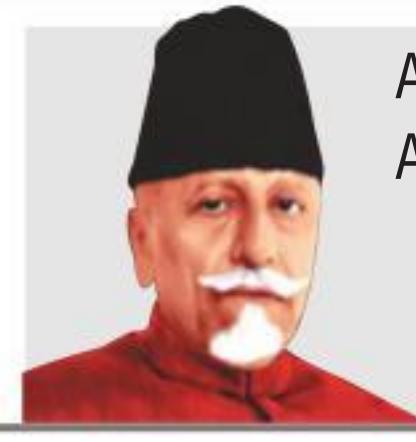


IMMIGRATION
OVERHAUL



A TIME TO CHERISH
AZAD'S IDEALS



BORIS TO LAY OUT
ROADMAP FOR
LOCKDOWN IN UK

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'BATS MEN MUST
COPE WITH
ALL WICKETS'

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 31 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100%	Min: 48%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 28.9°C (+4)	Min: 11.0°C (0)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:51 hrs	18:17 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
14:16 hrs	04:42 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Farmers protest against the three new agri laws at Singhu border in the Capital on Monday. SNS

Sensex sinks 1,145 points: Extending its losses for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex plummeted 1,145 points on Monday, tracking heavy losses in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC and TCS amidst negative cues from global markets. The 30-share BSE index ended 1,145.44 points or 2.25 per cent lower at 49,744.32. The broader NSE Nifty sank 306.05 points or 2.04 per cent to finish at 14,675.70. During the afternoon session, markets started to drift lower and traded in red amidst fresh concerns over the increase in Covid-19 cases. P8

Italian ambassador killed in Congo: The Italian ambassador to Congo and an Italian carabinieri police officer were killed on Monday while travelling in Congo in a UN convoy, the Foreign Ministry said. In a brief statement, the Ministry said Luca Attanasio and the officer were killed in Goma, the eastern regional capital. They were travelling in a convoy of the UN stabilization mission in Congo. In January 2019, Congo experienced its first peaceful democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960. P10

He added: "It is really strange that only nine lakh houses in the villages have water connections and several lakhs of houses in the villages are deprived of pure drinking water. Nearly Rs 1,700 crore was provided to the state government to reach water connection to every house in the villages, but the state government has only spent Rs 609 crore and the left amount has been misused."

The CBI had on Sunday asked her to join the probe. A team of CBI officials had visited the residence of Abhishek Banerjee, a nephew of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, on Sunday to deliver the summons.

"Though I am unaware of the reason for me being called for questioning or the subject matter of the investigation, you may visit my residence as per your convenience between 11 am and 3 pm on 23 February," she said in her letter to CBI. SNS

Abhishek's wife replies to CBI, asks team to visit home today

KOLKATA, 22 FEBRUARY

Rujira Banerjee, the wife of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, on Monday responded to the CBI's summons in the alleged coal pilferage scam and asked the central agency to send its team to her residence for examination on Tuesday, officials said.

The CBI had on Sunday asked her to join the probe. A team of CBI officials had visited the residence of Abhishek Banerjee, a nephew of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, on Sunday to deliver the summons.

"Though I am unaware of the reason for me being called for questioning or the subject matter of the investigation, you may visit my residence as per your convenience between 11 am and 3 pm on 23 February," she said in her letter to CBI. SNS

bags mandatory for the packing of wheat, sugar and other grains and cereals.

"The potato and paddy growers have been cheated and looted in the state by the middlemen. The BJP will provide freedom to the farmers to sell their products where they can get more profit. It will provide good governance free of corruption and create job opportunities for a large number of youths in the state so that they need not have to move to other states to seek jobs."

Modi added that the BJP government has laid much stress on modern infrastructure development in railways, roadways, airways and waterways. "Fast connectivity can bring a rapid change in the economy of a country," he said. On Monday he also declared metro services from Noapara to Dakhineswar open.

bags mandatory for the packing of wheat, sugar and other grains and cereals.

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Active cases surge to 1,50,055

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

Active coronavirus infections in the country increased to 1,50,055.

Amit Shah reviews Covid vaccine drive: Union Home minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the progress of Covid-19 vaccination drive to check the public health response as the second dose is now being administered to healthcare and frontline workers across the country and preparations are in final stage for rollout of the third phase of the world's biggest inoculation exercise.

The total coronavirus cases have increased to 1,10,05,850, while the death toll increased to 1,56,385 with 83 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,06,99,410 which translates to a national Covid-19 recovery rate of 97.22 per cent and the case fatality rate stands at 1.42 per cent.



Puducherry Cong govt falls after CM quits ahead of vote

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PUDUCHERRY, 22 FEBRUARY

only three states in the country ruled by the party on its own.

Holding that Speaker VPSivakolundhu did not put to vote the motion moved by him for a confidence vote, the Congress veteran said the former's ruling that it stood defeated was "incorrect and invalid." Legal experts would be consulted on the matter, he said while dubbing the turn of events, surrounding the issue of voting rights of nominated members, BJP in this case, as a "murder of democracy." DMK chief M K Stalin, whose party is an ally of the Congress here, also slammed the opposition for the fall of the government and hailed Narayanasamy for "upholding democracy."

See Page 4

Varavara Rao gets 6-month bail on medical grounds

MUMBAI, 22 FEBRUARY

The Bombay High Court on Monday granted interim bail for six months on medical grounds to ailing poet and activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

The court said it could not be a "mute spectator" and permit 82-year-old Rao's health condition to deteriorate in custody.

A bench of Justices SS Shinde and Manish Pitale said there existed no doubt that given his current medical condition, Rao would face "acceleration and intensification of ailments" if he continued to remain in custody.

It noted that medical facilities at the Taloja prison's hospital in Navi Mumbai were inadequate. More on P5

Toolkit row: Court sends Ravi to 1-day PC

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY



Police only got one day custody of Ravi, though it had sought five days of custodial interrogation after police said she was required to be confronted with co-accused in the case which has transnational ramifications. Ravi during interrogation shifted entire burden on two co-accused - Nikita Jacob and Shantanu Muluk who cannot be arrested because they are currently on transit bail

A Delhi court on Monday sent 21-year-old climate activist Disha Ravi, arrested in connection with allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest, to one-day police custody (PC) to be confronted with co-accused in the case.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma sent Ravi for custodial interrogation after police said she was required to be confronted with co-accused in the case which has transnational ramifications.

However Ravi, who was produced before the court on ex-priy of her three-day judicial remand, through her lawyer opposed the plea of the investigators, saying why

should I (Ravi) be in police custody while those I have to be confronted with are on bail?

Police only got one day custody of Ravi, though it had sought five days of custodial interrogation contending that during her interrogation, she shifted entire burden on two co-accused - Nikita Jacob and Shantanu Muluk - who cannot be arrested because they are currently on transit bail.

They need to be confronted

with Ravi. Nikita was served with a notice to join the probe but she did not join the interrogation.

It is a case which has transnational ramifications, with involvement of those who has expressed their disaffection for this country, prosecution told the court.

The probe agency told the court that they may arrest Nikita and Shantanu as well in future if there is a requirement.

The defence counsel also informed the court that a sessions court, a superior court than that of a magistrate's, has reserved order on Ravi's bail plea for Tuesday.

There was involvement of all three accused persons. We have to confront all three. We only have seven days more to seek custodial interrogation, the prosecution told the court referring to the provisions of the law under which the case has been lodged that mandates custodial interrogation only upto 15 days post his/her arrest.

Ravi's counsel opposed the police plea saying that other two accused are on bail and why should I be in police custody for the purpose of confrontation? Defence counsel also questioned as to why police did not summon the co-accused persons earlier.

The defence counsel also informed the court that a sessions court, a superior court than that of a magistrate's, has reserved order on Ravi's bail plea for Tuesday.

The probe agency told the court that they may arrest Nikita and Shantanu as well in future if there is a requirement.

They need to be confronted

BACK ON TRACK



Train service between Baramulla in North Kashmir and Banihal in Jammu's Ramban resume on Monday after nearly 11 months of suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SNS

IMA 'shocked' over Patanjali's claim on Coronil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY



The Indian Medical Association on Monday expressed shock over the "blatant lie of WHO certification" for Patanjali's Coronil tablet, which the company claims is an evidence-based medicine to fight Covid-19, and demanded an explanation from Union Health minister Harsh Vardhan in whose presence the medicine was launched.

This comes in the wake of global health body, World Health Organisation, clarifying that it has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment of Covid-19.

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved had on 19 February said that the Coronil tablet had received certification from the Ayush Ministry as a medicine supporting Covid-19 treatment as per the World Health Organisation's certification scheme.

Patanjali had issued a statement about the certification saying, "We want to clarify to avoid confusion that our WHO GMP compliant COPP certificate for Coronil is issued by DCGI, Government of India. It is clear that WHO do not approve or dis-

approve any drugs. WHO works for building a better, healthier future for people all over the world (sic)."

In a statement issued on Monday, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said, "Being Health Minister of the country, how justified is it to release such falsely fabricated unscientific product to the people of India... can you clarify the time frame, time line for the so-called clinical trial of this said anti-Corona product? The country needs an explanation from the minister."

"The Indian Medical Association will also write to National Medical Commission for seeking suo moto explanation for his blatant disrespect to the code of conduct of Medical Council of India, the IMA said.

"Indian Medical Association is shocked to note the blatant lie of WHO certification..." it said.

The announcement regarding the Ayush certification for Coronil and release of a research paper calling it the "first evidence-based medicine for Covid-19 by Patanjali" was done at an event here attended by Vardhan.

In a statement, Patanjali had said: "Coronil has received the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CoPP) from the Ayush section of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation as per the WHO certification scheme." However, WHO South-East Asia tweeted: "@WHO has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment #Covid-19."

National Herald case: HC seeks Gandhis' reply on Swamy's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

Justice Suresh Kait, while issuing notice to Sonia, Rahul, AICC general secretary Oscar Fernandes, Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and Young India (YI), sought their stand on Swamy's plea, seeking to lead evidence before the trial court.

Justice Suresh Kait, while issuing notice to the Gandhis, AICC general secretary Oscar Fernandes, Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda and Young India (YI), sought their stand on Swamy's plea, seeking to lead evidence before the trial court and advocate Tarannum Cheema, appearing for the Gandhis and others, confirmed that the high court has issued notice in the matter and stayed the trial court proceedings till 12 April.

Advocate Satya Sabharwal, appearing for the BJP MP, Swamy, has moved the high court aggrieved by a

trial court order of 11 February declining, for now, his plea to lead evidence to prosecute the Gandhis and the other accused in the case.

The trial court had said that Swamy's application under section 244 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to lead evidence would be considered after his examination in the case was over.

Swamy has sought summoning of certain witnesses, including the secretary general (registry officer) of the Supreme Court, a deputy land and development officer, and a deputy commissioner of Income Tax, and also directions to them to prove certain documents which are part of the case.



North Bengal has been denied benefits like the ones given to Northeast Council states

ASOK BHATTACHARYA, CPI-M LEADER

WONDERING IF MPS ELECTED FROM THE REGION RAISED SUCH ISSUES IN PARLIAMENT

HC pulls up AAP govt for not abiding by its order on release of funds to corporations

PTI
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

The Delhi High Court on Monday pulled up the AAP government for not abiding by its order to release to the corporations the transfer duties, parking charges and deductions towards loan repayments within the stipulated time limits.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli told the Delhi government that the court had not said that the corporations would have to make an application for release of the transfer duties and parking charges and had instead directed on January 21 that these amounts, due upto December last year, be released within a week.

"What is this happening Mr Sethi? What is this conduct of your client? Is this the way your (briefing) counsel argues that they (cor-

porations) have applied? What happens to our order then? Did we say they will apply and only then it will be paid," the bench said to senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, who appeared for the Delhi government.

The remarks by the bench came after Delhi government additional standing counsel Satyakam argued in court that the transfer duties for December 2020 were not paid as the East Delhi Municipal Corporation applied for it only on February 18.

The lawyer for EDMC said it was not an application and it was a letter requesting the Delhi government to make payment in terms of the court order.

Not agreeing with the stand of the Delhi government, the bench said if the amounts are not released as per the Janu-

ary 21 order, it will direct the central government to release these amounts to the corporations out of the revenue sent to the Delhi government.

"We will do that. Please tell us why not," the court told Sethi and gave one last opportunity.

The court said that it was not initiating contempt action only because Sethi was requesting not to at this stage.

It said that even delay in payment of the deductions made by Delhi government towards repayment of loans taken from it by the corporations amounts to non-compliance of its directions.

The Delhi government had been deducting amounts from the funds released to the corporations, towards repayment of loans taken from it by the civic bodies.

27,219 get Covid shots in Capital; tally over 3 lakh

Delhi records 128 fresh coronavirus cases, 1 fatality; positivity rate stands at 0.30 per cent

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

Over three lakh beneficiaries have received the Covid-19 vaccine till date in Delhi since the start of the inoculation drive a month ago, with more than 27,000 people receiving the shots today, according to official data.

Of more than three lakh beneficiaries, over 1.35 lakh are healthcare workers and over 1.71 lakh are frontline workers, as per the data.

Today, 27,219 beneficiaries

received the Covid jabs across 306 centres, including 5,459 people who got their second dose, as the inoculation drive picked up further momentum, officials said. The overall turnout was about 88 per cent.

Eight minor cases of AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) were reported, officials said.

Till date, 1,35,034 healthcare workers have been vaccinated. A total of 1,71,079 frontline workers have also received jabs, as per the data shared by officials.

Frontline workers include police personnel, civil defence staff, sanitation workers, among others.

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

As per doctors, the second dose is given to a beneficiary after a gap of 28 days.

On February 13, a total of 13,768 beneficiaries received vaccine shots and second doses were administered to healthcare workers who had received the first jab 28 days ago.

The district-wise distribution of total eight AEFI cases



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

today was: Central Delhi (1), East Delhi (0), New Delhi (1), Northwest Delhi (1), North East Delhi (1), North West Delhi (0), Shahdara (0), South Delhi (1), South East Delhi (0), South West Delhi (1) and West Delhi (2).

The Covid patients who recovered during the past 24 hours were 157 and the city's cumulative tally of such recoveries climbed to 6,26,086, the health bulletin said. The recovery rate was 98.12 per cent.

With one more fatality due to this deadly virus, the nation-

al capital's Covid toll rose to 10,901, the health bulletin said.

The active coronavirus cases came down to 1,041 in the city from yesterday's 1,071 cases.

The patients under home isolation numbered 471 and the number of those who remained hospitalised was 442, the bulletin stated.

The number of containment zones in Delhi was 637, the bulletin added.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the Court of Sh. Girish Kathpal Principal District & Sessions Judge (H.Q.s). Court No. 301, 3rd Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Case Reg. No.: RCT No. 77/2019

To, M/s. Madho Ram Budh Singh — Plaintiff

M/s. Weston Traders — Defendant

To, 1. M/s. Weston Traders (Through its partners)

(i) Sukhwant Kaur (ii) Kanwaljeet Singh (iii) Babal, All at: S-475-A (S-485A), Greater Kailash-1, Delhi-110048 Also at: 58, Raghushree Market, Basement Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110006.

2. S. Deependra (Prop. of Weston Traders) at 59, Raghushree Market, Basem-ajmeri Gate-110006.

The Defendant above-named whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 05-04-2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 17-02-2021.

Principal District & Sessions Judge (H.Q.s) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Seal of the Court

FMO

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the Court of Sh. Ajay Garg Addl. District Judge-01 New Delhi District Patiala House Courts, New Delhi CS 5741/2016 NDOH - 03-03-2021 Trade International & Anr. Versus — Plaintiff

M/s. Rajiv Pharmaceuticals — Defendant

To, Rajiv Verma, son of Sh. T D Verma, r/o 4/24, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi.

Whereas Plaintiff has filed the above-noted petition against you. You are hereby noticed to appear in this court in person or through your legal counse on the 03rd day of March, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same failing which the petition will be disposed of ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of February.

Addl. District Judge-01 Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Seal of the Court

BFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of: OA No. 941/2019-DRT-III LICHLF

— Applicant

Sh. Mohan Sharma & Ors. — Defendants

To, D-1, Sh. Mohan Sharma, A-14B, Jagatpuri, New Delhi-110004.

Also at: M/s. Aimil Ltd., A-8, Mohan Co-Op. Indl. Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044.

D-2, M/s. Piyush Colonizers Ltd., A-16/B-1, Mohan Co-

Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of: OA No. 931/2019-DRT-III LICHLF

— Applicant

Sh. Harprit Singh & Ors. — Defendants

To, D-1, Sh. Harprit Singh, Flat No. 102, Hauz Krishna Apartment, Sector-45, Faridabad, Haryana-121001.

Also at: Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd., 1st & 2nd Floor, SCO-11, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana-121005.

Whereas the above-named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 25-03-2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above-mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/Software.

(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing shall be provided by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available on day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748469.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Tribunal on this 9th day of Feb., 2021.

By Order of this Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

IN THE COURT OF DR. SHIRISH AGGARWAL Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Court Room No. 323, 3rd Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi N.D.O.H.: 06-03-2021 SC-7/2021

To, Ms. Komal, d/o Late Shri Satish Kumar, r/o 3707, Kucha Mohatta Khan, Mori Gate, Delhi-110006.

