesty of a woman punishable under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code. But in the instant case, the victim is a minor girl and since the section speaks all about the modesty of 'Women' and the difference between a young girl and woman is known to us, the Section 354 will not be applicable here. The investigating officer concerned in the case had in my opinion, rightly booked the accused under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The Bombay High Court was also err in holding that mere groping the victim's breast without removing her clothes will not fall under the definition of sexual assault. The intention of the accused should have been the primary concern of the court. Nowhere in the POCSO Act, has there been any mention about the skin to skin contact to constitute the offence of sexual assault or harassment.

I do not however, agree with the Attorney General KK Venugopal when he submitted before the bench that the judgement under reference was likely to set a dangerous precedent. We cannot expect the court to act in a mechanical manner only to avoid facing social outcry. The lady judge of the Bombay High Court had at least applied her judicial mind and handed-down the judgement.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 10 February.



Lessons from Uttarakhand tragedy

BHARAT DOGRA

The recent disaster in Uttarakhand has once again demonstrated that we need to be very cautious in causing any further aggravation of increasing stresses and threats in the Himalayan region. In fact, the earlier and greater tragedy in the state in 2013, as well as other disasters in other parts of the Himalayan region have conveyed a similar message. But unfortunately, the authorities and decision-makers have generally chosen to ignore these warnings.

Basically, these recent tragedies underscore the exceptionally intense and somewhat untimely trends in these times of climate change. In the latest disaster, for example, such fury was not anticipated in the first week of February, and even took some experts by surprise. But such events can no longer be treated as unexpected in these times of climate change, and this is one clear lesson we must learn.

The second important lesson, delivered on an even more massive scale in the 2013 disaster than in the present one, is that nature's fury can be aggravated with very serious and tragic results if disruptive activities are carried out on a vast scale in the ecologically sensitive and geologically fragile Himalayan region. In 2013 and in 2021, we have seen such aggravations by indiscriminate and very large-scale proliferation of hydel projects, that came up ignoring warnings.

The projects affected this time are relatively smaller ones. God forbid that any serious disaster implicating the colossal Tehri Dam Project should ever take place. Not leaving everything to God, if we take a rational and scientific approach to the safety of people, then we cannot ignore the well-documented reality that some prominent experts, including those represented in officially appointed committees, and in fact even official committees themselves, have repeatedly referred to the extremely high hazard potential of this dam.

In fact, this project was rejected by the officially constituted Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) on grounds of safety (as well as other adverse impacts) but was pushed nevertheless by powerful interests



and finally cleared on the basis of manipulated evidence.

Although the EAC Report examined all important aspects of the Tehri Dam project (TDP), it gave its opinion that safety factors alone are important enough to stop the clearance of this project. It said: "Taking note of the unacceptable risk involved, extremely poor status of readiness to deal with the hazards and unprecedented damage in case of a breach or overtopping, the Committee reiterates its considered view that it would be irresponsible to clear the Tehri dam as currently proposed."

More specifically, the committee said: "Therefore, considering the almost total certainty that a strong earthquake of magnitude greater than 8.0 on Richter scale will occur in the region during the life of the dam, and considering that the dam design does not provide for such an earthquake, the Committee has no option but to conclude that construction of Tehri dam, as proposed, involves totally unjustified risks. The

magnitude of the disaster that would follow, if the dam collapsed, strengthens the Committee's opinion that approval to the construction of this dam, as proposed, and at the present site, would be irresponsible."

Now, there should be very high level of safety precautions taken up constantly in the case of the Tehri Dam project as well as other hazardous projects. However, in times of climate change we do not know the extent to which a flood or related disaster may shape up. In addition, we must contend with the disturbing fact that the Tehri Dam Project may not be able to withstand the highest level of earthquake which is a possibility in the region.

Keeping in view these possibilities, should not the decommissioning of this highly hazardous project be considered as a real option? After this project was cleared and constructed in an arbitrary fashion, climate change has become a much more pressing reality. Disasters involving much smaller projects in the Himalayan

region have led to several thousand deaths, not to speak of enormous other damage.

A question that we cannot ignore in view of what has been already stated by officially constituted independent committees is what would happen in case of failure of a Tehri dam. We should always pray for the best, but not ignoring scientific reason and factual evidence, we should be prepared for the worst. Dams have been decommissioned for much less severe reasons in several countries (at the rate of about 50 per year in the USA) in recent times. So why not here, when this is potentially a question of saving several hundred thousand lives, as indicated by the government's own expert committees.

We already have past experience of dam failures that proved very expensive, for example of Henan region of China where in 1975 failure of the Banqiao and Shimantan dams led to an estimated 171,000 deaths and nearly 11 million people losing their homes.

What about ongoing and proposed constructions of many other mega dams and other high-risk projects in the Himalayan region? Learning from recent disasters, clearly a re-evaluation of these projects based on safety and environmental concerns should be on the agenda.

This is important not just for India but for all countries of the Himalayan region. These countries should cooperate with each other to avoid high-risk projects in the Himalayan region.

Another lesson is to take special care of the safety of migrant and other workers employed in construction projects in the Himalayan region as they have become victims in several disasters, both because of working and living in very risky conditions and also because of their lack of familiarity with Himalayan disaster situations.

The writer is a journalist and author. His recent books include *Planet in Peril* and *Protecting Earth For Children*.

POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR

Trump and the Hastings trial



What is common between former U.S. President Donald Trump and the first British Governor-General to India, Warren Hastings? The simple answer is their impeachment after they left office.

The U.S. prosecutors invoked the trial of Hastings in their arguments against Trump this week. Citing the example of Hastings' case in the eighteenth century, the lead prosecutor Representative Jamie Raskin argued in the U.S. Senate that, "The first point comes from English history. And it would have been immediately obvious to anyone familiar with that history that former officials could be held accountable for their abuses while in office".

Who was Warren Hastings, and why is his case used as a precedent in the Trump impeachment two and a half centuries later? Hastings was an Englishman who rose from humble beginnings and, at the age of 17, joined the East India Company as a clerk in India. Impressed with his hard work, Robert Clive recommended him as the British Resident in Mysore. He then rose to become the first Governor-General of Bengal and had a big role in consolidating British hold in India.

But soon, wary of criticism at home about his style of functioning, Hastings resigned and went back to England in 1785. His most significant detractor, statesman Edmund Burke, who was a Member of Parliament, was keen on Hastings'

impeachment. So he was impeached after he quit office. While the House of Commons held him guilty the House of Lords acquitted him after a seven-year trial.

Referring to this, Jamie Raskin said, "It was the impeachment of Warren Hastings, the former governor-general of the British colony of Bengal, and a corrupt guy. The framers of the Constitution knew all about it, and they strongly supported the impeachment. The Hastings case was invoked by name at the convention." He asserted that Hastings' case played a crucial role in the framing of the American Constitution.

There is a background to the impeachment. Hastings had taken

specific experimental measures like revenue settlement with the highest bidders, the appointment of a Board of Revenue, and substitution of supervisors by Collectors. His reforms mainly consisted of four areas. They were to deal with the revenue administration, reform of the judiciary, settlement of land revenue, and commercial reforms. His judicial reforms had laid the foundations of the Indian judicial system. His timely help to the Madras and Bombay Government consolidated the British interests in Madras and Bombay. He became fluent in Bengali and had an excellent working knowledge of Urdu and Persian. He liked Sanskrit. "I love India a little more than my own country", he is

reported to have said.

Hastings was held guilty on 22 counts, including misconduct during his time in Calcutta. Edmund Burke took two full days to read the charges against Hastings in the House of Commons. The others were personal corruption, misuse of authority, and improper execution of Indians. At the end of his arguments, Burke told the House of Commons, "I therefore conclude, what you all conclude, that this body (the East India company), being totally perverted from the purposes of its institution, is utterly incorrigible..."

Burke knew that the House of Lords would never convict Hastings, for the King, the government, and several Lords supported him. But

Burke effectively damaged the reputation of Hastings. The case ended with a dismissal of all charges against Hastings. He received a pension from the Company and lived till 1818. After his impeachment trial, the disheartened Hastings was reported to have said, "I gave you all and you have rewarded me with confiscation, disgrace and a life of impeachment."

Why did the British Parliament try Hastings when he had already left his job? Historians say that it was perhaps for preventing him from holding any office in the future and setting an example for a severe breach of public trust. History judged Hastings better, and in later years, he regained his stature.

Eventually, the lessons of the Hastings and Trump trials show that impeachment is an inherently political tool. Trump, even after stepping down from office has his core supporters despite all the charges against him. He was charged with instigating his supporters to create violence and attack the Capitol where confirmation of the Biden election was taking place. Right now the U.S. Senate hears his impeachment.

Historically only three U.S. presidents have been formally impeached by Congress—Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Donald Trump. Richard Nixon resigned before he could be impeached. Trump has the distinction of being impeached twice during his single term. Importantly, no president has been dethroned from office. Trump faces two actual charges. They are of abusing his office and obstructing Congress. This weekend may decide his fate.

