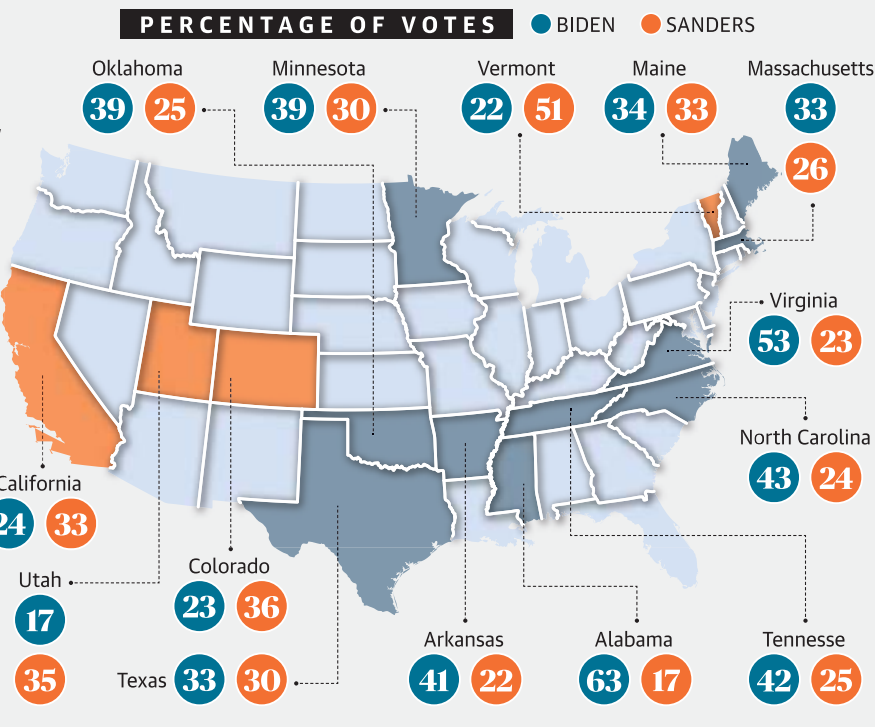
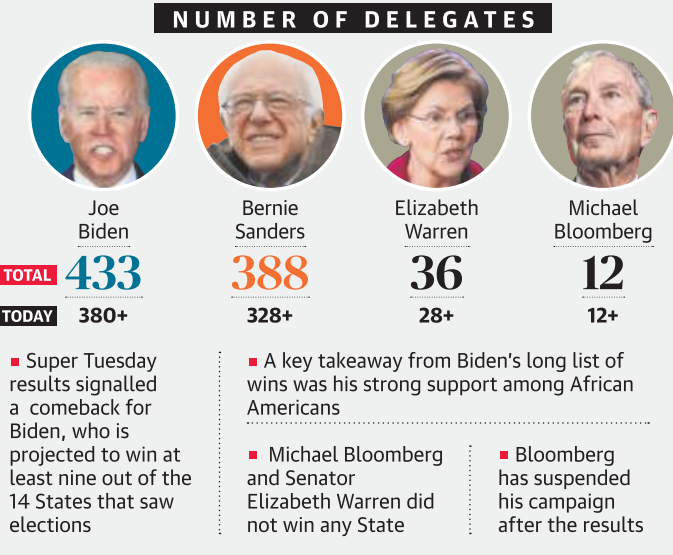


Narrowing the race

Joe Biden won most States that held primaries on Super Tuesday while Bernie Sanders took California, which has the most number of delegates, narrowing the Democratic race between themselves



It's a good night and it seems to be getting even better! They don't call it Super Tuesday for nothing... People are talking about a revolution. We started a movement
— JOE BIDEN

We're going to win the nomination and we are going to defeat the most dangerous President in the history of this country... You cannot beat Trump with the same-old, same-old kind of politics
— BERNIE SANDERS

Joe Biden wins 9 States in Super Tuesday race

Bernie Sanders vows to continue the fight for candidacy; Michael Bloomberg drops out of race and endorses Biden