— Petitioner

Versus The State & Ors.

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To, All concerned.

Whereas in the above-noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Smt. Anita, deceased.

Whereas the 06-03-2021 at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing on the application for which the application is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 20-02-2021.

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

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client Mr. Manjeet Yadav, s/o Late Shri Ram Pal Yadav, and Smt. Vijay Laxmi, w/o Manjeet Yadav, r/o WZ 177, Ram Krishna Bhawan, Vasant Kunj Enclave, New Delhi-110070.

Yatin Shirodkar, r/o 40/344, Unnat Nagar 2, S.V. Road, (Near Mahindra Gardens) Goregaon West, Mumbai.

— Petitioners

Versus The State & Ors.

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To, All concerned.

Whereas an application for grant of Probate/Letters of Administration under Section 278 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 to the petitioner in respect of the movable/immovable property of the Deceased Late Sh. Mohun Vilal, who died on 29-03-2015 at B-177-179, Rama Krishna Bhawan, Vasant Kunj Enclave, New Delhi-110070, has been filed before this court.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that any person having objection for the grant of Letters of Administration in her favour in respect of the estate of the deceased may file the same in court personally or through counsel on or before the next date of hearing of 16-04-2021.

S. No.: 1

Description of the Property: House B-177-179, Rama Krishna Bhawan, Vasant Kunj Enclave, New Delhi-110070.

Approximate Value - Rs. 8,00,00,00/-

S. No.: 2

Description of the Property:

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts

Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of: OA No. 941/2019-DRT-III LICHLF

— Applicant

Sh. Mohan Sharma & Ors. — Defendants

To, D-1, Sh. Mohan Sharma, A-14B, Jagatpuri, New Delhi-110004.

Also at: M/s. Aimil Ltd., A-8, Mohan Co-Op. Indl. Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044.

D-2, M/s. Piyush Colonizers Ltd., A-16/B-1, Mohan Co-

P.O. Satellite Township, Siliguri-734015

Tel: 2568615, 2568063 and 2568787.

Fax: (0353) 2568296,

Email: siliguri@thestatesmangroup.com

City Office: 3rd Floor, Rima Bhawan, Opp. HDFC Bank, Panitanki More, Sevoke Rd., Siliguri-734015.

Ph: 0353-2524077

SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P.C. Chambers Near Jodha Niwas

The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.

Tel:



Jakir is fine now. He had to undergo two surgeries. The doctors here have done a very good job.

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE
WHO VISITED THE INJURED MINISTER JAKIR HOSSAIN AT THE SSKM HOSPITAL

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021

'Capt would lead Congress in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls'

Punjab Cong chief Jakhar says the party's landslide victory in civic polls has revalidated CM's leadership

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 22 FEBRUARY

Punjab Congress president, Sunil Jakhar, on Monday said Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh would lead the party in the 2022 state Assembly polls, as the people of the state have again reposed their faith in his leadership by enabling the Congress to clinch a landslide victory in the recent civic polls.

While participating in an event for the launch of various developmental projects worth Rs 1087 crore by the CM, Jakhar said, "The Congress party's sweeping victory in the civic polls has not only revalidated Amarinder's leadership in the state but was an endorsement of the faith of



Punjabis in his future leadership also."

He said the state Congress has already launched mission "#Captainfor2022", and the next elections would be fought under his leadership.

Lauding the CM, Jakhar said Amarinder had led the state in very difficult times and

the people were aware of his "massive contribution". "Punjab is perhaps facing its worst ever crisis – Covid, farmers' unrest due to the black farm laws, coupled with an unfriendly Union government – and only Amarinder Singh had the vision and leadership qualities to steer the state out

of it," he said.

Lambasting the Narendra Modi-led central government for its "step motherly treatment" to Punjab, Jakhar alleged that the Centre had resorted to all kinds of measures, including "economic blockade", to punish the state for supporting the farmers' agitation.

He charged that the federal structure of the country was under "extreme threat" under the BJP-led Union government. He also questioned the recent decision of the Centre to refuse permission to a jatra to go to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan and accused the Centre of being "biased" against the state.

While complimenting the CM for launching projects aimed at development of urban areas, Jakhar said there

had been a growing though incorrect perception that this government was only working for the rural areas. He said though Punjab is an agrarian economy, the "massive development works" that have started in the urban areas would dispel this perception.

Punjab Youth Congress president, Barinder Singh Dhillon, said that the party's landslide victory in civic polls reflects the enormous faith the people of Punjab have in Captain Amarinder's leadership. He claimed that only Captain can take the state forward and maintain social and communal harmony. "You will have to contest the 2022 Assembly election as Punjab needs your stewardship", Dhillon urged the CM.

Haryana Police warns against fraudsters offering fake jobs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 22 FEBRUARY

Haryana Police on Monday warned against fraudsters using fake 'job offer letters' to demand money.

Advising the people to beware of such scams, Director General of Police (DGP), Haryana, Manoj Yadava said a new trend of crime has come to the fore in which fraudsters are claiming to represent the esteemed organisations of Union or the state government and demanding money on the pretext of offering jobs.

Explaining about the modus operandi, the DGP said that these fraudsters first send a fake appointment letter to the appli-

This is a common method used by such scammers to defraud the gullible people and authorities have been constantly asking people to be alert and not get trapped in their web by getting attracted to such bait'

cants and then cheat them by asking their credentials on the given number, followed by payment of some amount in the name of security deposit. They also warn them about the suspension of their offer letter in case the security deposit is not paid on time.

This is a common method used by such scammers to defraud the gullible people and authorities have been constantly asking people to be alert and not get trapped in their web by getting attracted to such bait, the DGP said.

Haryana Police is regularly sharing the crime prevention tips through different modes of communication including social media so that common people do not get victimized by these fraudsters, Yadava said. He advised state residents to be alert and report immediately in case they receive any such suspected fraud letter. A strict action as per law will be taken against the offenders, the DGP added.



Haryana govt to select 1L poor families to help them increase income



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 22 FEBRUARY

This book describes struggle of three friends to support and protect the honour of their families on the one hand, and play the role of a responsible citizen, a sincere student and fight against the social evil of drug addiction on the other hand. In spite of facing life threatening circumstances they remain committed to their cause and ultimately come out as winners and the story ends with a positive note.

Chief accounts officer as well as financial advisor in the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Rajinder Kumar, an Indian Economic Service (IES) 2003 batch officer, presented his book "The Dust of Golden Crescent" to the Punjab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh, VP Singh Badnore, at Raj Bhawan.

women security, Saksham Haryana and Skill Development etc. During the meeting, apart from guiding the CMGGAs, Khattar also directed them to give priority to important schemes being formulated by the State Government for the year 2021.

The CM said the state government is dedicated to working towards increasing the income of those farmers who have small agricultural land. He said that Kisan Mitra Yojana will be launched to ensure financial management of the farmers', apart from increasing their income. Under this scheme one person will be appointed on voluntary basis who would guide 100 more farmers about financial management.

He said the state government is all set to launch a unique 'Van Mitra Yojana' under which people would be encouraged to plant new trees and to take care of them as well. Successful implementation of this scheme will result in a rapid increase in forest area in Haryana, said Khattar.

Meanwhile, the CM on Monday said emphasis should be laid on starting new courses for the skill development of youth so as to ensure that they get ample employment opportunities.

SELFIE TIME



Tourists take selfie on a sunny day at the Ridge, Shimla on Monday.

LALIT KUMAR

HP Agri varsity advises farmers to adopt 'climate smart agriculture'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 22 FEBRUARY

Vice Chancellor of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur, Professor HK Chaudhary on Monday advised the farmers to accept the challenges due to climate change and adopt climate smart agriculture.

He stated this during an interaction programme when he was chairing a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bajaura at Mohal near Kullu.

The Vice-Chancellor said the Agriculture University is empowering the farmers to accept new challenges thrown open by climate change and is advising them



to adopt strategies like using crop varieties which are suited to adverse climate conditions, better use of resources and raising crops and animals in the regions where they grow the best.

has proved that it was the backbone of the Indian economy.

He appreciated the Kullu farmers for crop diversification, off season vegetable production, nursery raising and fruit production. "The progressive farmers are increasing their income by adopting enterprises like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation and poultry and other farmers should also come forward to emulate them and adopt an integrated farming system to generate additional income", opined Prof HK Chaudhary.

He also underlined the importance of cold water fish as a delicacy and the University efforts to study its adaptability in pond condi-

tions. The Vice-Chancellor also inaugurated an exhibition of farm produce and honored 16 progressive farmers of the district Kullu with a Kullu cap and citation.

Director of Extension Education at the University, Dr Madhumeet Singh spoke on the importance of animal husbandry, major problems of the cattle and the need to increase animal production.

He highlighted extension education activities and asked farmers to solve their farming and animal husbandry related problems by contacting KVK scientists. Dean College of Veterinary Science, Dr Mandeep Sharma, Director of Research Dr DKVatsa and Dean, College of Community Science Dr YS

Dhaliwal also addressed the farmers.

Dr KC Sharma, Programme Coordinator, detailed major achievements and future plans of his KVK. Progressive farmers also expressed their opinion. During farmer-scientists interaction, scientists from the University answered questions of farmers.

Besides Pradhan of Mohal Panchayat Ishra Thakur and Block Development Committee (BDC) member, Rajesh Thakur, the district level officers from the state departments of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, industry, banks, etc also participated in SAC and farmer-scientist interaction programme.

Upset over harassment, teenager kills self in Pb

The victim's father filed a complaint, alleging that his daughter, a Class 12 student, was being harassed by two youths

allegedly consumed the poisonous substance, but she could not be saved.

Station House Officer Talwara police station, Sub-Inspector Ajmer Singh said a case under relevant sections, including 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC, was registered against the two accused.

Raids are being conducted to nab them, the police added.



THUMBNAILS

Pondy govt falls as CM loses trust vote

Opp DMK, Congress & VCK slammed the BJP for its back door operations to get foot hold in Tamil-speaking states

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, 22 FEBRUARY



Puducherry chief minister Narayanasamy on Monday resigned after his Congress-led government lost trust vote on Monday.

After Narayanasamy and his MLAs dramatic walkout before the floor test, Speaker VP Sivakozhundu announced that the government has lost its majority.

The development which was unfolding for the past few months had a ripple effect in neighbouring Tamil Nadu with Opposition DMK, Congress and VCK slamming the BJP for its back door operations to get foot hold in Tamil speaking states.

Narayanasamy, who submitted his resignation to Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan said, "In the Assembly, we said only the elected members can vote. The Speaker did not agree and we walked out," he said.

With this new development the Congress lost its only government in the South.

As the Assembly polls in the Union territory are due in May, it remains to be seen if the Lieutenant Governor recommends President's rule or invites NR Congress-led Opposition alliance to form the

government.

The Opposition has 14 members in the 30-member Assembly whose effective strength is 26. It also enjoys the support of three nominated MLAs, all belonging to BJP.

After his hard-hitting speech, slamming the Union government for colluding with the Opposition to topple his government and arguing

ments over voting rights of three nominated MLAs, the chief minister and his MLAs walked out of the House.

Addressing the Assembly ahead of floor test, he alleged that the BJP is derailing India's democratic system.

"What is happening in Puducherry now is political prostitution. But the truth will prevail," he said. He alleged

that former Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi and the Centre colluded with the Opposition to destabilise his government.

Narayanasamy, whose government slipped into minority due to resignation of six MLAs of the ruling alliance during the last one month, said

MLAs who resigned will not be able to face the people as

people will call them opportunists.

He claimed that people of the union territory are with the Congress-led government.

He pointed out that after forming the government with the support of DMK and independent MLAs, the alliance won all by-elections.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan, who took on the additional charge of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor, on 18 February directed the chief minister to prove his majority in the Assembly.

The development came after the Opposition alleged that the government slipped into minority after resignation of four MLAs.

Two more legislators

resigned on Sunday, reducing the ruling alliance's strength to 12 in the 30-member Assembly.

Meanwhile in Tamil Nadu

the entire Opposition slammed

the BJP for the situations in Puducherry. Congress, VCK and the DMK leaders of Tamil Nadu accused the BJP of orchestrating the fall of the Congress-led government in the Union Territory through undemocratic means.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president MK Stalin accused the BJP of indulging in backdoor deal-making. In a tweet he said,

"Behind the scenes deals - the Central BJP government, which aims to assassinate democracy, has staged it in Pondicherry too - this is an abuse of power!"

Stalin appreciated the courage of the now-resigned CM Narayanasamy to protect democracy. "The DMK-Congress alliance will go to the electorate."

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'Wrong address' in suit against Shah, case transferred to Bankshal court

KOLKATA, 22 FEBRUARY

The designated special court (MP/MLA), West Bengal transferred the defamation case brought against the Union home minister Amit Shah to Bankshal court today.

The court took note of his lawyer Brajesh Jha's submission that the address of the home minister mentioned in those

incorrect.

Brajesh's lawyer Sanjay Basu said two addresses were then provided to the court, one of Delhi and another of Ahmedabad. The address provided earlier by the complainant was of the BJP office in Kolkata.

On 19 February, Shah was summoned to appear in person or by his counsel before the magistrate, special court, West Bengal (MP/MLA) today in connection with a criminal case filed against him on 28 August 2018 registered by TMC MP from Diamond Harbour, Abhishek Banerjee.

On 11 August 2018 Shah had made some allegedly defamatory remarks about the complainant and chief minister Mamata Banerjee at 'Yuva Swabhiman Samaves Rally' of BJP at Mayo Road. SNS

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on forms 6 & 8 is hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved/ enlisted contractors in Jal Shakti Vibhag for execution of following jobs so as to reach in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Tissa at Bhanjrau on or before 02-03-2020 upto 11:00 AM. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in the presence of contractors or their authorized representative who may wish to be present. The tenders documents should be had from the office of the Executive Engineer JS Division Tissa at any time in working days upto 03:00 PM on dated 01.03.2020 on cash payment of cost of tender form (Non-refundable) as mentioned against work. The tender's document should accompany earnest money in the shape of saving instruments, bankers/cheque "demand draft or fixed deposit, duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer JS Division Tissa". The tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The offer shall remain valid upto 120 days. The undersigned shall have the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of form	Time allowed
1.	Improvement of Gravity Main Distribution System WSS Salphar Tatogra in G.P. Tikkri in Tehsil & Distt. Chamba H.P. (Sh:- C/o RCC Sedimentation Tank 5600 Ltrs. Cap., RCC Storage Tank 17000Ltrs. 1No., RCC Storage Tank 5000Ltrs. Cap. 2No.)	457535/-	9160/-	250/-	Three Months
2.	Improvement of Gravity Main Distribution System WSS Salphar Tatogra in G.P. Tikkri in Tehsil & Distt. Chamba H.P. (Sh:- C/o RCC Filter Bed 14.00Sqm area)	396126/-	7930/-	250/-	Three Months
3.	Improvement of Gravity Main Distribution System WSS Salphar Tatogra in G.P. Tikkri in Tehsil & Distt. Chamba H.P. (Sh:- C/o Intake Chamber & Excavation, Laying, Jointing, and Testing of G.I. Pipe 20mm dia 1150m & 15mm 1860mtr)	426156/-	8530/-	250/-	Three Months
4.	Tapping Additional Source to WSS Koti in G.P. Pranvee in Tehsil & Distt. Chamba H.P. (Sh:- C/o RCC Roughing Intake Chamber and Excavation, Laying, Jointing and Testing of G.I. Pipe 40mm dia 850mtr)	201348/-	4030/-	250/-	Three Months
5.	Tapping Additional Source to WSS Koti in G.P. Pranvee in Tehsil & Distt. Chamba H.P. (Sh:- Excavation, Laying, Jointing and Testing of G.I. Pipe 25mm dia 3620mtr)	412029/-	8250/-	250/-	Three Months

The Term and condition & Tender form can be had from the Executive Engineer JS Division Tissa at Bhanjrau on any working day.