100 YEARS AGO

LEAVE ON AVERAGE SALARY

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - It has puzzled officers, under Indian leave rules, to know why the concession of furlough on average salary has not been extended to them, surely, if ever there was a concession which would cost Government nothing it is this. In fact, it is an advantage both to Government and the officer. If a man is due eight months' leave, on half pay, and commutes to four months on full pay; Government pays him just the same amount, but has his services back to work four months sooner. The officer scores, because if he gets four months on full pay he can afford to take leave, otherwise he goes on working and crocks up. This is no exaggeration. There are thousands of officers who have never taken furlough, because they cannot afford it. Government cannot get the best out of men with such drudgery; especially when they are labouring under a strong sense of injustice.

ANTI HUMBUG.

THE BURRA BAZAR "GOONDAS"

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - It is to be noted with satisfaction that the police officers have been active in dealing with alleged goondas. Recent events during the past few months had filled the public mind with a feeling of insecurity and helplessness. But thanks to the efforts of the police officers of the Northern Section of the town, the arrests of a number of alleged goondas effected recently have brought considerable relief to the residents of these parts. It is to be hoped that the police will continue their activities with heart and vigour till the town is completely cleared of these bad elements. There doubtless remain a number of gambling dens still to be dealt with. The police ought to have no rest until they have broken up the goonda-manufacturing factories.

BURRA BAZAR RESIDENTS.
Calcutta.

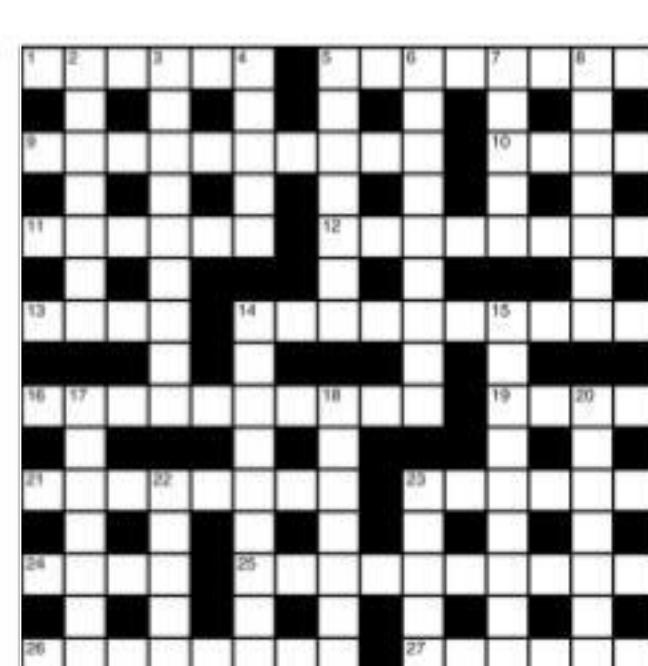
EUROPEAN ASSISTANTS & THE TEA CRISIS

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - At the present time one reads and hears a lot about provision being made for tea garden coolies who are likely to be thrown out of work by the closing down of estates that are unable to carry on. Government is going to employ them on various useful works, and will no doubt pay them liberally for what they do. But, so far, I have heard no mention of any corresponding scheme for the unfortunate Europeans who, through no fault of their own, will be out of a job. They will include men who in many cases have put in years of good work, and who have invested their little all in the Province, and others who have not been long enough out to save anything worth speaking of. What to be the immediate future of these men and their families - whether out here or at Home?

SYMPATHETIC.

CROSSWORD



SOLUTION FOR 07 FEBRUARY

SECURE	HOTSPOTS			
C O A	U P P E			
R U N N I N G	A S S O R T E D			
A F C B T I O G	M A R T I N E T	A L L U R E		
B O D N W E T S	B R O N C H	E V E R Y		
L O N G _ B E C A U S E	E T C F R S C B	E T C F R S C B		
P O N I A R D B O Z O	B S I T A N M L	B S I T A N M L		
A M O U N T I N S O L E N T	N U C L T V B H	N U C L T V B H		
G E R M I N A L V I R A G O	U C D I C C L	U C D I C C L		
P R E S E N C E H E C K L E				

ACROSS

- 1 Rich cake found back in imperial Ceylon (6)
- 5 Knowing quality, island invested in SA currency (8)
- 9 Knock back drink in old church and head for bishop's office (10)
- 10 Value reflected in welcoming a wronged brother (4)
- 11 Gadget used in steamship to make furniture (6)
- 12 Spray with greater frequency to cover rumpled suit (8)
- 13 In seed case find large bluebottle (4)
- 14 Oily substance from tree put in ground with nitrogen (10)
- 16 Thrown together, German joins the Italian in bar (5-5)
- 19/50 Dreadful mistake: error banning old Labour leader (4,7)
- 21 Gutters spout from glory age renovated (8)
- 23 Give aid to guitar player having missed intro (6)
- 24 Black marketeer dignitaries turned around (4)
- 25 Radical junior in charge too

DOWN

- 26 High to catch? (10)
- 26 Itching to see Indian city with unlimited enchantments (8)
- 27 Archipelago or island around north (6)
- 2/4 Endless trash with politico orchestrating unrest Stateside (7,5)
- 21 Cutters spout from glory age renovated (8)
- 23 Give aid to guitar player having missed intro (6)
- 24 Black marketeer dignitaries turned around (4)
- 25 Radical junior in charge too
- 8 Smile after tea shows anything but delight (7)
- 14 Toy-boy with gun splattered right-wing commentator (4,5)
- 15 Develops liking for Calvin Klein? Assess situation (4,5)
- 17 Test regularly applied for instance (7)
- 18 Sloth and one near it on the move (7)
- 3 Sailors trick the German one doing runner (9)
- 4 See 2
- 5 See 19 Across
- 6/7 Perhaps let in respected person coming to office (9-5)

NO 28825

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



With air travel emerging as a preferred mode of travel due to safety, efficiency & time saving, we are almost touching pre-Covid numbers

HARDEEP SINGH PURI
UNION CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

Growth forecast: Expectations that the country's GDP would record growth in the third and fourth quarters of financial year 2020-21 are getting stronger on account of various reforms undertaken by the government in the last ten months, PHDCCI said on Saturday. It said out of the 10 indicators of QET (quick economic trends) of economic and business activity tracked by PHDCCI, nine have performed positively. The Indian economy shrank by a record 23.9 per cent in June quarter and saw a contraction of 7.5 per cent in the second quarter.

PTI

Forex reserves fall: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by a massive \$6.24 billion to reach \$583,945 billion in the week ended 5 February, RBI data showed. In the previous week, the reserves had touched a record high of \$590,185 billion after rising by \$4,852 billion. In the reporting week ended 5 February, the decline in the forex kitty was mainly on account of a fall in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCAs decreased by \$4.88 billion to \$542,338 billion, weekly data from the RBI showed.

PTI

Morepen Labs profit: Drug maker Morepen Labs has reported a 120 per cent growth in net profit for the quarter ended 31 December 2020 at Rs 23.79 crore on account of better margin realisation during the quarter. Net revenue during the quarter stood at Rs 310.26 crore as against Rs 234.66 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, registering a rise of 32 per cent, the company said in a Press release. SNS

PTI

Silverglades investment: Realty firm Silverglades will invest around Rs 500 crore to develop a mixed-use project in Gurugram as part of expansion plan. Gurugram-based Silverglades will develop 260 luxury apartments and 3 lakh sq ft of commercial retail space in this mixed-use project Hightown. "We are developing a new luxury housing project. There is very limited availability of luxury housing units in the heart of the city. We are targeting to cater to this need," Silverglades Group CEO Anubhav Jain said. SNS

PTI

CEAT brand ambassador: Tyre maker CEAT has roped in actor Rana Daggubati as its brand ambassador for promoting the "Puncture Safe" range of bike tyres. As part of an integrated marketing campaign across all five southern states, Daggubati will feature in the new commercial for these tyres to be aired across TV and digital platforms, CEAT said in a release. The company has launched the tyres for motorcycles in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it said in the Press release.

PTI

'Reform steps to help India become \$5-trillion economy'

Economy is expected to grow at 15.5 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22: CEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Reform measures announced in the Budget 2021-22 will play a big role in India becoming a \$5-trillion economy and beyond, chief economic adviser K V Subramanian said.

He also said the country's economy is expected to grow at 15.5 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22 and contract 1-2 per cent depending on what the inflation actually might be for the year ending March 2021.

"The Budget 2021-22 has laid the foundation for the \$5-trillion economy... It (reform measures announced in the Budget) will play a big role in India achieving the \$5-trillion economy target and beyond," he said at a virtual event.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisioned making India a \$5-trillion economy and a global economic powerhouse by 2024-25.

