



A GANDHIAN
PRIME MINISTER



ARMENIAN PM FACES
MILITARY'S DEMAND
TO RESIGN

P9



NEERA TANDEN'S
CONFIRMATION VOTE
GETS DELAYED

P10



'YOU CAN WAIT
FOR TIGER TO
ROAR AGAIN'

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 13 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 45%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.2°C (+8) Min: 13.4°C (1)
SUN RISES SUN SETS
06:48 hrs 18:19 hrs
MOON RISES MOON SETS
17:21 hrs 06:58 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Farmers during a demonstration against the new farm laws at the Ghazipur border, in the Capital on Thursday.

SNS

LPG price hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder: Cooking gas LPG price on Thursday was hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries. This is the third increase in rates this month on the back of spiralling international rates as demand recovered. A 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 794 as against Rs 769 at which they were supplied on Wednesday, according to a notification from fuel retailers.

Centre opposes same-sex marriage: Marriage in India is not just a union of two individuals but an institution between biological man and woman, the Centre told the Delhi High Court on Thursday while opposing same-sex marriage. It also said that judicial interference will cause "complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws". Any interpretation other than treating a husband as a biological man and a wife as a biological woman will make all statutory provisions unworkable, it said.

Axar wreaks mayhem at Motera as India win inside two days



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD, 25 FEBRUARY

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel created an illusion of turn with 11 straighter deliveries that put India on the brink of the World Test Championship final with a 10-wicket demolition of England in the day-night third Test here on Thursday.

In only his second Test, Patel (15-0-32-5), with a match-haul of 11/70, relentlessly hit the good length area and hoodwinked England batsmen, who played for turn only to find that there was none on offer from him.

The result was their lowest total against India - 81 all out in 30.4 overs leaving the hosts with a target of 49 which they achieved with minimum fuss, taking a 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

At the other end, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (15-3-48-4) was an ideal foil, becoming the fourth Indian bowler and second fastest in the world to complete a milestone of 400 Test wickets with the dismissal of Jofra Archer.

Incidentally, after Afghanistan's debut Test in 2018 in Bengaluru, this was the second time that India won a Test match, well inside two days. This was after England

skipper Joe Root's fabulous career-best spell of 6.2-3-8-5 resulted in India's dramatic collapse from 114 for 3 to 145 all out. India lost as many as seven wickets for only 31 runs after looking solid at 114 for 3 at one stage in the game but England lost all 10 in an entire session in which no pacer was seen in action.

Ironically, it was the non-turning deliveries from Patel that had the England's rank and file pressing the panic button as they pre-empted away turn every time. Whether it was Zak Crawley, Jonny Bairstow or skipper Root, everyone lost the mind-game as Ashwin also joined the fun with records tumbling one after another.

When Patel sent back Ben Foakes, he became the first spinner to get 11 wickets in a pink ball Test match.

Following the two-day finish, ICC will be watching the Motera track with a 'Hawk Eye' even though the debate can continue for ages whether it was the turn that did the batsmen in or the lack of it. The turn on offer was standard for any sub-continent track and no deliveries misbehaved.

However, all eyes will now be on ICC match referee Jagaval Srinath from India and his assessment of the 22-yard strip.

More on Page 12

Daily new cases go above 16,000

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA,
25 FEBRUARY

Daily new Covid-19 case numbers rose above 15,000 after nearly a month, taking the country's total tally of coronavirus cases to 1,10,46,914, according to Union health ministry data updated on Thursday. Daily deaths also went above 130 after a gap of 26 days.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare cautioned that the Covid-19 situation in seven states is deteriorating since cases there have contributed 89.5 per cent to the tally.

A total of 16,738 infections were reported in a day, while the death toll increased to 1,56,705 with 138 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

On 29 January, 18,855 new infections were recorded in a span of 24 hours after which each day's additional caseload stayed below 15,000.

The active caseload increased to 1,51,708 which comprises 1.37 percent of the total infections.

The Ministry said that Maharashtra and Kerala continue to report the highest daily new cases while the situation in Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh has been deteriorating for a few days. In addition, two states - Gujarat and Tamil Nadu - which were reporting low figures, are now witnessing a resurgence of cases.

Of the 16,738 fresh cases reported in the past 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry's data, Maharashtra saw the highest daily new cases at 8,807.

It is followed by Kerala with 4,106 while Punjab reported 558 new cases. Maharashtra also accounted for 80 of the fatalities.

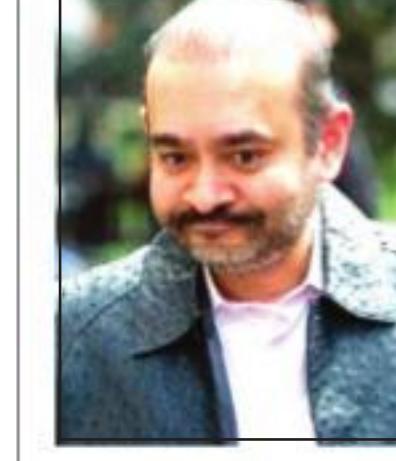
Maharashtra's figures for Thursday were 8,702 new cases and 56 deaths.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES
1,10,46,914
ACTIVE CASES
1,51,708
NEW CASES
16,738
NEW RECOVERIES
11,799
TOTAL DEATHS
1,56,705

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M., THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Nirav Modi can be extradited to India: UK court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, 25 February

A court here on Thursday granted protection from arrest till 9 March to Shantanu Muluk, who is accused along with Disha Ravi in connection with alleged sharing of a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest. Muluk along with Ravi and another co accused Nikita Jacob, was booked for alleged sedition and other charges.

"I am satisfied that there is evidence upon which NDM [Nirav Deepak Modi] could be convicted in relation [to] the conspiracy to defraud the PNB. A prima facie case is established," the judge noted.

He similarly concludes a prima facie case to have been established on all counts of charges brought by the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate money laundering, intimidation of witnesses and disappearance of evidence.

"I am not required to exclude all Mr Modi's various alternative theoretical possibilities and narratives; nor exclude his personal interpretation of the evidence, in order to find a prima facie case has been established, the judge noted, referring to the extradition case of former Kingfisher Airlines boss Vijay Mallya as precedent.

Under the UK Extradition Act 2003, the judge will now send his findings to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Priti Patel.

Toolkit case: Court grants arrest cover to Shantanu

NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

A court here on Thursday granted protection from arrest till 9 March to Shantanu Muluk, who is accused along with Disha Ravi in connection with alleged sharing of a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest. Muluk along with Ravi and another co accused Nikita Jacob, was booked for alleged sedition and other charges.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana granted the relief after Delhi police said it needed time to conduct further interrogation before filing a detailed reply to Muluk's anticipatory bail plea.

The judge directed the police not to take any coercive action against Muluk till 9 March, when court will further hear the matter.

Muluk had got transit bail from Bombay High Court on 16 February for a period of 10 days, with a direction to approach the court concerned.

In his application, Muluk has said that he merely created the toolkit with information on the agitation, which was then edited by others without his knowledge.

According to the police, the 'Toolkit' was a sinister design to defame India and cause violence. PPI

Compensate Indian newspapers, INS asks Google

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has asked the global search engine giant Google to compensate Indian newspapers comprehensively for the use of content published by the newspapers, and share its advertising revenues with them properly.

In a letter addressed to Google India's country manager Sanjay Gupta, INS president L Adimoolam demanded that Google should pay for news generated by the newspapers, which employ thousands of journalists on the ground, for gathering and verifying information, said a statement issued by the INS.

The content which is generated and published by news-

"Publishers have been providing complete access to quality journalism with credible news, current affairs, analysis, information and entertainment. There is a huge distinction between the editorial content from quality publications and fake news that is spreading on other information platforms".

papers at considerable expense is proprietary, the INS noted.

Pointing out that publishers have been providing complete access to "quality journalism with credible news, current affairs, analysis, information and entertainment", the INS president stated that "there is a huge distinction

between the editorial content from quality publications and fake news that is spreading on other information platforms".

He noted, in his letter, that over the past year publishers across the world have been raising the issue of fair payment for content and of proper sharing of advertising revenue with Google.

"It is also noted that Google has recently agreed to better compensate and pay publishers in France, the European Union and notably in Australia."

Further, it was also pointed out that advertising has been the financial backbone of the news industry.

However, newspaper publishers are seeing their share of the advertising pie shrinking in the digital space, even

as Google is taking a giant share of advertising spends, leaving publishers with a small share, the INS said.

"Publishers are also facing a very opaque advertising system, as they are unable to get details of Google's advertising value chain," it said, insisting that Google should increase the publisher share of advertising revenue to 85 per cent, and also ensure more transparency in the revenue reports that it provided to publishers.

The INS also stressed on giving greater prominence to editorial content from registered news publishers to tackle fake news, as Google picks up content from several sites that are not credible, thus "amplifying misinformation and propagation of fake news".

Facebook says it will pay \$1B over 3 years to news industry

MENLO PARK (US),
25 FEBRUARY

Facebook, following in Google's footsteps, says it plans to invest \$1 billion to support the news industry over the next three years.

Governments in Europe and Australia are sympathetic to this point of view. The two tech companies stuck up the majority of US digital advertising dollars, which among other problems has hurt publishers. Facebook said on Tuesday it would lift a ban on news links after the Australian government agreed to tweak proposed legislation that would help publishers negotiate payments with FB and Google.



The BJP had promised free LPG connections to the people before coming to power and now they are hiking its price

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi govt to switch its fleet of cars to EVs in 6 months

Kejriwal govt becomes '1st in the world' to do so, says Sisodia, hoping the decision will inspire other cities in India and the world to tackle pollution & climate change with the urgency they deserve



SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

All departments of the AAP-led Delhi government will now use only electric vehicles (EVs), deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia announced here today.

This switch of the Delhi government's petrol/diesel/CNG fleet of vehicles to EVs will be carried out within the next six months, he said.

The government, which has over 2,000 cars in its fleet, hopes its decision will inspire other cities in the country and the world to tackle the issues of pollution and climate change with the urgency

they deserve, Sisodia said.

The announcement came a day after the AAP government launched a campaign, 'Switch Delhi', to encourage private vehicle owners to take a pledge to shift to electric vehicles and install a charging point within their premises in the next three years.

"It's history! Driven by the vision of CM @ArvindKejriwal to make Delhi the 'Electric Vehicle capital', Delhi govt today became the 1st in the world, not just India, to mandate its entire hired car fleet to switch to electric WITHIN a deadline - 6 mths. @SwitchDelhi begins at home," Sisodia tweeted.

Tagging his tweet and the



Delhi government's order in this regard, CM Kejriwal tweeted:

This will go a long way in curbing pollution in Delhi. Delhi is fast becoming a modern city. Every Indian is proud of Delhi."

Sisodia said, "Over 2,000 cars will be impacted by this decision and will transition to EVs in next 6 months. We hope this decision inspires cities and govt around India and the world to tackle the pollution and climate change problem with the seriousness and urgency it deserves."

The Delhi government had in August last year launched an Electric Vehicle Policy to tackle the problem of air pollution.

itor the progress of the transition from existing diesel or petrol vehicle fleet to EVs. It will also be necessary for all departments to produce monthly action reports on the transition to EVs by the 5th of every month to the nodal department.

"The people of Delhi have time and again made efforts towards making our environment, our city green and clean. Switching to electric vehicles will be another effort that all of us together, as citizens of Delhi, will take to ensure that we continue this fight towards sustainability," Sisodia asserted.

'Switch Delhi' is an eight-week mass awareness campaign being undertaken by the Delhi government to sensitize every Delhite about the benefits of switching to EVs as well as to make them aware of the incentives and infrastructure being developed under its EV policy.

The campaign aims at informing, encouraging, and motivating people of Delhi to switch from polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles. While the first two weeks of the campaign have focused on promoting two and three wheeler owners to switch to EVs, the third week targets four-wheeler vehicle owners to get them adopt EVs.

Under the policy, it promised to waive registration fee, road tax, and provide an incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for new cars in the national capital.

Sisodia hoped that using Delhi as an example, cities of the world would ensure that using electric vehicles is an important agenda in the fight to curb pollution.

"It is necessary to focus on the challenges related to a sustainable environment. Delhi Government has prioritised the issue of curbing environmental distress along with its other major agenda items," he said.

The Delhi government's transport department will be the nodal department to monitor the progress of the transition from existing diesel or petrol vehicle fleet to EVs. It will also be necessary for all departments to produce monthly action reports on the transition to EVs by the 5th of every month to the nodal department.

Over 18K more get vaccine in Capital

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

Over 3.46 lakh beneficiaries have received COVID-19 vaccine till date in Delhi since the start of the inoculation drive a month ago, with more than 18,000 people receiving shots on Thursday, according to data shared by officials.

Out of these, more than 1.44 lakh are healthcare workers and over two lakh are frontline workers, as per the data.

Coronavirus vaccine shots were administered to more than 18,900 beneficiaries in Delhi on Thursday. Six minor cases of AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) were reported, the officials said.

The vaccination drive, started on January 16, has picked up pace in the last one week.

A total of 18,599 beneficiaries received shots across over 300 centres in the national capital on Wednesday.

On Thursday, 18,945 people were vaccinated, including 5,542 healthcare workers who got their second dose, as

the inoculation drive picked up pace, according to the data.

"Six minor cases of AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) were reported," an official said.

Till date, 1,44,346 healthcare workers have been vaccinated and 2,02,945 frontline workers also received vaccine, as per the data shared by the officials.

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

The vaccination drive, started on January 16, has picked up pace in the last one week.

Under the nationwide mega vaccination drive launched on January 16, a total of 4,319 (53 per cent) health 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 to be given to a beneficiary after a gap of 28 days.

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

On the second scheduled day after the roll-out of the exercise on January 16, the figures had stood at 3,598 (44 per cent of the target). The sharp fall had come after one severe and 50 minor adverse effect cases were reported, on the opening day of the vaccination drive.

The count on third scheduled day was much higher, at 4,936 (48 per cent).

Delhi recorded 220 fresh COVID-19 cases on Thursday, the highest number of single-day incidences in February, even as no new fatality was registered.

This is the fourth time the single-day fatality count has stood nil in this month.

Man held for duping homebuyers of ₹2.50 cr

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

despite issuance of several notices to him, they said.

He was arrested on Tuesday from a lodge in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu by a team of Economic Offences Wing (EOW), police said. Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) O PMishra said the complainants were induced by the accused to invest in his housing firm namely Defence Personnel Welfare Housing Organisation (DPWHO) for a project which was to come up in Poachapur village in Dwarka sector 23.

"He convinced investors about the project and told them that the construction had commenced and would be completed within the stipulated time."

"In 2014, complainants were offered residential units in tower 24B constructed by DPWHO. However, till 2016, the accused did not hand over the possession and in 2017, the complainants came to know that the flats booked by them had been sold to other people," he said.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town House No. A48/44 (FF2) DLF City Phase 1 Gurugram was registered in the name of Mr. R.K. Sabharwal & Late Mr. V.D. Sabharwal and Mrs. Aruna Sabharwal W/o Mr. R.K. Sabharwal Present address Town House (FF2) Road A48 Plot No. 44, DLF City Phase-1 Gurugram, Mr. R.K. Sabharwal expired on 13-06-2020 leaving behind his wife Mrs. Aruna Sabharwal his daughter Mrs. Ritika Sabharwal W/o Sh. Hemant Sachdeva. Mrs. Ritika Sabharwal has given a Relinquishment Deed Relinquishing her charge in favour of her Mother Mrs. Aruna Sabharwal. Accordingly name of Mrs. Aruna Sabharwal is being noted as Sole owner in respect of the Captioned Property in the records of M/s DLF LTD. If any body has any objection to this, or she may approach M/s DLF LTD. Or Mrs. Aruna Sabharwal W/o R.K. Sabharwal (Aadhari No. 7641 4993 7125) Gurugram Within 21 days of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Mahesh Chand Jain S/o Late Sh. Sumit Chand Jain R/o 26/14, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 am in the process of selling my portion in the property, 26/14, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007. Sale deed dated 12.10.1966 of the property has been lost/misplaced and FIR against this has been registered with the Delhi Police. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of the Sale Deed, may write to or contact with above named person at the address/s phone no. 9810183503 or may contact Mr. Chirag Kotecha on 9953600100 within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

LEGAL NOTICES
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Deepak Kumar Commercial-Civil-Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller Room No. 255, 5th Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi CS No. 700/2019 Punjab & Sind Bank Plaintiff Versus Praveen Kumar Defendant

To, 1. Praveen Kumar (Borrower), s/o Late Sh. Rameshwar Prasad, r/o H. No. A-25, Rattan Park, Veena Enclave, New Delhi-110041. Also at: H. No. 106, Arvind Enclave, Kamruddin Nagar, Delhi-110041.

2. Asha Devi (Guarantor), s/o Sh. Praveen Kumar, r/o H. No. A-25, Rattan Park, Veena Enclave, New Delhi-110041. Also at: A-65, Amar Colony, Nangloi, Delhi-41.

Defendants

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Re. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1 All other stations in India - Re. 1

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In the Court of Deepak Kumar Commercial-Civil-Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller Room No. 255, 5th Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi CS No. 700/2019 Punjab & Sind Bank Plaintiff Versus Praveen Kumar Defendant

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Bihar saw 8-fold growth in budget size during both RJD and NDA regimes

LEADER OF THE OPPosition IN BIHAR TEJASHWI YADAV

PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON 2021-22 BIHAR BUDGET

i
ndia

J&K leaders welcome Indo-Pak truce talks
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 25 FEBRUARY

PM targets Rahul over 'north-south' remarks

Says people of the UT were celebrating 'freedom from Cong misgovernance'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUDUCHERRY, 25 FEBRUARY

Attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his recent 'north-south' remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday alleged the party's policy was to "divide, lie and rule." Not mincing words, he said the Congress culture of feudal politics, dynasty politics, patronage politics was ending and people all over the country were rejecting the party.