Executive Engineer, JS Division Tissa at Bhanjrau

5966/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited on PWD form no 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, H.P. PWD, Jodhpur Nagar District Mandi (H.P) for and on behalf of Governor of H.P. for following works, from the approved & eligible contractors enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. in the appropriate class so as to reach in the office on or before 17.03.2021 up to 10:30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized/ representative, who wish to be present at the time of opening of tender. The application for issue of tender document could be received upto 15.03.2021 upto 3:00 P.M. from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) and tender document will be issued on 16.03.2021 up to 3:00 P.M. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time allowed	Cost of form
1	Construction of entry gate on NH-154 at Km. 11800 at Kandwal in the state of Himachal Pradesh. (Sub Head:- Site development by construction of edge wall in left side at Km. 11/790 to 11/810).	4,97,270.00	10000.00	One Month	350/-
2	Construction of entry gate on NH-154 at Km. 11800 at Kandwal in the state of Himachal Pradesh. (Sub Head:- Site development by construction of edge wall in Right side at Km. 11/790 to 11/810).	4,97,277.00	10000.00	One Month	350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :-

1. The earnest money in the shape of National saving certificate/Time deposit account/ F.D.R./saving account in any post office in H.P. duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer N.H. HPPWD, Jodhpur Nagar must accompany each tender.
2. The tender received without earnest money and conditional/Telegraphic tender will summarily be rejected.
3. The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/renewal order with application for obtaining the tender documents.
4. Executive Engineer Reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.
5. The work will be completed by the contractor within stipulated period.
6. Tender form will not be issued to those contractor who are not registered under HPGT Act-1968 & photocopy of individual PAN No. allotted to them shall be attached with their application at the time of applying for tender document. Application will not be entertained without aforesaid document.
7. The contractor shall have to register his labour from the competent authority under contract Act 1970.
8. The contractor/firms are required to insert the rate of each item in words as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/rejects any or all tenders.
9. The tender forms shall be issued to those contractor/firms who are found eligible suitable and competent.
10. The tender forms of sealing wearing and tarring shall be issued only to those contractors who will produce proper documents of ownership of required machinery and completion certificate of similar nature of work issued by the concerned Executive Engineer.
11. Bitumen for patch work/Pot holes repair shall be arranged by the contractor himself and contractor/firms having necessary documents of past experience shall be preferred.
12. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of tenders, the tender shall be opened on next working day.

Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, HPPWD, Jodhpur Nagar.

59322020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No.1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed
1	Construction of Smart Bus stop on MRR via Chotta Shimla (Circular road) under Smart city on various spots (Sh:- C/O Type-A, Type-B Smart Bus stops Development works at Rd. 151/465 (Nigam Vihar RD, 151/095 (at Tolland Hill side) RD, 150/105 (Bemiole Hill side) RD, 155/095 (Bemiole valley side RD, 146/405 (103 Tunnel), RD. 146/ Near 103 Tunnel/SSB) and Rd. 145/445 (Near CMP Check post).	13008512/-	162600/-	5000/-	180 days

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CA's can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	03-03-2021 18.00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	03-03-2021 18.00 HRS upto 17-03-2021 16.00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	03-03-2021 18.00 HRS upto 17-03-2021 16.00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	18-03-2021 upto 10.30HRS
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid	
6. Date of opening of Financial Bid	18-03-2021 11.00



The Modi government is doing the great work of emptying your pockets and filling the pockets of its friends...

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

HITTING OUT AT MODI GOVT OVER RISING FUEL PRICES

THUMBNAILS



Indian youth Congress activists protest against central government over price hike and arrest of activists Disha Ravi, in the Capital on Monday. SNS

MP budget session: Madhya Pradesh Governor (additional charge) Anandiben Patel on Monday lauded the BJP state government's initiatives taken towards realizing PM Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India and MP. Anandiben Patel said MP became the first state in the country to draft a road plan for implementing the Prime Minister's vision of a self-reliant India and Madhya Pradesh. The budget session that began today is scheduled to run for 33 days. The state government is likely to present a budget worth more than Rs 2.30 lakh crore on 2 March. SNS

Jaishankar holds talks with Mauritius minister: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday called on Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and held talks with Foreign Minister M Alan Ganoo during which they reviewed the "excellent bilateral relations and successful development partnership. Jaishankar called on Jugnauth and handed him over 100,000 additional doses of commercially procured Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines. PTI

Elephant kills man: An elephant on the rampage killed a man in Phoolchatti village in Rishikesh on Monday. The elephant also lifted 22-year-old Kapil in its trunk and threw him repeatedly to the ground at around 3 am, killing him on the spot. The angry elephant also broke the windscreen of a utility vehicle standing nearby and tried to pull out its driver but did not succeed as he cowered deeper inside the vehicle, the official said. PTI

Elgar case: Varavara Rao gets 6-month bail on medical ground

Would face "acceleration & intensification of ailments" if he continued to remain in custody: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 22 FEBRUARY

The Bombay High Court on Monday granted interim bail for six months on medical grounds to ailing poet and activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

The court said it could not be a "mute spectator" and permit 82-year-old Rao's health condition to deteriorate in custody.

A bench of Justices S S Shinde and Manish Pitale said there existed no doubt that given his current medical condition, Rao would face "acceleration and intensification of ailments" if he continued to remain in custody.

It noted that medical facilities at the Taloja prison's hospital in neighbouring Navi Mumbai were inadequate.

Rao is currently admitted in Nanavati Hospital, a private medical facility in Mumbai.

He has been in custody since 28 August, 2018, awaiting trial in the case, which is being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The bench granted bail to Rao for six months, while directing him to stay within the jurisdiction of the NIA court.

The HC noted that in the past, Rao's family had to approach court to get information on his health condition while in prison.

in the city during this period.

Rao will be discharged from the hospital depending on his health condition and then released on bail, as per the HC.

While granting Rao bail on medical grounds, the HC dismissed NIA's argument that he was not entitled to relief that he was not entitled to relief on humanitarian grounds.

However, the court imposed a host of stringent conditions on his bail, including prohibiting him from establishing contact with his co-accused in the case.

It also dismissed the Maharashtra government's submission that after discharge from the Nanavati Hospital, Rao would be shifted to the prison ward of the state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai.

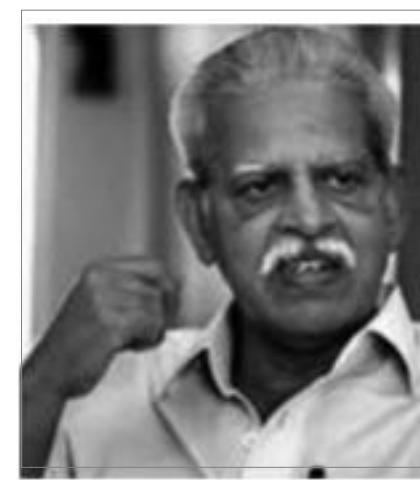
The bench said given the material on record, it had concluded that sending Rao back to the Taloja central prison where he was lodged as an undertrial, before he was shifted to the Nanavati Hospital, would "certainly endanger his life" and breach his fundamental right to health and life.

The HC noted that in the past, Rao's family had to approach court to get information on his health condition while in prison.

Therefore, his family will be able to provide the best care for him, the court said.

In its judgement, the HC also referred to the submission of Rao's counsel, senior advocate Indira Jaising, on how long Rao was likely to live and what would continue incarceration mean for someone who was 82 years old.

The bench, however, also took note of the NIA's appre-



hension that letting Rao go back home to Hyderabad on bail might result in his or his associates resuming "nefarious activities".

Thus, the HC directed him to stay in Mumbai while on bail, make fortnightly WhatsApp video calls to the nearest Mumbai police station, and prohibited large gatherings or large group of visitors from meeting Rao while he is out in bail.

"Sending the undertrial back to where he belongs, is fraught with the risk of his presence being used by those allegedly associated with him to seek to revive the aforesaid nefarious activities," the court said while imposing various conditions in his bail.

The HC also prohibited Rao from indulging in activities similar to those that led to the FIR against him, and from making any national or international calls to his co-accused or to those engaged in "similar activities".

It also prohibited Rao from making any statements related to the case before print or electronic media.

The court also directed Rao to either surrender before the NIA court or to apply to the HC for extension of bail once the six-month period is

over.

It also dismissed the NIA counsel Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh's request for a stay on the bail order for three weeks.

The HC said once the Nanavati Hospital had declared Rao fit to be discharged, and once the court had granted him bail, it could not send him back to the Taloja prison.

The court also directed Rao to furnish a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and two sureties of the like amount.

On 1 February, the HC closed all arguments in the case and reserved its verdict on Rao's medical bail plea and his wife Hemlatha's writ petition that alleged a breach of his fundamental rights due to inadequate medical care and his continued incarceration.

The case pertains to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on 31 December, 2017, which, the police claimed, triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial located on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

The police have also claimed that the conclave was organised by people with alleged Maoist links.

He said India has made a

Modi calls for self-reliance in defence manufacturing sector

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed his government's firm resolve to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing with transparency, predictability and ease of doing business.

Since 2014, the government has taken steps to bring about de-licensing, de-regulation, export promotion and foreign investment liberalisation in the defence sector, he said addressing a webinar on effective implementation of the Union Budget provisions in the defence sector.

Modi said the webinar assumed great significance as it was focusing on the important issue of making the country's defence sector self-reliant.

He recalled that there used to be hundreds of ordnance factories before independence. In both the world wars, weapons at large scales were exported from India. But, for many reasons, this system has not been strengthened as much as it should have been after independence, he added.

The Prime Minister said his government has relied on the capabilities of Indian engineers and scientists on developing the Tejas fighter aircraft. Today the Tejas was flying gracefully in the skies. A few weeks back, an order worth Rs. 48,000 crore was placed for Tejas.

The Prime Minister said the defence corridors that were being built in the country today would also help local entrepreneurs and local manufacturing.



list of 100 important items related to defence, which could be manufactured indigenously with the help of Indian industries. He said a timeline has been set so that the domestic industries could plan to meet these requirements.

He said it was called a negative list in the official language but it was actually a positive list in the language of self-reliance. Modi said that a part has been reserved for domestic procurement even in the capital budget of defence. He urged the private sector to come forward and take up both designing and manufacturing of the defence equipment so that the Indian flag could be kept flying high on the global stage.

He said that MSMEs work as a backbone for the entire manufacturing sector. The reforms that were taking place today were giving more freedom to MSMEs and encouragement to expand.

The Prime Minister said the defence corridors that were being built in the country today would also help local entrepreneurs and local manufacturing.

Uttarakhand tragedy: Rescue team near crucial junction in Tapovan tunnel

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 22 FEBRUARY



Rescue workers inside Tapovan tunnel at Chamoli. SNS

The search and rescue team, making effort to reach the trapped workers in Tapovan tunnel since the past 17 days, are approaching a crucial junction point.

The rescuers have cleared debris till 170 Mts inside the tunnel, by Monday, and are about 10 Mts away from reaching the 'T-point' from where small tunnels connect to the main one.

According to the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority the search and rescue team has cleared debris from 170 Mts patch inside the tunnel.

Right from the day the disaster hit the remote part of Chamoli, the team are making efforts to reach the trapped workers.

It was estimated that about 30-35 workers are stuck inside the tunnel. The effort was to reach the 180 Mts point, a junc-

tion of small tunnels. So far 14 bodies have been recovered from the tunnel.

Different agencies are involved in the search and rescue operation and so far they have recovered 70 bodies from different places.

Still 134 people remain missing. ITBP, NDRE, SDRF, IAF and Indian Navy are deployed in the operation. Relief operations are going on at war footing in the flash flood hit villages.

Ration kits are being provided to affected families. So far 555 families have received ration kits and many others were provided solar lights.

A high level meeting of government officials, related to the Chamoli disaster, took place in New Delhi on Monday.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla chaired the meet-

ing to review the status of the artificial lake which has formed in the wake of the avalanche incident in the upper catchment of the Rishiganga River in Chamoli District.

Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Om Prakash joined the meeting through video conference and informed that based on the physical assessment of the artificial lake made on site by multiple scientific agencies and satellite data, there is no imminent danger as the volume of water is less than expected and is flowing through a natural channel which has been widened.

The Union Home Secretary reviewed the action being taken to allow for more flow to the water and removal of some obstructions which have formed at the site of the artificial lake.

CAPITAL SHOW



Delhi Police Women's band perform at India Gate in the Capital on Monday. SUBRATA DUTTA

PM inaugurates techno-projects in Assam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 22 FEBRUARY



in New Delhi (2014), the situation has drastically changed for the development of Assam as well as the entire region.

Union minister Pradhan in his speech claimed that recent investments to the tune of 95 corers in the petroleum sector of Assam became possible because of Modi's goodwill. He also added that oil royalty rupees six thousand crores were already released to Assam by the Centre.

State minister Himanta Biswa Sarma pointed out that the government has established new engineering colleges at Dhemaji and Golaghat. At the same time, engineering colleges at Sualkuchi, Bongaigaon, Bihali, Udaguri, Nalbari and Nagaon are coming up soon. Similarly, new medical colleges at Dhubri, Nagaon, Nalbari, Tinsukia, Diphu, Lakhimpur, Charaideo and Biswanath have also come up, he added.

Sonowal also echoed similar views that the previous Congress governments neglected the north bank of mighty river Brahmaputra, but since Modi has taken charge

AHMEDABAD, 22 FEBRUARY

Two BJP nominees were today declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in the vacancies caused by the death of its member Abhay Bhardwaj. By-elections for the two separate Rajya Sabha vacancies concluded without a contest as the Congress did not put up any nominee because it doesn't have enough numbers in the Assembly.

As the terms of the two Rajya Sabha berths run separately, the vacancies were to be filled up through separate by-elections.

The ruling BJP has, thus, won both the seats on the strength of its clear majority.

BJP bags two Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

BJP had fielded courier company founder Rambhai Mokariya for the vacancy caused by the death of its member Abhay Bhardwaj whose term would run for more than five years

in the 182-member State Assembly.

BJP had fielded courier company founder Rambhai Mokariya for the vacancy caused by the death of its member Abhay Bhardwaj whose term would run for more than five years.

Dinesh Prajapati has been elected to the vacancy caused by Congress leader Ahmed Patel's death and, thus, he would have to retire from the Upper House after two-and-a-half years.

FS: India to maintain credible minimum nuclear deterrence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

India today expressed its readiness to participate in the negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and reiterated its commitment to maintaining credible minimum nuclear deterrence with the posture of no-first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states as part of its nuclear doctrine.

"India is committed to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. Our call for complete elimination of nuclear weapons through a step-by-step process, as also outlined in our Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted to the CD in 2007 has an enduring relevance. India reiterates its call to undertake the steps outlined in the Working Paper, including negotiations in the CD of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said at the high-level Segment of the CD.

India, Shringla noted, has supported the immediate commencement of negotiations in the CD on FMCT. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), was another long-standing item on the CD's agenda.

"India looks forward to an early start of negotiations of a

legally binding instrument on PAROS to address pressing issues relating to space security," he added.

He said the world began this year with high hope and expectation. India has welcomed the extension of the New START Treaty between Russia and the United States.

"However, much work needs to be done by us in the CD. We need to rise above our differences, and demonstrate political will and genuine intent of finding consensus to deliver on our collective mandate. Those resorting to politicisation only weaken the mandate of this body," he added.

The Indian diplomat said the Covid-19 pandemic has been perhaps the most disruptive global event in the world's collective memory. While the pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities, it also underlined the need for global solidarity and strengthened multilateralism.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, by delivering on his promise at the UN General Assembly to make Indian manufactured vaccines affordable and accessible to all of humanity, has once again shown that India was a force for global good.

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

I, Prannay Kumar Jain son of Prithviraj Jain residing at Flat 3A, Block 4, Parnasree Green, 1/1, Upendaran Banerjee Road, Kolkata-700060 is also known as Pranay Jain. Both Prannay Kumar Jain and Pranay Jain is same and one identical person. Vide Affidavit dt. 23.12.2020 sworn in before the Court of Lt. First Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Court, Kolkata, I shall henceforth be known as Pranay Kumar Jain.

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tar Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 O.A. No. 578/19 Dt. 10-12-2020 ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE Versus Applicant

Anil Kumar Sharma & Ors. Respondent To, Defendant

3. Sh. Ajay Kumar S/o Sh. K.P. Singh, R/o 4/A, Nagi Rajapur East Nizamuddin Delhi -110021 Also at: A-302, Arampalai Vaishali Sector-3, Vaishali Ghazababad

4. Sh. Madan Mohan Sharma S/o Sh. Madhusudan Prasad Sharma, R/o 19E Bahubali Extension Delhi-92. Also at: 83, AGCR Enclosure Delhi-92

5. Ms. Ultra Home Construction Pvt. Ltd

Immigration Overhaul

Joe Biden has predictably jettisoned Donald Trump's immigration agenda. Thursday's immigration overhaul envisages a dramatic expansion of worker visas, chiefly to modernise the system of immigration and facilitate citizenship for millions of what are called "undocumented Americans". Indeed, the proposal unveiled by Democrats on Capitol Hill offers an eight-year path to citizenship for most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in America, eliminates restrictions on family-based immigration, and expands worker visas. A refreshing change from the previous paradigm, one that was quirky as well as direly restrictive.

It would be useful to recall that Trump had started his tenure by barring citizens of six Islamic countries from setting foot in the United States. For all that, Saudi Arabia was excluded from the "out of bounds" list despite evidence that citizens of the desert kingdom had masterminded 9/11. The wall skirting Mexico remains a non-starter. "Today, we have an administration and a President who understands that the success of our country is interwoven and linked to the success of our immigrant communities, and it is time that we finally put in place an immigration system that's based on that reality. Immigrants are good for our communities, for our economy and for our country."

The legislation brings to life President Biden's plan to restore humanity and American values to our immigration system," was the resonant chant of the Democrats, more than a month after the outrage in the Capitol. It is the way history often works. Mr Biden will now be riveted to an emotive and thorny political issue that he is hoping to address despite the political challenges associated with moving legislation on immigration in Congress.

Mr Biden's immigration agenda comes at a time when the President and Democratic lawmakers are already in the midst of another major legislative undertaking - the passage of the coronavirus relief package.