"This year, I think it (GDP growth) might be around (-)



FOCUS ON GROWTH MUST CONTINUE

» "The Budget 2021-22 has laid the foundation for the \$5-trillion economy... It (reform measures announced in the Budget) will play a big role in India achieving the \$5-trillion economy target and beyond," he said at a virtual event.

» Noting that India's potential rate of growth is 6.5-7.5 per cent, Subramanian said the country must continue to focus on growth.

Noting that India's potential rate of growth is 6.5-7.5 per cent, Subramanian said the country must continue to focus on growth.

The CEA said the IMF has projected the country's economic growth even higher than the Economic Survey's growth projection at 11.5 per cent and this is all on real terms.

"So, if we include about 4 per cent inflation, then 15.5 per cent GDP growth can be expected in the nominal term for the coming year (2021-22).

"This year, I think it (GDP growth) might be around (-)

1 to 2 per cent depending on what the inflation actually might be for the year ending March of this year," he said.

Subramanian pointed out that every country in the world is facing lower economic growth because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"But from India's perspective, in the coming year, whatever growth momentum we have lost, we would recoup that momentum," he asserted.

Replying to a question, the CEA said one public sector insurance company is going to be divested and this com-

pany will compete with private sector insurance companies.

He also expressed confidence that the government will achieve next financial year's fiscal deficit target of 6.8 per cent.

According to Subramanian, India has faced three crises after 1991 - the Asian crisis (1997), the global financial crisis (2007-08) and the Covid-19 pandemic (2020).

During the global financial crisis, the then Manmohan Singh government increased revenue expenditure and decreased capital expenditure which gave a push to the

demand side only and not the supply side, which resulted in high inflation, he said.

Subramanian said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in the Lok Sabha is a seminal moment in India's economic history as the PM talked about wealth creation and the salutary role of the private sector.

Modi on Wednesday emphasised on the private sector's vital role in the economy and asserted that the culture of "abusing" it for votes is no longer acceptable.

Replying to a question, the CEA said one state-owned insurance company is going to be divested, and this company will compete with private sector insurance companies.

"India's insurance sector is still quite under-penetrated. Therefore, this is an area we need to focus," he said.

Subramanian said India managed its fiscal space better than other emerging economies.

He asserted that the Budget 2021-22 focuses on employment generation.

cent ~ Rs 1.75 on each equity share of Rs 5.

"The total payout on this account will be Rs 2,201.55 crore," the statement said.

Also, the board approved formation of a new wholly-owned subsidiary company for focusing on gas and LNG business value chain subject to necessary approvals.

"The company is being formed with the objective of sourcing, marketing and trading of natural gas, LNG business, hydrogen-enriched CNG (HCNG), gas to power business, bio-energy/ biogas/ bio methane/ other biofuels business, etc," the statement said.

ONGC said its board has also approved acquisition of 5 per cent equity in Indian Gas Exchange Ltd (IGX) as strategic investment.

IGX is a subsidiary of IEX, India's first and leading power exchange.

IGX is presently India's first and only authorised gas exchange, which provides an automated platform for trading of natural gas, covering a wide range of products.

ONGC profit falls 67% to ₹1,378 crore on drop in oil, gas prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

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Volvo Cars elevates Jyoti Malhotra as MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY



Volvo Cars India today said it has appointed Jyoti Malhotra as its new managing director with effect from 1 March 2021.

Malhotra, who currently serves as the director sales and marketing, would be the first Indian to head the company in India.

He joined the company in August 2016.

Malhotra succeeds Charles Frump who has been at the helm since October 2017.

"Frump has completed a successful tenure in India and is moving over to another global assignment. Jyoti takes over from Charles on 1 March 2021," the Swedish automaker said in a statement.

Under Frump, the company started its local production in India, introduced new generation models and expanded Volvo's footprint in India.

"India is one of the most

Vodafone Idea narrows loss to ₹4,532 crore

NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea today reported narrowing of its consolidated loss to Rs 4,532.1 crore in the third quarter ended on 31 December 2020. The company had posted a loss of Rs 6,438.8 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

"In the third quarter of financial year 2021, we improved subscriber retention and operating performance, supported by ViGIGAnet. We remain focused on executing our strategy, and our cost optimisation plan remains on track to deliver the targeted savings," Vodafone Idea MD and CEO Ravinder Takkar said.

Revenue from operations declined by 1.7 per cent to Rs 10,894 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 11,089.4 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

"The board has approved fund-raising to support our strategic intent and we are in active discussions with potential investors," Takkar said.

PTI

Budget has set pace for country to become self-reliant: Nirmala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 FEBRUARY



ital expenditure, raising allocation for healthcare capacity building and development of agriculture infrastructure, among others, which are expected to have a multiplier effect on the economy.

She said her Budget for 2021-22, has provided the highest capex growth of 34.4 per cent by providing more money to railways, roads and defence.

Referring to a series of measures taken to stimulate the economy hit by the pandemic, she said, Covid-19 did not deter the government from taking up reforms, which are going to be necessary for sustaining long-term goals for this country.

Emphasising that sustained commitment to reform is blended in the Budget, she said: "Reforms are going to lay a path for India to be one of the top economies of

the world in the coming decades."

On handling of Covid-19 pandemic, the finance minister said: "The death rates are the lowest in the world, active cases have come down... we have actually managed to bend the curve. And as a result, the revival of the economy looks a lot more sustainable and this Budget gives necessary impetus."

Responding to the charge of crony capitalism, the minister said, the government under Narendra Modi works for common people and not for cronies.

Merger & acquisition deal jumps by 33%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 13 FEBRUARY



\$1 billion, down from 47 in the year ago period, it said.

Cross-border deal volumes fell by 19 per cent compared with the previous year but the deal values jumped two times over 2019 to \$21 billion, it said.

Indian companies with strong balance sheets have shaken off the shock from the coronavirus pandemic to chase overseas acquisitions, coming back strong after recording the lowest quarterly deal volumes in the second quarter of 2020 since 2011, it said.

The year also saw nine other deals value over \$1 billion each, it said, adding that the top deals accounted for nearly two-thirds of the overall activity.

There were 35 deals of over \$100 million but under

technology sector, it said. Private equity investment values stood at \$40.2 billion in 2020, marking the highest yearly values witnessed in any given year since 2011, it said. The report attributed it to \$9.8 billion funding raised by Reliance Jio platforms and \$6.4 billion investment raised by Reliance Retail Ventures.

There were 26 fundraises via qualified institutional placement (QIP) at \$10.4 billion, again the highest since 2011, it said, pointing to transactions like Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Bank.

Eighteen companies raised \$6.5 billion via initial public offering (IPO), a 2.5 times increase in issue size over 2019, with top three public offerings being Yes Bank, SBI Cards and Payment Services and Gland Pharma.

Marketing launches," the report noted.

According to the report, Samsung followed Xiaomi with 20 per cent market share in the fourth quarter of 2020 and recorded a 35 per cent increase in year-on-year shipments.

Market share of Vivo, Realme and Oppo stood at 14, 11 and 10 percent, respectively.

Shipment of Vivo smartphones declined by 25 percent, while Realme and Oppo shipment increased by 50 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

"For the Indian smartphone industry, the year 2020 was a remarkable story marked by response, recovery and resilience in the face of the persistent pandemic.

"As a consequence of the

Petrol price in Mumbai neared record Rs 95 per litre mark today as its rate as well as diesel prices were hiked for the fifth day in a row.

Petrol price was increased by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 36 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This took petrol price to an all-time high of Rs 88.414 a litre in Delhi while diesel rates climbed to Rs 78.74.

In Mumbai, petrol price soared to Rs 94.93 per litre and diesel price jumped to record Rs 85.70 a litre.

In five days this week, price has gone up by Rs 1.51 per litre for petrol while diesel

rate has risen by Rs 1.56 a litre.

The relentless hike in prices has been criticised by the opposition parties, including Congress which has demanded an immediate cut in taxes to ease the burden on the common man.

However, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday had told Parliament that the government is not considering a reduction in excise duty to cool rates from their record highs.

Rates have risen as inter-

national oil prices touched \$61 per barrel for the first time in more than a year on improving demand outlook amid the global rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, he had said.

Central and state taxes make up for over 61 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol and about 56 per cent of diesel.

The Union government levies Rs 32.9 per litre of excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 a litre on diesel.

Retail petrol rates have risen by Rs 18.87 per litre since mid-March 2020 after the government raised taxes by a record margin to mop up gains arising from fall in international oil prices. Diesel rates have gone up by Rs 16.45.



TET, a milestone in the education history of the Hills

BINOY TAMANG, LEADER, GORKHA JAN MUKTI MORCHA

ON THE FIRST TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT TEST IN THE GTA AREA THAT WILL BE CONDUCTED ON 14 FEBRUARY

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 14 FEBRUARY 2021

Andhra Pradesh holds GP polls in 'Odisha villages'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 13 FEBRUARY

The Andhra Pradesh government on Saturday successfully held three-tier gram panchayat polls in Kotia gram panchayat of Koraput district with the Odisha government failing in its last-ditch effort to stop the polls.