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Super Tuesday, when fourteen American States voted in the Democratic primaries, was a watershed moment in former Vice-President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s quest for the nomination, as he surpassed his progressive rival, Bernie Sanders by winning strongly in the south. The crowded democratic field has now been reshaped into a Biden vs. Sanders contest, and battle of identity for the Democratic party – between its centrist or moderate wing represented by the former Vice-President and its progressive wing led by the independent Senator from Vermont, Mr. Sanders. Tuesday, however, went to Mr. Biden, who won nine of the 14 States in contest. Buoyed by a win in South Carolina on Saturday and with endorsements from other Democrats, including Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobu-

char, who dropped out of the race in the last few days, Mr. Biden had won at least 433 delegates (so far) to the nominating convention, relative to Mr. Sanders's count of 388 delegates. Mr. Biden had a surprise win Texas, the State with second most number of delegates, which Mr. Sanders was leading in, according to opinion polls before Super Tuesday. He also won Virginia, and North Carolina. California, which has the most number of delegates (415), is expected to be won by Mr. Sanders, although by a narrower margin than first expected. Mr. Sanders has won 135 delegates relative to Mr. Biden's 83, with just under 87% reporting, as per the *New York Times*. Mr. Sanders also won in Utah, Colorado and his home State of Vermont. Results for Maine – a New England state – have not yet been called.



Big battle: An election staffer packing up supplies in California. • REUTERS

Mr. Biden performed well with African American voters, moderate, "somewhat liberal" Democrats as well as older (65+) voters and late-deciders, as per a *Washington Post* analysis of exit polls. Mr. Sanders did well with Hispanic voters, younger and more liberal voters. "It's a good night. It's a good night," Mr. Biden said at a victory speech in Los Angeles. "It seems to be getting better. They don't call it Super Tuesday for nothing." Mr. Biden's speech was interrupted by two vegan activists who rushed the stage, shouting, "Let dairy die." Meanwhile in Vermont, Mr. Sanders called for a different kind of politics. "You cannot beat Trump with the same old, same old kind of politics," Mr. Sanders told supporters. "What we need is a new politics that brings working class people into our political movement, which brings young people into our political movement..." Mr. Sanders has counted on his ability to effect a larger voter turnout, especially with younger voters, but Tuesday's impact on this front was limited, based on the results that have come in so far.

campaign so far (and about \$550 million on ads), performed very poorly on Tuesday and decided to suspend his campaign, endorsing Mr. Biden. Mr. Bloomberg won 12 delegates on Tuesday as per some projections, winning American Samoa. "I've always believed that defeating Donald Trump starts with uniting behind the candidate with the best shot to do it. After yesterday's vote, it is clear that candidate is my friend and a great American, Joe Biden," Mr. Bloomberg said in a statement. Financial assistance from Mr. Bloomberg could provide a game-changing boost for Mr. Biden's campaign, something Mr. Biden hinted on Wednesday morning. "This race is bigger than candidates and bigger than politics. It's about defeating Donald Trump, and with your help, we're gonna do it," Mr. Biden said in a tweet.

Former New York Mayor, billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who had spent more than \$687 million on his

Malaysian police question Mahathir's daughter

She and others had staged a protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian police questioned ex-premier Mahathir Mohamad's daughter and 18 other activists on Wednesday over several small, peaceful protests triggered by the elderly leader losing power and a corruption-tainted party's return. The reformist "Pact of Hope" alliance, which took power two years ago, collapsed last week and 94-year-old Prime Minister Mahathir resigned. He then sought to return as premier but unexpectedly lost out to Muhyiddin Yassin, who is backed by the scandal-mired UMNO, which was ousted in 2018.



Marina Mahathir

Several peaceful protests took place in Kuala Lumpur. But under Malaysian law, it is illegal to hold a protest without first getting police permission. Mr. Mahathir's daughter, Marina, participated in a rally on Sunday. "The new government has only been in two days and all this is happening," Ms. Marina said.