While the immigration overhaul is on the anvil, Mr Biden will have to countenance several daunting issues unrelated to the pandemic. Unlike previous efforts to overhaul immigration, this legislation does not propose heightened border enforcement.

Instead, the bill adds resources to process migrants legally at ports of entry and invests \$4 billion over four years in distressed economies in the hope of preventing people from fleeing to the United States because of security and economic crises.

Immigration has been referred to as the "cornerstone of Trump's hateful horror show". Much as Joe Biden has succeeded to a depleted inheritance, he has signalled an earnest effort to set things right.

Hits & misses

In terms of attracting top drawer professional talent from outside the political arena to their respective folds, the BJP over the past three decades is clearly ahead of the Congress. In that sense, the decision of India's 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan to join the saffron party in his home state of Kerala a couple of months ahead of the Assembly election due in May is emblematic of what the BJP has got right and the Congress has not. Interestingly, this is a situation entirely of the latter's own making.

It may not be too widely known but during UPA-II Delhi's power corridors were abuzz with the efforts being made by well-wishers of Mr Sreedharan to get the Manmohan Singh government to nominate him to the Rajya Sabha. His proven excellence in the field of engineering, his integrity, and his contribution in a very tangible way to nation-building ought to have made him a shoo-in. But no.

The elitism embedded in the Congress' DNA meant that, instead, some bright spark in the party thought it an even brighter idea to figuratively throw something to the 'people', as India's citizenry is patronisingly referred to by the baba log, and Sachin Tendulkar and Rekha were nominated to the Upper House. Both legends barely opened their mouths and what their contribution was to the Rajya Sabha remains an abiding mystery for most.

Earlier, under UPA I, there was a concerted campaign by those with the Congress' interests at heart to get the administration to appoint an upright, young bureaucrat to the post of Information Commissioner so as to showcase the party's commitment to the Right to Information which it had commendably put on the statute. Again, the powers-that-be didn't play ball. The name of the bureaucrat was Arvind Kejriwal and he went on to become the Congress' nemesis.

Mr Sreedharan told media that his decision to join the BJP, despite it being only a bit player with a grand total of one MLA in the 140-member Kerala Assembly, was based on what he had observed living in the state post-retirement over the past 10 years. "I have seen different (Congress and Left) governments and they are not doing what can be done for the people."

Of crucial import, though, as the octogenarian Engineer Emeritus of India, to coin a phrase, begins his new innings, is not the political hara-kiri the Congress continues to commit but the sociological reasons why it does do. And that has everything to do with its assiduously nurtured culture of inter-generational entitlement, not to mention servility and cronyism.

Survey travails

The Economic Survey favours economic growth over distributive justice, ignoring the fact that in recent times, the fruits of our progress have gone disproportionately to the rich and in fact, the spending power of the poor has declined sharply



The publication of the Annual Economic Survey, just before the Union Budget, is a much-awaited event. Giving a snapshot of the Indian Economy together with a SWOT analysis, every word of the Survey is precious for serious students of economics. Painstaking research, unbiased statistics and unmatched scholarship ensure that the Economic Survey remains of interest to economists and politicians long after the corresponding year's Budget is forgotten. The Economic Survey of 2016-17 summarised this desire in the following words: "It (Economic Survey) must possess a rare combination of gifts No part of man's nature or his institutions must be entirely outside its regard. It must be purposeful and disinterested in a simultaneous mood, its authors as aloof and incorruptible as artists, yet sometimes as near to earth as politicians."

The current Economic Survey, however, makes no such pretensions. We get a hint of the direction that the Survey would take, at the very beginning, in the Preface itself, where the authors declare: "The foresight of our collective vision to battle this pandemic became evident when policy insights and implementation at the Centre, State and local level converged to initiate a V-shaped economic recovery. This spirit resonated in the recent Team India's victory in Australia where their resilience to rebound from 36 all out to winning the Test series was a V-shaped performance indeed!"

This self-congratulatory statement assaults one's sensibilities, because the V-shaped recovery of the Indian economy, alluded to by the Survey, is visible only to Government economists, and the Indian cricket team is unlikely to have gotten their fighting spirit from the economic decisions of the Government. Moreover, on principle, an academic publication should refrain from reaching a conclusion without marshalling the necessary facts.

The current Economic Survey appears to be designed not only as a SWOT analysis of the Indian economy but with a view to provide justifications for some recent decisions of the Government. For example, the Survey starts with the chapter "Saving Lives and Livelihoods amidst a Once-in-a-Century Crisis." Run-

ning into forty pages, the entire chapter is a spirited defence of the 68-day lockdown (mentioned wrongly as a 40-day lockdown on page 15). The chapter lists the 'reformative' laws enacted during the lockdown and goes on to wax eloquent about the far-sighted policies of the Government which have set the stage for a 'V-shaped recovery.'

For good measure, an entire table "Illustrative Timeline of Consultations/Recommendations for Agricultural Reforms," unrelated to the topic at hand, details the occasions on which farming reforms were discussed at various fora or were mentioned in documents. The entire chapter, however, does not have a single word to say about the human cost of the lockdown, particularly the privations suffered by migrant workers, casting a doubt on its fairness. The Survey also ignores inconvenient facts like the exponential increase in the wealth of the super-rich in India during the lockdown, when the nation's wealth and the resources of the poor had declined steeply. Then, there is a chapter in the Survey "Does India's Sovereign Credit Rating reflect its fundamentals? No!" that almost weaves a conspiracy theory against the three major Credit Rating Agencies, S&P, Moody's and Fitch. To buttress the theory of bias of Credit Rating Agencies against emerging economies like India, the authors quote the example of China, whose Sovereign Credit Rating was downgraded the moment it became the world's third largest economy. While the Survey devotes considerable space to prove that the low credit ratings did not reflect the situation on the ground, thankfully no motive has been attributed to the Credit Rating Agencies for their parsimonious assessment. According to the Survey, the low credit ratings have affected FPI inflows in debt and equity instruments. With the high investment by FPI turning the Indian stock market virtually into a den of speculators, we are probably better off with a poor credit rating! Thus, the Survey's prescription of asking the Credit Rating Agencies to

change their methodology to award a proper Sovereign Credit Rating to us, would be nothing more than good optics.

The Economic Survey unabashedly favours economic growth over distributive justice, ignoring the fact that in recent times, the fruits of our progress have gone disproportionately to the rich and in fact, the spending power of the poor has declined sharply, as borne out by the "Key Indicators: Household Consumer Expenditure in India" survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO), which found that the average monthly spending by an individual fell to Rs 1,446 in 2017-18 from Rs 1,501 in 2011-12, i.e. by 3.7 per cent. In fact, in rural India monthly spending on food in 2017-18 was Rs 580, a nearly 10 per cent decline from Rs 643 in 2011-12.

Also, the Survey ignores the findings of contemporary studies like the Oxfam study "India: Extreme inequality in numbers" which concluded that the top 10 per cent of the Indian population holds 77 per cent of the total national wealth and that the rich were getting richer with 73 per cent of the wealth generated in 2017 going to the richest 1 per cent. Again, disturbingly, the Economic Survey completely ignores the lopsided growth of the Indian economy in the aftermath of Coronavirus pandemic - the Oxfam study goes on to state that post-lockdown the wealth of most Indian billionaires increased dramatically while the Indian economy shrank by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter, with a loss of 2.1 crore salaried jobs till August.

Another chapter "Regulatory Forbearance: An Emergency Medicine, Not Staple Diet" discusses the problem of bank NPAs holistically but ends up putting the entire blame on the RBI for continuing the policy of permitting banks and financial institutions to continue operating even after their capital was severely depleted (termed regulatory forbearance by the Survey), long after the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-09 was over. The analysis of the problem is sharp and a proper roadmap is given on how



DEVENDRA SAKSENA

The writer is a retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax

Discouraging allocation

SIR, Mr Devendra Saksema's factual analysis of the reflection of Union Budget 2021 on the social sectors of education, health care, rural development, MNREGA, rural and urban employment has enlightened the readers about the real position of the budget allocation on these sectors. Like in the previous Union Budget 2020 the present year's budget doesn't bring forth any encouraging hopes except the much needed higher allocation of Rs 35,000 crore exclusively for meeting the expenditure of Covid-19 vaccination. Other than that, there is hardly any encouraging note of fund allocation for the social sectors that constitute the backbone of economy in connection with consumption in the grassroots of society. To create a multiplier effect in demand for consumption in society has been neglected possibly due to limited scope of gar-

nering sufficient resources in an effort of avoiding the budgetary deficit and deficit financing as much as possible. But, will this escapade not create denting effects in the demand scenario that may lead to doldrums in economic activities of manufacturing and production with the surplus supplies not matching with the weak demands. Yes, demands from the corporate houses may partly absorb the higher supplies but not to all levels.

It is really pathetic to note a lower allocation for



education in the budget. This may prove a stumbling block in the matter of successful implementation of the New Education Policy that the Govt has adopted. Further, the fields of higher education and research in the country may feel starved of requisite funds to scale up the levels. Finally, it is also a fact pointed out about the un-utilized fund again provided as fund-allocation for some of the lower levels of society. In the aftermath of Covid-19 there has been job-loss and unemployment on a massive scale.

Yours, etc., Paramananda Pal,
Kolkata, 20 February.

Tribute to Jibanananda Das

SIR, This tribute poem is a tribute to poet Jibanananda Das, on the week of his 122nd birth anniversary (17 February 1899–22 October 1954). Das is often regarded as the premier Bengali poet who ushered in a refreshingly different poetic style and substance into Bengali poetry, thereby significantly breaking free from the Tagorean poetic tradition.

This allusive poem is inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Krishnakali" and Jibanananda Das's poem "Banalata Sen".

"Where Were You So Long"
The doe eyed dark girl
'jet-black', quipped the villagers
Disappeared into the dark night
Her unplaited hair around her face
Like a glistening black halo
She hadn't covered her head
There was no time for coyness
Krishnakali, the jet-black girl
Rushed through the rice fields
She looked at the black cows, as black as tar
The pond mirrored her ebony form
Krishnakali, the dusky blossom,
Looked at the black clouds laden with rain
But she did not stop, she would not stop
Krishnakali of Moynapara
Had to find the elusive enigma tonight.
Where was she? Where was she?
The girl with the flowing long hair
Like the strands of night
The girl with the sculpted Sravasti profile

Yours, etc., Sanjukta Dasgupta, (Former Professor, Dept of English, Calcutta University), Kolkata, February 20.

As the court verdict on the House dissolution nears, the Pushpa Kamal Dahal-Madhab Kumar Nepal faction of the Nepal Communist Party appears more desperate than ever. The Election Commission remains undecided regarding the split of the ruling party. Their series of 'show of strength' demonstrations in the capital have failed to garner much public support, and instead provoked ire for disrupting daily life. Proposals sent to the Nepali Congress and Janata Samajabadi Party for a joint movement have been snubbed.

Civil society, which has been holding parallel demonstrations against the House dissolution, has questioned the intentions of the political parties and opted out. In a bid to garner broader support, the desperate Dahal-Nepal faction has now announced that the party is drafting a white paper detailing its commitments to resolve the political stalemate.

Leaders from the Dahal-Nepal faction say the white paper would explain the party's plans for the near future and help convince opposition parties and civil society to come together for a joint movement. Whether the 'commitment paper' will be able to do so is for time to unfold, but what has been vividly clear from the start is that both factions of the ruling party, as well as other parties, are equally to blame for their lack of

THE KATHMANDU POST
THE KATHMANDU POST
comment to democracy, the rule of law and social justice. For decades now, the public has been at the receiving end of political greed and corruption, no matter who is in power. Democratic and unconstitutional practices have been the hallmark of politicians, who do nothing but consolidate power and blame each other for the systematic anomalies. The country, therefore, continues to be trapped in a vicious cycle of instability which has weakened democratic institutions and the rule of law while systematically stifling all hard-won rights of the citizens.

If we need any evidence of recurring foul play, several weeks since Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli dissolved the House, the failure of the political parties to find common ground reeks of opportunism and a complete lack of democratic norms within the parties. This is a time when the political parties should have converged to manage their conflicts and strengthen democracy to align the country's interest amid a public health emergency. Instead, they have engaged in eroding political culture and have opened gaps for confrontation and further polarisation.

Shocking as it was, what has led to the current crumbling of the ruling party was only a matter of when the intra-party feud would reach its climax. Now that it has taken the entire country hostage, shocking yet is there have been no efforts to reach a negotiation.

Both factions of the Nepal Communist Party are inclined to bulldoze their might through, the traits of which can be found across opposition parties. In its reservations about joining the protests, civil society is correct in urging the political parties to come up with common commitments and plans to end the existing anomalies in society. Just changing who resides at Baluwatar next will never institutionalise democracy.

HARSHA KAKAR

The virtual foreign ministers' meeting of the Quad hosted by the new US administration last week sent a strong message to China. India for the first time used the term Quad. Apart from its standard comments on freedom of navigation, there was also a reference to supporting Asean 'cohesion and centrality'. China responded by commenting negatively on the grouping as Beijing views it to be tailored against it.

Known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Quad was created in 2004 in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Initially created for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, it has grown way beyond that over a period of time. It currently focuses on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

The Quad comprises of India, US, Japan and Australia. The US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, has termed it as, "a foundation upon which to build substantial American policy in the Indo-Pacific." There is no doubt that it is a challenge to an assertive China.

The foreign ministers of the four Quad nations met for the first time in New York in 2017 and subsequently in Tokyo, in October last year. Until 2017, it was India which had hesitated raising Quad interactions to foreign minister levels. During the meeting in Tokyo, Mike Pompeo, then US Secretary of State, mentioned that the US hoped to institutionalize the Quad, emphasizing that it has the capacity to push back China. Other nations avoided naming China directly. The Biden administration is following in its predecessor's footsteps and considers Quad as an essential grouping of like-minded nations.

The statement issued by the White House after the first Modi-Biden conversation stated, "The leaders agreed to continuing close cooperation to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, including support for freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and a stronger regional architecture through the Quad." Joe Biden and Japanese PM, Yoshihide Suga, in their telephone conversation, also agreed to 'promote the Quad grouping.' Last week, the US announced its willingness to host a meeting of leaders of Quad nations in the near future. It is possible that this would be a virtual meeting.

Japan and Australia already have a defence treaty with the US, while India hesitates to create a new military

Economic dimension key to Quad success



tary architecture as it could antagonize China and add to tensions, despite the ongoing de-escalation and disengagement. India's close ally, Russia, has also announced its misgivings about militarisation of the Quad. Further, entering into an alliance could result in India being drawn into conflicts which it may not desire or having its forces operate under US command, which India is unwilling to accept. It is for this reason that the Indian Navy has avoided joining the US in Freedom of Navigation Operations in the South China Sea (SCS). It has, on the contrary, sailed independently in the SCS.

India is a key player on account of its naval power and its strategic location. Its active participation is therefore essential. There is also a difference in areas of interest between nations comprising the Quad, which complicates its effectiveness. US and Japan are mainly concerned on the South and East China Sea, Australia, the Western Pacific and India, the Indian Ocean. Unless these differences are resolved, effectiveness of

the Quad as an entity will remain questionable.

During the peak of Covid 19, Vietnam, South Korea and New Zealand participated in what was termed as the Quad plus dialogue. This was essentially for containing Covid and reinvigorating national economies, post the pandemic. Vietnam can become an important partner on account of its location and continued differences with China. Simultaneously, all these nations are also part of the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), except India and the US. This indicates that despite differences on territory and security, trade remain the primary focus.

India, Japan and Australia signed an initiative last year seeking to reduce dependence on supply chains from China while adding more like-minded countries to their list. This was done with the intention of countering Chinese expansionist designs in the SCS and its land borders with multiple nations including India. It was also a major lesson from Covid 19, wherein China was seen to control the global

supply chain. Japan is already encouraging its industry to pull out manufacturing from China. Unless new supply chains begin benefitting nations from Asean, the initiative is unlikely to win much support.

A question raised is whether the RCEP would override the Quad. It translates into economic considerations carrying more weight than military groupings. For the Quad to be effective, it needs active participation of Asean members, all of whom are members of RCEP. Chinese influence in the region, despite differences with many nations over the SCS, has ensured that they stay away from actively contributing to the Quad. South Korea, a close ally of the US, has also not displayed any enthusiasm in joining the Quad. Simultaneously, the Chinese initiative of evolving a Code of Conduct for the SCS with Asean nations, has yet to make headway.

Hence, if the Quad is to push its weight in the region, it has to have a strong economic element built within it. An exclusively militaristic approach, as currently being projected, would

never draw nations of Asean into it as they believe challenging China could enhance tensions, which could be detrimental to their growth and security. It could compel them to choose between the US and China, a difficult choice. The Quad would need to expand into a Quad plus, bring in nations from Europe and Asean, with plans to offer an alternative to the Chinese BRI and supply chains, if it seeks to be effective. The diplomatic power carried by its members and their military power is currently sufficient.

