



'MODI EARNED AND
ACHIEVED PRIME
MINERSHIP'



BRINDA WRITES TO
KEJRIWAL ON RIOTS
COMPENSATION



WARNOCK MAKES
HISTORY WITH
SENATE WIN



IT'S TIME FOR
INDIANS TO
PULL AHEAD

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Dense to very dense fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 19 and 08 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 006.0 Mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 82%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 21.3°C (+2) Min: 13.0°C (+6)

SUN RISES

07:15 hrs

MOON RISES

01:57 hrs

SUN SETS

17:40 hrs

MOON SETS

12:50 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Students attend classes after schools reopen after a gap of nine months amid Covid-19 safety measures, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

IANS

Modi to interact with economists: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with leading economists and sectoral experts on Friday to deliberate on measures that may be included in the upcoming Budget for promoting growth, amid uncertainty caused by Covid-19. The meeting, being organised by the government think tank Niti Aayog will be held virtually and will also be attended by Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. The upcoming Union Budget is likely to be presented on February 1, 2021.

P8

Bidding for spectrum auction to start from March 1: Bidding for the sixth round of spectrum auction for radiowaves worth Rs 3.92 lakh crore will start from 1 March, according to a notice issued by the department of telecom today. The spectrum auction is being held after a gap of four years and over two years after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) calculated and recommended base price for the radiowaves.

P8

Interfaith marriage: State conversion laws on SC radar

Bench refuses to stay controversial provisions of the laws, issues notices to UP, U'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine controversial new laws of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand regulating religious conversions due to inter-faith marriages.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde refused, however, to stay the controversial provisions of the laws and issued notices to both state governments on two different petitions.

The pleas, filed by advocate Vishal Thakre and others and an NGO Citizen for Justice and Peace, have challenged the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 and the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018 which regulate religious conversions of inter-faith marriages.

At the outset, the top court asked the petitioners to approach the Allahabad High Court after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that it was already seized of the matter.

The bench said that this was not the transfer petition where it could transfer to itself all the cases on the law after one of the petitioners said that the issue should be examined by the top court.

Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for the NGO, referred to the judgement of Justice (retd) Deepak Gupta and said that similar laws were being made in various states.

He sought a stay on the provisions of the law and said that people were being "lifted" by authorities in the middle of wedding ceremonies.

Some provisions of these laws are "oppressive and horrible" in nature and require prior consent of the government to marry which



is "absolutely obnoxious", Singh added.

The bench said that it was issuing notice and sought response from both the state governments within four weeks.

When Singh insisted on stay of the provisions, CJI Bobde said it was being sought without the states being heard. How can it be done? The Uttar Pradesh Ordinance was cleared by the state Cabinet in November and ascent was given by Governor Anandiben Patel on November 28. It relates not only to inter-faith marriages but all religious conversions and lays down elaborate procedures for those who wish to convert to another religion.

The Uttarakhand Act entails two year jail term for those found guilty of religious conversion through force or allurement, which can be in cash or in kind - employment or material benefit.

Thakre and others said they are aggrieved by the ordinance which curtails the fundamental rights of the citizens provided in the Constitution.

Their plea said the laws passed by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand against Love Jihad and punishments thereof may be declared ultra vires and null and void,

The pleas, filed by advocate Vishal Thakre and others and an NGO Citizen for Justice and Peace, have challenged the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 and the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018 which regulate religious conversions of inter-faith marriages

because it disturbs the basic structure of the Constitution as laid down by the Law.

It said the ordinance passed by Uttar Pradesh and the law passed by Uttarakhand is against the public policy and society at large.

Besides seeking to declare the laws as null and void, the plea sought direction to the two states to not to give effect to impugned provisions/ordinance and withdraw the same.

The plea Citizen for Justice and Peace said that both the legislations violate Articles 21 and 25, as it empowers the State to suppress an individual's personal liberty and the freedom to practice religion of one's choice.

It mandates that a series of complicated procedures to be followed before and after conversion, taking the State into confidence to ensure that the act was an informed and voluntary decision by the individual, the plea said.