As per reports received here, elections conducted in the disputed villages of Madakar, Daliamba, Barnapadu, Patusineri and Konadara in Potangi villages in Pottangi block of Koraput district. The poll was peaceful and incident-free with no report in untoward occurrences.

The Odisha government officers like the Tehsildar and Block Development Officer from block reportedly tried to call upon the voters not to cast their franchise. It however failed to yield the desired results.

A day before the polls, the district collector Abdaal Akhtar had however requested his Vizianagaram (in Andhra Pradesh) counterpart Dr M Hari Jawaharlal, making an official appeal not to conduct the gram panchayat election in Kotia, saying that the disputed area is currently sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

"I am to bring to your attention that in Contempt Petition No. 172/2021 arising out of Original Suit No. 10/1968 (The State of Odisha Vs. M. Hari Jawaharlal and Others), the

Supreme Court has been pleased to issue notice to the State of Andhra Pradesh and post the case to Friday, the 19th February, 2021. In its oral observations, the Court has also observed that should the State of Andhra Pradesh go ahead with its plans as regards the subject mentioned above, necessary consequences will follow. The same was pronounced in the presence of counsel for the State of Andhra Pradesh. A copy of the associated case documents have been handed over to the counsel for the State of Andhra Pradesh," Koraput Collector Akhtar wrote in the letter.

"I am to therefore, request you that considering the Sub-Judice nature of the matter and the Supreme Court of India's oral observations, you may kindly desist from going ahead with any plan to allegedly conduct elections inside Kotia GP of Pottangi Block in the District of Koraput, Odisha," he said.

The Odisha government, in its petition filed before the Apex Court, submitted that Andhra Pradesh had allegedly wilfully and deliberately violated the Supreme Court order of December 2, 1968, and the judgement of March 30, 2006, by transgressing into Odisha's territory.

The Apex court had in its verdict in 1968 and 2006 had asked both the states -- Odisha and Andhra Pradesh -- to maintain a status quo with regard to the boundary dis-

pute related to Kotia group of villages.

The apex court on Friday hearing the petition had sought replies from the Andhra Pradesh government for holding the elections in three villages of Kotia panchayat.

The three villages - Talaganjeipadar, Patusineri and Phagunsereni in Kotia gram panchayat - have been reported to have been changed to new names Ganjeibadar, Pattuchennuru and Pagluchennuru by Andhra Pradesh. These villages have also been conferred separate panchayat status by Andhra Pradesh with a list of 1,025 voters, said a senior official of Revenue and Disaster Management Department of Odisha.

Both the neighbouring States are at loggerheads for the past several decades as both claimed their jurisdiction over Kotia Gram Panchayat. Of the total 28 villages under the panchayat, AP claims 21 of them and provides various benefits to over 5,000 residents in the region. Andhra Pradesh has also provided Aadhar cards to the people of the region.

Side by side, reports are trickling in that the AP government held GP polls in some of the border villages in Ganjam and Gajapati districts. The revenue and disaster management department has asked the Collectors of both the districts to furnish a report in this regard.

The Odisha government has directed all government employees and people's representatives to make an online submission of annual property list in the public domain for the access of the general public.

CM Naveen Patnaik had announced this a month ago and stated that from the entry level to the chief secretary, from the PRI level to MLAs everybody is to furnish their property statements annually and it will be made public. He had also stated that these will be forwarded to the Lokayukta.

Mohanty regretted the non-cooperation on the part of the Bhubaneswar MP in what he described was a purely non-political issue.

Ms Sarangi, on her part, responded saying "nothing is done without a reason. I will speak at the appropriate time, please wait and watch".

An interesting aspect of

the protests is the silence of Bhubaneswar BJP MP Ms Aparajita Sarangi. Today, the BJP MP Anubhab Mohanty said they had personally requested Ms Sarangi to join the delegation but she refused.

Mohanty regretted the non-cooperation on the part of the Bhubaneswar MP in what he described was a purely non-political issue.

The NMA in its draft heritage bylaws for Jagannath temple, Ananta Basudeva and

Brahmeswar temples, has demarcated restricted zones where construction and other such activity would require prior approval.

The draft for the Jagannath Temple, Puri had been withdrawn following protests but the one for the temples in Bhubaneswar were retained prompting the CM to demand its rollback. The BJD is of the view that the NMA guidelines will hamper the ongoing development projects in Ekamra Kshetra, Bhubaneswar.

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We should all be encouraged, but complacency is as dangerous as the virus itself

WHO CHIEF TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

CAUTIONING AGAINST RELAXING RESTRICTIONS AS VIRUS CASES DROP

WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	32	25 H
HONG KONG	22	16 CL
TOKYO	18	7 CL
LONDON	0	-6 H
DUBAI	24	17 H
SAN FRANCISCO	13	9 H
NEW YORK	-2	-6 H
MOSCOW	-12	-15 H

S= sunny, CL= cloudy, R= rainy...

THUMBNAILS



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility, in Stockton-on-Tees, England, on Saturday.

AGENCIES

Pak approves fourth vaccine: Pakistan has approved the emergency use of a second Chinese Covid-19 vaccine, making it the fourth drug to be cleared by the regulatory authority to tackle the deadly virus, which has claimed over 12,000 lives in the country.

PTI

Elderly urged to get Covid jabs: People eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine among the over-70 most at-risk groups are being urged by the National Health Service to come forward this weekend in a renewed drive as the UK government nears its target of vaccinating the top priority groups by Monday.

PTI

Khalsa TV fined: The UK's media watchdog has imposed a total fine of 50,000 pounds on Khalsa Television Ltd in Britain for broadcasting a music video and a discussion programme that was an indirect call for British Sikhs to commit violence.

PTI

Biden to undo Medicaid work requirements

WASHINGTON, 13 FEBRUARY

The Biden administration is moving to roll back Medicaid work requirements in its latest effort to undo a controversial Trump-era policy.

Federal health officials planned Friday to inform 10 states that they would revoke permissions granted by the Trump administration to impose such requirements, according to a Biden official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans. Officials were also set to withdraw the past administration's invitation for states to apply for approval for work requirements.

The move, which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, follows an executive order Biden signed last month that directed officials to review and remove barriers to Medicaid coverage.

Medicaid is a USD 600 billion federal-state program that covers about 70 million people, from pregnant women and newborns to disabled people and elderly nursing home residents. Under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, states gained the option of expanding the program to many low-income adults previously ineligible. More than 12 million people have gained coverage as a result.

The Trump administration allowed states to require able-bodied adults drawing Medicaid benefits to work, volunteer or study.

Before the pandemic, nearly 20 states had tried to implement requirements after the administration invited them in 2018 to submit such proposals. A federal judge blocked the requirements in Arkansas and New Hampshire, as well as in Kentucky, before the state's Democratic governor reversed course and dropped its requirements.

AP

Acquittal expected as Senate poised to vote

Many Republicans doubt whether Trump was fully responsible for the riot or if impeachment is the appropriate response

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 13 FEBRUARY

Acquittal is expected in the evenly-divided Senate. That verdict could heavily influence not only Trump's political future but that of the senators sworn to deliver impartial justice as jurors.

House prosecutors have argued that Trump's rallying cry to go to the Capitol and "fight like hell" for his presidency just as Congress was convening January 6 to certify Joe Biden's election victory, was part of an orchestrated pattern of violent rhetoric and false claims that unleashed the mob. Five people died, including a rioter who was shot and a police officer.

Trump's lawyers countered in a short three hours on Friday that Trump's words were not intended to incite the violence and that impeachment



priate response. Democrats appear all but united toward conviction.

Trump is the only president to be twice impeached and the first to face trial charges after leaving office.

Unlike last year's impeachment trial of Trump in the Ukraine affair, a complicated charge of corruption and

obstruction over his attempts to have the foreign ally dig up dirt on then-campaign rival Biden, this one brought an emotional punch over the unexpected vulnerability of the U.S. tradition of peaceful elections.

The charge is singular, incitement of insurrection.

On Friday, Trump's impeachment lawyers accused

Democrats of waging a campaign of "hatred" against the former president as they wrapped up their defense.

His lawyers vigorously denied that Trump had incited the riot and they played out-of-context video clips showing Democrats, some of whom are now serving as jurors, also telling supporters to "fight," aiming to establish a parallel with Trump's overheated rhetoric.

"This is ordinarily political rhetoric," said Trump lawyer Michael van der Veen. "Countless politicians have spoken of fighting for our principles."

But the presentation blurred the difference between the general encouragement that politicians make to battle for health care or other causes and Trump's fight against officially accepted national election results, and minimized Trump's efforts to undermine those results. The defeated president

was telling his supporters to fight on after every state had verified its results, after the Electoral College had affirmed them and after nearly every election lawsuit filed by Trump and his allies had been rejected in court.