The 'Australia-Japan-US Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership' and 'Japan-EU Infrastructure and Connectivity Agreement,' both of which exist, should pull in India and extend their outreach into the Indo-Pacific with an aim of pushing economic development. A combined economic and military Quad would be essential to blunt Chinese power in the region and draw Asean nations into the grouping, enhancing effectiveness.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

A time to cherish Azad's ideals

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN
CHANDAN

When the Indian subcontinent was pushed into violent communal turmoil and was being partitioned as its consequence, one person firmly stood out as the guardian of secularism, unity and peace. He was Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, whose 63rd death anniversary fell on Monday.

He was, in fact, one of the architects of India's secular constitution, the pioneer of free and compulsory elementary education in the Indian subcontinent, a preacher of Islam and a statesman of unparalleled wisdom.

However, Maulana Azad never attended a formal school, college or university. He was born in Mecca in a conservative Muslim family. He was home-schooled and self-taught and he was a prodigal learner.

By the age of 12, he could compose poetry and could write literary treatise in Urdu, Arabic and Persian. He even started to edit his first weekly newspaper Al Misbah. Azad went on to complete Dars-E-Nizami curriculum which required him to study Quran, Hadith, Islamic laws and philosophy deeply.

He was deeply influenced by the pan-Islamic thoughts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Jamal-al-Din-Al-Afghani. He dreamt of the revival of the lost Islamic heritage by achieving freedom from the British colonisers.

In the wake of the First World War when the Ottoman Empire joined hands with Imperial Germany, Maulana Azad published two magazines named Al-Hilal and Al-Balagh



where he tried to persuade Indian Muslims against British rule and in favour of the Ottoman Khilafat.

Both of these magazines were banned by the British government; his place in Kolkata was ransacked and he was forced to leave the city. After the war ended, Maulana Azad became a key organiser of the Khilafat movement which was aimed at preserving the Ottoman Khilafat under which Maulana's pan-Islamic vision could be materialised.

Although the Khilafat was lost and Mustafa Kamal's abolitionist steps threw it into oblivion, Maulana Azad through this movement came in contact with Mahatma Gandhi which greatly changed his political career.

He was greatly inspired by Gandhi's non-violent civil disobedience movement and became extremely

critical of the Muslim League's communal and often violent approach.

He left the Muslim League in 1920 and joined the Indian National Congress. After the end of Khilafat movement, Maulana Azad's focus of political activism was shifted to preserving Hindu-Muslim unity.

He vehemently opposed the two nations theory stating that "India's actual problem is economic, not communal."

Due to his firm anti-colonial stance and uncompromising dedication for Hindu-Muslim unity, he became extremely popular and was elected as the youngest president of Congress in 1923 at the age of only 35. In the same year, during the Delhi Convention, he made a historic remark which made him the "ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity."

He said, "Today if a farishta (an angel) were to descend from the Heaven and declare from the heights of the Qutab Minar that India will get Swaraj within 24 hours provided she relinquishes Hindu-Muslim unity. I will relinquish Swaraj rather than give up Hindu-Muslim unity. Will in the attainment of Swaraj, will be a loss to India but if our unity is lost it will be a loss to entire mankind."

Maulana Azad opposed partition not just as a Congress leader but also as a Muslim scholar. He foresaw that the formation of Pakistan on the basis of religion would not sustain and Muslim minorities in partitioned India would face alienation and discrimination.

He said in his book India Wins Freedom, "There would remain three and half crores of Muslims scattered in small minorities all over the land. With 17 per cent in UP, 12 per cent in Bihar and 9 per cent in Madras, they will be weaker than they are today in the Hindu majority provinces."

Maulana Azad's political and religious wisdom has been vividly reflected in his magnum opus Tarjuman-Ul-Quran, an interpretation of Quran published in two volumes (one in 1930 and another in 1936).

In this partial-Urdu translation and interpretation of Quran, he discussed different tenets of Islam along with the faiths existing at the time of Islam's revelation such as: Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Zoroastrian and Hinduism. This modern and unifying interpretation of Islam was acclaimed internationally at that time.

As the education minister of free India, Maulana Azad took many historic steps which ultimately shaped modern India and ensured quality education for millions of minorities.

He was one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia, a central university of India which has become the epicentre of educational and cultural renaissance of Indian Muslims. It is today one of the top 10 universities in India.

Maulana Azad universalised elementary education and launched a massive drive for adult education to remove illiteracy. University Grants Commission, Board for Rural Higher Education and Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) were his brainchild which have qualitatively remodelled India's higher education system.

He replaced the colonial education system with an open and democratic education system where minority and marginalised communities enjoyed free access.

On his 63rd death anniversary, we have to admit that we have deviated greatly from Maulana Azad's modern, progressive thoughts. We didn't listen to his warnings and the entire sub-continent is still paying the price for it.

The passing of the citizenship amendment act in India, and spread of communal and ethnic conflicts in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar prove how right he was.

Although his birth anniversary is observed as India's national education day, today he is remembered only in the Muslim majority areas of the country. Pakistani have mixed feelings towards him and in Bangladesh he is rarely mentioned.

However, there is no doubt that for the peace and stability of this region, it is now that we most need a progressive leader like Azad and to revisit his modern, secular ideals.

The Daily Star/ANN

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The pronouncements of the British Labour party are subject to scrutiny from two points of view, firstly as bearing on the matter in hand, and secondly as illustrating the qualifications of the party for the Ministerial responsibilities to which they aspire. The manifesto just issued on the subject of the existing trade depression and unemployment is not without its measure of truth, but it will not increase the reputation of the party for statesmanship. It is true that if Germany is too heavily burdened she will be handicapped as a customer; it is also true that if the world's markets are "swamped with virtually prison-made goods" British industries and those of Allied countries must be prejudiced. The logical extreme of this argument would be that Germany should have escaped without any indemnities. Whether the Labour party goes so far as this is not clear, but the manifesto criticises the indemnities imposed by the peace treaty. The opinion of the average elector, so far as this can be gauged, is that the indemnities are rather below than above the limit justly due from the authors of the war; and it is of little use for the Labour party to attack this method of compensation without suggesting some alternative. If the Labour party means to be treated as a responsible body it must face hard facts, and one of these is that, while other classes are bearing their losses.

NEWS ITEMS

RIOT AT SIKH SHRINE

Lahore, Feb 22
The Commissioner of Lahore division returned to Nankana yesterday afternoon. He had an interview with Sardar Sahib Singh, Sardar Harbans Singh of Atari and other Sikh gentlemen, and finally agreed to give the charge of the Shrine to a committee. The committee agreed to be responsible that no attack would be made by the Sikhs on the other persons at Nankana Sahib. The Commissioner there saw the bodies of the four Sikh victims and the places where numerous other bodies were burnt. It cannot yet be stated with certainty how many were killed, but the number is not less than 67. The Government realises that a savage crime has been committed and it is determined to do all it can to bring the criminals to justice.

MR. BELL'S MISSION TO LHASA

Allahabad, Feb 22
There is no truth in the report which was recently published that the object of the Government of India in sending Mr. C.A. Bell to Lhasa was to demand the payment of the money due by Tibet for arms and ammunition supplied to repel the Chinese some years ago and for loans contracted by the Dalai Lama during his residence in India. No such loans were even contracted by the Dalai Lama, nor are any sums due on account of arms and ammunition. The truth is that Mr. Bell, who is well known to the Dalai Lama, was sent to Lhasa in response to several requests which had been made by the Dalai Lama that a British officer might be allowed to pay a friendly visit to the capital.

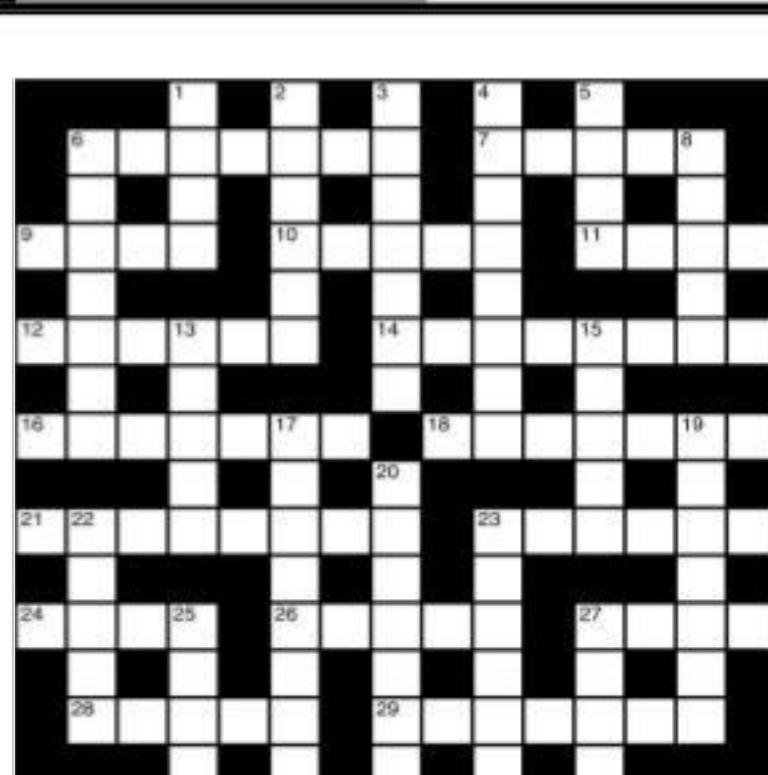
BENGAL'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

In the course of his speech in opening the Suri Exhibition on Saturday last, the Maharaja of Burdwan said:- To my mind, at the present moment, in an agricultural province like Bengal, we cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of the holding of such exhibitions, not only as a valuable aid to the rural population and agriculturists to learn practically how to demonstrate some of the things which they see in an exhibition of this kind, but through that knowledge to learn practically to assist in enlarging their own produce and thereby their own income. What is more, it is through such a demonstration alone that the seeds can be sown for the methodical operations of scientific agricultural education in the future.

"YOUNG BOKHARANS" AND BOLSHEVIKS

The "Young Bokharans" have begun to discover the real value of Bolshevik friendship. Dissension is reported to have broken out between these worthies and the Bolsheviks over the disposal of the spoils of Bokhara, which are in that possession of the latter, says the Pioneer. The "Young Bokharans" wanted to keep the loot in their own hands, but the Bolsheviks compelled them to hold to the argument that most of the treasure secured was due to the Amir's Government, which they had overthrown. The manner in which the Soviet Government have ignored Russia's genuine liabilities to other countries accentuates the hypocrisy of their proceedings in this case, continues the journal.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 6 Novelist introducing last letters from Fanny Brown in Time Out (4-3)
- 7 Mad? As mad as Fanny, perhaps (5)
- 9 Clues note Psyche and suchlike, For starters (4)
- 10 Bit of magic from outside right, said Mark Wright (5)
- 11 Writers putting Nightingale in Berkeley Square originally (4)
- 12 13 week period of not quite mutual admiration finally shattered (6)
- 14 Surveillance job with second coffee option provides clue to theme (5-3)
- 16 Free guitarist? Being given one for nothing gets rude rejection (4-3)
- 18 Stick, ultimately one used in running slope (3,4)
- 21 Deny struggling with Melancholy and Indolence initially, performing as a handsome youth (8)
- 23 Chain or whip, when not extremely penal (6)
- 24 Was happy with new pen? (4)
- 26 Near neighbour of Douglas's, about to get some 6A (5)
- 27 Russian city cloaked in returning thick smog (4)
- 28 John recited with some force, that's clear (5)
- 29 Playwright unknown in China? (7)
- 30 DOWN
- 1 Fans missing "dark beer" drinks (4)
- 2 Poet briefly working as comedian (6)
- 3 Good person briefly supporting a Lake Poet's most lofty expression (7)
- 4 Linklater's content to respond cheekily (4,4)
- 5 Win audience with small number that we hear might be Grecian (4)
- 6 Spurs game I must lampoon,

DOWN

- 8 Setter blocked in by bus before lunchtime, cycling in Romanian city (5)
- 13 Retract Nancy's article, for instance (5)
- 15 Former postman, one now living abroad (5)
- 17 Suddenly gets angry, obscure fish appearing in reverse (8)
- 19 Male or female Lydians reimagined by poet (7)
- 20 Making new sort of punk, met Shaggy! (7)
- 22 Post from one we love (5)
- 23 Heads are those of Cupid and Psyche, inscribed 'To Apollo' (6)
- 25 Part of '16 needing some bottle – and cheek! (4)
- 27 Bits of old verse periodically appearing as part of today's theme (4)

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

NO 28834





Domestic passenger vehicles industry expected to grow in double digits in FY'22 on the back of continued robust demand momentum

SHAILESH CHANDRA

PRESIDENT - PASSENGER VEHICLE BUSINESS UNIT, TATA MOTORS

THUMBNAILS

HC breather for Khadim's: Calcutta High Court recently passed an order of injunction, thereby restraining Lehar Footwears Limited of Rajasthan from using the trademark "WASH 'n' WEAR" on its products which is originally owned by Kolkata-based Khadim Group, according to a Press release from Khadim's. Khadim's is the owner of trademark "WASH 'n' WEAR" since 2004. Recently, Khadim's filed a case of trademark infringement before Calcutta High Court, claiming that Lehar Footwears Limited is illegally using the trademark "WASH 'n' WEAR", the release added.

SNS

IHG Hotels: IHG Hotels and Resorts on Monday announced the debut of its extended-stay brand ~ Staybridge Suites ~ in India with the signing of Staybridge Suites Bengaluru Thanisandra. The property, signed as a management agreement in partnership with NR Greenwood Construction, is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2023, IHG Hotels said in a statement.

PTI

Valyu.ai: Valyu.ai, a transformative fintech startup, has unveiled an advance salary service on its mobile app, which is now available on Google Play. Employers can avail the advance salary for employees by registering with the Valyu.ai platform. NBFCs like Kudos Finance & Investments Pvt. Ltd. and Arthmate (Mamta Projects Pvt. Ltd.) have joined hands with the startup as financing partners, said the Press release.

SNS

Forbes list: Auroko Bhattacharjee, a 29-year-old entrepreneur and business executive, has been listed in the prestigious Forbes India 30 Under-30 list. Every year, Forbes features a list of talented individuals who have done distinguished work in their respective fields below the age of 30. He has been selected in the coveted list of Forbes for his contributions to industry, notably the hospitality sector, said a release.

SNS

Vivo campaign: Smartphone maker Vivo has announced the launch of a new brand campaign "Real People, Real stories" that attempts to bring real stories of people who are making a difference with their work, and also to provide a platform to the community of young aspiring film makers to showcase their talent to the world by telling real stories from various parts of India, according to a Press release.

SNS

L&T wins contract: Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday said its power transmission and distribution business has bagged large domestic and overseas contracts across its spectrum of offerings.

PTI

Future-Reliance deal: SC asks NCLT not to pass final order

The Supreme Court agrees to hear Amazon's plea against the Delhi High Court verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

DEAL DISPUTE

► The US-based e-commerce giant has moved the top court against the order of the high court division Bench which paved the way for the Reliance-FRL deal.

► During the brief hearing, the apex court proposed to pass an order to stay the proceedings before the National Company

Company

The Supreme Court today asked the NCLT not to pass a final order on the amalgamation of Future Retail Ltd (FRL) with Reliance Retail as it agreed to hear Amazon's plea against the Delhi High Court verdict staying its single Judge directive to maintain status quo on the deal.

The US-based e-commerce giant has moved the top court against the order of the high court division Bench which paved the way for the Reliance-FRL deal.

During the brief hearing, the apex court proposed to pass an order to stay the proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Future group had moved the tribunal seeking regulatory approvals to the Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Future group, said, however, that the top court's stay order will prolong the proceedings by the NCLT by at least six weeks.

Recording his submission,

The reply is to be filed in

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Recording his submission,

The reply is to be filed in

three weeks and a rejoinder to it two weeks thereafter, the Bench said, adding that the appeal will be listed for hearing after five weeks.

The Delhi High Court on 8 February had stayed its single Judge direction to FRL and various statutory authorities to maintain status quo on the mega deal.

The interim direction was

passed on FRL's appeal challenging the 2 February order of the single Judge.

The high court division Bench had also declined Amazon's request to keep its order in abeyance for a week so that it can explore appropriate remedies.

In August last year, Future had reached an agreement to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to Reliance.

Subsequently, Amazon took FRL into an emergency arbitration before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) over an alleged breach of contract by Future group.

Amazon had first filed a plea before the single Judge for enforcement of the 25 October 2020 Emergency Arbitrator (EA) award by the SIAC restraining FRL from going ahead with its Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance.

The high court division bench, however, said it was staying the single judge order as firstly, FRL was not a party to the share subscription agreement (SSA) between

Amazon and Future Coupons Pvt Ltd (FCPL) and the US e-commerce giant was not a party to the deal between FRL and Reliance Retail.

The Bench further said it was of the prima facie view that the share holding agreement (SHA) between FRL and FCPL, the SSA between FCPL and Amazon and the deal between FRL and Reliance Retail "are different" and "therefore, the group of companies doctrine cannot be invoked".

Another reason given by the court for its interim order was that there was prima facie no reason to seek a status quo order before the single Judge.

The Bench said there were a lot of contentious issues involved in the matter and it was not going to adjudicate on them at this stage.