U.S. launches strikes on Taliban, calls for halt to 'needless attacks'

The militant group had mounted attacks on Afghan forces

REUTERS
KABUL

The United States on Wednesday carried out its first air strike on Taliban fighters in Afghanistan since the two sides signed a troop withdrawal agreement on Saturday. A U.S. forces spokesman confirmed the incident in southern Helmand province, hours after President Donald Trump spoke by phone with chief Taliban negotiator Mullah Baradar Akhund on Tuesday, the first known conversation between a U.S. leader and a top Taliban official. The Taliban fighters "were actively attacking an



Afghan security forces stand guard at an outpost in Kunduz province. • AFP

(Afghan National Security Forces) checkpoint. This was a defensive strike to disrupt the attack," said Colonel Sony Leggett, a spokesman for the U.S. Forces. "Taliban leadership pro-

mised the (international) community they would reduce violence and not increase attacks. We call on the Taliban to stop needless attacks and uphold their commitments," he said. The strike was the first by the U.S. against the Taliban in 11 days, when a violence reduction deal had begun between the sides in the lead up to Saturday's pact. An Interior Ministry spokesman, Nasrat Rahimi, said the Taliban had conducted 30 attacks in last 24 hours, killing four civilians and 11 security personnel. Seventeen militants were also killed, he said.

One killed in clashes on Greece-Turkey border

Stun grenades fired at migrants

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KASTANIES

Greek authorities fired tear gas and stun grenades on Wednesday morning to repulse a push by migrants to cross its land border from Turkey, as pressure continued along its frontier after Turkey said its own border with Europe was open to whoever wanted to cross. Turkish authorities said one person was killed and five were wounded by fire coming from the Greek side – an assertion the Greek government strongly rejected as "fake news." Turkey made good on a threat to open its borders and send migrants into Europe last week. Turkish Pre-

sident Recep Tayyip Erdogan's action triggered days of violent clashes at the land border, where thousands of migrants and refugees have gathered. Meanwhile, the European Union said will not give in to "blackmail" by Turkey and borders will remain closed to migrants despite Ankara's threat to let them pass, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Wednesday. "The borders of Greece and the Schengen Area are closed, and we will ensure they stay closed" despite attempts to enter by thousands of migrants who have massed on Turkey's frontier, Le Drian told Senators.

ELSEWHERE



French pension reforms Bill passed in House

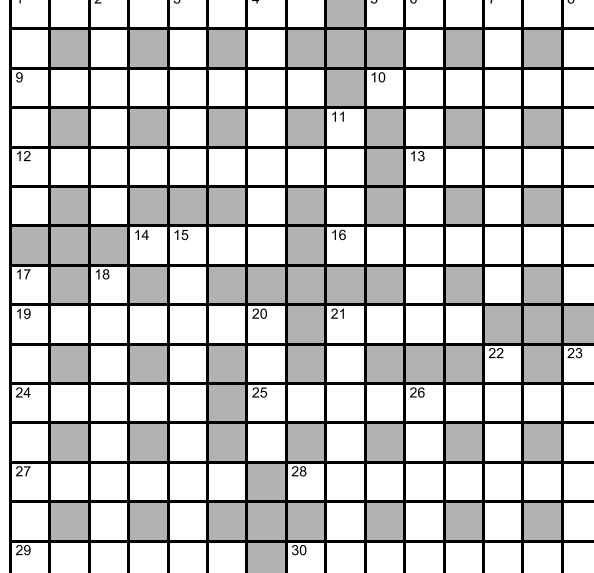
PARIS President Emmanuel Macron's pension reforms Bill was passed in the National Assembly on Wednesday, clearing the first parliamentary fight after months of protests over the proposal. AFP

Johnson stands by Patel as bullying claims mount

LONDON British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came to the defence of Home Secretary Priti Patel on Wednesday, after several civil servants accused her of bullying. "The Home Secretary is doing an outstanding job," he said. AP

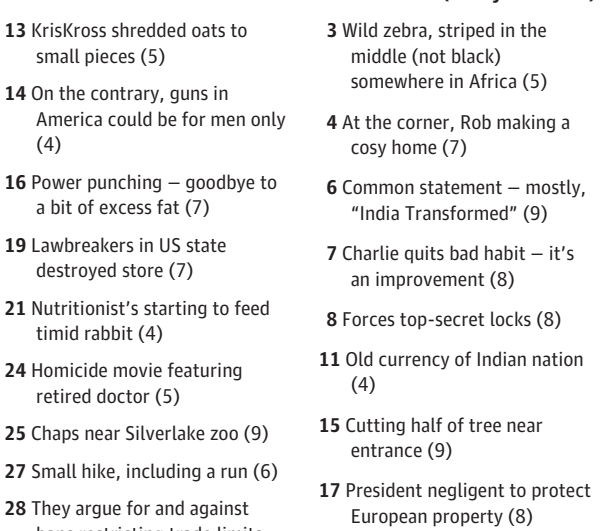
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12875