He also expressed shock over Gandhi's contention that there was no 'dedicated' fisheries ministry. "They are gold, silver and bronze medal winners in telling lies," he said addressing a public meeting in poll-bound Puducherry, as he said people of the Union Territory were celebrating the "freedom from misgovernance

of Congress." Modi hit out at former Puducherry chief minister

V Narayanasamy, implying he headed a 'high command' government that served the interests of a few Congress leaders in Delhi.

He also slammed him for "lying" about the complaint made by a woman against the government during the Congress leader's visit here a fortnight ago. Pitching Puducherry as a region with potential in various sectors, he said the NDA wanted to make it the BEST, saying the acronym meant the UT being a hub of Business, Education, Spirituality and Tourism.

Training his guns against the Congress, whose party-led government fell on Monday after it was reduced to minority in the wake of resignations, he said "the congress cul-

ture you saw in Puducherry for five years is how the party works nationally." Our colonial rulers had the policy of divide and rule. Congress has a policy of divide, lie and rule. Sometimes their leaders put region against region, sometimes they put community against community." They are gold, silver and bronze medal winners in telling lies," he said, apparently referring to Gandhi's recent statement in Kerala.

During his Kerala visit on Tuesday, Gandhi had said he was used to a "different type of politics" in north India and coming to the southern state was "very refreshing" as people are interested in "issues", which drew condemnation from the BJP whose leaders accused him of an opportunistic anti-North bias.

Modi also took on Gandhi

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

E. E., Jal Shakti Division No. 1 Una
Telephone No. : 01975- 226060, E-mail : ee1una@gmail.com

"Tender Notice"

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No.1 Una invites offline tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earhest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Time
1.	Restoration of drain from Una/Amb road culvert Nr Pawan Thakur tyre showroom to upstream side RD 60 to 90 in ward No: 1 MC Una in Tehsil & Distt Una HP	Rs. 45,605/-	Rs. 9072/-	Rs. 250/-	Two months
2.	Restoration of drain from Una/Amb road culvert Nr Pawan Thakur tyre showroom to upstream side RD 90 to 120 in ward No: 1 MC Una in Tehsil & Distt Una HP	Rs. 45,605/-	Rs. 9072/-	Rs. 250/-	Two months
3.	R/M & M/C of various WSS in Distt Una HP (SH:- Preparation of documentary short films of WSS under Jaijeevan Mission works in Himachal Pradesh)	Rs. 3,66,339/-	Rs. 7327/-	Rs. 250/-	One months
4.	Restoration of rain damage of WSS Balliwai in Distt Una HP (SH:- C/O RCC storage tank 50,000 litres capacity in draught affected area in Mohalla Gurudwara)	Rs. 1,89,570/-	Rs. 3791/-	Rs. 250/-	Three months
5.	Restoration of rain damages of WSS Santokhgarh Town in Distt Una HP (SH:- L/J of GMS pipe line) of various dia under JS Sub-Divn Mehatpur, Section 6068/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK	Rs. 3,03,209/-	Rs. 582/-	Rs. 250/-	One months

1. Last date of submission of tender opened on 09-03-2021 upto 12:30 PM

2. Last date of sale of tender from divisional office on 08-03-2021 upto 04:00 PM

The tender form and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from www.hpphp.org or from office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No.1 Una upto date specified above.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division No.1 Una



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by party leaders during a public meet ahead of the Assembly election, in Puducherry on Thursday.

PM Modi inaugurates various projects in TN

COIMBATORE, 25 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dedicated to the nation key projects in Tamil Nadu, including the 2x500 mw Neyveli new thermal power plant, and laid the foundation stone for important initiatives in the state.

Among the initiatives were those in the shipping sector, where the Centre has identified Rs 6 lakh worth projects to be implemented under the Sagarmala scheme between 2015 and 2035 in the country, he said.

Reciting from the Tamil classic Tirukkural, the second time on Thursday after doing the same at a government function in Puducherry earlier, he hailed farmers, even as he laid the foundation stone for extension, renovation and modernisation of the Lower Bhavani Project System.

He inaugurated widening of the Korampallam surplus course beige and rail overbridge including widening of the road at VOC Port in Tuticorin, saying it will greatly benefit the port.

**Office of
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAISINGHPUR DIVISION
H.P. Public Works Department, JAISINGHPUR 176095**
Fax: 01894-228031, e-mail: ee-jaipwd-hp@gov.in

Tender Notice

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Jaisinhpur Division, H.P. PWD, Jaisinhpur for following works on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HP PWD, (B&R) so as to reach in this office as per time schedule given below:-

1. Date of receipt of Application for tender forms:-	10.03.2021 at 4:00PM
2. Date of issued/sale of tender form:-	12.03.2021 upto 4:00PM
3. Date of receipt of tender	15.03.2021 at 11:00AM
4. Date of opening of tender :-	15.03.2021 at 11:30 AM

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earhest money	Time
1	C/O road from Bandhau to Balighatta Km 0/00 to 4/885 including bridge over Kotlu Nallah and Mour Khad (SH:- P/L Mettelling and Tarring at RD 1/842 to 1/994 (MNP))	49,569,00/-	10,000.00	Two Month
2	C/O Jeepable road Sirpad Mod to Samual Basti in village Bhutander Mohat Km 0/0 to 0/500 (SH:- Improvement & Widening of road RD 0/075 to 0/120, 0/130 to 0/180 to 0/210, C/O B/wall at RD 0/09 to 0/18, R/Wall at RD 0/120 to 0/140 and P/L CC pavement at RD 0/00 to 0/034) (D.C. Deposit)	27,472,00/-	5500.00	Two Month
3	C/O Jeepable road to from Kanda Chowk to Bhagwan Singh House in village Bhutander Mohat km 0/00 to 0/160 (SH:- Improvement & widening of road from RD 0/016 to 0/073, C/O E/Wall at RD 0/060 to 0/074 and P/L CC to 0/073) (D.C. Deposit)	17,093,20/-	3500.00	Two Month
4	C/O road from Bandhau to Balighatta Km 0/00 to 4/885 including bridge over Kotlu Nallah and Mour Khad (SH:- P/L Mettelling and Tarring at RD 2/105 to 2/170) (MNP)	32,117,77/-	6500.00	Two Month
5	C/O Dhamshala Daddi Hotla Chaddiar Sar Harsti Sandhole road Km 75/00 to 87/840 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete pavement at RD 87/415 to 87/475) (Deposit)	44,705,01/-	9000.00	Two Month
6	AVR & M/O Alampur Harsipattan road Km 0/00 to 2/60 (SH:- Extension of berms (Both side) at Km 10/500 to 11/000 (OFC Deposit))	46,729,40/-	9400.00	Two Month
7	C/O road from Bandhau to Balighatta Km 0/00 to 4/885 Including bridge over Kotlu Nallah and Mour Khad (SH:- Filling in earth work in approaches at RD 2/095 to 2/165) (MNP)	47,683,37/-	9600.00	Two Month
8	AVR & M/O Alampur Harsipattan road Km 0/00 to 2/60 (SH:- Extension of berms (Both side) at Km 11/00 to 11/500 (OFC Deposit))	46,729,40/-	9400.00	Two Month
9	Improvement & widening of Bhuana Ashapuri road Km 0/00 to 12/135 (SH:- Improvement of curves at RD 9/960 to 10/540) (SCS)	49,744,60/-	10000.00	Two Month
10	C/O Bhuana Ashapuri Road Km 0/0 to 12/135 (SH:- Providing and fixing "W" metal Crash barrier at RD 8/375 to 8/555) (SCS)	49,753,00/-	10000.00	Two Month
11	C/O Link road from Bhalakrupi Gaderu Fatte to Jhameter road Km 0/0 to 0/500 (SH:- P/L Mettelling and Tarring at RD 14,189,31/- 8400.00 Two Month	14,189,31/-	8400.00	Two Month
12	Periodic Maintenance of Link road Behru Jatin in 0/0 to 0/400 Under Financial Incentive 2018-19 (Rural road)Providing and laying 20mm thick Premix carpet with seal coat Km 0/0 to 0/400 (AMP)	28,179,50/-	5700.00	Two Month
13	C/O road from Bandhau to Balighatta Km 0/0 to 4/885 including bridge over Kotlu Nallah and Mour Khad (SH:- Filling in road at Rd 9/630) (2/045 to 2/072) (MNP)	48,274,00/-	9800.00	Two Month
14	AVR & M/O Alampur Harsipattan road Km 0/0 to 2/60 (SH:- Extension of berms (Both side) at Km 10/00 to 10/500 (OFC Deposit))	46,729,40/-	9400.00	Two Month
15	C/O Bahu Nadli Garchindi Mai road Km: 0/0 to 13/200 (SH:- C/o 1.00 mtr span RCC slab culvert at RD 10/355 with approaches) SCSP	47,128,02/-	9500.00	Two Month
16	C/O Bhuana Ashapuri road Km 70/0 to 9/630 (SH:- providing and erection of victorian style rain shelter on Bhuana Ashapuri road at Rd 9/630) (Deposit)	31,351,80/-	6300.00	Two Month
17	C/O Dhamshala Daddi Hotla Chaddiar Sar Harsti Sandhole road Km 75/00 to 87/840 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete pavement at RD 87/350 to 87/410) (Deposit)	44,705,01/-	9000.00	Two Month
18	C/O Link road from R/T to Bhawaria via Bhadehr Kohla Kotlu road Km 0/00 to 6/500 (SH:- C/O Hume pipe culvert at RD 0/650) (P/L CC Pavement at RD 0/00 to 0/830) (MNP)	24,141,00/-	4900.00	Two Month
19	C/O Jeepable road from main road towards Balak Ram & Other Houses in village Sada Mohal Km 0/0 to 0/220 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/040 to 0/055 and 0/070 to 0/075) (DC Deposit)	18,151,10/-	3700.00	Two Month
20	C/O Bahu Nadli Garchindi Mai road Km: 0/0 to 13/200 (SH:- C/o 2.00 mtr span RCC slab culvert at RD 8/180 with approaches) SCSP	48,369,40/-	8800.00	Two Month
21	C/O Jeepable road along with R/wall from Hatiyan to Shamshan Chat Mitta in Village Dol Mohal Km 0/0 to 0/800 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/125 to 0/136) (DC Deposit)	32,281,80/-	6500.00	Two Month
22	C/O road from main road to House of Pardeep Kumar Village Bhanana Km 0/00 to 0/205 (SH:- P/L CC Pavement at RD 0/100 to 0/160 on Alampur Harsipattan road Km 0/0 to 2/60)	12,058,00/-	2500.00	Two Month
23	C/O Link road Chhanti to Dhar Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- Improvement & widening of road from RD 0/015 to 2/500) (MNP)	30,308,07/-	6100.00	Two Month
24	Repair of various Bridges under HPPWD Division Jaisinhpur (SH:- P/L wearing coat of Mastic asphalt over Haroti bridge at RD 16/200 on Alampur Harsipattan road Km 0/0 to 2/60)	32,281,80/-	6500.00	Two Month
25	C/O Bahu Nadli Garchindi Mai road Km: 0/0 to 13/200 (SH:- C/o 2.00 mtr span RCC slab culvert at RD 8/180 with approaches) SCSP	49,374,90/-	9900.00	Two Month
26	C/O Upper Lambajagon to Hardon via Raipur Rakkar Km: 0/0 to 2/355 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at RD 0/179 to 0/249) (MNP)	43,029,01/-	8700.00	Two Month
27	C/O Alampur Harsipattan road Km: 19/0 to 2/60 (SH:- c/o Cement Concrete pavement at RD 23/430 to 23/460 with edge wall and V-shape drain at RD 23/415 to 23/430) (Deposit mining)	20,148,90/-	4100.00	Two Month
28	Improvement & widening of Bhuana Ashapuri road Km: 0/0 to 12/135 (SH:- Improvement of curves/ narrow reaches Km: 5/375 to 5/525 and Breast wall RD 5/375 to 5/415) (SCS)	4,64,656.0/-	9300.00	Two Month
29	AVR & M/O Dhamshala Daddi Hotla Chaddiar Sandhole road Km: 0/0 to 9/0/0 (SH:- Strengthening of Berms Km: 46,258,00/- 9300.00 Two Month	46,258,00/-	9300.00	Two Month
30	C/O Bhuana Ashapuri road Km: 0/0 to 12/135 (SH:- P/L interlocking paver block pavement Km: 6/510 to 6/520 and 6/960 to 48,836,02/- 9800.00 Two Month	48,836,02/-	9800.00	Two Month
31	Missing culvert on			



Centre's decision to link holding of Assembly elections with the delimitation process in J&K is bizarre

CPM LEADER M Y TARIGAMI

SAYING J&K'S SPECIAL UNIQUE SITUATION WAS ALWAYS 'AN EYESORE FOR THE BJP AND RSS'

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

THUMBNAILS



Union minister of petroleum & natural gas and steel Darmendra Pradhan at Bankey Bihari Temple, in Varanasi on Thursday. IANS

COVAX shipment: UNICEF on Thursday began shipping vaccine doses of the AstraZeneca / Oxford vaccine licensed to the Serum Institute of India, to several low and lower-middle income countries. SNS

Virtual discussion on 'FCRA Amendment 2020': The BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with Grant Thornton Bharat organised a virtual discussion on 'FCRA Amendment 2020'. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 20 September, 2020. The discussion highlighted the context of why the new changes are important and the backdrop in which they have been made. SNS

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE No. S&T/96. For and on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (C) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tenders against tender no. S&T/96 (Double packet system). 1. Name of work with its location : "Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Microprocessor based Electronic Interlocking (EI) system in 'Hot Stand By Mode' at Khatpura station and Mid-Section Interlocked LC Gates for execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling and Telecomm works, which includes excavation Of 'trench, laying of cables, casting of foundations of MACLS Signals & apparatus cases, erection/installation of MACLS signals, fixing & wiring of track circuits & point machines, centralized operation of points & signals, installation of Telecomm Equipment's etc. as per RE standard in connection with Provision of Terminal Yard in Jaipur-Rewari Section of Jaipur division on North Western Railway". 2. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 12,58,98,008.13. 3. Earnest Money (EM) : Not applicable. 4. Date & Time for submission up to on 15.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars and notice board location : www.ireps.gov.in and Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.), office, Opposite Railway Hospital, Hasarpura Road, Jaipur-302006. 62-AJ/21

EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged Tender No. 03WTCACER 2020-21 (Open tender in Two Packet System) e-tendering, Dated : 22.02.2021. Tender for e-tendering is invited by Chief Administrative Officer/Con/Eastern Railway/Kolkata for the following works:
Name of work : Construction of Foot over bridges, platform sheds, formation & amenities for track machine sidings at Kamarkundu & Chandrapur station, extension of DN line platform at Kamarkundu station, balance earth work and blanketing for formation work in between Ch. 15490 to Ch. 18540 & Ch. 24060 to 26110, construction of minor bridge no. 47, 48, 50 & 51, development of circulating area and construction of central drain in between Mirzapur Bankipur and Chandrapur, construction & fixing of various pillars, posts, station name boards etc. & construction of boulder crating in between Baripara and Chandrapur and other ancillary works in connection with the construction of 4th line between Dankuni to Chandrapur in Howrah-Bardhaman chord line section. **Approx Value :** Rs. 31,04,52,655.40. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 0.00. **Date of closing :** 31.03.2021 at 15:00 hrs. The tender documents and other details can be obtained from the website : www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. CON-37/2020-21
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.ireps.gov.in and www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

HP.P.W.D. TENDER NOTICE. (OFFLINE)