It also said that its observations were only prima facie and the single Judge ought not to be influenced by them when pronouncing the order on Amazon's plea for enforcement of the EA award by SIAC restraining FRL from going ahead with the deal.

"As per the transaction

DHFL: Auditor unearths fraudulent transaction of ₹6,182 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

etary impact at around Rs 6,182.11 crore (which includes Rs 210.85 crore as notional loss of interest), said the company.

According to findings of Grant Thornton (GT), these transactions happened over a period of time.

The management of DHFL is currently being run under an administrator appointed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code after frauds were detected in the company.

The administrator later on appointed GT as the transaction auditor to conduct investigation of the affairs of the company.

On the basis of the investigation and observations of the transaction auditor, the administrator has filed an application before the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on 20 February 2021 in respect of disbursement made to certain entities as other large project loans, against Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan, Creatoz Builders Pvt Ltd, Ikhshidup FinCap Pvt Ltd, Rite Developers Pvt Ltd and certain other entities.

mentals have improved, with more focus on industrial and cyclicals," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, BSE energy, realty, IT, teck, auto and capital goods indices skidded up to 2.92 per cent, while metal and basic materials ended with gains.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell up to 1.34 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended on a negative note, while Tokyo traded with gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading in the red in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.66 per cent higher at \$62.55 per barrel.

Bucking the weak trend in equities, the rupee gained 16 paise to settle at 72.49 against the US dollar.

Sensex falls 1,145 pts, ends below 50K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 22 FEBRUARY

2,409.81 points in five sessions while the Nifty has shed 639 points.

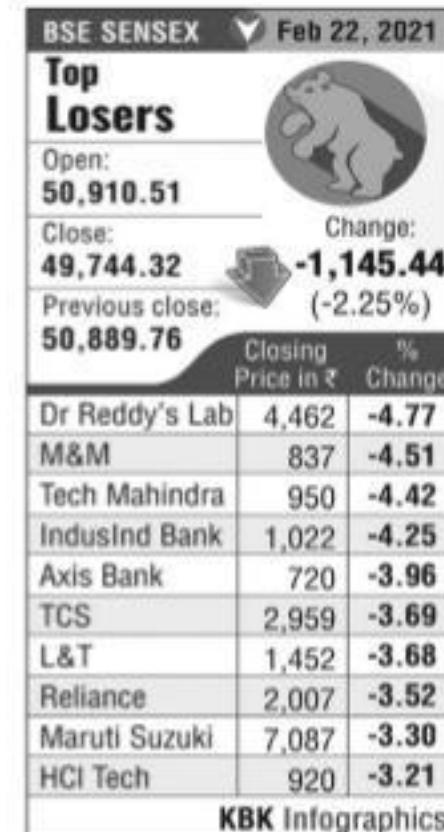
Dr Reddy's was the top loser in the Sensex pack today, declining 4.77 per cent, followed by M&M, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and TCS.

Only three index components finished in the green - ONGC, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank, rising up to 1.14 per cent.

World shares retreated amid rising bond yields and a rally in select commodities, with investors monitoring the progress of the \$1.9-trillion Covid-19 relief Bill in the US.

"Rising economic restrictions from spike in virus cases and weak global cues hit the domestic market sentiment. The rate of market fall was aggravated by a sharp rise in volatility, being a monthly F&O expiry week."

"FPI inflows which was leading the rally slowed down due to global vulnerabilities from rising bond yield and inflation. However, this is a buy on dip market, a short-term correction will trigger new buying, as economic funda-



due to global vulnerabilities from rising bond yield and inflation. However, this is a buy on dip market, a short-term correction will trigger new buying, as economic funda-

Coal India inks pact with CRIS for sharing of coal freight data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

ing Coal India's rail movement of coal, the company said, adding that it also includes other logistics details.

"For faster and customised automated access to data, through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) of Indian Railways, which would help Coal India... monitor movement of rakes laden with fossil fuel and coal despatch activity, the company on Monday entered a memorandum of understanding with Centre for Railway Information Systems," the PSU said in a statement.

CIL has developed a portal which helps in sharing the FOIS data with its subsidiary coal companies.

"The pact assumes greater significance at a time when CIL is pushing for increased rail evacuation and gradually reduce the road movement of the dry fuel. The real time data helps us in better planning," the company said.

SAT stays Sebi's order against HDFC Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

Vedanta CFO G R Arun Kumar resigns

NEW DELHI, 22 FEBRUARY

time to Sebi to file a reply.

The tribunal in its order noted that HDFC Bank is one of the largest private sector bank and as per balance sheet it has assets of Rs 1,654,228 crore and therefore has sufficient financial strength and ability to furnish the amount as per the impugned order.

It is not a case where the bank will run away or will become insolvent, it added.

"We accordingly stay the effect and operation of the impugned order till further orders of the tribunal subject to the condition that appellant will give an undertaking to Sebi that they will abide by the result of the appeal and the directions given therein within four weeks from the date of the disposal of the appeal," the tribunal said.

"The fact that the circulants have been violated or not and whether the securities have been rightly invoked by the appellant requires consideration," the tribunal said in an order dated 19 February while giving three weeks

cured advances and it would be more seen in private sector banks than public sector banks because of the former's higher exposure to unsecured loans. The stock of stressed retail assets for PSBs could increase to 2.9 per cent in FY22 from 2.1 per cent in FY21, while it could increase from 1.2 per cent to 4.3 per cent for private banks, it said.

Through a bottom-up analysis of stressed corporates using two filters - revenue above Rs 100 crore and interest coverage below 1.5x, the agency has assessed that stressed corporate assets as a percentage of gross bank credit declined to 15.3 per cent at end-1HFY21 from 15.7 per cent at end-FY20.

"The key reasons for the reduction are low slippages (standstill classification, moratorium etc), write-offs of 0.9 per cent, and no advances growth in the first half of FY21," it said.

Haria said a lot of the retail stress is coming from unse-

up their provisions even more for legacy stressed assets, which were existing before the pandemic. We expect that by the end of FY21, the provisions will go up to almost 75-80 per cent on those NPAs. This will give banks space to absorb Covid stress."

With the last year's change in accounting norms, which allows public sector banks (PSBs) to offset their profit and loss balance sheets with share premium account, large banks would be able to manage to raise additional tier 1 capital on their own.

The agency also revised

their credit growth estimates to 6.9 per cent in FY21 from earlier 1.8 per cent, and 8.9 per cent in FY22.

It said that about 1.24 per cent of the total bank book is under incremental proforma NPA and about 1.75 per cent of the total book could be restructured by end-FY21. This is the incremental stress purely on account of the Covid-19 pandemic and does not include the slippages that banks would witness in the normal course of business, it said.

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up their provisions even more for legacy stressed assets, which were existing before the pandemic. We expect that by the end of FY21, the provisions will go up to almost 75-80 per cent on those NPAs. This will give banks space to absorb Covid stress."

With the Indian passenger vehicles market moving further towards the SUV segment, homegrown auto major Tata Motors is gearing up to cast a wider net in the segment targeting first-time buyers to premium-end customers while driving strength from its synergies with JLR, according to a top company official.

The firm, which today launched the all-new Safari SUV with introductory prices ranging from Rs 14.69 lakh and Rs 2



We have no intention to challenge or replace the United States. We are ready to have peaceful coexistence

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI
DURING A SPEECH AT THE LANTING FORUM

The Statesman
NEW DELHI TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021

09

Protests swell after Myanmar junta raises spectre of force

Junta warns of lethal force if people answer call for general strike opposing military takeover three weeks ago

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 22 FEBRUARY



Thousands of protesters gathered at Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon on Monday.

Protesters gathered in Myanmar's biggest city on Monday despite the ruling junta's threat to use lethal force against people who join a general strike against the military's takeover three weeks ago.

More than 1,000 protesters gathered near the U.S. Embassy in Yangon despite barriers blocking the way, but left to avoid a confrontation after 20 military trucks with riot police arrived nearby.

Protests continued in other parts of the city, including next to Sule Pagoda, a traditional gathering point.

Factories, workplaces and shops were shuttered across the country Monday in response to the call for a nationwide strike. The closings extended to the capital, Naypyidaw.

The junta had warned against a general strike in a public announcement Sunday night on state television broadcaster MRTV.

It is found that the protesters have raised their incitement towards riot and anarchy mob on the day of 22 February. Protesters are now inciting the people.

People, especially emotional teenagers and youths, to a confrontation path where they will suffer the loss of life, the onscreen text said in English, replicating the spoken announcement in Burmese.

The junta's statement also blamed criminals for past protest violence, with the result that the security force members had to fire back. Three protesters have been fatally shot.

Trucks cruised the streets of Yangon on Sunday night, blaring similar warnings.

The protest movement, which seeks to restore power to the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and her and other leaders released from detention, has embraced nonviolence.

bikes to allow swift movement in the event of any police action.

Reports and photos of protests, some very large, in at least a dozen cities and towns were posted on social media.

There were pictures of a particularly colorful event in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, where scores of small red hot-air balloons were set aloft.

A bigger one was adorned with a drawing of the three-finger salute adopted by the anti-coup movement.

The city is famous for its annual hot-air balloon festival.

In Pyinmana, a satellite town of Naypyidaw, police chased people through the streets to arrest them.

The general strike was an extension of actions called by the Civil Disobedience Movement, a loosely organised group that has been encouraging civil servants and workers at state enterprises to walk off their jobs.

Many transport workers and white collar workers have responded to the appeal.

On Saturday, a General Strike Committee was formed by more than two dozen groups to provide a more formal

structure for the resistance movement and launch a spring revolution.

The ominous signs of potential conflict drew attention outside Myanmar, with the U.S. reiterating that it stood with the people of Myanmar, also called Burma.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Twitter the U.S. would take firm action against those who perpetrate violence against the people of Burma as they demand the restoration of their democratically elected government.

We call on the military to stop violence, release all those unjustly detained, cease attacks on journalists and activists, and respect the will of the people, State Department spokesman Ned Price said on Twitter.

On Sunday, crowds in Naypyidaw attended a funeral for the young woman while demonstrators also mourned two other protesters who were shot dead on Saturday in Mandalay.

Under the junta, 640 people have been arrested, charged or sentenced, with 593, including Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, still in detention, according to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners

UN agency calls for rescue of Rohingya

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 FEBRUARY

A broken-down boat carrying ethnic Muslim Rohingya is believed to be drifting in the Andaman Sea, the UN refugee agency said on Monday, appealing to Southeast Asian governments to rescue them.

The vessel departed from Cox's Bazar and Teknaf in Bangladesh 10 days ago and has been adrift for over a week after the engine broke down, the UN High Commission for Refugees said.

The refugees reported the vessel ran out of food and water several days ago. Many are in highly vulnerable condition and are apparently suffering from extreme dehydration.

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Four women activists killed in NW Pak: Police



ASSOCIATED PRESS

PESHAWAR, 22 FEBRUARY

A group of suspected militants ambushed a vehicle carrying women activists from a non-governmental organisation in a former northwestern tribal region bordering Afghanistan on Monday, killing four of them and wounding the driver, police said.

The attack took place in the village of Epi in Mir Ali, a town in North Waziristan district, said Iqbal Khan, a local police officer.

Shafiullah Khan, a district police chief, also confirmed the attack, saying police had launched a search in an effort to trace and arrest the attackers.

They fled to nearby mountains and no one has claimed responsibility.

Officials said the victims were from the Sabawoon Pakistani charity, which provides training to women interested in doing business from their homes and creates awareness among them about their rights.

The women activists trav-

elled to Mir Ali from the town of Bannu in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The attack drew condemnation from Pakistani rights activists on social media, with most of them demanding a swift action against those responsible.

Police said the apparent militants had prior information and were waiting for the women to arrive.

Pakistani militants have in recent months stepped up their activities in the region, raising fears they were regrouping in the former Taliban stronghold. Militants also often attack Pakistani troops in the former tribal regions bordering Afghanistan. The North and South Waziristan districts served as the main base for local and foreign militants until the military secured the regions in 2015.

The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, are a separate insurgent group from the Afghan Taliban, although Pakistan's militant groups are often inter-linked with those across the border.

12-yr jail term, penalty for Pak-American venture capitalist over fraud records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 22 FEBRUARY

A Pakistani-American venture capitalist has been sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined USD 1.75 million for falsifying records to hide his work as an unregistered foreign agent while lobbying high-level US officials.

Imaad Shah Zuberi, 50, a California resident, was sentenced by US District Judge Virginia A Phillips, who also ordered him to pay USD 15,705,080 in restitution and a criminal fine of USD 1.75 million, the US Department of Justice (DoJ) said in a statement.

Zuberi turned acting as an unregistered foreign agent into a business enterprise. He used foreign money to fund illegal campaign contributions that bought him political influence, and used that influence to lobby US officials for policy changes on behalf of numerous foreign principals, said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C Demers.

"He not only concealed his lucrative agreements with those foreign principals but

also made false statements about them in a Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) filing, he said.

After learning he was under investigation, Zuberi doubled down on his criminal conduct, obstructing justice by creating false records, destroying evidence, and attempting to purchase witnesses' silence, Demers said.

In November 2019, Zuberi pleaded guilty to a three-count information charging him with violating the FARA by making false statements on a FARA filing, tax evasion, and making illegal campaign contributions. In June 2020, he pleaded guilty in a separate case to one count of obstruction of justice, Pakistani newspaper 'The News' reported on Sunday.

Zuberi flouted federal laws that restrict foreign influences upon our government and prohibit injecting foreign money into our political campaigns. He enriched himself by defrauding his clients and evading the payment of taxes, said Acting US Attorney Tracy L Wilkison "As Mr Zuberi's greed and wealth

increased, his elaborate influence-peddling scheme collapsed. By lending a veneer of credibility through name dropping and flashing photos with high-level government officials, Zuberi was able to con foreign donors, said Assistant Director in Charge Kristi K Johnson of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office.

"Now that he's been sentenced, he will be held accountable by the United States government which he so recklessly misrepresented. Johnson said.

Zuberi was sentenced for falsifying records to conceal his work as a foreign agent while lobbying high-level US government officials, evading the payment of millions of dollars in taxes, making illegal campaign contributions, and obstructing a federal investigation into the source of donations to a presidential inauguration committee, the DoJ statement said.

In December 2016, Zuberi donated \$900,000 to the Trump inaugural committee and was a top fundraiser for former President Barack Obama's re-election in 2012.

'Microbes from Earth may temporarily survive on Mars'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BERLIN, 22 FEBRUARY

Some microbes found on Earth may temporarily survive on the surface of Mars, according to a study that could be vital for the success of future missions to the Red Planet.

The researchers from NASA and German Aerospace Center tested the endurance of microorganisms to Martian conditions by launching them into stratosphere, the second major layer of Earth's atmosphere which closely represents key conditions on Mars.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Microbiology*, paves the way for understanding not only the threat of microbes to space missions, but also the opportunities for resource independence from Earth.

"We successfully tested a new way of exposing bacteria and fungi to Mars-like conditions by using a scientific balloon to fly our experimental equipment up to Earth's stratosphere," said Marta Filipa Cortesao, joint first author of the study from the German Aerospace Center.

"With crewed long-term missions to Mars, we need to know how human-associated microorganisms would



survive on the Red Planet, as some may pose a health risk to astronauts," said joint first author Katharina Siems.

"In addition, some microbes could be invaluable for space exploration. They could help us produce food and material supplies independently from Earth, which will be crucial when far away from home," Siems said.

Many key characteristics of the environment at the Martian surface cannot be found or easily replicated at

the surface of Earth, however in middle stratosphere the conditions are remarkably similar.

"We launched the microbes into the stratosphere inside the MARSBOX payload, which was kept at Martian pressure and filled with artificial Martian atmosphere throughout the mission," explained Cortesao. "The box carried two sample layers, with the bottom layer shielded from radiation," she said.

This allowed the researchers to separate the effects of radiation from the other tested conditions. The top layer samples were exposed to more than a thousand times more UV radiation than levels that can cause sunburn on our skin, they said.

"While not all the microbes survived the trip, one previously detected on the International Space Station, the black mold Aspergillus niger, could be revived after it returned home," Siems explained.

Microorganisms are closely-connected to us; our body, our food, our environment, so it is impossible to rule them out of space travel, she said.

Mass evacuation at flood-hit West Java outskirts

BEKASI, 22 FEBRUARY

Thousands of residents are being evacuated on the outskirts of Indonesia's capital amid flooding after the Citarum River embankment broke, officials said Monday.

Bekasi district in Indonesia's West Java province have experienced flooding since Saturday because of heavy rain.

Some embankments are broken, not only from the river embankment but also from the irrigation embankments, Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono said Monday.

Rescuers from the National Search and Rescue Agency have been deployed.

Raditya Jati, spokesperson for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said that more than 28,000 residents in four villages in Bekasi district and 34 villages in Karawang district are affected by the floods. At least 4,184 people are being evacuated.