Democratic senators shook their heads at what many called a false equivalency to their own fiery words. "We weren't asking them 'fight like hell' to overthrow an election," said Senator Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Democrats say that Trump was the "inciter in chief" whose months-long campaign against the election results was rooted in a "big lie" and laid the groundwork for the riot, a violent domestic attack on the Capitol unparalleled in history. "Get real," said the lead prosecutor, Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., at one point. "We know that this is what happened."

McConnell will vote to acquit Trump

WASHINGTON, 13 FEBRUARY

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell will vote to acquit Donald Trump in the former president's impeachment trial.

That's according to a source familiar with McConnell's thinking who was not authorised to publicly discuss the decision and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Republican leader's views are closely watched and carry sway among GOP senators, and his decision on Trump is likely to influence others weighing their votes.

EU calls on China to reverse ban on BBC World News channel

BEIJING, 13 FEBRUARY

The European Union on Saturday called on China to reverse its ban on the BBC World News television channel imposed in apparent retaliation for Britain's pulling of the licence of state-owned Chinese broadcaster CGTN.

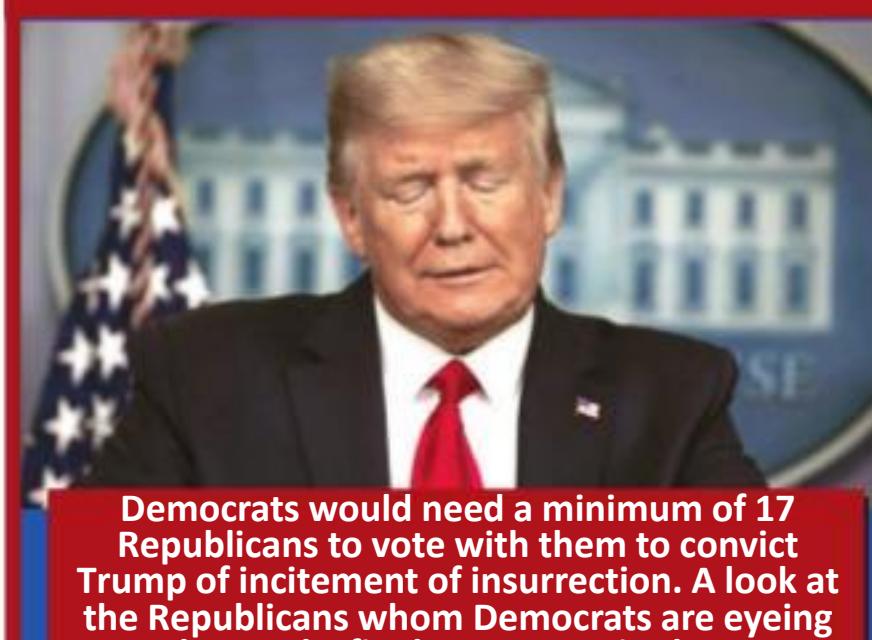
The EU said in a statement that Beijing's move further restricted freedom of expression and access to information inside its borders, and violated both the Chinese constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The statement also said that Hong Kong's announcement that its public broadcaster would also stop carrying BBC broadcasts added to the erosion of the rights and freedoms that is ongoing in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory since the imposition last year of a sweeping new national security law.

The EU remains strongly committed to safeguarding media freedom and pluralism, as well as protecting the right to freedom of expression online and offline, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information without interference of any kind," the statement said.

China's National Radio and Television Administration said BBC World News coverage of the country violated requirements that news reporting be true and impartial, reflecting complaints over reports about China's initial response to the virus outbreak in China, allegations of forced labor and abuse in Xinjiang among others.

CLOSE WATCH



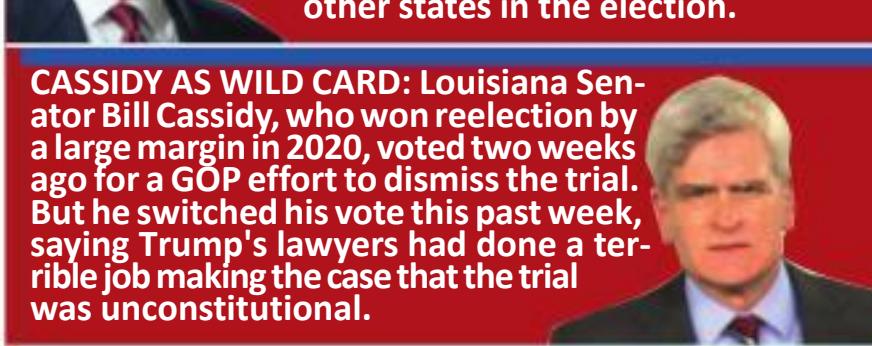
Democrats would need a minimum of 17 Republicans to vote with them to convict Trump of incitement of insurrection. A look at the Republicans whom Democrats are eyeing as they make final arguments in the case



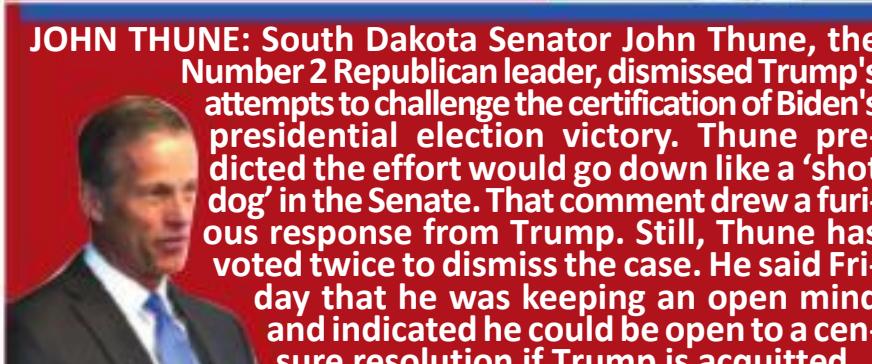
THE FREQUENT TRUMP CRITICS: Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine have been clear that they believe Trump incited the riot. While none of them is a lock to vote for conviction, they have joined with Democrats twice to vote against GOP efforts to dismiss the trial.



HEADED OUT: Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey, who is retiring in 2022, has also voted twice with Democrats to move forward with the trial. Like Murkowski, he called for Trump's resignation after the riot, saying that would be the best way "to get this person in the rearview mirror for us". Toomey had also aggressively pushed back on Trump's false assertions that he had won Pennsylvania and other states in the election.



CASSIDY AS WILD CARD: Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy, who won reelection by a large margin in 2020, voted two weeks ago for a GOP effort to dismiss the trial. But he switched his vote this past week, saying Trump's lawyers had done a terrible job making the case that the trial was unconstitutional.



JOHN THUNE: South Dakota Senator John Thune, the Number Two Republican leader, dismissed Trump's attempts to challenge the certification of Biden's presidential election victory. Thune predicted the effort would go down like a "shot dog" in the Senate. Still, Thune has voted twice to dismiss the case. He said Friday that he was keeping an open mind and indicated he could be open to a censure resolution if Trump is acquitted.

SEIZE THE MOMENT



Skaters took to the frozen surface of Amsterdam's historic Prinsengracht canal on Saturday as the deep freeze gripping Europe briefly made it possible to skate on a small section of the canal for the first time since 2018.

AGENCIES



shown to be safe in children but is expected to produce similar reactions, such as a sore arm. After the launch of the trial funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and AstraZeneca this week, the first vaccinations are expected during the course of this month.

This study will help to protect children in the future. We've already seen that the vaccine is safe and effective in adults, and our understanding of how children are affected by the coronavirus is

This new trial, a single-blind, randomised Phase II trial, will enrol 300 volunteers, with up to 240 of these volunteers receiving the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine and the remainder a control meningitis vaccine, which has been

While most children are relatively unaffected by coronavirus and are unlikely to become unwell with the infection, it is important to establish the safety and immune response to the vaccine in children and young people as some children may benefit from vaccination, said Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity, and Chief Investigator on the

Oxford vaccine trial. These new trials will extend our understanding of control of SARS-CoV-2 to younger age groups, he said.

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We hope that (removing designation of Houthi rebels as a terrorist group) helps build momentum for a political solution to the conflict in Yemen

WELCOMING US REVOCATION OF YEMEN'S HOUTHIS AS TERRORISTS

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 14 FEBRUARY 2021

11

Tensions high as Myanmar stir enters 2nd week

Authorities have stepped up the arrests of politicians and activists, and in areas outside Yangon have become more aggressive in trying to break up protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 13 FEBRUARY

Mass street demonstrations in Myanmar entered their second week Saturday with neither protesters nor the military government they seek to unseat showing any signs of backing off from power.

Protesters in Yangon, the country's biggest city, again congregated at Hleden intersection, a key crossroads from which groups fanned out to other points, including the embassies of the United States and China. They marched despite an order banning gatherings of five or more people.