Sealed item rate offline tender on form PWD-6 & 8 are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP. PWD, Kalpa for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP.PWD; so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer Kalpa Division HP.PWD, Kalpa on or before 15.03.2021 up to 10:30 A.M. and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM in presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form documents can be had from this office (Kalpa Division, HP.PWD, Kalpa) against cash payment (Non-refundable) on any working day during the office hours upto 4:00 PM. on 12-03-2021 after 4:00 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the above mentioned dates, the tenders will be sold/opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The Earnest Money in the shape of National Saving Certificate, F.D.R.s from any Post office/Bank in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP.PWD, Kalpa must accompany with each tenders. Conditional tenders and application (For purchase of tender forms) received without Earnest Money summarily be rejected. The tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer Reserves (Right to accept or to reject any) or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time allowed	Cost of form	Eligible class of contractor
1	Providing and fixing W-Metal crash barrier for improvement of black spot on link road to village Pangi Km 0/00 to 2/925 (SH:- Providing and fixing crash barrier from Km 0/675 to 0/735, 2/099 to 2/121, 2/123 to 2/137 and 2/305 to 2/395 = 186 Mr. Length).	4,96,669/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
2	S/R to Mini Secretariat Building at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH:- Providing slab, brick masonry , RR masonry, Tiles and sanitary fittings in Deputy Director Higher Education & Tehsildar Election's Toilets in G.F. & F.F.)	4,69,128/-	9,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
3	S/R to Mini Secretariat Building at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH:- Providing slab, brick masonry , RR masonry, Tiles and sanitary fittings in Deputy Director Elementary education's & Animal Husbandry's toilets etc. in G.F. & F.F.)	3,58,755/-	9,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
4	S/R to Mini Secretariat Building at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH:- Providing slab, brick masonry , RR masonry, Tiles and sanitary fittings in Distt. Youth & Sports officer, Commandant Home Guard's Toilet in G.F.)	4,26,147/-	9,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
5	A/R & M/O Residential accommodation for HPPWD Department -Kalpa in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH:- Providing and Fixing HDF flooring, Paneling in first floor Room-I and Room-II in EE Residence)	2,66,822/-	6,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
6	A/R & M/O Non-Residential building at HPPWD -Kalpa in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH:- Providing and Fixing HDF flooring, Paneling in DDO office and Paneling in JE room and SDC office)	2,47,935/-	5,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
7	C/O Link road from Kholota to village Sanandor G.P. Pangi Km 0/00 to 4/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 1/933 to 1/971.40)	3,48,540/-	7,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
8	Restoration of rain damages on link road to Village Thangi Km 0/00 to 9/00 (SH:-C/O R/Wall in PCC 1:3:6 at RD 8/00 to 8/811).	4,98,436/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
9	Restoration of rain damages on link road to Village Thangi Km 0/00 to 9/00 (SH:-C/O R/Wall in PCC 1:3:6 at RD 8/00 to 8/811).	1,83,070/-	4,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
10	Improvement/Widening of Old Hindustan Tibet road Portion 24/720 to 31/660 (Runnang to Roghi) (SH:-C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 30/550 to 30/620).	4,91,897/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
11	Improvement/Widening of Old Hindustan Tibet road Portion 24/720 to 31/660 (Runnang to Roghi) (SH:-C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 31/515 to 31/560).	4,93,568/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
12	Improvement/ widening of Ropa valley road Km 0/00 to 15/850 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 11/435 to 11/478.20)	3,33,932/-	7,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
13	C/O Link road from Khab bridge to Tashigang Km 0/00 to 16/115 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 11/405 to 11/420 & 11/735 to 11/745).	4,98,032/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
14	C/O Jeppable road to village Shilling in G.P. Moorang Km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH:- Edge wall at RD 0/510 to 0/535)	1,68,532/-	3,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
15	C/O Jeppable road to village Shilling in G.P. Moorang Km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in PCC 1:3:6 at RD 0/600 to 0/613)	4,78,276/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
16	C/O Jeppable road to village Shilling in G.P. Moorang Km 0/00 to 1/600 (SH:- C/O R/Wall in PCC 1:3:6 at RD 0/614 to 0/625.50)	4,77,944/-	10,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
17	Restoration of snow damages on various roads under Lippa section (SH:- Hiring of JCB for removal of snow/slips)	2,94,800/-	6,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
18	S/R to Balika Ashram at Kalpa in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (Sh:- P/F wire fencing, boundary wall and sanitary installation)	2,85,316/-	6,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
19	Repair and maintenance of Cable way from Ropa valley to village Talling (SH:- Replacing of 12mm dia. Haulage rope of span 585 Mtr.)	2,40,000/-	5,000/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
20	A/R & M/O Non residential building at Kalpa (SH:- Binding of Division office record files with card board on both side of file.)	1,60,000/-	3,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class
21	C/O Link road from Pooh stadium to Govt. Sen. Sec. School Pooh Km 0/00 to 2/560 (SH:- Formation cutting from Km 1/835 to 2/305)	4,53,469/-	9,500/-	Three Months	350/-	"D" Class

The following documents should accompany the application for tenders:-

- Copy of valid enlistment/renewal order, Copy of GST Registration No.
- Proof of Valid E.P.F account number allotted by the Provident Fund Commissioner Shimla and copy of PAN No.
- Ambiguous/Telegraphic /conditional tenders or tenders by fax/E-Mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
- The contractors should quote the rates of each items in words as well as figures in the Schedule of quantity.
- The earnest money must also accompany with the application for the tender documents.
- The tender shall be issued to those contractors who have not more than two works in hand.
- The Contractors should be enlisted within the district of enlisting Circle as per New enlistment rule -2015.

CPM LEADER M Y TARIGAMI

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

Bengal must choose between growth and 'cut money': Nadda

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 25 FEBRUARY

BJP chief JP Nadda and others during the flagging off of 22 vehicles with suggestion boxes and other facilities in Kolkata on Thursday.

ANAGHA BANKA

BJP chief and cut money culture," he said.

"West Bengal is at the crossroads. It has to decide whether it wants development or to side with the culture of corruption and cut money. For the state's development, we need a double-engine government (same

party's government both at the Centre and the state)," he added.

Nadda visited the ancestral house and museum of novelist and poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay at Naihati in North 24 Parganas and paid floral tributes to him. He was accompanied by

Bankim Chandra Chat-

topadhyay and others. Museum's authorities gifted Nadda books of Chatopadhyay.

Nadda also visited writer Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay's home at Barrackpore. He had lunch at a jute mill worker of Hukum Chand Jute Mill Debnath Yadav's residence. Reiterating Union home minister Amit Shah's promise, he said BJP will implement seventh Pay Commission recommendations for state government employees if voted to power. "We also give krisak samman nidhi. BJP will also provide students scholarship," he said.

Nadda was slated to lead BJP's Nabadvip leg of 'parivartan yatra' but it was deferred after Barrackpore police denied permission for the rally. Singh alleged it was done on the instruction of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. The saffron party has decided to move the Calcutta High Court on this issue and seek permission.

Actor Payal Sarkar today joined BJP in presence of Nadda.

Congress joined hands with Ajmal for 'lust for power': HM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BORDUWA, 25 FEBRUARY

Home minister Amit Shah participates in Pran Pratishtha Mahotsav at Maha Mrityunjaya Temple, in Nagaon district, Assam on Thursday.

Union Home minister Amit Shah on Thursday attacked the Congress for joining forces with Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF in Assam because of its "lust for power", and alleged that successive governments of the party did nothing to rid the state of violence and infiltration. The Congress' "greed" to capture power in the state will remain unfulfilled and the BJP along with its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which symbolises Assamese identity, will win the assembly polls with a two-thirds majority. Shah told a public rally at Borduwa, the birthplace of Srimanta Sankaradeva, the 15th century saint, scholar and religious reformer, in Nagaon district. "The Congress talks about providing security when it is joining hands with Ajmal. It's only because of its lust for power that it has joined hands with Ajmal."

Lok Sabha MP Ajmal's All

India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) wields considerable influence among Bengali speaking Assamese Muslims who constitute a sizeable chunk of the electorate. Shah said people will weigh the measures undertaken by it in seven years against those by the Congress over 70 years in the upcoming polls. Shah also accused the parties that were formed in the aftermath of the anti-CAA protests of "helping the Congress which used bullets to suppress the Assam agitation against foreigners".

The senior commanders of the two countries held their 10th round of talks on Saturday and agreed to stabilise and control the situation on the ground and push for a mutually acceptable resolution of all issues in a steady and orderly manner so as to jointly maintain peace in border areas.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastav today said both sides view the smooth and successful completion of disengagement in the north and south banks as a significant first step as this formed a basis for resolution of remaining issues so as to achieve the eventual goal of complete disengagement in all friction areas.

The two countries have completed the first phase of disengagement in the north and south banks of the Pangsang Tso Lake and physically verified the process.

RSS worker's murder: Kerala Police arrests 8 SDPI activists

workers on Wednesday night amid a clash with SDPI. The deceased has been identified as Rahul Krishna alias Nandu (23). Three RSS workers and six SDPI workers were injured in the clash. There is a heavy police deployment in the area following the incident.

RSS and Hindu outfits have called for a shutdown in Alappuzha district from 6 am to 6 pm on Thursday in protest against the RSS worker's death.

THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS ASSOCIATION

14, Dr. Biresh Guha Street, Kolkata - 700 017

(A Professional Body under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)

Applications are invited for the post of Executive Secretary

The application form along with all details of qualification, etc. can be downloaded from ISCA website, www.sciencecongress.nic.in or obtained from ISCA (Hqrs.) by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope.

sd/-

(Dr. S. Ramakrishna)

General Secretary (Membership Affairs)

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Honest broker

The use of lethal weapons against unarmed civilians by Myanmar's security forces during anti-coup protests over the past month that have led to a mounting death toll ~ the final tally may never be known given the harsh censorship laws in place ~ has been condemned by most in the comity of nations. Yet, cynicism persists that these condemnations are pro-forma in nature and unlikely to lead to substantive measures to pressure the junta into backing off. Sanctions are the worst idea in terms of the range of options available to the outside world not only because they will punish ordinary citizens rather than undermine the military but also because China, which is thought to wield significant influence on the Tatmadaw, is not likely to adhere to any such move. So, as the West continues dilly-dallying over providing direct support to the Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy due to her vilification on the Rohingya issue, ASEAN makes the right noises in support of pro-democracy protesters but seems unwilling to do anything more, and Beijing waits patiently in the wings as its influence in Myanmar grows, India has a decision to make.

The options for New Delhi are limited but it is not all hopeless. Provided, of course, South Block's core objective is well-defined. Focusing on Myanmar fits perfectly into India's strategic architecture under the aegis of both its Look East/Act East and Neighbourhood First policies. It is a neighbouring country with which India shares deep cultural links, growing economic ties, and vital security interests especially in light of China's 'encirclement policy'. India is also in a unique position to leverage the rapport it shares with both the main democratic force in Myanmar, the NLD, and the military establishment. While the former has been a relationship built from Jawaharlal Nehru's time and assiduously nurtured by successive administrations, the latter was put into place by the AB Vajpayee administration with the late Jaswant Singh-Brajesh Mishra duo doing the legwork as it became apparent to even the most ardent Indian democrat that the Army was a key player in Myanmar politics. So, what is to be done? It is a much-abused term in diplomatic circles nowadays but the role of an honest broker between Ms Suu Kyi and the Generals is possibly vacant. China doesn't have the NLD's trust and the West is viscerally opposed to the Tatmadaw and lukewarm towards Ms Suu Kyi. ASEAN, despite the concerns of Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia given the emotive tug of the Rohingya issue, is keen on a return to status quo ante wherein an accommodation between the NLD-run government and the army was working till Senior General Min Aung Hlaing got insecure about his political future and pulled the plug on the collaboration. It would be fair to say, in sum, that nearly all players with skin in the game are looking for regional stability, economic opportunity, and steady democratisation in Myanmar. India needs to get in there now.

Route of the rivers

A new facet to diplomatic dealings within the SAARC bloc is sought to be added by Bangladesh, with a suggestion that has been articulated by the country's information minister, Hasan Mahmud. As one who holds a senior portfolio, he has called for what he calls a "river management policy" involving countries in South Asia. Apart from the Teesta, there is scarcely a river in the region ~ comprising India, Pakistan (of course the Sutlej is a waterway of mutual interest), Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives ~ that has as profoundly an emotive value as does the relatively shallow waterway that meanders through West Bengal and Bangladesh. Mr Mahmud didn't obviously make the statement without instructions from on high in Dhaka. He was suitably diplomatic to avoid a comment on Teesta, shifting the onus onto the Government of India. No less imperative is the role of the West Bengal Chief Minister who has been consistently against sharing the Teesta water with the neighbour on the eastern flank, fearing that it could hamper irrigation in North Bengal, where the Trinamul Congress cannot afford an erosion in the support base it has built up over the past decade. Mr Mahmud is not geographically off the mark when he asserts that unlike the Mekong River Commission in South-east Asia, there is unfortunately no river management system "in our region although all major rivers originate in the Himalayas. Therefore, if there is a river management system, it will benefit all countries in the region." The Mekong River Commission works in league with the governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to jointly coordinate water resources. A river knows no geopolitical or international boundary. Which arguably is the reason why the suggestion by the Bangladeshi minister has been welcomed by the chairman of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board. "This is a welcome suggestion as neither river nor air has any political boundary," has been the response of river experts in Kolkata. The nub of the matter must be that the Teesta has been a bilateral issue for as long as it has. It bears recall that in 2011, Mamata Banerjee was a no-show at Kolkata airport's international check-in counter, effectively refusing to visit Dhaka with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to discuss the Teesta issue with Begum Hasina. A regional policy on river water may not be easy to implement not the least because India and China, the major stakeholders in the region are not part of the UN Commission on Non-Navigational Water Uses, 1997. Clearly, sharing of the Teesta water calls for renewed bouts of incisive negotiations, which ought to go beyond the presentation of saris and hilas. Such diplomacy chimes oddly with issues that are close to the bone. Both for West Bengal and Bangladesh, the river has assumed the character of an electoral issue every five years. Ergo, the Bangladeshi suggestion on a South Asian river policy calls for reflection.

Democratic wildfires

Despite the rise of elective democracy, the 21st century is turning out to be a century of citizens' engagement. The rights to be heard, to be seen, to be recognized and to be respected are at the core of citizens' movements across the world. The 21st century is witnessing fundamental global economic, political, social and cultural transformations challenging traditional notions of citizenship



"How did you go bankrupt?" / "Two days. Gradually, then suddenly." What Ernest Hemingway said about financial bankruptcy is equally true of political bankruptcy. First gradually and then suddenly democracy appears fragile and vulnerable. Not long ago, Amartya Sen eulogized democracy as a universal value "on intrinsic, instrumental and constructive grounds" which gave rise to a sentiment, "with democracy you can do no wrong". Today, with the rise of authoritarian states like China and Russia and proliferation of 'elective dictatorships' across the world, another sentiment is gaining ground, "with democracy you can do no right".

Covid-19 has been largely viewed as a 'dream interrupted.' A strange thing about dreams is that we aren't aware we are dreaming. We also can't resume our interrupted dream. The pandemic has meant, no less, a democracy interrupted. Is democracy a silent victim of the pandemic? Parliament is being sidelined and the executive has become even more powerful. The pandemic has been a god-sent excuse for autocratic leaders to tweak the truth. It is a free pass to suspend, curb, dilute and simply ignore citizens' demands, rights and expectations.

Under the cover of Covid-19, rules of the game are written, applied and changed only by the executive. Americans were lucky to get rid of Trump thanks to the firewall created by the founders of the American Constitution in the form of checks and balances. As American author Andrew Sullivan contends, "this separation of powers was designed precisely to create sturdy firewalls against democratic wildfires."

Most countries currently ruled by populist leaders, where democracy has been left intact only in name, don't count on a firewall against the tyranny of majority. As Plato had predicted, tyranny has sprung from democracy. We are witnessing the phenomenon of what Sean Illing calls "people's tyrant." Democracy retreats and tyranny takes over "when mob passion overwhelms political wisdom and populist

leaders seize the masses." What is worrying is that across the board, democracy has been hollowed out and is being replaced by timocracy, rule by money.

Democracy was already faltering before Covid-19 struck. The pandemic, says Israeli historian Yuval Noah Hariri, tends to "accelerate history".

There are no signs of it going away soon but we are already living in a very different world. As Hariri further says, the emergency control measures to tackle the virus "have the potential to become permanent and turn into a full-fledged state surveillance system." Democracy is facing not merely a perestroika challenge; it faces an existential threat. It also needs a new imagination. Innovation is the calling card of the future. If it is not reinvented, democracy may sleepwalk into oblivion. The oldest democracy has survived the crisis. The largest democracy too faces an unprecedented crisis. Independent India kept the flame of democracy aloft in the region surrounded by autocracies. India's impeccable democratic credentials prompted London Times columnist Bernard Levine to maintain during a memorial lecture in Delhi in the mid-1990s that "if democracy in India fails, the end of democracy itself will be in sight." Today, democracy in India is not in the pink of its health. On the contrary, we may not be far from becoming what historian Anne Applebaum calls "twilight of democracy." With the growing polarization, craving for the golden past and leaders peddling fantasies and alternative facts, democracy may have entered its most critical phase.

In his 1936 book, *It Can't Happen Here*, Sinclair Lewis satirized with biting humour the potential for the US to fall to popular demagogues. Lewis imagined the President becoming a dictator to save the nation. Donald Trump pretended doing precisely the same. Today, none of

the democratic states, India included, can say, "It Can't Happen Here".

Globally, democracy is facing a moment that Victor Hugo portrayed in *'Le Miserables'*: "Everything, everywhere happens at once. It was foreseen but is unprepared for; it springs up

from pavements, falls from the clouds, looks in one place like an ordered campaign and in another like a spontaneous outburst." Political democracy took two centuries to ripen. 'Media democracy' has taken only two decades to become a monster. It has flourished under ugly, thuggish populist regimes. Politicians and society seem to exist in two different ecosystems. What we have is democracy without truth. Populists are quite allergic to truth and they depend on alternative reality and parallel universe. Untruth is spreading fast and we don't have many tools. As historian Sophie Rosenfeld says in her novel, *Democracy and Truth*, a world of truth and falsehood are "circulating undifferentiated globally."

Is it all doom and gloom? Marx in one of his letters said,

"the hopeless conditions of the society in which I live fills me with hope." The 21st century is a century of citizens. Today civil society and enlightened citizens groups surround and sustain us like the air we breathe. It goes unnoticed because of their very ubiquity. A multitude of actors now defines and shapes the current structure of power. Recent decades have witnessed a displacement of power and control upwards, downwards and outwards. With transnational institutions, local governments, civil society organisations and NGOs becoming new stakeholders, a new 'geography of below' is fast emerging.

Despite the rise of elective democracy, the 21st century is turning out to be a century of citizens' engagement. The rights to be heard, to be seen, to be recognized and to be respected are at the core of citizens' movements across the world. The 21st century is witnessing fundamental global economic, political, social and cultural transformations challenging traditional notions of citizenship

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The 21st century world is a networked world, for it is networks that add value and strength to the citizens' movements. Turning connections into relationships is an essential part of engagement. Connectedness has played a vital role in successful local government networks and associations. What Manuel Castells, author of *The Rise of the Network Society*, calls "space of flows" is the greatest strength of the citizens' movements. Stars will not continue to be better aligned with populists and autocrats.