Thousands of houses in the area are covered with 100 to 250 centimeters (40 to 100 inches) of water and are without power.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Artificial (4)
- 3 Earthen pot or jar (5)
- 7 Concept (4)
- 8 Fearless (8)
- 9 Item of camping equipment (8,3)
- 12 An imagined perfect place (6)
- 14 Street (6)
- 15 Great work (11)
- 18 Impressive (8)
- 20 Sullen (4)
- 21 Literary category (5)
- 22 Unit of heredity (4)

DOWN

- 1 Faithfulness (8)
- 2 Custom (5)
- 3 Feline (3)
- 4 Perform surgery (7)
- 5 Malayan knife (4)
- 6 Watchful (8)
- 10 Best clothes (informal) (4,4)
- 11 Deflate (8)
- 13 Group of soldiers (7)
- 16 Fireplace (archaic) (5)
- 17 Complacent (4)
- 19 Frozen water (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

- DOWN
- 1 Wry, 14 Bitter, 16 Cohabitation, 18 Flaw, 20 Tuneful, 21 Tunic, 22 Law, 7 Couture,
- 11 Pescator, 13 Inhabit, 15 Static, 17 Offal, 18 Flaw, 20 Tuneful, 21 Tunic, 22 Law, 7 Couture,
- 2 Yodel, 3 Samosa, 5 Easest, 6 Scatterbrain, 7 Couture,
- 10 Best clothes (informal) (4,4)
- 12 Edited, 14 Bitter, 16 Cohabitation, 18 Flaw, 20 Tuneful, 21 Tunic, 22 Law, 7 Couture,
- 13 Group of soldiers (7)
- 15 Static, 17 Offal, 18 Flaw, 20 Tuneful, 21 Tunic, 22 Law, 7 Couture,
- 16 Fireplace (archaic) (5)
- 17 Complacent (4)
- 18 Flaw, 20 Tuneful, 21 Tunic, 22 Law, 7 Couture,

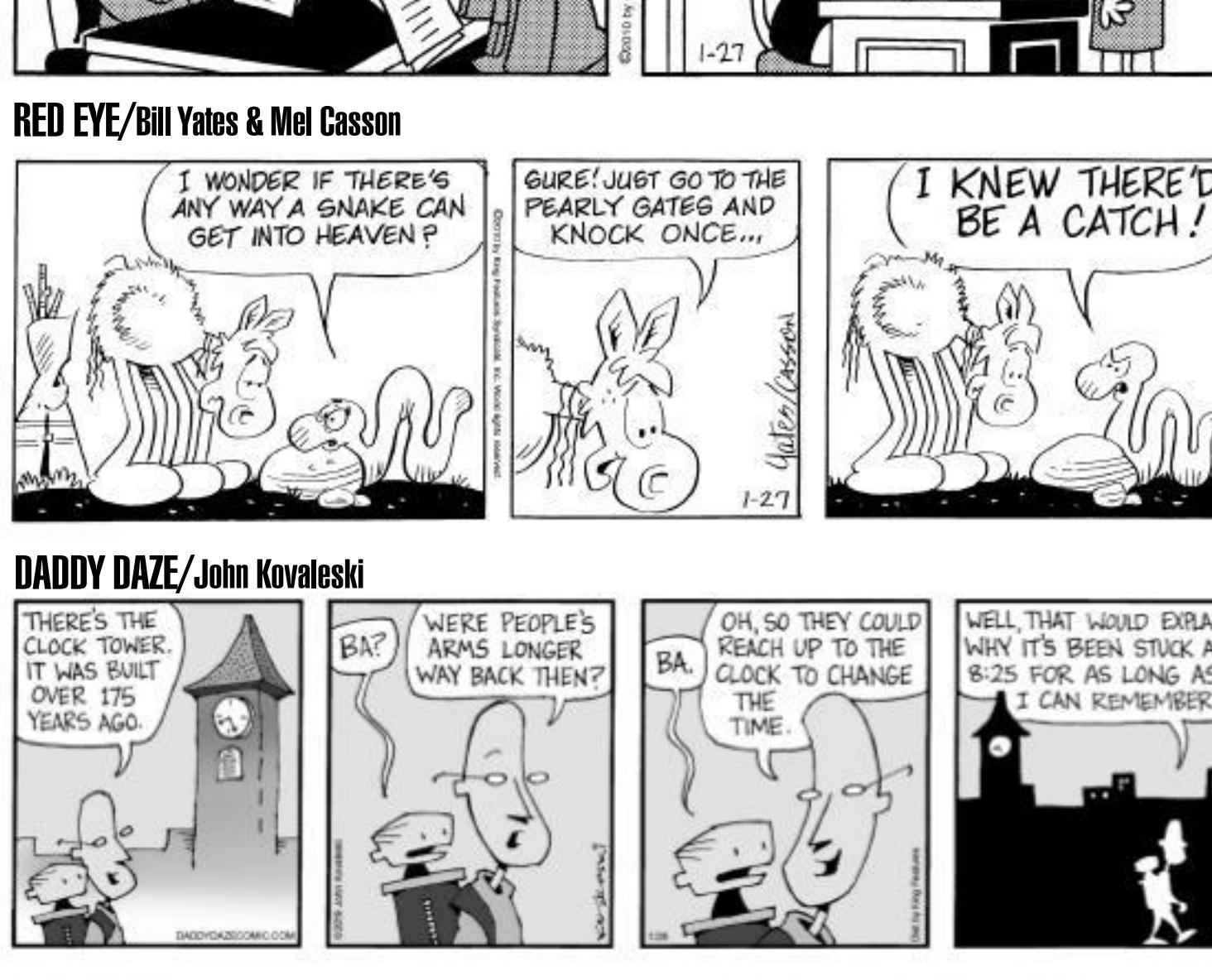
By arrangement with The Independent

Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 2658500, 26588900
- Mochland Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidysagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Teg Bahadur 2371473, 23255230

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800125151
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY



Information about the world's first case of transmission of the avian flu (H5N8) to humans has already been sent to the WHO

ANNA POPOVA

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	32	23 S
HONG KONG	22	17 CL
TOKYO	15	5 S
LONDON	13	11 H
DUBAI	27	21 H
SAN FRANCISCO	22	8 H
NEW YORK	7	2 R
MOSCOW	-19	-24 H

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

THUMBNAILS



After beating bone cancer, Hayley Arceneaux figures rocketing into orbit on SpaceX's first private flight should be a piece of cosmic cake. AP

Air force plane crash: Six members of Mexico's military were killed when the plane they were in crashed in the southeastern state of Veracruz. A statement from Mexico's Secretary of Defence on Sunday said the accident took place in the morning when the air force's Learjet 45 was taking off from the airport in the city of Xalapa. It is said that six members of the military were killed and an investigation was underway. AP

China urges US to lift trade restrictions, stop interference: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the US on Monday to lift restrictions on trade and people-to-people contacts while ceasing what Beijing considers unwarranted interference in the areas of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. AP

Boris Johnson to lay out roadmap for lockdown in UK

More than 17.5 million people in the UK have received a vaccine dose

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 22 FEBRUARY

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to table a cautious roadmap in Parliament on Monday to ease the country out of the strict stay-at-home lockdown in place to control the spread of coronavirus infections.

The strategy, to be finalised at a virtual Cabinet meeting, will set out the latest data on infection rates, hospitalisations and deaths, as well as early data showing the efficacy of vaccines.

Based on the latest Covid-19 statistics, Johnson is expected to confirm that all schools will reopen across England from March 8 and that families and friends can begin to

be reunited outdoors under a return of the rule of six for gatherings later in March.

Members of Parliament will vote on the regulations, following which the final roadmap will kick into action in the coming weeks.

Today I'll be setting out a roadmap to bring us out of lockdown cautiously. Our priori-

ty has always been getting children back into school which we know is crucial for their education as well as their mental and physical wellbeing, and we will also be prioritising ways for people to reunite with loved ones safely, said Johnson, ahead of his statement in the House of Commons.

Our decisions will be made on the latest data at every step, and we will be cautious about this approach so that we do not undo the progress we have achieved so far and the sacrifices each and every one of you has made to keep yourself and others safe. We have therefore set four key tests which must be met before we can move through each step of the plan, he said. The key tests cover four aspects: the vaccine deployment programme continues successfully; evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated; infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations, which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS; and the assessment of the risks is not fundamentally

changed by new "variants of concern."

Before proceeding to the next step, the government said it will examine the data to assess the impact of previous easements.

Due to the current relatively uniform spread of the virus across the country, restrictions will be eased step-by-step across the whole of England at the same time.

Downing Street said that the four tests are currently being met so the first step will proceed from March 8, at which point the top four priority cohorts for vaccinations as determined by the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) will have received a degree of immunity, three weeks after being offered their first dose.

Italian ambassador killed in Congo while in UN convoy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME, 22 FEBRUARY

The Italian ambassador to Congo and an Italian carabinieri police officer were killed Monday while travelling in Congo in a United Nations convoy, the Foreign Ministry said.

In a brief statement, the ministry said Luca Attanasio and the officer were killed in Goma, the eastern regional capital. They were travelling in a convoy of the United Nations stabilisation mission in Congo. There were no other details.

In January 2019, Congo experienced its first peaceful democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960 following the election of President Félix Tshisekedi.

He succeeded strongman

Joseph Kabila in a disputed election marked by allegations of large-scale fraud and suspicions of a backroom deal by Kabila to install Tshisekedi over an opposition candidate who, according to leaked electoral data, was the real winner.

The resource-rich nation

Back-to-back civil wars later drew in a number of neighbouring countries. And many rebel groups have come and gone during the United Nations mission's years of operation, at times invading the eastern regional capital, Goma, where the ambassador was killed.

The UN peacekeeping mission, known by its acronym MONUSCO, has been working to draw down its 15,000-troop presence and transfer its security work to Congolese authorities. MONUSCO took over from an earlier UN peacekeeping operation—the United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo on 1 July 2010. It was done in accordance with Security Council resolution 1925 of 28 May to reflect the new phase reached in the country.

VACCINATION DRIVE



National Guard members assist people at a covid-19 vaccination center at the Jacob K Javits convention center in New York. IANS

40 beached whales refloated in New Zealand

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON, 22 FEBRUARY

allowed them to refloat the whales, she said.

The whales were spread out along the beach and one of their first tasks was to herd them together again in a pod. She said about 200 people, most of them volunteers, helped form a barrier as they moved the whales out to sea.

Once in deeper water, boats took over and zipped back and forth in a line to prevent the whales from returning to shore.

But she said that despite their efforts, the whales hadn't swum away into the ocean and they feared they might beach themselves again.

It's always fantastic to see whales out in deeper water where they should be, Hawkes said. Everyone is very hopeful but also very realistic.

Federal aviation regulators have ordered United Airlines to step up inspections of all Boeing 777s equipped with the type of engine that suffered a catastrophic failure over Denver on Saturday.

United said it is temporarily removing those aircraft from service, as meanwhile Boeing recommended grounding aircraft with that model engine until the Federal Aviation Administration sets an inspection regime.

Pratt and Whitney, maker of the engine, said it was sending a team to work with investigators while coordinating with airlines and regulators.

The announcements come a day after United Airlines Flight 328 had to make an emergency landing at Denver International Airport after its right engine blew apart just

after takeoff. Pieces of the casing of the engine, a Pratt and Whitney PW4000, rained down on suburban neighbourhoods.

The plane with 231 passengers and 10 crew on board landed safely, and nobody aboard or on the ground was reported hurt, authorities said.

Boeing said it supported decisions by the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau and FAA to suspend operations of all 777 aircraft powered by Pratt and Whitney 4000-112 engines.

It said there were 69 of the engines in service and another 59 in storage.

We are working with these regulators as they take actions while these planes are on the ground and further inspections are conducted by Pratt and Whitney," it said in a statement issued Sunday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said that two of the engine's fan blades were fractured and the remainder of the fan blades exhibited damage.

The NTSB did caution that it was too early to draw conclusions about how the incident happened.

Video posted on Twitter showed the engine fully engulfed in flames as the

FAA orders United to inspect Boeing 777s after emergency

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO, FEB 22

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The Federal Aviation Administration FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said in a statement Sunday that based on an initial review of safety data, inspectors concluded that the inspection interval should be stepped up for the hollow fan blades that are unique to this model of engine, used solely on Boeing 777

airplanes.

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Big factor in Covid votes in USA

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 22 FEBRUARY

to embarrass Biden with a high-profile defeat a month into his presidency.

Such a setback would deal early blows to both Biden and new Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. It could also wound congressional Democrats overall by risking repercussions in the 2022 elections if they fail to unite effectively against clear enemies like the pandemic and the frozen economy.

You think very seriously before casting a deciding vote against your own party's president, Biden said. Ian Russell, a longtime Democratic consultant.

But he cautioned that lawmakers must decide for themselves how their vote is going to play out at home.

The issue that's provoked the deepest divisions is a drive, largely by progressives, to boost the federal minimum wage to \$15 hourly over five years. The current \$7.25 minimum took effect in 2009.

It was the No. 1 priority for progressives, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., chairwoman

of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said in an interview last week.

This is something we've run on and something we've promised to the American people.

An overall relief bill, including the minimum wage boost, is expected to clear the House, and likely the Senate as well.

But the minimum wage boost's fate is shakier in the Senate, where Joe Manchin of West Virginia, perhaps the chamber's most conservative Democrat, has said the \$15 target is too expensive.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., has suggested she might oppose it, too. She said Democrats shouldn't whisk it to passage using special rules that would let them avoid a Republican filibuster, which would require an unattainable 60 votes to overcome.

Manchin's office did not make him available for an interview. Earlier this month he told The Hill, a political publication, that \$15 hourly would be responsible and reasonable.

Forget about oil and arms. Coronavirus vaccines are emerging as the newest currency of choice in the Middle East.

Israel's reopening of its economy, combined with a murky prisoner swap with Syria and the arrival of a batch of vaccines in the Gaza Strip, have all underscored how those with access to the vaccines have political power in the turbulent region.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been at the forefront of this trend, pinning his re-election hopes on the success of his campaign to vaccinate Israel's adult population.

At the same time, he has offered rewards to those who vaccinate and punishments to those who don't.

Israel has jumped out to the world's fastest vaccination campaign, administering at least one dose to more than half its 9.3 million people and the required two doses to about a third in less than two months.

In contrast to the long waits seen in Europe and the

US, vaccines are plentiful and available almost on demand to anyone who wants one. Clinics have even offered free food and cappuccinos to help lure reluctant holdouts to come in and get the jab.

Netanyahu's efforts finally seem to be bearing fruit, and the number of new coronavirus infections and serious cases is dropping. That enabled the government on Sunday to lift a number of restrictions, reopening stores, shopping malls, and many schools after a two-month lockdown. In the coming weeks, all schools and restaurants are expected to reopen, just in time for the March 23 election.

The timing is good for him, said Gideon Rahat, a political scientist at Israel's Hebrew University. Whether it is enough to divert attention from an ongoing corruption trial and the broader economic damage caused by the pandemic is to come in and get the jab.

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Sky is the limit

To opt from a plethora of courses that are nowadays available after graduation, students need to make sure that the subject is in tandem with their skills and interests

SHILPI SHARMA

The rising numbers of new courses that are being introduced in universities are widening career prospects for students. Nowadays, there are a lot of career opportunities available to students following graduation. Before choosing a career, one needs to make sure that the subject is in tandem with one's skills and interests in all possible extent. Opting for a job that does not bring in optimal satisfaction can drain the person and leave him/her unhappy in life.

The New Education Policy, which has been introduced by the government last year, encourages towards the addition of more skill-based approach to subjects rather than focusing on just theory. It also lends the flexibility of choosing a degree or diploma course as per one's need in between one's existing academic tenure. This policy gives importance to practical and research-based training instead of limiting them to textbook knowledge. After the completion of graduation, oceans of courses are now available for students. These serve a

multitude of purposes for different students or candidates; they are sometimes used to bridge the gap between different phases of academic study, or to provide additional professional training and qualifications.

Suggested here are a few examples from a vast pool of courses, which students can opt after passing out from college:

Fashion designing

In a highly competitive industry, fashion designing has emerged as one of the most rewarding, alluring, and exciting career options for those students who have a flair for creativity, style, and originality. The fashion industry offers a multitude of job opportunities for those who have a creative outlook towards exploring the ordinary and turning it into something interesting, unique and trendy. In the fashion world, hands-on learning is the key to success. By investing in an internship, one will get exposure to the broadest spectrum of opportunity while seeking and applying for a job after college or completion of course.

Interior designing

Interior designing continues to be one of the most sought-after design disciplines in which students can specialise and seek to build a career. The sector is not just expanding but it is getting redefined every day with the advancement of modern technology. Going by the real-estate boom, there is great scope for interior designers. One can choose to work with established interior-design organisations, in architects' firms, consultancy firms, or with builders and contractors. One can even choose to work as design consultants with hotels, hospitals, shopping arcades, or even in design studios and furniture stores.

Culinary arts

This is a dynamic and rapidly growing industry that offers a wide range of opportunities for diverse profiles for graduating students. Within the country, the industry has been estimated to double in its size in the coming decade. Culinary artists have various employment opportunities in hotels, restaurants, cafes, resorts, bistros, and bakeries. The field pro-

vides one with the liberty to explore the food industry as determined professionals and passionate freelancers as well.