The US, especially after the announcement by President Joe Biden of sanctions against the military regime, is regarded as an ally in the pro-

testers' struggle against the Feb. 1 coup. China is detested as an ally of the ruling generals, whose support is crucial to them keeping their grip on power.

Demonstrations also resumed in the second biggest city, Mandalay, with lawyers making up one large contingent.

The military ousted the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her government and prevented recently elected lawmakers from opening a new session of Parliament. Suu Kyi and other senior members of her government and party remain in detention.

The junta led by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said it was forced to act because Suu Kyi's government failed to properly investigate allegations of fraud in last year's election, which her National League for Democracy party won in a

landslide. The election commission said there is no evidence to support the military's claims.

Saturday's protests coincided with the birthday of General Aung San, the country's independence leader and father of Suu Kyi. His name and image have appeared on signs carried by some demonstrators.

Authorities have stepped up the arrests of politicians and activists, and in areas outside Yangon have become more aggressive in trying to break up protests.

According to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, at least 326 people have been detained since the coup, of which 303 remain in custody.

There have been many reports over the past three nights of raids during a curfew in which security per-

sonnel have tried to seize people from their homes.

In several cases, neighbors and others have rushed to the scene in such numbers that security forces have abandoned their attempts to haul in their targets. Videos of such raids have been widely posted on social media.

The prisoners' association also said that riot police fired rubber bullets, injuring five students, and took away another nine in a protest Friday in the southern city of Mawlamyine.

Family members are left with no knowledge of the charges, location or condition of their loved ones, it said in a statement. These are isolated incidents and nighttime raids are targeting dissenting voices. It is happening across the country."

Detainees have included political leaders, government officials, civil servants, activists and student leaders. Medical personnel have been singled out because their community initiated the civil disobedience campaign against the military takeover and remains in its vanguard.

The military ruled directly for five decades after a 1962 coup, and used lethal force to quash a massive 1988 uprising and a 2007 revolt led by Buddhist monks.

The U.N.'s top human rights body on Friday passed a consensus resolution urging the military to immediately release Suu Kyi and other civilian government leaders while water down a draft text amid pressure led by China and Russia.

In a special session at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the original resolution presented by Britain and the European Union was revised to remove calls to bolster the ability of a U.N. rights expert to scrutinize Myanmar and for restraint from the country's military. After the updated resolution passed with no opposition, Chinese Ambassador Chen Xu thanked the sponsors for adopting our recommendations but said China still was distancing itself from the measure.



AGENCIES

Massive fire at Afghan-Iran border after blast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HERAT (AFGHANISTAN), 13 FEBRUARY

A fuel tanker exploded Saturday at the Islam Qala crossing in Afghanistan's western Herat province on the Iranian border, injuring at least seven people and causing a massive fire that consumed more than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel, according to Afghan officials and Iranian state media.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the blast. Wahid Qatali, Herat's provincial governor, said Afghan first responders did not have the means to put out the fire and had requested support from Iran in the form of fire fighting aircraft.

For the time being, we can't even talk about the casualties, Qatali told The Associated Press.

The intensity of the flames meant ambulances were having trouble reaching the wounded or getting close to the site of the blast, said Mohammad Rafiq Shirzy,



spokesman for the Herat regional hospital.

Seven people injured by the fire have been admitted to the hospital in Herat so far, he said.

The fire has forced Afghanistan to shut down its electrical supply from Iran, leaving Herat in the dark, said Wahidullah Tawhidi, spokesman for the Ministry of Power Supply.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that following the request from Herat's governor, Iranian rescue forces

and fire fighters are underway to extinguish the fire inside Afghanistan," according to Mohsen Nejat, director-general of crisis management in Iran's Khorasan Razavi province.

Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency quoted truck drivers as saying more than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel have been burnt so far. The fire spread to the Dogharoon customs facilities on the Iranian side and first responders, including

the fire department, the Iranian army and border forces were assisting in extinguishing the blaze, according to Iranian state television. Trucks carrying natural gas and fuel were directed to leave the scene.

The Islam Qala border crossing is around 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the city of Herat. It is a major transroute between Afghanistan and Iran.

The United States allows Afghanistan to import fuel and oil from Iran as part of a special concession that exempts Kabul from sanctions against Iran.

As the fire burned into the night, Afghan security services set up checkpoints and were assisting ambulances and emergency vehicles travelling to and from the border crossing to the city.

The road between Herat and Islam Qala is a dangerous stretch of highway that Afghans rarely travel at night for fear of attacks by criminal gangs. The Taliban also travel freely in the area.

DESTRUCTION



A member of the security forces walks past wreckage at the scene of a bombing in Mogadishu, Somalia on Saturday. A suicide bomber died and seven civilians were wounded in the blast.

AGENCIES

Beijing smog casts gloom over China's Lunar New Year holiday



Visibility across Beijing was severely limited by the smog on the second day of Lunar New Year, with the tops of the city's tallest buildings almost completely covered by the haze.

The PM 2.5 level - which measures pollution - in the city's urban areas reached 239 micrograms per cubic meter according to state news agency Xinhua.

Local authorities had issued a yellow alert for heavy air pollution on Thursday. China has a colour-coded, four-tier warning system for air pollution, with red the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

"The air is horrible," said cosmetics sector worker Katie Li, 35, as she made her way to the gym."

"Starting the Lunar New Year with this kind of weather is a bit depressing," she added.

Staff at the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China in the north of Beijing said that they had received around 5,000 visitors on Saturday, a far cry from their usual daily capacity of 20,000 although they have capped numbers to around half of that due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Some visitors complained about the haze affecting the views. But others, such as 32-year-old banking sector worker Brandon Chen, were unfazed by the conditions. "Even though the air isn't great, for Chinese people walking up to a high point in the new year carries a lot of importance," Chen said.

AFTERMATH



In this photo provided by Russian Emergency Ministry Press Service, Emergency Ministry employees work at the scene of a powerful explosion in Vladikavkaz, Russia.

Religion and death penalty collide at US court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 12 FEBRUARY

The Supreme Court is sending a message to states that want to continue to carry out the death penalty: Inmates must be allowed to have a spiritual adviser by their side as they are executed.

The high court around midnight Thursday declined to let Alabama proceed with the lethal injection of Willie B. Smith III.

Smith had objected to Alabama's policy that his pastor would have had to observe his execution from an adjacent room rather than the death chamber itself.

The order from the high court follows two years in which inmates saw some rare success in bringing challenges based on the issue of chaplains in the death chamber. This time, liberal and conservative members of the

court normally in disagreement over death penalty issues found common ground not on the death penalty itself but on the issue of religious freedom and how the death penalty is carried out.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, one of three justices who said they would have let Smith's execution go forward, said Alabama's policy applies equally to all inmates and serves a state interest in ensuring safety and security.

But he said it was apparent that his colleagues who disagreed were providing a path for states to follow.

States that want to avoid months or years of litigation over the presence of spiritual advisers should figure out a way to allow spiritual advisers into the execution room, as other states and the Federal Government have done," he wrote in a dissent joined by Chief Justice John Roberts.

Justice Clarence Thomas also would have allowed the execution of Smith, who was sentenced to die for the 1991 murder of 22-year-old Sharma Ruth Johnson in Birmingham.

Alabama had up until 2019 allowed a Christian prison chaplain employed by the state to be physically present in the execution chamber if requested by the inmate, but the state changed its policy in response to two earlier

Supreme Court cases.

Robert Dunham, the executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, says the court's order will most clearly affect states in the Deep South that have active execution chambers.

Dunham said most state execution protocols, which set

who is present in the death chamber, do not mention spiritual advisers. For most of the modern history of the US death penalty since the 1970s, spiritual advisers have not been present in execution chambers, he said.

The federal government, which under President Donald Trump resumed federal executions following a 17-year hiatus and carried out 13 executions, allowed a spiritual adviser to be present in the death chamber. The Biden administration is still weighing how it will proceed in death penalty cases.

trans person is."

"Unfortunately, to this day, it's still easier for people who stare at you when you are walking down the street and they can reconcile a certain type of face with a pair of tits," said Martinez, who wears round-edged glasses and her hair in a bob to soften her sharp facial contours.

To come out as transgender, first to herself and then to her partner, required Martinez to grow a kind of confidence that wasn't part of growing up as a boy in 1980s Spain. There were suicide attempts before she started living as Victoria, and she doesn't consider herself brave.

"For me," she said, "there just wasn't any other choice."

Yet Martinez hesitated over taking hormones and updating her civil registry record. She fought hard to be proud of the woman she is, with a deep voice and a way of carrying herself that stands out. "I lived 40 years in hiding," she said. "Now I protect myself, but I don't hide."

AGENCIES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, 13 FEBRUARY

I already am?" Martinez, 44, recalls asking herself. "The whole thing has been emotionally exhausting."