Slowly, new forms of inclusive, multifaceted, bottom-up civic power are emerging. Growing resistance among citizens as also upheavals against elected autocracies are signs of citizens' empowerment. Civil society is asserting its power to engage with issues of power, public policy and social justice. A strong civil society alone can provide an effective counterweight to the great concentrations of wealth and power that continue to exert influence on our economic, social, cultural, and political lives.

In Homer's tale, Odysseus manages to bring his ship to safety by staying his course in the face of lurking monsters. Democracy today needs the help of a reliable compass, a good map and a sturdy boat. We need new political, economic and social ideas to match the demands of the 21st century. Defeating populism and empires of lies will require not just new movements but also new ideas. At its heart must be the belief that democracy is a better way to organise society than markets or empires of thuggish populism.

Has the world ceased imagining? It is time to ask difficult questions of ourselves. Yale University political scientist Helene Landemore asks provocatively what many would find viscerally alarming, "If government is for the people, why can't the people do the governing?"

when international crude oil prices plummeted in 2020 due to lower demand, Indians kept paying higher rates for petrol and diesel due to the various taxes levied. At the moment, Indians pay one of the highest taxes on fuel in the world.

The government needs to find a speedy solution to

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Confusion on NGOs and NSOs in Sri Lanka

If you listen to politicians and journalists here, you will hear of that curious creature *rajya novana sanvidane*, a Non-State Organisation (NSO). Where do you get them? In the uninstructed and dead minds of those who use those terms. In the real world, where politicians and journalists have developed minds, there are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). The United Nations is an organization set up by state parties, not by governments. It is true that agents of states, governments, make the United Nations work or fail. Governments may change but not the states, except rarely. When Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia, a new state was formed and was so recognised by the United Nations. However, the LTTE that tried to set up another state was crushed by the established state that it tried to break away from, and the UN had nothing to do with them.

This entirely unnecessary confusion, created out of ignorance, is so destructive that organizations completely loyal to the existing state, are made to be traitorous outfits, for they are 'non-state organizations' within the state. There are citizens of each state, but no citizens of any government. Government is but an instrument of the state. In most states there are organizations, neither of the state nor of government: religious organizations including churches. But none

The Island

of them is beyond the pale of the state.

Those that speak of *rajya novana sanvidane* give that name partly because they have no idea of the origin of non-governmental organizations. NGOs came into the lime-light, as donor agencies, noticed that some governments, in East Africa, in particular, did not have the capacity and the integrity to use the resources that they provided. They construed, about 1970, that NGOs would be a solution to the problem. Little did they realize that some NGOs themselves would become dens of thieves and brigands. I have not seen any evaluation of the performance of NGOs in any country. There was an incomplete essay written by Dr. Susantha Gunatilleka. NGOs are alternatives to the government, not to the state.

Our Constitution emphatically draws a distinction between the government and state, and lays down that the President is both Head of Government and Head of State (Read Article 2 and Article 30 of the Constitution.) It is as head of state that, he/she is the Commander of the Armed Forces, appoints and receives ambassadors and addresses Parliament annually, when a prorogued Parliament, reconvenes.

He/she presides over the Cabinet as head of government. The distinction is most clear, in practice, in Britain where Queen Elizabeth is the head of state and Boris Johnson is the Prime Minister and head of government. However, in principle, Johnson is the Queen's First Minister appointed by the sovereign, and resigns by advising her of his decision to do so.

In the US and in India the term 'state' has special significance. In India there is a 'rajya sabha' (the Council of States) whose members represent constituent States and Union Territories. Pretty much the same is true of the United States. In the US, executive power is vested in the President and heads the administration, government in our parlance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Rising fuel prices

SIR, Petrol and diesel rates in the country have sharply increased after the latest round of fuel price hike by oil marketing companies with petrol on the verge of crossing Rs 100 in major cities and diesel, too climbing to levels never seen before in the country. The continuous and historic increase in fuel prices will certainly have a widespread impact on citizens and the overall economy which is still recovering from the Covid-induced crisis.

The situation is so bad in some places that people are walking extra miles to buy cheaper fuel or smuggling it from neighbouring nations. A recent report indicated that some people

in Bihar's Araria and Kishanganj region are crossing the border to smuggle petrol from Nepal. The initial impact of the rise will be felt by people who own personal vehicles. The rising fuel prices in India will also have a cascading effect on businesses spread across various sectors, ultimately impacting citizens.

Considering that most products and goods that people use on a daily basis are transported from different parts of the country, their costs are likely to rise further. Simply put, from the food you order to the vegetables and fruits you buy, everything is likely to get costlier.

Being the third-largest importer of oil in the world, the recent firming of international crude oil prices have severely impacted India, where citizens are paying extremely high rates for fuel in comparison to neighbouring countries. Even



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SIR, This refers to the *The Statesman's* report (21 February), that IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji expressed, we should not have any legal mandate for companies to do CSR. He said philanthropy or charity or contribution to society must come from within, and it cannot be mandated from outside.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the funding and grants process under which Non-profit organisations (NGO's) can get financial and other support from the corporate sector. Under the Companies Act, 2013, it is a mandatory provision to provide a contribution of two percent of the average net profits of companies.

Generosity of IT mogul Azim Premji is widely known; he donated huge portion of his wealth for charity purpose, just as American media mogul Robert Edward Turner, popularly known as Ted Turner donated sizable portion of his wealth for charity. Social media giant Mark Zuckerberg has already committed 97 per cent of his wealth for charity, and recently Bill Gates donated 150 million dollars to Serum Institute the vaccine manufacturer of India with a contract to keep the covid vaccine price as low as possible. Needless to say, they did not need any CSR to show their generosity for the society.

But the recent study shows that philanthropy amongst Indian mega rich is lowest in the world. Because they are more interested in spending millions in their family members wedding or birthday party to show their wealth and prosperity. In our country, we find generous and kind personality like Azim Premji very rarely.

Yours, etc., Ratan Chakraborty, Kolkata, 22 February.

the fuel price crisis in order to protect the interests of the citizens and shield the economy from inflation.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 23 February.

A Gandhian Prime Minister

ARVINDAR SINGH

Morarji Desai's birthday falls on the 28 February (actually, the 29th as he was born in a leap year). This year marks his 125th birth anniversary. He was born in 1896. In his long and outstanding career in public life he had many firsts to his credit.

He was the first non-Congress Prime Minister as leader of the Janata Party, the first Prime Minister of India to feature in the Guinness Book of World Records (as the oldest person at the age of 81 to assume office as Prime Minister), the only Finance Minister to present the budget on his birthday, the first Indian to receive Pakistan's highest award - the Nishan-e-Pakistan - and much else.

Desai was also a great believer in interaction with the fourth estate, and held regular press conferences, in fact his first engagement as Prime Minister was a press conference where he made it clear that no question would be taken amiss no matter how personal it was. He kept up the regular schedule of the monthly press conference throughout his tenure in office. The journalist Mark Tully once asked him about his practicing auto urine therapy to which he replied that Tully could see from his state of health in his early eighties that it obviously did him some good!

Morarji believed in secularism in word and deed. The vocalist Bade Ghulam Ali Khan who had migrated to Pakistan wanted to return as he found the country inhospitable. Desai immediately allotted him an apartment in Mumbai.

Desai was also known for his administrative skills. As his Media Advisor Sharda Prasad wrote "He was a first-rate administrator; one of the best in free India."

Morarji Desai the Gandhian will live in the minds of his countrymen with greater reverence as time goes by.

The writer is the author of the book Morarji Desai: A Profile in Courage

in controversy. In an interview to "Time" magazine on assuming office he made a comment while talking of women Prime Ministers, and said "when a woman becomes devilish she beats all records, no man can equal her." This caused much disquiet among women leading to the unbending Morarji tendering an apology!

In his years in parliament he was known as a votary of parliamentary debate and never hesitated to concede the floor to the opposition. The late Madhu Limaye recalled that when Morarji was in the Congress he used to come to the rescue of Limaye, an opposition member, who was barracked by Congressmen. "Meet logic and argument, with logic and argument not with shouting" he chided them.

He had a long run as Chief Minister of the erstwhile Bombay State, Commerce Minister, Finance Minister on two occasions and also as Deputy Prime Minister. However, when the Congress split in 1969, he joined the opposition and was detained for the entire period of the emergency.

On assumption of office as Prime Minister after the nightmarish 19 months of the emergency in 1977, Morarji set forth to establish the rule of law and fortify the democratic spirit of the constitution by enacting the 44th Amendment which made the imposition of a similar emergency virtually impossible.

Morarji was a political leader who never considered himself to be in the popularity race and thus was blunt in expressing his views without inhibition. He expressed his disapproval of the annexation of Sikkim, declared unilaterally that under no circumstances would India go in for nuclear weapons and opposed the creation of linguistic states against the party line. He also pursued the prohibition policy relentlessly in Bombay State and later which gave him sometimes an image of a martinet. Sometimes he could make remarks to the press which would land him



Nepal shows way to democracy

PRAMOD MISHRA

Nepal's Supreme Court has reversed the political regression that KP Oli, the prime minister, had begun by unconstitutional dissolving Parliament on 20 December 2020. The Supreme Court deserves thanks for doing its duty and playing by the book. It has also put to rest all rumours that had been floating around among Nepalis, even the educated ones, about various kinds of settings'. The rumours began because, in the past, Nepal's rulers had been wayward and very often violated democratic norms and constitutionality.

The Supreme Court has also reversed its own past by supporting the constitution. So, democracy-loving Nepalis are rightly rejoicing this decision. Oli's penchant for proverbs may not cease altogether but may not grab headlines from now on. Parliament will reconvene, the violators may be punished, and a new prime minister may be elected, but the fundamental questions the Citizens' Movement has raised to realise full democracy will remain to be addressed.

On the national day of democracy last Friday, the movement issued its manifesto. One can call it the Full Democracy Manifesto of the Citizens' Movement of Nepal 2021. Like many other declarations and manifestos, such as the Declaration of Independence of 1776, which was a philosophical justification for the war of independence of the American colonies against Britain, or the Com-

munist Manifesto of 1848 by Marx and Engels that laid the foundation for future communist movements, this concept paper is for a future roadmap. It is based on an analysis of past failures.

Like the philosophes of the European Enlightenment, the manifesto makers are artists, writers and intellectuals. Unlike the philosophes, this Citizens' Manifesto for full democracy is not merely philosophical assertion but has resulted from citizens' participation in the country's multiple movements for democracy. In the earlier movements of 1990 and 2006, citizens who were also intellectuals, educated at home and abroad, led the charge by holding meetings and making speeches but had not issued a collectively drafted declaration. In this sense, this declaration is both a result of political action and philosophical thought, theory and praxis fused together that Jean-Paul Satre practised in France. It embodies the twin principles of freedom and justice. Freedom from political regression and justice for the marginalised.

But like the philosophes, those who have provided the intellectual foundation for this citizens movement come from the ranks of writers, poets, artists and public intellectuals, who write not just for the libraries and academic journals but for the general public - not only to change public discourse but to give a new direction to the country's future politics and thought.

How these ideas will influence Nepal's future course of action only

time will tell. But from the initial signs, it appears that these ideas will have a long-term effect not just in Nepal but across the border in India as well and from there to the rest of South Asia. Nepal here has a chance to be a thought leader in South Asia.

These intellectuals, writers, poets, artists call themselves citizens, but they are not the freighted and hauled masses that fill the crowd at political party events. Nor are they politicians who are officially aligned with one party or another. Except for rare exceptions, such as BP Koirala and Baburam Bhattarai, Nepali politicians lack the ability to be intellectuals and original thinkers. They grab one line of thought or another (and versions of Marxism in its various manifestations from Leninism to Maoism have been the dominant strain) and run with it. They repeat old slogans ad infinitum. They build their parties and run for elections for share of state power.

On the other hand, these citizens are not interested in state power or any active political career. They just want a democracy that would include the rule of law, freedom of expression and freedom from corruption—and justice for the marginalised and the environment. And their source of power is their intellect and the streets. That is why they emphasised freeing Tundikhel, the largest open space in the middle of Kathmandu from the monopoly of Nepal's military and officialdom and for the use of the people.

This manifesto or declaration for full democracy shows that those who

made it possible are not just citizens who have the right to vote or hold the country's citizenship papers or passport. They are cosmopolitan humanists who love their country and its people and land with the diversity of cultures, flora and fauna and altitudes.

Now that the Supreme Court has reinstated Parliament, how are these political parties going to behave? Will they continue to act in the same old ways of horse-trading? Or, alternatively, will they follow the precepts of the Citizens' Movement by handing over the reins of the parties and the government to the next generation of leaders so that new leaders will bring in a newer vision, newer perspectives, absorbing newer thoughts about women, indigenous groups, Dalits and implementing them? We will see how non-Oli parties will act. But one thing is clear. The new generation of intellectuals has announced its arrival on Nepal's public scene. And this new generation is not going to merely speculate.

What is the concept of full democracy that the Citizens' Movement has proclaimed? In my view, it has two chief components: democracy and justice. Just holding elections is not democracy, as the leaders of the Citizens' Movement have repeatedly pointed out. Democracy means freedom. It means transparency. It means the rule of law. It means not just free and fair elections between and among parties but within the parties as well. But the second component of full democracy is no less important. In its

absence, political democracies all over the world, especially in the non-Western world, have faltered and failed. Justice for the marginalised means participation of those who have traditionally been excluded from state power. In Nepal's case, those would be Madhesis, women, the indigenous nationalities and the Dalits but also the disadvantaged of any ethnic group.

And justice would also include justice to the environment and justice to salvageable cultural heritage, as the Citizens' Manifesto has made clear. Nepal is richly endowed with natural beauty - its mountains, its rivers, its flora and fauna. Why can't development happen that sustains the environment and protects the country's rich cultural heritage? Development, progress and prosperity can go together with the preservation of rivers, mountains and salvageable cultural heritage.

Salvageable cultural heritage means not all cultural heritage is salvageable. For example, casteism, sexism and those cultural tendencies that create othering and marginalisation are not worth saving. But for that, critical thinking and vigorous debate in the public sphere are indispensable. The Citizens' Movement's manifesto has opened up that door for such a debate.

So, Oli may be departing soon but his proclivities must not remain intact. Nepal will truly move forward only when it leaves behind both Oli and Oli-garchy and internalises what the Citizens' Movement has laid out in its manifesto. These are the lessons of the Oli imbroglio.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28836

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The Calcutta District Charitable Society has compiled and is publishing a most useful Handbook of charitable and other cognate institutions in the city. This is the first time such a publication has been issued, and it is calculated to be of great service of the Domiciled Community, and to all who share the very common experience of finding themselves at a loss to know how to deal with some deserving case coming to their attention, or what institution may be asked for help. A preface to the Handbook begins by saying that "almsgiving, when not merely a means of getting rid of an importunate beggar, is commonly inspired by pity for one's fellows in distress or by a sense of religious duty; and the mere giving of alms is all too often regarded as being in itself an act of charity, although it is generally quite the reverse." When Goldsmith wrote of the Vicar in "The Deserted Village" that "Careless their merits or their faults to scan, - his pity gave em charity began," he expressed what used to be regarded as the very highest ideal of benevolence. Modern ideals aim at more substantial and durable benefits, and seek to avoid the pauperising effects apt to be produced by indiscriminate almsgiving. It is "to aid those who wish to help, rather than to give," that this Handbook has been prepared.

NEWS ITEMS

CIVIL MARRIAGES ACT

Delhi, Feb 25
Dr H.S. Gour, MLA, has given notice of a bill to amend the Civil Marriages Act of 1872. A Civil Marriage Law without reference to race, religion or social distinction exists in all European countries, and it is open to any Indian to contract such a marriage in Europe. There is no reason why he should not be at liberty to do so equally in his own country. The Brahmo Samaj urged upon the Government the necessity of such a law, and in 1868 Sir Henry Maine, then Law Member of the Government of India, introduced a Civil Marriage Bill, but his successor Sir James Stephen yielded to the objection then raised that such a measure should follow and not anticipate any great change of social sentiment and religious feelings.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK

Cawnpore, Feb 25
The annual general meeting of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce was held today. In his address, Sir Thomas Smith said that the past year had been remarkable for industrial and economic unrest throughout the world. It had been a year of extremes, of high inflation and sudden slump, of buoyant trade and acute depression. That reaction would follow the abnormal conditions produced by the war few had doubted, but that it would come so soon and in the manner it did was not generally anticipated. We had it an ancient authority that all extremes are wrong, and as the descent had been sudden it might be that we were now more nearly on natural levels. That these had been reached it would be rash to say.