Media courses

Careers in the field of media are diverse, offering exciting and incredible opportunities to students. However, one needs to have the flexibility and confidence to work in a very fast paced and challenging environment. The multiple options in the media field include advertising, audio engineering, anchoring, broadcasting engineering, radio jockeying, disc jockeying, video editing, print, graphics, public relations and website designing, event planning, etc.

Beauty and wellness

Beauty has a much deeper significance; it is not only a job for beautician. An attractive personal appearance has become a pre-requisite to move ahead in life. As the saying goes, if one looks good one feels good. The beauty industry in India is the 10th fastest growing market in the beauty and wellness sector. There is no one in this world who

wouldn't want to look their best. Here's where the beauty and wellness industry comes in to enhance one's natural splendour to make them look and feel confident in their own skin. From hairdressers to yoga trainers, one can try hands in a plethora of roles in the beauty and wellness industry. It offers a diverse range of careers to aspirants. Candidates can work for or run a locally owned beauty salon or be employed in spa resorts, fitness centres, cruise ships, hotels and so on. With a range of specialties available, candidates can find themselves developing a variety of skills in practices such as hair styling, makeup, skincare, etc. It is a dynamic industry, with new products and techniques being developed every now and then. In this programme one will learn how to cut and style people's hair, maintain the glow on their faces, give hair and face spas, colour hair, make-up and makeovers of people, etc. There are different programmes that cover different aspects of beauty care such as herbal, ayurvedic, etc.

The writer is director, Edu Brain Academy

PLUS POINTS

Admirable achievement



Asaawari Sahai- an 11-year-old White-Hat Jr student from Kolkata cleared the Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) Examination for introduction to programming using python. MTA is a globally recognised certification sought by those interested in pursuing a career in technology. WhiteHat Jr is an edTech start-up that teaches coding live 1:1 online to children from six to 18 years of age powered by a qualified teacher force of more than 11,000 women. A class 6 student of Modern High School for Girls and one of WhiteHat Jr's early adopters Sahai has attended more than 160 classes since she began in March 2019. Shweta Kotarki, a BTech grade and her teacher at WhiteHat Jr said, "Sahai has excelled at the course right from the beginning, even making it to the WhiteHat Jr's Code of Honour list two years in a row."

Enriching learners



Online learning platform Oliveboard partnered with the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) body recently to launch a pre-examination training (PET) for marginalised aspirants before the upcoming ECGC PO exam. Spread across six days from 15 to 20 February, PET will target students from SC/ST backgrounds and give them a basic grounding in the study material for ECGC PO prior to the exam scheduled on 14 March 2021. The recruitment drive is conducted to fill 59 vacancies, out of which, 25 are for the unreserved category, 16 for OBC, nine for SC, five for EWS, and four for ST. ECGC PO process involves an online exam followed by an interview of the candidates shortlisted based on their performance in the exam.

Engaging activity



Jtekan Shitoryu Karate Do Association India affiliated with Karate India Organisation and Karate Association of Bengal organised its 22nd Bongo Bhumi cup recently. The inauguration was done by Hanshi Premjit Sen, referee, World Karate Federation. The total number of participants was 482 (four- 57 years of age) from India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil and Namibia. In this international championship, India got the first position by winning 20 gold, 15 silver and 10 bronze medals. The second runner-up was Philippines. The championship was conducted live.

Helping students



The University of Hull announced admissions open for international students for its new academic session, which will commence from September 2021. Since the global economy has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the university has announced a special fee schedule to ease the financial burden on the international students who would be enrolling for a full-time master's programme at the university for the academic session 2021-2022.

For this particular session, the university will match fees for international students UK fees. For details visit: www.hull.ac.uk

HOW TOMORROW MIGHT BE



The Behala art festival held recently was an unusual display of finesse that reflected contemporary issues of our mundane life. A report by SPJS students



of urbanization.

In another case, we saw a roofless home through which a barbed-wire barricade was passed to showcase the story of a family whose home had been divided between two countries during the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. The art festival emphasized more on visual effects. The dominant color was black, as

artists used materials like charcoal in their art.

As the farmers' agitation is the burning issue at this moment, the convener Sanatan Dinda contributed to the festival with his art titled "The fissures between the nation and its citizens". Set against the backdrop of the ongoing farmers' protest in the country, his art attempted to relook

into the history of the farmers' movements in the country through different decades.

Shreejit Chatterjee, the spokesperson on behalf of the art festival organisers, said, "We wanted to create a different feeling for people who missed the Durga Puja festival last year. That's why we have organised this. This is only the second edi-

tion of this festival. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic visitors are comparatively less this year". All the artists here showcased their skills to highlight some issues of current times.

The art festival was a narrative of the past, the present and also provided a glimpse into the future of India with the abstract theme "How Tomorrow Might Be".



BACK IN BUSINESS

MC Mary Kom (*in photo, left*) is getting ready for her first tournament in a year next week, having recovered from the muscle loss triggered by a recent bout of dengue. The 37-year-old six-time world champion mostly trained at home in 2020 and joined the national camp in Bangalore for a fortnight last month.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Parisians slip: Days after routing Barcelona in the Champions League, Paris Saint-Germain lost 0-2 at home to Monaco to fall back down to earth and into third place in the French league. Fourth-place Monaco were hardly ever troubled on Sunday.

Barcelona held: Cdiz snatched a late penalty to draw 1-1 at Camp Nou and deal Barcelona a setback in their bid for the Spanish league title on Sunday. Lionel Messi appeared to put Barca on their way to an easy win in his club record 506th league appearance in Spain.

City win: Manchester City beat Arsenal 1-0 thanks to Raheem Sterling's second-minute header to preserve their 10-point lead over Manchester United and Leicester, which both also won on Sunday. Spurs have plunged to ninth place, having lost 1-2 at West Ham.

Inter triumph: Romelu Lukaku had the last laugh and goal - as his Inter Milan side beat Zlatan Ibrahimovic's AC Milan 3-0 on Sunday in their biggest derby match in a decade. The game took place almost a month after a heated spat between the two star players.

New Zealand beat Australia: Devon Conway made 99 not out from 59 balls to lead New Zealand to a 53-run win over Australia on Monday in the first of five Twenty20 internationals. The South African-born Conway improved on his previous high score of 65 in T20 internationals, coming to the crease when New Zealand was 11-2 and leaving unbeaten when it was 184-5 after winning the toss and batting first.

Vijender set for return: Unbeaten Indian professional boxing star Vijender Singh will be back in action next month after more than a year long hiatus forced by COVID-19, his promoters announced on Monday, promising to unveil his opponent soon. The fight will take place in India but the venue will be revealed later.



Top spot for Indians: Babjotsana Chanu (51kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) fetched two more gold medals as Indian women boxers ended with five overall for a top finish in the 30th Adriatic Pearl Tournament in Budva, Montenegro. Lucky Rana (64kg) secured a silver as Indian women emerged as the top team with 10 medals (five gold, three silver and two bronze).

Vaas resigns: In a dramatic turn of events, Sri Lankan pace great Chaminda Vaas on Monday resigned as the national team's fast bowling coach due to a pay dispute with his board, barely three days after being appointed to the post. Vaas resigned just before the team's departure for a tour of the West Indies.

Mumbai Falcons clinch third place: Mumbai Falcons created history on late Saturday night, becoming the first all-Indian team ever to finish in the top three of an FIA Championship in Abu Dhabi. The team, led by Jehan Daruvala who also clinched the third position in the Driver's Championship standings, grabbed three podiums.

Rights agreement: Discovery has secured the exclusive global rights to show the Giro d'Italia until at least 2025 in a move that further strengthens its unrivalled live cycling coverage and reputation as the home of Grand Tours. The long-term deal with RCS Sport via IMG means Discovery retains its status as the Giro's multi-platform rights holder.

Game may change session wise in pink ball Test: Ishant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, 22 FEBRUARY

The game may change session wise in the third Test, reckoned Ishant Sharma on Monday, as India and England dive into uncharted territory made up of pink balls, new stadium, newly laid strips and floodlights of different make.

India will take on England in a day-night Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium, the world's largest cricket venue with a seating capacity of 1,10,000, from Wednesday.

Asked whether the Indian bowlers would use the short-ball tactic during the twilight period, Ishant said, "That we get to know once we play at this ground, because it is renovated I can't really say anything now."

"We can't say what (will) trouble the batsmen and what will not, there will be a lot of things (that) we will have to see, we don't know how we will have to tackle all these things, there will be dew..." Ishant, who is standing on the cusp of playing his 100 Tests, said each bowler will have to take responsibility session wise. "How the wicket is here and how they (England) play, obviously under lights the ball swings, but you will have to see the dew factor, so there will be many things, and you cannot straightaway say that whether fast bowlers will remain in the game or the spinners.

"I feel the game will change session wise and each bowler will have to take responsibility session wise, who knows the ball might turn in the beginning here." Who knows if the spinners come to play in first two sessions, but under lights, when there is dew, the ball



does not swing, but skids and comes onto the bat."

"Then, spinners are not in the game and fast bowlers are, so it depends on the situation and how the ball and wicket is behaving at that time," he said.

The veteran pacer backed the team's batsmen to come good, saying they are capable of dealing with the conditions.

Umesh added to India's squad

Pacer Umesh Yadav was on Monday added to India's squad for the last two Tests against England after he passed a fitness test, while Shardul Thakur was released to compete in the ongoing Vijay Hazare one-day Championship. The third Test, a day/nighter, starts here on Wednesday. "Team India fast bowler Umesh Yadav appeared for a fitness test on Sunday, 21st February at Motera. He has cleared his fitness test and has been added to the squad for the last two Tests of the ongoing Paytm India-England Test series," said the BCCI in a statement.

"Shardul Thakur has been released from the squad to take part in the Vijay Hazare Trophy," it added.

would give me the best chance of being fit and firing for the pink-ball Test," Anderson was quoted as saying by The Guardian.

Former players, especially Kevin Pietersen, have criticised the England and Wales Cricket Board's thought process, saying they must play their best players in a big series like this against India.

Anderson, 38, had himself played the series-opener when he took five wickets in England's victory but was rested for the second where India emerged triumphant by a massive 317-run margin.

"I am feeling good and fresh and ready to go again if called upon. It's frustrating to an extent but I can see the bigger picture with the amount of cricket that we have got."

To further his argument,



Anderson cited injuries he had had to endure in the past two years when he missed matches in the 2019 Ashes series and also could not play two Tests against South Africa.

"It's the same for all bowlers,

just a case of trying to make sure you're not wearing someone out until they completely break in half."

England have called back paceman Wood but Anderson definitely would not mind bowling in tandem with Stuart Broad.

"That has definitely crossed my mind. Ideally, we would get into a position where there will be times - a crucial game potentially - when they want the experience there of both of us and that might get called upon."

"All we can do is when we get the nod do the best for the team, try and stay in as good shape as possible, stay as fit as possible and eventually whether it's in the summer or the back end of the year hopefully we will get the chance to play again together," he said.

A Test batsman is required to cope with all conditions, says Stokes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, 22 FEBRUARY

Brushing aside the incessant talk around spin-friendly pitches in India, big-hitting England all-rounder Ben Stokes (**in photo**) has said Test players should be proficient in handling all kinds of conditions.

Ahead of the day-night Test here starting on Wednesday, Stokes wondered aloud about how the newly-refurbished Motera strip would behave, but at the same time, stressed top-flight cricketers should be able to deal with whatever they faced.

"The thing about being a Test batsman is that you need to be able to handle all types of conditions. India is one of the places where it is a lot tougher for overseas batsmen to come and be successful, but then so is England," he wrote in a column for the Daily Mirror. "And that is part of the game, the challenges and why we love it," he said.

me to bowl underlights in the next game if it will help the team."

A lot is at stake for both India and England in the four-match series as a World Test Championships final spot is still up for grabs. While India need to win one and draw another to make it, England will have to triumph in both the remaining games.

Stokes said nobody had the slightest clue about how the track would behave.

"Generally around the world whenever these pink-ball games are played there is always a period when the ball starts doing a bit under the lights and it brings the seamers right into the game," Stokes wrote. "For us out here that will be massive. And at a brand new ground that looks pretty impressive no-one will know just how it will react. "We've got a good spin department, but hopefully with conditions that suit, we've certainly got a seam department to back them up strongly."

Mohun Bagan avoid shock defeat against 10-man Hyderabad

AGENCIES
GOA, 22 FEBRUARY

Despite trailing twice in a high-pressure clash, league leaders ATK Mohun Bagan fought their way out as they played out a thrilling 2-2 draw against 10-man Hyderabad in the Hero Indian Super League at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on Monday.

Aridane Santana (8') put Hyderabad up ahead before Manvir Singh (57') restored parity for ATKMB. The Nizams once again took the lead through substitute Roland Alberg (75') before Pritam Kotal (90+2') found the net late on to help Bagan snatch a crucial point.

The result effectively means that Bagan will have to wait for either Mumbai City FC to drop points in their next game or deny the Islanders a win in their last game to secure the League Winners Shield. A win here would have handed Bagan the title.

Hyderabad made a disastrous start to the game as Chinglensana Singh was sent off as early as the fifth minute.

Intercepting a clearance from Odei Onaindia, David

Williams raced towards goal with only the keeper to beat before being brought down by Chinglensana outside the box. The center-back was immediately handed his marching orders.

But it was Hyderabad who broke the deadlock. Santana pounced on a loose back pass from Kotal and fired a first-time shot. Subhash Bose failed to clear the ball over the line and the ball snuck into goal after hitting the far post.

Kattimani had no answer to.

But HFC took the lead again. Santana, the goalscorer, turned creator as he flicked the ball from a throw-in towards Alberg, who slotted his effort into the bottom corner.

As ATKMB pushed on for an equaliser, Kotal who was guilty of conceding the opener, managed to redeem himself. Jayesh Rane's cross was saved by Kattimani, but the ball hit the Bagan captain and went in.

Bayern problems mount, Manchester City in form

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 22 FEBRUARY

The Champions League talking points ahead of the second set of first-leg matches in the round of 16 on Tuesday and Wednesday:

LAZIO V BAYERN MUNICH

Defending champion Bayern Munich has mounting problems ahead of Tuesday's game.

The coronavirus is having an adverse effect on the team with Thomas Müller and Benjamin Pavard out of the match in Rome, though Javi Martínez and Leon Goretzka have recovered. The latter made his comeback Saturday with a second-half appearance but couldn't prevent Bayern from slumping to a 2-1 loss at Eintracht Frankfurt, days after the Bavarian giant was held 3-3 at home by relegation-threatened Arminia Bielefeld.

Atletico arrive for the match after having lost their shine in the Spanish league. Diego Simeone favours a

one's-side rode a scoring streak by Luis Suárez to take a commanding lead but they have stumbled with only one win in the last four rounds.

Simeone has moved away from his standard 4-4-2 formation, which Atletico used to topple then defending European champions Liverpool last season. Now Simeone favours a

three-man backline and uses two high wingbacks to support Suárez and Joo Flín in attack.

Winger Yannick Carrasco, however, is doubtful for Tuesday's match so that may alter his strategy. Thomas Tuchel has yet to lose any of his seven matches in charge since taking over as Chelsea manager at the end of January. His approach

is already clear - high wingbacks, two sitting midfielders, two inside forwards supporting the striker - and it has made Chelsea much harder to beat compared with the side under his predecessor, Frank Lampard.

ATALANTA V REAL MADRID

Real Madrid is hoping that Karim Benzema will be fit to play on Wednesday after trouble with an ankle ruled him out of the weekend's Spanish league match. Benzema leads Madrid with 17 goals scored across all competitions and does not have a clear back-up after the team let Luka Jović go this winter. The rarely used Mariano Daz started Saturday's game at Valladolid, but the team had to rely on holding midfielder Casemiro

Daz after an hour with reserve team player Hugo Duro.

Madrid are also missing injured captain Sergio Ramos

who is out with a left-knee injury. Atlanta will have poignant memories of the same stage last season. The Champions League outsiders beat Valencia 4-1 in the first leg but the joy was short-lived as, days later, Bergamo became the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic. The match was dubbed "Game Zero" by the media. Atalanta will have to put those thoughts to one side, however, and they will be full of confidence after an impressive performance saw them beat Napoli 4-2 in Serie A. Luis Muriel was inspirational as he scored a hat-trick and also had a hand in Atalanta's other three goals.

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH V MANCHESTER CITY

The two teams' seasons are heading in opposite directions going into what would appear a mismatch for a game taking place in Budapest, Hungary, due to

Germany's pandemic-linked ban on visitors from Britain. City are on an 18-match winning run in all competitions.

The Premier League title is seemingly a formality now, thanks to a 10-point lead. Pep Guardiola (*in photo*) can really start to focus on the Champions League where a title has proved elusive despite the club's heavy spending over the last decade. While City is in the round of 16 for the eighth straight season, it will be Monchengladbach's first knockout match in the competition outside qualifying in 43 years.

Its promising season is in danger of unravelling following news of Marco Rose's departure as coach. Gladbach ended on-going speculation over Rose's future by announcing that he will join league rival Borussia Dortmund next season and the team responded with a 2-1 loss at home to struggling Mainz on Saturday.

The Statesman Sport

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