A new law proposed by the far-left party in Spain's coalition government would make it easier for residents to change genders for official purposes. A bill sponsored by Equality Minister Irene Montero aims to make gender self-determination - no diagnosis, medical treatment or judge required - the norm, with eligibility starting at age 16. Nearly 20 countries, eight of them in the European Union, already have similar laws.

Factions of the Catholic Church and the far-right have focused their opposition to the bill on the fact that it also would allow children under 16 to bypass parental objections and seek a judge's assistance in accessing treatment for gender dysphoria, the medical term for the psychological distress that results from a conflict between an individual's identity and birth-assigned sex.

"Did I want to be stigmatized by being labeled as crazy? Did I want to voluntarily apply for a shrink's report that says so, to have a judge decide whether I can be what

Less expected has been the fierce resistance from some feminists and from within Spain's Socialist-led government.

"I'm fundamentally worried by the idea that if gender can be chosen with no more than one's will or desire, that could put at risk the identity criteria for 47 million Spaniards," Deputy Prime Minister Carmen Calvo, a veteran Socialist and women's rights advocate, said last week.

Opponents argue that allowing people to choose their gender eventually would lead to "erasing" women from the public sphere: if more Spaniards registered male at birth switch to female, they say, it would skew national statistics and create more competition among women for everything from jobs to sports trophies.

The divide in Spain mirrors a debate between a branch of feminist theorists and LGBTQ rights movements around the globe. At one end, activists often derogatorily referred to

as TERFs (trans-exclusionary radical feminists) posit that the advancement of transgender rights could undercut efforts to root out sexism and misogyny by negating the existence of biological sexes.

The State Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual people says that if passed in its current form, the law would help end discrimination against transgender people and leapfrog Spain to the European vanguard of protecting LGBTQ rights.

Montero's bill nonetheless has provoked unusual fury on online platforms, where critics express alarm over provisions that would assign public toilets and prisons according to "registered gender." Confluencia Feminista, an alliance of dozens of women's rights organizations, also has come out against any changes to Spain's existing law.

The concern of Alexandra Paniagua, one of the new platform's activists, pivots around the idea that by eliminating the opinions of doctors and judges, state-subsidized hormones and gender reassignment surgery would become more available, ultimately "promoting" more dysphoria among young people.

mind."

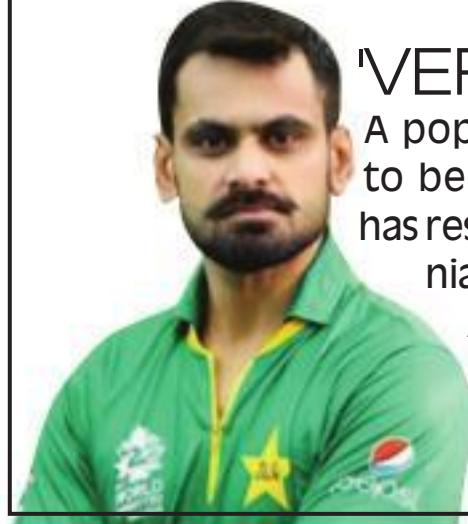
Finding a compromise any time soon looks like an insurmountable task judging by the virulence of the debate online. Cambrollé has sued 85-year-old Lidia Falcón, the founder of Spain's Feminist Party, for repeatedly saying that transgender and gay people promote pedophilia; prosecutors are investigating Falcón's statements as a possible hate crime.

Angela Rodríguez, an advisor to Montero on LGBTQ issues, said the bill's timing has added to the tension, with International Women's Day coming up on March 8.

"There is a dispute for the hegemony of the message in the feminist movement," Rodríguez said during a recent panel discussion.

What for many is a theoretical debate is painfully real to Martínez, who has closed most of her social media accounts. She says the constant chatter feels both too "personal" and "perverse," generalizing about what a

AGENCIES



'VERY IMPORTANT PERSON'

A popular demand for Mohammad Hafeez (photo, left) to be restored to the Pakistan team on his own terms has resulted in Karachi's Dawn newspaper alleging a perennial "double standard." We don't quite know how Wasim Akram came unscathed out of a match-fixing probe but Ataur Rehman did not; Mohammad Amir rebuilt his career but Mohammad Asif could not, the newspaper said.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Tokyo Olympics: Three Indian race-walkers qualified for the Tokyo Olympics during the national championships here at Ranchi on Saturday, with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami setting records in the men's and women's 20km events, respectively. Rahul made it too, finishing in 1.20:16. Two others qualified earlier.

Gymnasts abused: Gymnasts are being urged to continue to speak out about alleged abuse in their sport despite the impending closure of a helpline dedicated to supporting those wishing to report cases of perceived improper practice. Allegations have been a pathetic commonplace in recent years, with many of these being voiced in the USA.

Alonso surgery: Former Formula One champion Fernando Alonso has undergone surgery on a jaw fracture after he was involved in a road accident while cycling in Switzerland, his team Alpine announced on Friday. Alonso was hit by a car near his home in Lugano in Switzerland, near the Italian border, according to reports in the European media.

Europa League: Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur had Europa League last-32 games moved to different venues on Friday after Covid-19 regulations made travelling to and from their opponents' countries impossible to manage. Both legs of Arsenal's tie against Benfica have been moved to neutral venues due to travel restrictions in the UK.

Bale contradicted: Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho said on Friday that Gareth Bale's midweek Instagram post was a "contradiction" with reality, insisting that the Wales international had reported fitness concerns. Bale, on loan from Real Madrid, missed Wednesday's 5-4 FA Cup defeat at Everton after being absent from training.

Bielsa testifies: Leeds manager Marcelo Bielsa testified before a French court on Friday to make his case for millions of euros in damages over his firing from Lille more than three years ago. Bielsa lasted just six months at Lille before the French club fired him for "serious misconduct" in December 2017 following some very poor results.

Leipzig win: Leipzig warmed up for Liverpool in the Champions League with a hard-fought 2-1 win over visiting Augsburg in the Bundesliga. Coach Julian Nagelsmann would be relieved to see his team consolidate second place without any major injury worries ahead of Tuesday's Champions League round-of-16 first-leg game in Budapest.

Formula One: Formula One champions Mercedes said on Friday they were dealing with engine issues ahead of the new season but expected everything to be fixed by the first race. The comment, in an interview with engine head Hywel Thomas, drew wry comments on social media from those who recalled them saying something similar last year.

Rohit sweeps on Chepauk turner as India score 300/6 on day one

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 13 FEBRUARY



offer and the quality of attack he faced, the seventh one would be at the top of the list.

On a hot Saturday, Rohit did two things at one go.

Firstly, he put India in a commanding position on a track which was way more difficult for batting than he made it look with 18 fours and two sixes in his 231-ball knock.

Secondly, he put all the naysayers in their place by scoring runs when it mattered the most. The team is aiming for a comeback after a crushing 227-run loss in the first Test.

Joe Root was marvellous with his sweep shot during the first Test but Rohit was simply magnificent with his execution on a doubly difficult track on which he gave England spinner Moeen Ali (26-3-112-3) a lesson in controlled aggression.

The way Rohit put a big front-foot stride outside the off-stump to sweep deliveries off both Moeen and Jack Leach (26-2-78-2) will not be forgotten by all who were fortunate to witness the innings.

Rohit's defence was spectacularly solid and offence as assured as a safe house.

Knowing fully well that the track would start crumbling with the passage of play, Rohit attacked at the first go, picking 80 runs in the first session, something that will perhaps play the biggest role in the final context of the game.

It started with a cover drive off Stuart Broad and then there was a pulled six over mid-wicket off Ben Stokes.

While skipper Virat Kohli (0) was done in by a classical off-spinner's delivery from Moeen

-- flighted outside the off-stump and enticing him to go for a cover drive only to find his defence breached.

If Rohit played those sweeps in a regal manner, Rahane was no less classy in his drives -- the front- and back-foot punches off the pacers and those lovely cut shots off the spinners were delightful to watch.

Call it irony, Rahane chose a wrong delivery from Moeen and he also couldn't be adjudged leg before.

He hit nine boundaries in a half-century that came after a barren run of seven innings. This was after he survived an umpiring howler from Anil Chaudhary.

But then, he was destined to be in Rohit's shadow on a day when determination became his primary capital.

"It is a difficult track where you don't know whether to come forward or remain on the back-foot," Sunil Gavaskar, who knows more than a thing

or two about batting on turners, said on air.

Leach was introduced in the ninth over and Rohit perhaps remembered his second-innings dismissal in the opening Test.

He knew that Leach's main weapon was extra bounce with a slight turn. He met Leach's deliveries by putting the front leg across the off-stump.

This negated any chance of his off-stump getting exposed and he also couldn't be adjudged leg before.

Root had got Moeen for this match in place of Dom Bess, primarily because of the prodigious turn that is expected to be on offer.