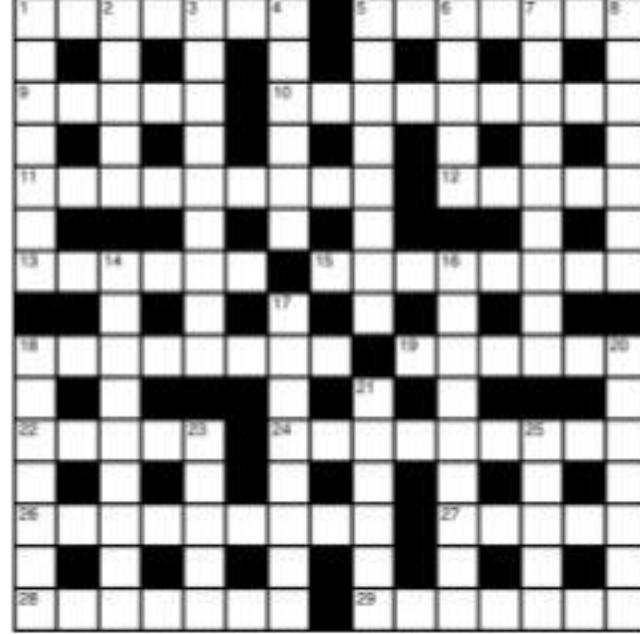
DEATHS FROM CHOLERA AND PLAGUE

A statement issued today gives details of reported deaths in several provinces of India from cholera, smallpox, and plague for the week ending November 13, Bengal Presidency fared the worst, there having been 817 deaths from cholera alone, smallpox claiming but 25. Madras ranks next with 537 deaths of which 458 are attributed to plague and 55 to cholera. Bihar and Orissa follows Madras with 247, two-thirds of which number was claimed by cholera. In the Central Provinces the total number of deaths from cholera and plague is put down at 145, whereas 121 deaths out of a total of 137 in Bengal Presidency are the result of plague. Smallpox was also scarce in the United Provinces, but plague claimed 43 victims and cholera nearly double that number.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS

A general meeting of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in connection with the medical and surgical exhibition which is to be opened in Delhi by His Excellency the Viceroy was held in the Town Hall last evening, the Hon. Mr. C.A. Barron, the Chief Commissioner, presiding. Rai Sahib Hari Ram detailed the requirements for the proposed exhibition. Lieut.-Colonel C.H. James, then expressed his views on the usefulness of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in India, where their number exceeded ten thousand. He was of opinion that this class of medical practitioner afforded the greatest medical relief in places more or less inaccessible to the other classes of medical men, even Vedic and Unani. The President was requested by Mr. Abdul Hasan, Munisif, to accord the association his patronage to which he consented.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Bovine expert a good many finally dismissed (7)
- 5 'Singular veteran' increasingly encompasses one? (7)
- 9 After reflection, one really enjoyed eating old cheese (5)
- 10 Car not entirely unfashionable? Wrong in green (9)
- 11 Famous Russian, as presented in Disney film, avoiding capital of France (9)
- 12 Result still adrift, ultimately (5)
- 13 See about one small amount of liquid cocktail (6)
- 15 People in authority apprehending girl back in

DOWN

- 18 Everyone yet to reach port will be confused (3,2,3)
- 19 Quote work recalled with a lyrical style (6)
- 22 Additional clause, article ignored by stock market speculator (5)
- 24 Minister turned amidst various altars, making motion to cross (9)
- 26 Ignore written notes - this is the place to stop tucking into fruit (4,2,3)
- 27 African resident agreed to be followed by a detective (5)
- 28 Red 10 possibly left in position (7)
- 29 Vegetable cutlet prepared with pea, essentially (7)

DOWN

- 1 Book one group including bass for a stellar opening? (3,4)
- 2 Pleasure taking in area: area and its animals (5)
- 3 Skill over pieces installed in suitable condo perhaps (9)
- 4 How is learner working to become wise? (6)
- 5 Starts to sneak your way into my compassion (8)
- 6 University publishers put in French article - item for jewellers (5)
- 7 Traveller that is carrying the can, getting harangué (9)
- 8 Inexperienced, not beginning to attempt part of space mission (2-5)

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



Disconnect between financial markets and real economy is a global phenomenon

AJAY TYAGI

CHAIRMAN, THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

THUMBNAILS

MCA,CBIC tie-up: The corporate affairs ministry on Thursday said it has signed a pact with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under the finance ministry, for data exchange between the two organisations. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) will facilitate the sharing of data and information between MCA and CBIC on an automatic and regular basis, according to a statement by the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA). PTI

Web Werks agreement: Independent data centre provider Web Werks has entered into a strategic pact with Iron Mountain, under which the NYSE-listed company will invest \$150 million in the next two years. After the investment, Iron Mountain will become the majority investor in Web Werks, the city-based company said in a statement. PTI

SBI pact: State Bank of India and Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enable faster processing of home loans, approvals and to provide other benefits. The lender's head and chief general manager (real estate & housing business unit) Shreeranjit said the collaboration will create win-win business opportunities for all stakeholders. PTI

Samsung: Samsung has announced the launch of Galaxy A12, its first Galaxy A Series smartphone in India this year. Galaxy A12 comes with 48 MP quad camera, 6.5" HD+ Infinity-V display, 5000 mAh battery and a host of other innovative features, according to a Press release. The phone has been priced Rs 12,999 onwards, said the Press release. SNS

Bhutani Group launches Johari Bazaar: Bhutani Group, one of the leading real estate developers, announced a lucrative offer to own shops at its coveted Cyberthum project in Sector 140A Noida, on Thursday. In Phase-I, 67 shops available are part of the project's smart and linked campus. At Johari Bazaar by Bhutani Group, the total area of the shops will be 38,000 square feet, and Rs 99 lakh is the minimum investment to own a shop. A part of the 26.8 acre mixed-use development, the project will be delivered within three years. SNS

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launched an insurance plan offering a guaranteed regular deferred annuity during post-retirement life. There is a funding gap in the post-retirement life and lots of people will not be earning but would need funds, so this is a grave issue that needs to be addressed, said Bajaj Allianz Life MD and CEO Tarun Chugh while announcing the launch of 'Bajaj Allianz Life Guaranteed Pension Coal' plan. SNS

Vivo smartphone: Smartphone maker Vivo has announced a new attractive price for the Vivo V20 SE starting 24 February 2021. The V20 SE will support a new price tag of Rs 19,990 for the 8+128 GB storage variant, said a Press release. SNS

Economic growth seen at 13.7% in FY 2021-22

GDP may contract 7% in FY'21: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

The Indian economy is expected to clock a growth of 13.7 per cent in financial year 2021-22, registering a strong rebound from a 7 per cent contraction this fiscal, on the back of normalisation of activity and growing confidence in the market with the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccine, Moody's Investors Service said today.

Moody's had in November last year projected Indian economy to contract 10.6 per cent in the current fiscal and return to growth of 10.8 per cent in 2021-22 fiscal.

"Our expectations in current fiscal year ending March 2021 is for a contraction of 7 per cent significant improvement from our... (earlier) forecast of contraction of over 10 per cent. We try to incorporate some of the unexpected pick-up in activity that we have seen recently."

"For the year following that we expect a rebound of 13.7 per cent that reflects largely normalisation of activity, a pronounced base effect. Recovery of activity reinforced by some degree of roll-out of vaccine, and growing confidence in market that things are getting more back to normal," Moody's Investors Service associate managing director (sovereign risk) Gene Fang said in an online conference organised by Moody's and its India affiliate Icra on India Credit Outlook 2021.

Fang said reform implementation remains a challenge in India, and expressed uncertainty over revenue generation through CPSE privatisation announced in the Budget, saying such "one-off" monetisation policies are less durable in the long term.

Moody's had in June last year downgraded India's sovereign rating to "Baa3", which is the lowest investment grade, with a negative outlook saying there will be challenges in implementation of policies to mitigate risks of a sustained period of low growth and deteriorating fiscal position.



ber-December quarter of the current fiscal. Indian economy contracted for two consecutive quarters of June and September this fiscal, thereby entering into recession. Contraction was 23.9 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Icra expects Indian economy to contract 7 per cent in the current fiscal and growth to rebound to 10.5 per cent in the next fiscal beginning 1 April.

Nayar said there could be upside to growth in FY'22 if government's capital expenditure increases, Budget announcements are implemented and vaccination drives are carried out.

The Economic Survey had projected Indian economy to contract 7.7 per cent in the current fiscal and growth to rebound to 11 per cent next fiscal.

Recovery of activity reinforced by some degree of roll-out of vaccine, and growing confidence in market that things are getting more back to normal," Fang added.

In the medium term for fiscal years ending March 2023 and 2024, Moody's expects growth to come in at 6.2 per cent, reflecting further normalisation in activity for these two years.

"The potential growth in India is going to be around 6.5 per cent and we would not see more prominent scarring as a result of pandemic," Fang added.

Stating that recession in India has ended, Icra principal economist Aditi Nayar said Indian economy could clock a 0.3 per cent growth in the Octo-

Industry cheers Modi's privatisation push

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "government has no business to be in business", corporate India today said privatisation except in strategic sectors would unleash exciting opportunities, boost investments in infrastructure and create jobs.

However, the industry called for an effective implementation of road map towards privatisation and asset monetisation, cautioning that regulatory and legal hurdles should not derail the process.

Icra president Uday Shankar said senior government functionaries and other officials responsible for the execution of the programme would adopt a highly cautious approach in case they are not insulated from the outcome of their bona fide decisions. "Wisdom gained in hindsight should not be used to question the judgement of the decision-takers and such

Uday Shankar
Ficci president

officers should be offered protection for their action done in good faith," he said.

The Ficci president emphasised that the quality of the asset is as important as the credibility of the process. In addition to being fair and transparent, the process should have smooth sailing and adhere to projected timelines, Shankar said.

Modi on Wednesday said the government has no business to be in business and his administration is committed to privatising all public sector undertakings (PSUs) bar-

Deepak Sood
Assocham secretary-general

ring the bare minimum in four strategic sectors.

He also said the Centre's policy is to either monetise or modernise public sector enterprises, with the intent that the government has "no business to be in business".

"The Prime Minister has conveyed his message loud and clear that the focus of the government would be on the welfare of people and not in running business enterprises. His statement that the government has no business to be in business leaves no doubt in the mind of the

Chandrajit Banerjee
CII director-general

policymakers," Assocham secretary-general Deepak Sood said. He expressed confidence that the strong messaging from the Prime Minister would lead to the desired results.

In the process of privatisation, except in strategic areas, India would see unleashing of a tremendous growth potential, required to meet aspirations of our people and taking us towards the \$5-trillion mark, Sood said.

CII director-general Chandrajit Banerjee said: "The Prime Minister has given a

strong statement that the government has no business to be in business, which is a morale booster shot for entrepreneurs. His words reflect a mindset change in the government that its responsibility is to fully support businesses and enterprises, and the agenda of disinvestment, privatisation and monetisation of assets that he has unleashed strengthens the confidence of industry."

He added that privatisation would contribute significantly towards improving competency within enterprises and would build resource efficiency among units. "The mantra of "monetise or modernise" is a powerful statement for better utilisation of resources with global best practices."

Global and domestic perceptions about India would get a further fillip and so would the environment for doing business in the country, Banerjee said. "CII warmly welcomes this statement of intent and commitment from the Prime Minister."

Xiaomi move to boost manufacturing

NEW DELHI, 25 FEBRUARY

Xiaomi today said it has partnered with contract manufacturers BYD, DBG and Radian to strengthen its "Make in India" efforts. The Chinese company has tied up with BYD and DBG for smartphones, while Radian will help augment the company's capacity of smart TVs in India.

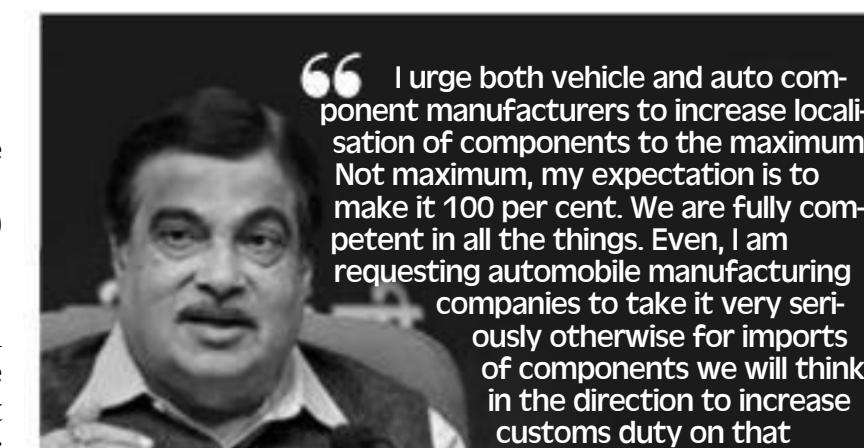
The DBG unit in Haryana is already operational and will increase Xiaomi's monthly manufacturing capacity by about 20 per cent, Xiaomi India managing director Manu Jain said during a virtual briefing.

He added that the BYD unit in Tamil Nadu will be operational soon.

Currently, Xiaomi has 5 campuses in India, where its partners Foxconn and Flex assemble phones in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

"There was a need to expand capacity given the huge increase in demand for smartphones on account of work and study from home and high content consumption, and this ramp-up in capacity will help in meeting that demand," he said. PTI

competent in all the things. Even, I am requesting automobile manufacturing companies to take it very seriously otherwise for imports of components we will think in the direction to increase customs duty on that

NITIN GADKARI
UNION MINISTER

the time for the Indian auto industry to support Make in India and Made in India movement."

Reiterating that the auto sector is a key driver of the Indian economy and top contributor among the manufacturing sector, the minister said increase in basic customs duty on select auto components will encourage local manufacturing of such items.

Speaking at an event organised by the Automotive Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Gadkari, minister of road transport and highways, said the present level of localisation of parts in the Indian auto sector is around 70 per cent and "at any cost we need to stop imports of auto components".

"I urge both vehicle and auto component manufacturers to increase localisation of components to the maximum. Not maximum, my expectation is to make it 100 per cent. We are fully

competent in basic customs duty on select auto components will encourage local manufacturing of such items. The government has always had a clear policy that we want to encourage Make in India and Made in India," he said.

Earlier in the day, Soci-

ety of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam) president Kenichi Ayukawa, while speaking at the same event, sought government support for localisation of electronic components, specially semiconductors, which are currently facing a global shortage, stating it would need huge investments.

Ayukawa said Siam and Auto Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) are working together on a road map for "Aatmanirbhar" for more localisation of components.

"Together we have identified specific areas of engine transmission, electrical tooling, grade of steel etc. that have good scope for localisation," he said.

Ayukawa further said: "For electronics areas, specifically for semiconductor parts, government support is required for localisation as it needs huge investments. Auto demand alone is not enough for localisation in electronics."

Proposed ARC will not 'jeopardise' existing players: RBI Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 25 FEBRUARY



organised by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

There are close to 28 asset reconstruction companies operating in the country at present.

Das said the proposal for setting up an ARC was given by public sector lenders to the government, which accepted it and announced it in the Budget.

The proposed entity will take over stressed assets from the books of public sector banks, and try to resolve them like any other ARCs are doing, he noted.

Das also said strengthening of regulatory architecture for existing ARCs is very much on the central bank's agenda.

"Refining and further upgrading the regulatory architecture in respect of ARCs to ensure that they have a skin in the game and they are very much in business, is one aspect which is receiving a lot of attention from us," he said, adding last year he had interacted with a group of ARCs but Covid-19 slowed progress on that front.

Speaking about stressed assets, the Governor said there is growing awareness and realisation among banks in dealing with NPAs.

Meanwhile, the RBI Governor said the central bank's asset purchases, aimed at mitigating Covid-19-related liquidity stress in the system, did not dilute its balance sheet or

compromise on core principles of central banking.

In the wake of the pandemic, the RBI undertook several conventional and unconventional measures.

"Unlike many central banks, the RBI's asset purchases did not dilute its balance sheet and hence, did not compromise on core principles of central banking," Das said.

These purchases were confined to risk-free sovereign (government) bonds including state government securities only, he said.

Other than conventional measures, RBI introduced long term repo operations (LTROs) and targeted long term repo operations (TLTROs) to augment the system as well as sector-specific liquidity to meet sectoral credit needs and alleviate stress, he said.

country. Vigorous effort is on to reduce the regulatory compliance burden on the (pharma) industry," Gowda said.

Minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said that reforms are being undertaken by the government especially in the pharmaceutical sector.

"In ease of doing business, we have reached 79th position now from the earlier 145. In the pharma sector, our ranking has improved to 63. So, it tells that reforms are indeed taking place in the vertical," he noted.

Speaking at the event, Ficci Pharma Committee Mentor and Zydus Group chairman Pankaj R Patel urged the government to further liberalise the regulatory system, particularly for drug approvals.

Gowda said the country has been serving more than 200 plus countries and territories with its pharma products and it will continue to grow in value terms.

"Indian pharma industry can achieve the ambitious target which it has set for itself, reaching an annual turnover of \$10 billion by 2030. Similarly, the medical device industry in the country has the potential to grow to about \$50 billion by 2025," he noted.

He further said: "Along with this growth I am sure the industry will stay committed to the noble cause of providing drugs at an affordable price to the common man."

The minister said the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities of the global supply chain in the pharma sector.

Equity indices rise for 3rd straight session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 25 FEBRUARY

inflation concerns.

The 30-share BSE Sensex spurted 257.62 points or 0.51 per cent to finish at 51,039.31

points on Friday as indices dived up for the third straight session amid expiry of monthly derivative contracts and bullish global equities.

A whopping increase in FPI inflows also boosted risk appetite, traders said. Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth a net Rs 28,739.17 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global markets followed Wall Street higher after US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said policy rates could remain low for years, calming

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Nestle India, L&T, Kotak, Titan and HDFC were among the major laggards, slipping up to 2.10 per cent.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, Moody's raised its growth projections for India, saying the economy is expected to clock a growth of 13.7 per cent in FY'22 on the back of normalisation of activity and roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines.

"Domestic market added strength on yesterday's rally supported by positive F&O monthly roll-over and robust global market. Small and mid-cap stocks continued its out-performance over the benchmark indices.