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



- ACROSS
- Mother to look over fashionable publication (8)
 - Squeal excitedly in matches (6)
 - Most tense royal contest divides home (8)
 - Feed fellow with more mure (6)
 - Senora hid criminal from Zimbabwe (9)
- DOWN
- Beginners in meditation always need to relax, articulating this (6)
 - Monster to move right, and turn north (6)

SUDOKU



- (set by KrisKross)
- Wild zebra, striped in the middle (not black) somewhere in Africa (5)
 - At the corner, Rob making a cosy home (7)
 - Common statement – mostly, "India Transformed" (9)
 - Charlie quits bad habit – it's an improvement (8)
 - Forces top-secret locks (8)
 - Old currency of Indian nation (4)
 - Cutting half of tree near entrance (9)
 - President negligent to protect European property (8)
 - Forced to control crowd finally in ground (8)
 - Problem when talking to a few (4)
 - Setting a phishing message? (7)
 - Partner cooked holding base of spoon (6)
 - Drunken set in trouble – they are really wasted (6)
 - Fruit from University in Spanish city (5)

Solution to puzzle 12874

S	H	A	P	E	D	S	H	R	E	D	S								
T	G	A	B	A	S	I													
N	O	P	E	S	I	R	I	S	I	N	G								
R	N	T	O	D	E	G													
C	A	S	T	L	E	T	A	L	E	N	T	E	D						
G	E	S	R	H	E	T	R												
M	E	S	S	A	N	G	E	R											
F	R	A	N	K	E	S	T	A	B	L	I	S	H						
E	S	S	I	N	G														
M	A	G	I	C	I	A	N	S	I	G	N	A	L						
D	E	L	I	B	E	R	A	T	E										
R	V	I	N	W	R	V	E												
S	W	E	E	T	S	A	S	P	E	C	T								

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	1	9	8	5	3	7	2
8	9	3	2	1	7	6	4	5
5	2	7	6	4	3	9	1	8
9	1	8	5	3	4	7	2	6
3	7	6	1	2	8	4	5	9
4	5	2	7	9	1	8	3	6
1	6	9	8	7	2	5	3	4
7	8	4	3	5	6	2	9	1
2	3	5	4	9	1	8	6	7

FAITH

His name brings joy

Bhishma's instruction of the Vishnu Sahasranama in the Mahabharata is an invaluable gift to posterity. More than the mere number of names, one thousand or ten thousand or infinite, it is the qualitative richness inherent in each of the Lord's Nama that has been conferring unimaginable and subtle benefits on jivatmas through the ages, pointed out Mukkur Sri Srinivasan in a discourse. From the scholarly and devoted interpretations of the import and significance of His names, it is clear that what emerges is only the tip of the iceberg. It reflects the same inability expressed by the Vedas when they attempt to explain or describe the Supreme Brahman. It is claimed that the Namas, when chanted with devotion and sincerity, will guide the ordinary jivatma to tide over life's problems and lead him to salvation through the path of dharma. Apart from this direct and explicit benefit, there is yet another interesting effect experienced by many devout azhwas and acharyas. They have derived unadulterated joy by listening to His names and chanting them, and by meditating on them. This experience is so much fulfilling to them that they claim this itself is sufficient and even preferable to salvation. Tondaradipodi Azhwar states that there can be no greater enjoyment than uttering His names and experiencing His infinite greatness. He would not prefer anything else, not even a place in Indra Loka with all honours. Vedanta Desika says that this joy of listening to and talking about His greatness can never equal the bliss that is supposed to be experienced in Vaikunta. All these may sound hypothetical, but they express the truth that once one gets hooked to His greatness there is nothing else that can equal this attractiveness.