However, the senior-most spinner made a cardinal mistake that happens out of excitement for all takers when they see cracks.

They try to go for extra turn rather than hitting one spot and letting the pitch do the rest.

It only helped a player like Rohit dispatch him with the turn.



DRS is bit like VAR, still controversial: Leach after third umpire's error

CHENNAI, 13 FEBRUARY

England spinner Jack Leach, who found himself at the receiving end of a third umpiring error on the opening day of the second Test against India, compared the DRS to football's Video Assistant Referee (VAR), saying it is "still controversial".

England were on Saturday left frustrated and their captain Joe Root miffed after a blunder by Anil Chaudhary denied them the wicket of India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane after a DRS review.

"We were trying to get the third umpire to roll it through, they were checking the LBW, we knew that would have been not out. We were just trying to get them looking at what happened after the ball hit the pad."

"It is a bit like the VAR today, still controversial, (but) it is what it is," Leach told reporters at the end of the day's play here.

The Decision Review System (DRS) referral, which they had lost after Rahane was adjudged not out by the third umpire, was later restored to England as per ICI playing conditions.

Leach added, "They said they were checking it, then the LBW picture came up, we were

saying no, no. We wanted to check the other one. I got the impression that they hadn't checked it. There is nothing I can do about it, at that time I was angry but to get Rahane's wicket in the next over made things little easier."

The incident took place in the 75th over of the day when a Leach delivery kissed Rahane's gloves on the way to the forward short-leg fielder Ollie Pope.

As England appealed for a catch off the gloves, it was turned down by the on-field umpire before Chaudhary also rejected the review thinking that the ball had landed outside the leg-stump and that the visitors had appealed for an LBW.

However, the visitors appeared to clarify that they were appealing for a catch off the glove and not the bat. Seeing the replays on the big screen, Root was left unimpressed and the skipper also raised the matter with the on-field umpires.

Chaudhary turned down that too.

Rahane was, however, dismissed by Moeen Ali before he could capitalise on the lifeline.

On the stumping decision against Rohit Sharma, which also did not go in their favour, Leach said it was touch and go.

Slumping Liverpool collapses in 3-1 loss at Leicester in EPL

AGENCIES
LEICESTER, 13 FEBRUARY



Vardy to run through and tap into an empty net.

Harvey Barnes capped Leicester's stunning fightback, running through unchallenged after Liverpool conceded possession pushing for the equalizer and slotting his finish past Alison in the 85th.

Fourth-place Liverpool dropped six points behind Leicester, which climbed above Manchester United into second place, in the race for Champions League qualification.

The champions are in danger of losing their place in the top four, with Chelsea and West Ham only one point further back, and any hopes of retaining the title seemingly are over now.

Summit spot up for grabs as ATKMB face Jamshedpur

AGENCIES
MARGAO, 13 FEBRUARY

High on confidence after registering three wins on the trot, ATK Mohun Bagan will be eyeing the top spot when they face Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

After trailing Mumbai City FC for most part of the season, ATK Mohun Bagan finally have the chance to go clear at the top. All Antonio Habas' team has to do is secure three points when they take on Jamshedpur FC at the Fataora Stadium.

The odds are certainly in their favour while ATKMB has been the best team defensively, Jamshedpur have struggled for goals all season, scoring just four in their last seven games.

"The team is good, the team is confident. We are in the best way. Now we have to focus on the last four matches

Medvedev advances to fourth round

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE, 13 FEBRUARY



Luckily I won." Medvedev had been bothered by a problem with his upper left leg and left the court with a trainer for a medical timeout late in the fourth set. While he was falling behind in that set, Medvedev yelled after dropping a point:

"Unbelievable! This is unbelievable!" When he fell behind 5-2 in the fourth, Medvedev shouted, "I never saw something like this!"

He returned to better much play in the deciding set, smack-

ing an inside-out forehand winner to a corner to close an 18-stroke exchange and break to go up 2-0.

He didn't drop another game as he seized the momentum back from Krajnovic, who was previously 4-1 in matches that went the full five sets.

"In contrary with previous matches where I could get tight ... here I was really calm to finish the match," Medvedev said. "Really happy I got the five-set win."

The win stretched Medvedev's winning streak to 17 matches, including his successful run to the title at the 2020 season-ending ATP Finals.

Medvedev, the US Open finalist last year, will next play Mackenzie McDonald, the unseeded American who beat Lloyd Harris in straight sets to equal his best Grand Slam result by reaching the round of 16 at the Australian Open.

The No. 61-ranked Jessica Pegula reached the fourth round by defeating Kristina Mladenovic 6-2 6-1.

Even Pegula seemed surprised by her best career showing at a major tournament, which started with a first-round win over two-time Australian champion Victoria Azarenka.

"I don't really expect to be playing this good next match," Pegula, the daughter of Terry and Kim Pegula, owners of the NFL Bills and NHL Sabres, said of her fourth-round against No. 5-seeded Elina Svitolina.

Svitolina, a tour veteran from Ukraine who has won 66 Grand Slam matches, needs one more win to match her best showing at Melbourne Park. She was a semifinalist at both Wimbledon and the US Open in 2019.

There were no fans in the stands due to the start of a five-day lockdown imposed by the Victoria state government in response to a Covid-19 outbreak at a quarantine hotel. Up to 30,000 spectators daily - 50% of capacity - had been admitted on previous days.

No 25-seeded Karolina Muchova staged an astounding second-set comeback from a 5-0 deficit in near silence, which only made the turnaround seem more bizarre as she beat No 6 Karolina Pliskova 7-5 7-5. Muchova played in an empty Rod Laver Arena. "It's a big difference," she said.

Akhtar Ali, a simple man with a gentle soul

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

Two of one's favourite stories about Akhtar Ali very prominently feature Syed Nayemuddin, who introduced one to the simple, soft-spoken tennis personality in the South Club where football reporters once flocked to tune into the Maidan grapevine. One had requested the linking as, working at the desk, one had always felt amazed that virtually anyone who was anyone in Indian tennis in those days had at some time been coached by Ali. To the best of one's knowledge

and belief, no one spoke ill of him.

Players gave him very high marks for his tips and game-reading. As the convivial afternoon stretched into the evening and Ali spoke anecdotally of how some of the brightest Indians had stepped forth into the limelight - taking no credit himself but lavishing generous praise on the boys - tennis seemed an easy game to play and understand. Not that one had ever visualised a centre court personal byline from a Wimbledon summit showdown.

A few years later, with Nayemuddin coaching East

Bengal, one made a bet with him that Mohun Bagan would win a weekend derby. With a lunch at stake, one ended up on the wrong side of the result. The sole Arjuna and Dronacharya of Indian football was happy enough to have won but taking him to

a Mullick Bazar restaurant - it doesn't exist anymore - whose biriyani was famously scrumptious was incumbent on yours truly. The food would have pleased Nayemuddin after his club's

morning tune-up session and the conversation that punctuated the meal came eventually to be joined in by Ali, a regular presence at the place from all accounts. He ate all right but was in a hurry to go somewhere. The football exchanges continued

without the bill being brought across to our table. Asked why, the liveried waiter, slightly tetchy, said that Ali had picked up the tab before leaving.

"It's typical of him," Nay-

eemuddin said matter-of-factly. The next time one ran into Ali away from the South Club was in Nayemuddin's home, for a lavish Id dinner. "Yeh jannat ka patthar hai," said Ali, by way of explanation, having found one's eyes fixed on a majestic, awe-inspiring photo of Mecca. And for the best part of the next hour, he told one what Islam was all about. Going by the look on the faces of those in the room, a good many of whom were Muslims, it was quite clear that they too were getting to know those precious details of history for the first time in their lives. But Ali wore

her learning lightly. Not for once did he sound like someone who had read Herodotus in the original Greek. That was part of his specialty as a human. Nor did he try for an effect; it was what it was. Like air or water or a baby's smile. Late into the night, while leaving, thanking Nayemuddin and boudi for the sumptuous repast was in order. The great defender of yesteryear would not let that one pass himself though.

"Let's thank Akhtar bhai for those words of his," said Nayemuddin, adding: "He made it worth everyone's while."

'Tie-up terms a secret'

KOLKATA, 13 FEBRUARY

Some Mohun Bagan Athletic Club members alleged after today's annual general meeting that the terms on the basis of which the so-called merger with ATK had been effected could not be ascertained.

"The agenda referred to the merger but, as questions arose about the details laced into the arrangements, it was also said that ATK were only a sponsor," said a source insisting on anonymity, adding: "The meeting was gone through hurriedly with

uncomfortable questions being allowed to be asked but moved on from very promptly. It seemed the high-ups did not want to divulge the nitty-gritty of the deal." Fans outside the ground held a demonstration demanding that the merger be nullified but officials made it clear that nothing like it was on the cards.

East Bengal too have serious reservations about certain conditions their investors have proposed, which has resulted in the formalisation of their relationship being stalled. SNS