"World equity market rebound after getting assur-

ance from central banks, importantly Fed, that good liquidity will be maintained, in spite of being under pressure of rising inflation, since the economy is still well below the pre-Covid standpoint," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, oil and gas, metal, utilities, basic materials, power and realty indices rallied up to 3.92 per cent, while FMCG and capital goods indices closed lower.

There are a lot of things Russia and the United States can do together...We're in favour of cooperation



AFTER LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD TOOK UP HER POST AS US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

RUSSIA'S DEPUTY UN AMBASSADOR DMITRY POLANSKY

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

09

Pro-military supporters attack anti-coup protesters in Myanmar

Chaos leaves several injured, complicates an already intractable standoff between the military and protesters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 25 FEBRUARY

Members of a group supporting Myanmar's military junta attacked and injured people protesting Thursday against the army's 1 February seizure of power that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Several people were injured in the attacks in Myanmar's largest city. The chaos complicates an already intractable standoff between the military and a protest movement that has been staging large-scale demonstrations daily to have Suu Kyi's government restored to power.

Fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian



Nations are urging Myanmar's military to make some concessions to help ease tensions. The 10-country regional grouping views dialogue with the generals as a more effective method of achieving compromises than more confrontational methods, such as the sanctions often advocated by Western nations.

Photos and videos on social media showed the attacks and injured people in downtown Yangon as police stood

Facebook bans accounts, ads

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 25 FEBRUARY

Social media giant Facebook announced Thursday it was banning all accounts linked to Myanmar's military as well as ads from military-controlled companies in the wake of the army's seizure of power on 1 February.

It said in a statement that it was treating the post-coup situation in Myanmar as an emergency, explaining that the ban was pre-

cipitated by events since the coup, including deadly violence. Facebook has banned several military-linked accounts since the coup, including army-controlled *Myawaddy TV* and state television broadcaster *MRTV*. The bans are also being applied on *Instagram*.

Facebook came under enormous criticism in 2017 when they failed to act enough to stop hate speech against Myanmar's Rohingya minority.

Facebook's ban applies to accounts and photos posted on social media, the situation began with a march of hundreds of people in support of the coup. They carried banners in English with the slogans 'We Stand With Our Defense Services and We Stand With State Administration Council', which is the official name of the new junta. English has been widely used for signs and posters and online memes by the anti-coup demonstrators in an evident effort to win international support.

Reports said the pro-military marchers were jeered by bystanders near the city's

widely-circulated video showed one man stabbed in front of an office building near a major downtown intersection on

the road to Sule Pagoda, a major venue for anti-coup protests.

The number of injured people and their condition could not immediately be learned.

According to accounts and photos posted on social media, the situation began with a march of hundreds of people in support of the coup. They carried banners in English with the slogans 'We Stand With Our Defense Services and We Stand With State Administration Council', which is the official name of the new junta. English has been widely used for signs and posters and online memes by the anti-coup demonstrators in an evident effort to win international support.

Critics of the military charge its pays people to engage in violence, allegations that are hard to verify. But they were raised during earlier spells of unrest, including a failed anti-military uprising in 1988 and an ambush of Suu Kyi's motorcade in a remote rural area in 2003, when she was seeking to rally her supporters against the military regime then in power.

Drone attack on Saudi royal palace launched from Iraq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, 25 February

month, the rebels targeted an airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia with bomb-laden drones, causing a civilian plane on the tarmac to catch fire.

The Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, however, denied carrying out an attack that targeted Saudi Arabia's Yama Palace on January 23.

The comments by the senior Iraqi militia official mark the first time an Iran-backed group has acknowledged that Iraq was the origin of the attack and points to the challenge Baghdad faces in halting attacks by Iranian-backed militia factions in Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The demonstrations began immediately after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a November 10 peace deal that saw Azerbaijan reclaim control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas that had been held by Armenian forces for more than a quarter-century.

Armenian PM faces military's demand to resign, talks of coup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yerevan, 25 February

Armenia's prime minister accused top military officers on Thursday of attempting a coup after they demanded he step down, adding fuel to months long protests calling for his resignation following the nation's defeat in a conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The demonstrations began immediately after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a November 10 peace deal that saw Azerbaijan reclaim control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas that had been held by Armenian forces for more than a quarter-century.

Those protests have gathered pace this week, and the feud with his top military commanders has weakened Pashinyan's position. The immediate trigger for the standoff was Pashinyan's decision to oust the first deputy chief of the military's General Staff, a group of the armed forces' top commanders. In response, the General Staff called for Pashinyan's resignation but the prime minister doubled down and dismissed the chief of the General Staff. He described the military's statement as a military coup attempt and urged troops to only listen to his orders. He also called on his backers to come to the streets and then later walked among them, using a loudspeaker to

rally support. We need a conversation, not a confrontation, he said. Pashinyan denied rumors that he was preparing to flee the country.

Supporters of Pashinyan and the opposition engaged in sporadic scuffles on the streets of Yerevan on Thursday. Russia's government voiced concern over the tensions but emphasized that Armenia needs to sort it out itself. We are calling for calm and believe that the situation should remain in the constitutional filed, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The crisis has its roots in Armenia's humiliating defeat in heavy fighting with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ecuador riot: Death toll rises to 79

QUITO, 25 FEBRUARY

The death toll in Ecuador increased to 79 as the country experienced its deadliest prison riots ever this week when seemingly coordinated fights broke out in facilities in three different cities, exposing the limited control that authorities have over people behind bars.

Hundreds of police officers and military personnel converged on the prisons after the unrest began Monday night in the maximum-security wings as rival gangs fought for leadership. Officials said inmates carried out savage killings, beheading and dismembering fellow prisoners.

Inmates in two prisons continued fighting Wednesday despite heavy police response. Television footage showed smoke billowing from one of the facilities.

Some 70% of the country's prison population lives in the centres where the unrest occurred. The national agency responsible for the prisons said 37 inmates died in the Pacific coast city of Guayaquil, 34 in the southern city of Cuenca and eight in the central city of Latacunga. Ecuadorian prisons are overpopulated, as they always have been, as are prisons in nearly every country, said Mark Ungar, a professor of political science at Brooklyn College in the US, who has researched prisons in Latin America. In addition to this amazingly repetitive practice of putting members of different gangs within the same facility.

AP

ty fighters.

China has a population of around 1.4 billion.

"No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said.

Xi said that all poor people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty.

With this, China has achieved the UN goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline, he said.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impover-

ished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list, he said.

Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, 770 million impoverished rural residents have shaken off poverty when

calculated according to China's current poverty line, he said.

China has contributed to more than 70 per cent of global poverty reduction over the same period, Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), said.

With such achievements, China has created another "miracle" that will "go down in history," he said.

Xi said since he assumed power, China has invested accumulative fiscal funds of nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (about \$ 246 billion) into poverty alleviation over the past eight years.

He said according to the World Bank's international poverty line, the number of Chinese people lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years accounts for more than 70 per cent of the global total.

China considers extreme rural poor are those with

Secretive Israeli nuke facility undergoes major construction

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 25 FEBRUARY

A secretive Israeli nuclear facility at the centre of the nation's undeclared atomic weapons programme is undergoing what appears to be its biggest construction project in decades, satellite photos analysed by *The Associated Press* show.

A dig about the size of a soccer field and likely several stories deep now sits just meters (yards) from the aging reactor at the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near the city of Dimona, a city some 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Jerusalem. It hid the military purpose of the site for years from America, now Israel's chief ally, even referring to it as a textile factory.

With plutonium from Dimona, Israel is widely believed to have become one of only nine nuclear-armed countries in the world. Given the secrecy surrounding its program, it remains unclear how many weapons it possesses. Analysts estimate Israel has material for at least 80 bombs. Those weapons likely could be delivered by land-based ballistic missiles, fighter jets or submarines.

For decades, the Dimona facility's layout has remained the same. However, last week, the International Panel on Fissile Materials at Princeton University noted it had seen significant new construction at the site via commercially available satellite photos, though few details could be made out.

Satellite images captured Monday by Planet Labs Inc. after a request from the AP provide the clearest view yet of the activity. Just southwest of the reactor, workers have dug a hole some 150 meters long and 60 meters wide. Tailings from the dig can be seen next to the site. A trench some 330 meters runs near the dig.

Xi claims complete victory in eradicating absolute poverty in China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 25 FEBRUARY

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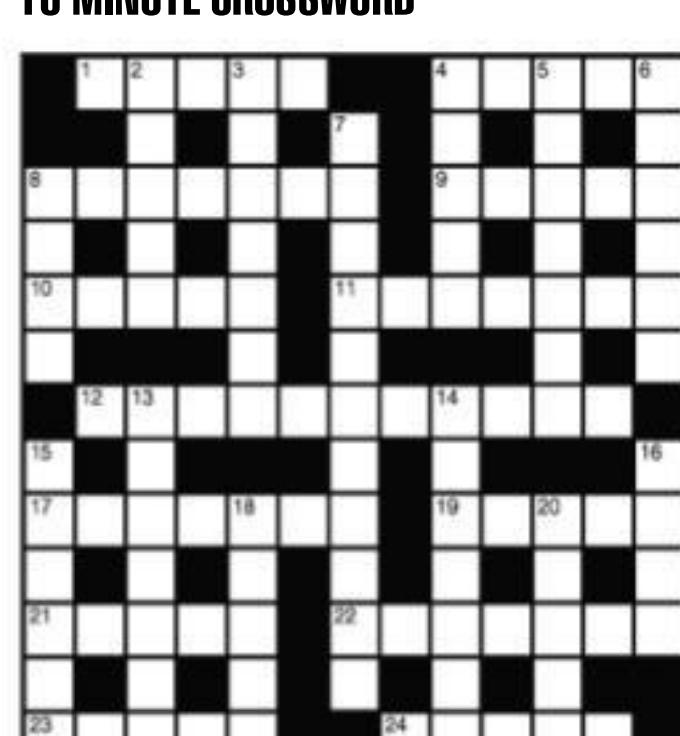
China considers extreme rural poor are those with

ing Communist Party of China (CPC) emerging as its most powerful leader after Mao heading the party, the presidency and the powerful military. With the removal of the two-five year term rule, Xi, like Mao now has a lifelong tenure in power instead of retiring next year.

His claim of poverty eradication came ahead of the CPC's centenary celebrations this year. The CPC also boasts of being the world's only Communist Party with longest tenure in power in the one-party state since 1949 when the People's Republic of China (PRC) was formed.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Culinary herb (5)
- 2 Wading bird (5)
- 3 Make damp (7)
- 4 Electronic blower (5)
- 5 Embarrassed (7)
- 6 Artificial (6)
- 7 Simple illustration (4,7)
- 8 Look after (4)
- 9 Low padded seat (7)
- 10 Fulfil (7)
- 11 Tidy writing (6)
- 12 Small piece (5)
- 13 Colour (5)
- 14 Fuss (5)
- 15 Middy meal (5)
- 16 Being born (7)
- 17 Rural area (11)
- 18 Cocktail (7)
- 19 Big cat (5)
- 20 Confess (5)
- 21 Doglike mammal (5)
- 22 Despot, 13 down
- 23 Aperture, 9 across
- 24 Gooseberry, 22 down

DOWN

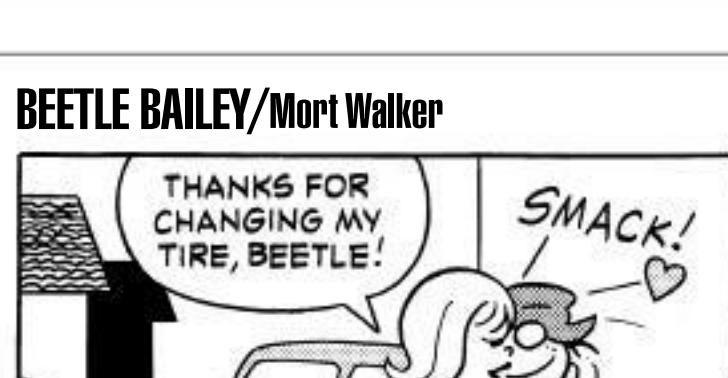
- 1 Take to, 12 across
- 2 On the 13 down
- 3 Make damp (7)
- 4 Electronic blower (5)
- 5 Embarrassed (7)
- 6 Artificial (6)
- 7 Simple illustration (4,7)
- 8 Look after (4)
- 9 Low padded seat (7)
- 10 Bedfellow, 14 down
- 11 Hearing range (7)
- 12 Rural area (11)
- 13 Dupe (4-3)
- 14 Big cat (5)
- 15 Tidy writing (6)
- 16 Tiresome child (4)
- 17 Being born (7)
- 18 Small piece (5)
- 19 Nod.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

- 1 Pitched, 5 across
- 2 Aperture, 9 across
- 3 Grid, 14 across
- 4 Gooseberry, 22 down
- 5 Despot, 13 down
- 6 On the 13 down
- 7 Big cat, 19 across
- 8 Tidy writing, 15 down
- 9 Fuss, 20 down
- 10 Bedfellow, 14 down
- 11 Hearing range, 11 across
- 12 Rural area, 12 across
- 13 Dupe, 13 down
- 14 Big cat, 14 down
- 15 Tidy writing, 15 down
- 16 Tiresome child, 16 down
- 17 Being born, 17 down
- 18 Small piece, 18 down
- 19 Nod, 19 down

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



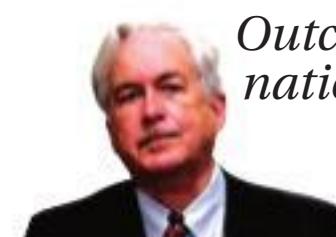
DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 233



Outcompeting China will be key to America's national security in the decades ahead

JOE BIDEN'S CIA NOMINEE WILLIAM BURNS
DURING HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE POST

World

WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	32	24 H
HONG KONG	23	18 H
TOKYO	13	5 H
LONDON	13	7 H
DUBAI	29	21 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	17	10 CL
NEW YORK	8	2 S
MOSCOW	3	-12 H

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

THUMBNAILS



People wearing protective masks run along a pedestrian crossing on Thursday in Tokyo. AP

Pakistan to resume regular classes: Pakistan will resume regular five days a week classes at all schools from March 1 as the country is witnessing a decline in coronavirus deaths and cases, Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood announced on Tuesday. PTI

Illegal gold mine collapses: An illegal gold mine in Indonesia's Sulawesi island collapsed on nearly two dozen people working inside, killing three and leaving another five missing, officials said Thursday. Survivors estimated about 23 people were trapped in the rubble when the mine in Central Sulawesi province collapsed late Wednesday. AP

New UN goodwill ambassador: Russian supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova has become a United Nations goodwill ambassador, pledging to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies. AP

Federal watchdog blasts FAA over certification of Boeing jet

WASHINGTON, 25 FEBRUARY

Federal auditors say US regulators didn't understand a flight-control system that played a role in two deadly crashes of a Boeing jet and must improve their process for certifying new planes.

The Transportation Department's inspector general said in a report released on Wednesday that the Federal Aviation Administration hasn't taken enough steps to focus its oversight on high-risk elements of new planes.

The inspector general issued 14 recommendations to restore confidence in FAA's certification process and ensure the highest level of safety in future passenger planes. The FAA said it agreed with the recommendations and is making changes to address them.

Chicago-based Boeing said it has made improvements, including more training and safety reporting, that are already producing results.

The report is the latest of several to examine the FAA's approval of the Boeing 737 Max, a new version of a plane that dates to the 1960s before crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people. Crash investigators have focused on the role of a new automated flight-control system that pushed the nose of each plane down in the mistaken belief that the planes were about to go into aerodynamic stalls. Pilots were unable to regain control. The Transportation Department auditors said in a 63-page report that FAA's approval process doesn't adequately deal with integrating new technologies into existing planes. AP

Medical oxygen scarcity amid pandemic

Shortage of oxygen in Africa and Latin America led to unnecessary deaths, say doctors ■ Desperate families turn to black markets

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DAKAR, 25 FEBRUARY

A crisis over the supply of medical oxygen for coronavirus patients has struck nations in Africa and Latin America, where warnings went unheeded at the start of the pandemic and doctors say the shortage has led to unnecessary deaths.

It takes about 12 weeks to install a hospital oxygen plant and even less time to convert industrial oxygen manufacturing systems into a medical-grade network. But in Brazil and Nigeria, as well as in less populous nations, decisions to fully address inadequate supplies only started being made last month, after hospitals were overwhelmed and patients started to die.

The gap in medical oxygen availability is one of the defin-

ing health equity issues, I think, of our age, said Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who said he survived a severe coronavirus infection thanks to the oxygen he received.

Doctors in Nigeria anxiously monitor traffic as oxygen deliveries move through the gridlocked streets of Lagos. Desperate families of patients around the world sometimes

turn to the black market. Governments take action only after hospitals are overwhelmed and the infected die by the dozens.

In Brazil's Amazonas state, a pair of swindlers were caught reselling fire extinguishers painted to look like medical oxygen tanks. In Peru, people camped out in lines to get cylinders for sick relatives.

Only after the lack of oxygen was blamed for the deaths

of four people at an Egyptian hospital in January and six people at one in Pakistan in December did governments address the problems.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said medical oxygen is a huge critical need across the continent of 1.3 billion people and is a main reason that Covid-19 patients are more likely to die there during surges.

Even before the pandemic, sub-Saharan Africa's 2,600 oxygen concentrators and 69 functioning oxygen plants met less than half the need, leading to preventable deaths, especially from pneumonia, said Dr. John Adabie Appiah of the World Health Organization.

The number of concentrators has grown to about 6,000, mostly from international donations, but the oxy-

gen produced isn't pure enough for the critically ill. The number of plants that can generate higher concentrations is now at 119.

Yet without formal requests from governments, nearly \$20 billion in World Bank coronavirus funds for the world's poorest countries has been left unspent, the organisation said.

Nigeria was struggling to find oxygen to manage cases in January, said Chikwe Ihekweazu, head of its Centre for Disease Control.

A main hospital in Lagos, a city of 14.3 million, saw its January virus cases increase fivefold, with 75 medical workers infected in the first six weeks of 2021. Only then did President Muhammadu Buhari release \$17 million to set up 38 more oxygen plants and another \$670,000 to repair plants at five hospitals.

Some oxygen suppliers have dramatically raised prices, according to a doctor at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to reporters. That has driven up the cost of a cylinder by 10 times, to \$260, more than the average monthly wage, and a critically ill patient could need up to four cylinders a day.

Money and influence don't always help. In Malawi, the president promised funding for protective gear for medical workers and the immediate purchase of 1,000 oxygen cylinders. Corruption was blamed for defects in a new oxygen plant at a hospital in Uganda's capital of Kampala, the Daily Monitor newspaper reported. Workers had to rely on rusty oxygen cylinders that were blamed for the deaths of at least

two patients.

While top health officials basked in the oxygen of good publicity, patients were literally choking to death, the newspaper said. It appears that behind the delays and the funding gaps, corners were being cut. Leith Greenslade, coordinator of the Every Breath Counts Coalition, which advocates for wider access to medical oxygen, said the looming shortages were apparent last spring.

Very little was done. Now you have a second wave, not just in Africa but in Latin America and Asia, and the oxygen shortages are becoming at crisis levels, she said.

The World Bank has set aside \$50 billion for the world's poorest countries alone during the pandemic, but only \$30.8 billion has been allocated, including \$30 million for oxygen-related upgrades.

GOP rallies solidly against Democrats' virus relief package

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 25 FEBRUARY

navirus pandemic and that was not only wasteful but also even unscrupulous.

"I haven't seen a Republican yet that's found something in there that they agree with," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "I think all Republicans believe in three simple things: They want a bill that puts us back to work, back to school and back to health. This bill is too costly, too corrupt and too liberal".

The hardening opposition suggested that Biden's first major legislative initiative could encounter unanimous GOP opposition. That was a counterpoint to the new president's refrain during his campaign about bringing the country together and a replay of the Republican wall that new President Barack Obama encountered in 2009 and most of his administration.

Democrats showed no signs of backing down, citing the assistance the measure

Pfizer studying effects of third vaccine dose

NEW YORK, 25 FEBRUARY

Pfizer announced on Thursday that it has begun studying a third dose of its Covid-19 vaccine, part of a strategy to guard against mutated versions of the coronavirus.

Health authorities say first-generation Covid-19 vaccines still protect against variants. But manufacturers are starting to prepare now in case a more vaccine-resistant mutation comes along.

Pfizer said it will offer a third dose to 144 volunteers.

would spread to people, businesses and state and local governments.

Neera Tanden's confirmation vote gets delayed

WASHINGTON, 25 FEBRUARY

The White House has said it is "fighting" for the nomination of Indian-American Neera Tanden to lead the Office of Management and Budget as two crucial Senate committees abruptly postponed meetings on her confirmation.

Speculation was rife on Wednesday that the White House is struggling to get the required votes for the confirmation of Tanden, amidst strong opposition from the Republicans and a few Democratic senators over her past Twitter outbursts against several lawmakers, including those from her own party.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Budget Committee abruptly postponed votes on Tanden's confirmation, scheduled for Wednesday. "We're fighting for the nomination, and she (Tanden) and our team remain in close contact with senators and key constituency groups. She is an expert whose qualifications are critical during this time of an unprecedented crisis," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

If confirmed by the Senate, 50-year-old Tanden would become the first person of colour to head the federal agency that prepares the annual budget of the US government.

Tanden, Psaki said, has rolled up her sleeves.

"She's very engaged and doing outreach to senators, to members on the Hill, answering any questions they have and offering to do that. And we're doing the same," she said.

There's one nominee to lead the budget department; her name is Neera Tanden, and that's who we're continuing to fight for, Psaki said.

Tanden reportedly deleted more than 1,000 tweets before her confirmation process started. She had apologised to senators during her confirmation hearings earlier this month. PTI

'Capitol Police were warned of violence before 6 Jan riot'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 25 FEBRUARY

the violent insurrection that resulted in five deaths, including that of a Capitol Police officer.

They prepared for trouble but not an invasion.

"Although the Department's January 3rd Special Assessment foretold of a significant likelihood for violence on Capitol grounds by extremists groups, it did not identify a specific credible threat indicating that thousands of American citizens would descend upon the US Capitol attacking police officers with assault rifles to protect lawmakers, the acting chief acknowledged Wednesday. But the wild invasion of the Capitol was far worse than police expected, leaving them unprepared to fight it off.

A day earlier, their predecessor as chief testified that police expected an enraged but more typical protest crowd of Donald Trump supporters.

But Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman said intelligence collected ahead of the riot prompted the agency to take extraordinary measures, including the special arming of officers, intercepting radio frequencies used by the invaders and deploying spies at the Ellipse rally where President Donald Trump was sending his supporters marching to the Capitol to fight like hell.

Pittman's testimony, submitted ahead of a House hearing on Thursday, provides the most detailed account yet of the intelligence and preparations by US Capitol Police ahead of the insurrection when thousands of pro-Trump rioters invaded the Capitol aiming to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's election victory over Trump.

Three days earlier, on January 3, Capitol Police distributed an internal intelligence assessment warning that militia members, white supremacists and other extremist groups were likely to participate, that demonstrators would be armed and that it was possible they would come to the Capitol to try to disrupt the vote, Pittman says.

Based on the assessment, the Department understood that this demonstration would be unlike the previous demonstrations held by protesters with similar ideologies in November and December 2020, Pittman says in her prepared remarks.

But at the same time, she argues police didn't have enough intelligence to predict

Republicans push back on Pelosi bid for riot panel

WASHINGTON, 25 FEBRUARY

Republican leaders in the House and Senate say a proposed plan for an independent commission to study the Capitol insurrection is overly tilted toward Democrats, arguing that the panel should have an even party split like the one formed to study the September 11 terrorist attacks.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday that a legitimate commission would be comprised of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. A draft proposed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would create an 11-member commission with four Republicans and seven Democrats, three of whom would be chosen by President Joe Biden, according to one of multiple aides who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Steven Sund, the police force's former chief who resigned after the riot, testified Tuesday that the intelligence assessment warned white supremacists, members of the far-right Proud Boys and leftist antifa were expected to be in the crowd and might become violent.

We had planned for the possibility of violence, the possibility of some people being armed, not the possibility of a coordinated military style attack involving thousands against the Capitol, Sund said.

Republicans have suggested an evenly divided 10-member panel and have also objected to some of the rationale for forming the panel. A second aide said that Pelosi's proposal would give broad latitude to the commission to probe what led to the effort to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power and that it quotes FBI and intelligence assessments that show some of the violence was motivated by racism and false narratives about the election. AP

bloodied as members of Congress were evacuated and congressional staffers cowered in offices.

FAST AND FURIOUS



A fiery river of glowing lava flows on the north-east side of the Mt Etna volcano engulfed with ashes and smoke near Milo, Sicily. Europe's most active volcano has been steadily erupting since last week, belching smoke, ash, and fountains of red-hot lava.

AGENCIES

German charged with passing Parl floor plans to Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 25 FEBRUARY

based in the Reichstag building, a Berlin landmark, but also uses several other sites.

Prosecutors said, at some point before early September 2017, the suspect decided of his own accord to give information on the properties to Russian intelligence. They said he sent the PDF files to an employee of the Russian Embassy in Berlin who was an officer with Russia's GRU military intelligence agency.

The suspect, identified only as Jens F. in line with German privacy rules, worked for a company that had been repeatedly contracted to check portable electrical appliances by the Bundestag, or the lower house of parliament, federal prosecutors said in a statement.

As a result of that, he had access to PDF files with floor plans of the properties involved. The Bundestag is

February is usually the peak of flu season, with doctors' offices and hospitals packed with suffering patients. But not this year.

Flu has virtually disappeared from the US, with reports coming in at far lower levels than anything seen in decades.

Experts say that measures put in place to fend off the coronavirus mask wearing, social distancing and virtual schooling were a big factor in preventing a twin epidemic of flu and Covid-19. A push to get more people vaccinated against flu probably helped, too, as did fewer people travelling, they say.

Another possible explanation: The coronavirus has almost entirely muscled aside flu and other bugs that are more

common in the fall and winter. Scientists don't fully understand the mechanism behind that, but it would be consistent with patterns seen when certain flu strains predominate over others, said Dr. Arnold Monto, a flu expert at the University of Michigan.

Nationally, this is the lowest flu season we've had on record, according to a surveillance system that is about 25 years old, said Lynnette Brammer of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Blamed for 600,000 to 800,000 annual hospitalisations and 50,000 to 60,000 deaths.

Across the globe, flu activity has been at very low levels in China, Europe and elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere. And that follows reports of little flu in South Africa, Australia and other countries during the Southern Hemisphere's winter months of May through August.

The story of course has been different with coronavirus, which has killed more than 500,000 people in the United States. COVID-19 cases and deaths reached new heights in December and January, before beginning a recent decline.

Flu-related hospitalizations, however, are a small fraction of where they would stand during even a very mild season, said Brammer, who oversees the CDC's tracking

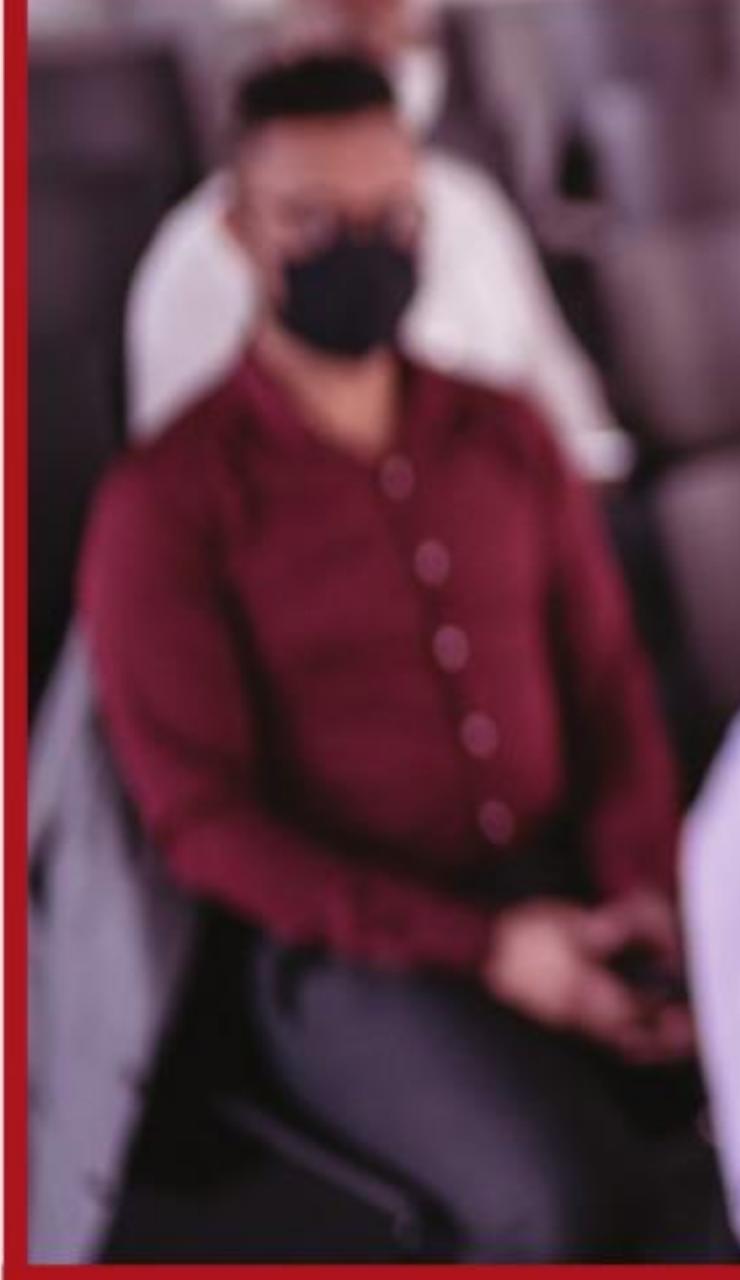
Hospitals say the usual steady stream of flu-stricken patients never materialized.

At Maine Medical Center in Portland, the state's largest hospital, "I have seen zero documented flu cases this winter," said Dr. Nate Mick, the head of the emergency department.

Ditto in Oregon's capital city, where the outpatient respiratory clinics affiliated with Salem Hospital have not seen any confirmed flu cases.

It's beautiful, said the health system's Dr. Michelle

Bringing out the best



A leadership coach helps discover and explore new perspectives, allowing one to open up to unique ideas through productive exchanges

RAJESH MOHAN RAI

The rapidity of the changing business scenario is putting a lot of stress on leaders in the corporate world. Managers are also pushing limits to stay ahead in the professional race. The hierarchy is a pyramid where only a few positions are available at the top or near top. One must remain above the rest.

To plan, enhance and grow one's career in these uncertain and unprecedented times, leadership coaching can be an especially useful and essential tool available with leaders and managers alike. A leadership coaching extends the much-needed support to managers with potential to adjust their leadership styles and behaviours for improved organisational effectiveness by positively impacting every employees starting from the lowest to the top-most position. All this, while ensuring that the modified behaviours and actions do not relapse.

A leadership coach helps discov-

er and explore new perspectives, opening up to new ideas and thoughts through productive exchanges. The coach guides and encourages one to reflect about the things that worked and that did not work, and what can be done to get more effective results. Thus one can locate and dig deep into one's blind spots. Coaching is the best platform to invest in to facilitate personal and professional growth. The ideal mentor endeavours for the holistic development of his/her mentee, often advising the latter on matters beyond profession as they can often indirectly impact the person's productivity. A coach helps one focus on the most pressing issues at hand. Coaching is customised and personal; designed to leverage one's unique strengths.

Research has shown that emotional intelligence (EI) is one of the most defining factors, which contributes to one's success or failure. It is a skill, which allows one to have control over interactions with stake-

holders and help them glide effortlessly. EI if used effectively, propels one towards taking actions, gets people to the point of action swiftly, without persistent doubts. People with strong EI recognise their emotional patterns, navigate them well and get the best results from his surroundings. As a leader, one is expected to provide effective business results. Engaging a coach for the purpose of developing and strengthening emotional intelligence can give one an exponentially high return on investment.

Coaching is empowering. The relationship between the coach and his/her student is unique. The coach remains committed to the goal and objectives of the ones he/she is guiding. In case one wavers, the coach brings one back and guides, helps and supports one to regain focus. One could gain new insights and perspectives while interacting with the coach. It helps one to remain grounded and disciplined in approach and actions towards the

goals one is trying to accomplish. A coach supports in building resilience.

A coach can help one improve one's communication skills with stakeholders to make a strong impact. He/she can teach them how to communicate with clarity, construct and concreteness. The coach sensitises one to modify one's communication style in the basis of factors such as age, culture, gender or geography to name a few. Communication at an expert level is vital for one's success as it builds one's credibility as a professional and leader.

An ideal coach has the potential to positively impact hardcore business results either by increasing productivity, improving engagement levels in the workforce, reducing employee turnover and many more. The focus always is on getting one to the next level. Working with a coach brings focus, clarity, and structure to professional development. Beyond sharing issues during coaching sessions, one sets goals and develops

action plans, which the coach holds himself/herself accountable for by committing to one's development. The benefits, with increased insights, one achieves higher, measurable, and tangible results within deadlines.

Irrespective of one's position in the organisation, one may benefit with engaging a coach. For a leader, the coach acts as sounding board in unforeseen circumstances. Senior executives may initiate the journey from being good to great. For mid-level managers, the coach may help in identifying the gaps, which if not acted upon in time may jeopardise further career advancement.

Coaching can have a profound impact on not only the lives of leaders, but on the entire organisation. As leader, one wants the organisation to succeed in accomplishing its mission. Coaching is a highly leveraged way making one better and better at consistently doing great things.

The writer is business coach, executive coach and HR strategist

SONAKSHI NATHANI

The social commerce space has grown and expanded extensively in the past years, more so with the Covid-19 pandemic. The industry is dynamic and fast-moving, which poses many challenges on the way, but the brighter side of the success and opportunities is what keeps one going. During my initial years as a woman entrepreneur in tech, I learned a lot of things that helped me during the process and has helped me reach where I am today. As an entrepreneur looking to enter this space, here are five learnings from my journey that might help one streamline their careers:

No excuse to hard work

The key to being a successful entrepreneur is to be on one's A-game always. There are no alternatives to hard work. It is true that one's everyday hustle will eventually speak for one. Setting the bar high for oneself is important, and it is also equally important to keep that in mind every day.

Seeking help whenever required

Entrepreneurship is a journey that is filled with ups and downs. There are one too many hurdles that are going to create obstacles and at times one may find oneself in a situation where the possible next step is unknown. This is where one should always seek help. Building a business is a collective effort and requires a lot of help from external sources as well. There is no one person who can build an empire alone, one always needs an army to go to combat. One's mentors are also equally important to one's business. During crucial times, mentors come to one's rescue to guide, advise and safely come out of all dead ends. If one can get the guidance of seasoned mentors, they'll prove to be an important asset to the company. A true mentor will also give one honest feedback about one's operations and the company's functioning.

Being open to learning from mistakes

Believe it or not, making mis-

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



Entrepreneurship can be dynamic and challenging, but it is crucial to trust one's vision to stay on track

takes is one of the most important parts of a business. One's mistakes will teach one more than any success ever will. To learn about "what does not work for the company" than "what works for the company" is more important. When aware of one's weaknesses and shortcomings, there is an area of improvement to thrive upon. It is also important to be aware of the challenges fellow entrepreneurs might have made; these will give one direction and help one know what may not work. This can prove to

make a phenomenal difference in the growth of one's brand. This way one will be able to avoid a lot of hurdles that the other entrepreneurs might have tripped on during their journey in the past.

Breathing the ecosystem

One should always be aware of what's happening in one's industry. One's ecosystem is what affects one's business directly. Being the founder, one must have the minute to minute update of the industry. Having an ear

on the ground helps to remain prepared in advance for any crisis that might come one's way. Ecosystem awareness also helps build one's product and make changes as the trend changes in the market.

Believing in one's capabilities

It is important to keep faith in one's ideas. Having self-belief is both an essential step and a challenge one must keep at. During the initial phase of setting up a company, there will be many such downfalls that

would create self-doubt; in those times, it is crucial to trust one's vision. There must be thousands of successful entrepreneurs rising every year in the world, but there are millions of those who lose trust in their vision and stop believing in it. While it might be challenging, it is a journey one must cherish in life. If one dares to walk this path, it needs to be done with full faith and clear vision.

The writer is co-founder and CEO, Bikayi

PLUS POINTS

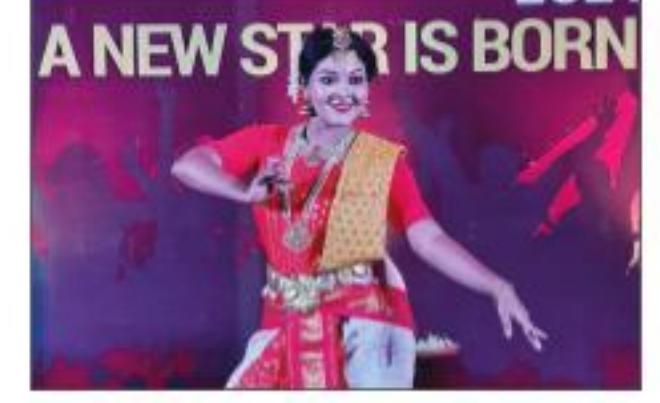
Enriching event



SAI International Education Group recently hosted the first chapter of SAI Thought Leadership—a series of discussion sessions with a focus on the development of the nation. Subroto Bagchi, chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority, chief spokesperson, Covid-19, government of Odisha, co-founder Mindtree and best-selling author graced the occasion as the esteemed speaker along with Dr Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, advisor cum working president, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, government of Odisha, founder mentor, SAI International Education Group.

SAI Thought Leadership is a vital learning platform where luminaries, each a leader of prominence and trend setter in their own field, engage in deliberation on a plethora of relevant issues and subjects with a focus on the holistic development of the individuals and the nation.

Recognising passions



Adamas University organised the second edition of its Adinova fest at their campus recently. The annual fest helps students discover their unique passions and talents through a mix bag of contests and competitions.

The three-day event saw participation of around 300 contestants from 22 other institutes. The participants were from cities like Pune, Punjab and other districts of Bengal. There were a total number of 15 events and 50 winners were announced which included some joint winners as well. There were some unique competitions like "Business plan competition" where students were expected to come out with strategic business ideas and plans and "Story telling" where they had to share some unique storytelling topics and content, which had an essence to influence the mass. These competitions encouraged the students to develop their overall well-being.

Virtual workshop



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee organised a virtual workshop on water issues recently. The objective of the workshop was to improve the application of scientific and technical know-how for the benefit of society in this critical area. It was presided by Prof Ajit K Chaturvedi, director, IIT Roorkee, and coordinated by Prof Arun Kumar, department of hydro and renewable energy, IIT Roorkee. The workshop identified issues, problems and projects to explore synergies among various institutes to conduct in-depth research in this direction.

The highlight of the event was four enlightening panel discussions on issues such as irrigation, river basin, water resources assessment, irrigation efficiency, river training, flood protection, river morphology, sedimentation, and many more.

Supporting students

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is offering Dean's International Excellence Award - Undergraduate: Humanities and Social Sciences. This scholarship is for new international students who would begin a full-time undergraduate course in the faculty of humanities and social sciences in September 2021. There are 20 numbers of scholarships. To be deemed eligible for a Dean's International Excellence Award - Undergraduate: Humanities and Social Sciences, candidates must be available to commence academic studies in the UK by the start of the academic year in September/October 2021 and have to register as an international, fee-paying student. The last date of application is 31 May 2021. For details visit: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/humanitiesocialsciences/deansinternationalexcellenceaward-undergraduate/>



For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

World Cup: Indian skeet-shooters, including Olympic quota-holders Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Angad Vir Singh Bawja, anticipate medals in the team events at the Shotgun World Cup in Cairo. The Indian teams ended the first qualification rounds well-placed.

2032 Olympics: The International Olympic Committee has narrowed down on Brisbane as its preferred candidate to host the 2032 Olympic Games. India was among countries that expressed an interest in hosting the Olympics, saying the Centre's go-ahead was awaited.

Torch relay: Tokyo Olympics organisers have reportedly pushed ahead with plans for the torch relay that will take place nationwide next month, laying out counter-measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus that caused the cancellation of the relay last year.

Nadeem trains: Pakistani javelin-thower Arshad Nadeem, direct qualifier for the Tokyo Olympics, says he resumed his training two months ago after a long break owing to Covid-19. He said he was now throwing his javelin up to 86m+ plus during practice.

Cup qualifiers: World Cup qualifiers for equestrian tent-peggng will be held in Noida from 11 March to 14 March, it was said on Thursday. The qualifiers will be hosted jointly by the Equestrian Federation of India and a private company organising the sport in India.

Barcelona win: FC Barcelona, lurching from one bad result to another, kept their slim title hopes alive after a brace from Lionel Messi and one from Jordi Alba gave them a 3-0 win at home to Elche, which left them five points behind La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid.

Euro 2020: Uefa's Covid-19 tsar Daniel Koch says there is no question of June's Euro 2020 tournament being cancelled or postponed and that fans could yet be allowed to travel internationally to the games. It was postponed last year because of the pandemic..

Australia beaten: In Dunedin, New Zealand (215/8) rode on opener Martin Guptill's 97 off 50 balls and then staved off a late challenge from Australia led by Marcus Stoinis to win the second Twenty20 International by four runs on Thursday at the University Oval.

Ferrari decision: Ferrari will return to the top flight of endurance racing with a hypercar entry in 2023, competing for outright Le Mans 24 Hours victory for the first time in 50 years. Ferrari last entered the top category at Le Mans in 1973. Rivals will include Toyota.

Barty out: World number one Ashleigh Barty has withdrawn from next week's Qatar Open owing to a left leg injury. Her decision comes after being knocked out of the Adelaide International, losing 6-3 6-4 to American Danielle Collins in the second round.

Pitch was good, quality of batting was not: Kohli

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

AHMEDABAD, 25 FEBRUARY

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said poor batting and not the pitch was responsible for the day-night third Test against England winding up inside two days and described the performance of batsmen on both sides as "bizarre".

Kohli insisted there were no demons in the pitch, which has been called "not ideal" by several former players like Michael Vaughan and Harbhajan Singh. Kohli said the track was absolutely fine at least in the first innings and only the odd ball was turning in the game which India won by 10 wickets on Thursday.

"To be honest, I don't think the quality of batting was up to standards. We were 100 for 3 and bowled out for less than 150. It was just that the odd ball turning and it was a

good wicket to bat in the first innings," the India skipper said in his defence of the pitch.

Kohli said batsmen of both the sides did not apply themselves enough. Only Rohit Sharma (66 and 25 not out) and from England Zak Crawley (53 in first innings) managed to bat with ease.

"It was bizarre that 21 of the 30 wickets fell to straight balls. Test cricket is about trusting your defence. Lack of application ensured it was a quick finish," Kohli said.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel stole the limelight in only his second Test along side veteran Ravichandran Ashwin by returning with match figures of 11 for 70 to earn the player-of-the-match award as India decimated England by 10 wickets to take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

Off-spinner Ashwin (15-3-48-4) also became the fourth

Indian bowler and second fastest in the world to complete a commendable milestone of 400 Test wickets on Thursday.

Kohli showered praise on his two spinners for their match-winning efforts.

"A bizarre game which got over in 2 days. A lot of people were relieved when Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) got injured. But then this guy (Axar) comes in. Bowls it quicker and from a bigger height as well. If the wicket has something in it, Axar is very lethal."

"I think we need to stand up and take notice of what Ashwin has done. In Tests, he is a modern day legend. As a captain, I am so pleased he is in my team," he said.

England skipper Joe Root was in no mood to give excuses for the heavy defeat, saying the tourists failed to capitalise on a decent start in the first innings after opting to bat.

Ashwin completes 400 Test wkts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, 25 FEBRUARY

On a wicket that helped spinners right from the start, it looked that it would only be a matter of time before R Ashwin would reach his tally of 400 Test wickets in England's second innings on the second day of the third Test here.

By the 24th over of England's second innings, he had claimed his third wicket to get to the milestone despite struggling for his line early on as left-arm spinner Axar Patel ran through England's top-order.

He finished with innings figures of four for 48 and match figures of seven for 74 as England were bowled out for 81.

The 34-year-old bowler is the second quickest after Muttiah Muralitharan (72) to get to 400 Test wicket mark. This is Ashwin's 77th Test match.

The off-spinner, who took three wickets in the first innings,

"We were 70 for 2. But we didn't really capitalise on it. 250 on that wicket would have made it different. We will come back using this hurt and come back as a better team," he said.

Instead of blaming the pitch, Root said it was India's "high quality bowling" that made the difference.

"The plastic coating on the ball gathered pace of the wicket. It was high quality bowling as well. Both sides struggled on that wicket. We don't define ourselves on a performance like this," he said.

needed six scalps ahead of this Test to get to 400 which has been breached (among Indians) only by former pace bowler Kapil Dev (434), former leg-spinner Anil Kumble (619) and former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (417 wickets) before.

For some time early in England's second innings after Patel had made early dents, it seemed that the visitors were on road to recovery with Ben Stokes and Joe Root at the crease.

Stokes went after the bowling, especially Ashwin as the bowler tried a bit too hard to turn giving loose balls. In his first eight overs, he gave away 33 runs -- without a wicket -- at over four an over despite there being so much help in the pitch.

But then he got into wickets, getting Stokes for the 11th time in Tests with one that didn't turn. He then followed it up with the wicket of Ollie Pope who had earlier reverse-swept him for four.

"We shouldn't have any baggage from the previous games going into the last game. We have seen with the ball in hand, we can pick up wickets. I think it sums up the wicket, if I am getting a fitter."

He also congratulated Ishant Sharma for playing his landmark 100 Tests and Ashwin for his 400 Test wickets.

Man-of-the-match Axar said his focus would remain on bowling wicket-to-wicket, a plan which has reaped him rich dividends so far in his nascent Test career.

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Woods comeback possible, say medical experts

AGENCIES

LOS ANGELES, 25 FEBRUARY



Tiger Woods (in photo) could return to competitive golf within a year, top orthopaedic surgeons said on Wednesday (Feb 24), but the road back from serious leg injuries suffered in a car crash will be a long and gruelling one.

Already credited with one of sport's great comebacks when he returned from back surgery to win a fifth Masters in 2019, ending an 11-year Majors drought, Woods will have to be even more resilient if he is to overcome the damage done in Tuesday's accident.

The 45-year-old golf great was hospitalised in Los Angeles and underwent emergency surgery on Tuesday for injuries suffered when his sport utility vehicle careened off a road and rolled down a hillside.

He suffered compound fractures of his tibia and fibula in his right leg in the early morning crash along with additional injuries to his foot and ankle, according to a statement posted on the former world No. 1's official Twitter account. He also suffered trauma to the muscle and other soft tissue of the leg.

The devastating injuries have raised concerns over whether Woods will ever return to competitive golf, with any comeback further complicated by his long history of knee and back problems.

But orthopaedic surgeons all agreed that, based on the information so far available, the 15-time Major winner could return possibly within a year.

"What I have learnt through

Jamshedpur hold on to sixth spot after edging Bengaluru

GOA, 25 FEBRUARY

It was a thrilling game of two halves but Jamshedpur FC came out on top as they survived a second-half onslaught to beat Bengaluru FC 3-2 in their last Hero Indian Super League (ISL) game at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Thursday.

With both sides playing for the sixth spot, JFC held on to the win despite a spirited second-half show from Bengaluru, who finished seventh.

Goals from Stephen Eze (16'), Seiminen Doungel (34') and David Grande (41') put JFC up at the break before Bengaluru responded through goals from Francisco Gonzalez (62') and Sunil Chhetri (71'). AGENCIES

Jamshedpur were all over Bengaluru in the opening half. They constantly caused problems for Bengaluru's inexperienced defence and raced to a 3-0 lead at the break—their first-ever in ISL history. Bengaluru's defence had been culpable of starting poorly—only Odisha have conceded more goals in the first half this season—and the Blues crumbled under pressure, yet again.

Eze, who scored the winner in the reverse fixture, opened the scoring for JFC through a free-kick. The defender converted Aitor Monroy's cross at the far post after Bengaluru keeper Lalthuamwia Ralte failed to clear his lines. AGENCIES

Alli helps Spurs ease into Europa League last 16

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON, 25 FEBRUARY



Jose Mourinho saluted Dele Alli (in photo) after the Tottenham midfielder ensured his side could save their troubled season with a virtuous display in Wednesday's 4-0 rout of Austrian minnows Wolfsberger in the Europa League last-32 second leg.

Alli scored a brilliant opening goal in the first half and provided the assist when Carlos Vinicius doubled their lead after the break.

Gareth Bale netted from another Alli assist before Vinicius bagged his second as Tottenham ran out 8-1 aggregate winners after cruising to a 4-1 victory in the first leg last week.

While progress to the last 16 looked a formality after the comfortable first leg success, nothing has come easy for Tottenham this term.

So Mourinho will have breathed a sigh of relief that his team kept alive their best remaining hope of qualifying for the Champions League.

Close to leaving in the January transfer window, Alli played the key role in a restart after being frozen out by Mourinho for much of the season.

"The goal I don't need to speak, because everyone

points behind fourth placed West Ham in the race for a top four finish, while Mourinho is mired in the worst run of his career.

Amid reports that Tottenham's players are bored with his training sessions and conservative tactics, Mourinho this week insisted his methods are "second to none", claiming morale among his squad was still high.

But the final verdict on his record at Tottenham will be so flattering may be determined by the end of the season.

Tottenham were regulars in the top four and reached the Champions League final under Mourinho's predecessor Mauricio Pochettino.

But Pochettino, now in charge at Paris Saint-Germain, was sacked by chairman Daniel Levy after a poor run of results last season and Mourinho could easily suffer the same fate.

City stretch winning run but Guardiola demands more

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BUDAPEST, 25 FEBRUARY



Manchester City moved to the verge of the Champions League quarter-finals with a 2-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on Wednesday but coach Pep Guardiola (in photo) insisted his team still need to "be more clinical up front".

A first half header from Bernardo Silva and a Gabriel Jesus strike in the second period of the last 16 first leg tie extended a winning streak by Guardiola's high-flying side to 19 games in all competitions.

Premier League leaders City camped inside the Gladbach half for most of the game, which was moved to Hungary due to Germany's Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Although dominant, City took time to break down a stubborn German defence, often foiled by the interceptions of Algeria left-back Ramy Bensebaini.

While Guardiola said afterwards he was "pleased" with the result, he added City "have to improve" to challenge for Champions League honours.

"We controlled the game. Unfortunately we were not

reach his compatriot Silva who flicked his close-range header past Yann Sommer.

"We tried to play simple and not make mistakes. It's a good win for us, but it's not over yet," Silva told BT Sport.

"Every time when he plays (Silva) is an exceptional player, he's really good in the air, the goal was fantastic how he finished it," said Guardiola.

The 26-year-old Cancelo, impressive throughout, nearly doubled the lead five minutes from the break but his shot from just outside the box pinged over the bar.

Then early in the second half Jesus should have converted after latching on to a poorly judged backpass by Bensebaini but saw his shot blocked by Swiss defender Nico Elvedi.

Apart from a lunging backheel from Plea that flashed just wide of Ederson's far post on 20 minutes after a rare counterattack, but a nervy and deep-lying Gladbach eventually succumbed to mounting pressure in the 29th minute.

Another majestic cross-field pass by Cancelo again found Silva at Sommer's far post who this time headed back across the goalmouth for Jesus to fire home and seal City's 19th successive victory and sixth Champions

League clean sheet in a row.

Gladbach, who managed just one shot on target throughout the game, an effort by substitute Hannes Wolf saved by Ederson in the last moments, now face a formidable task to turn around the tie in the return leg scheduled for March 16 in Manchester.

Narrow margin

Ferland Mendy put Real Madrid within touching distance of the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with the late strike that sank 10-man Atlanta 1-0 in Bergamo.

The French left-back's curling effort came four minutes from time in a last 16, first leg clash in which the hosts had to play a man down for over 70 minutes, giving Zinedine Zidane's side the advantage heading into the second leg in Madrid on March 16.

"We didn't have a great game tonight, but the most important thing was the result, scoring away was important for us," said Zidane. "It's a very good result against an Atlanta team even at ten, because they defended very well. The tie is open. We are going to have a great return match."

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