The Mumbai-based NGO further said that the UP ordinance casts the burden of proof on the accused against the established criminal jurisprudence.

The plea by the NGO also sought direction to declare both the laws of the States as ultra vires of the constitution.

SC to hear pleas against farm laws on 11 Jan

NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would hear on January 11 a batch of pleas challenging the new farm laws as also the ones raising issues related to the ongoing farmers' protest at Delhi borders.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, which observed that there is no improvement on the ground regarding farmers' protests, was informed by the Centre that healthy discussions are going on between the government and farmers over these issues.

Attorney General K Venu Gopal said there is a good chance that parties may come to a conclusion in the near future and filing of response by the Centre on the pleas challenging the new farm laws might foreclose the negotiations between the farmers and government.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, while informing the bench that talks are going on between the government and farmers in a healthy atmosphere, said that these matters should not be listed for hearing on January 8.

We understand the situation and encourage the consultation. We can adjourn the matters on Monday if you submit the same due to the ongoing consultation process, the bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate M L Sharma. Details on Pg 4

UP govt faces Opp flak after gang-rape, murder of 50-yr-old

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUDAUN (UP), 6 JANUARY

A 50-year-old anganwadi worker was gang-raped and brutally murdered allegedly by a priest and his two accomplices in Budaun district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Wednesday.

Two of the accused were arrested on Tuesday night after the post-mortem report confirmed rape while the priest is on the run

Two of the accused were arrested on Tuesday night after the post-mortem report confirmed rape while the priest is on the run

ing speedy action".

"On Sunday, the 50-year-old woman, who had gone to a temple, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Family members of the woman have accused the temple mahant (priest) and his accomplices of raping and murdering her. Based on this, a case was registered against the accused. Two of the accused persons were arrested on Tuesday night, while the mahant is still absconding," he said.

Four teams have been formed to nab the priest, the SSP said.

The case was registered yesterday after the post-mortem report came.

"Based on complaints of the family members and the post-mortem report, a case has been registered under section 376D (gang-rape) and 302 (punishment for murder) of IPC," the SSP said. He said that opinion on the post-mortem report is being sought from medical experts and after that only any conclusion can be reached. To a specific question as to whether the case bore any resemblance to the horrific Nirbhaya rape case, the SSP said, "It will be wrong to link this incident to any previous incident. Let's wait for the medical examination report."

Bidding for spectrum auction to start from March 1: Bidding for the sixth round of spectrum auction for radiowaves worth Rs 3.92 lakh crore will start from 1 March, according to a notice issued by the department of telecom today. The spectrum auction is being held after a gap of four years and over two years after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) calculated and recommended base price for the radiowaves.

P8

Advisories issued after bird flu outbreaks in 4 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY



Avian Influenza, or the bird flu outbreak, has been reported at 12 epicentres in four states, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, and advisories have been issued to contain further spread of the infection in poultry ducks, crows and migratory birds.

In a statement, the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said that other states have been asked to keep a vigil on any unusual mortality amongst birds.

The current bird flu outbreak is reported barely a few months after India in September 30, 2020 declared the country free from the disease. India notified the first outbreak of Avian Influenza in 2006.

"After confirmation of positive samples from ICAR-NIHSDA

Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh

► Of the 12 epicentres, the bird flu has been reported in crows in Baran, Kota, Jhalawar region of Rajasthan as well as Mandsaur, Indore, Malwa areas of Madhya Pradesh.

► In Himachal Pradesh, the infection was found in migratory birds in Kangra region and in poultry ducks in Kottayam, Alappuzha in Kerala

(National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases), Avian Influenza has been reported at 12 epicentres," the ministry said.

Of the 12 epicentres, the bird flu has been reported in crows in Baran, Kota, Jhalawar region of Rajasthan as well as Mandsaur, Indore, Malwa areas of Madhya Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh, the infection was found in migratory birds in Kangra region and in poultry ducks in Kottayam, Alappuzha in Kerala

tory birds in Kangra region and in poultry ducks in Kottayam, Alappuzha (4 epicentres) in Kerala

Further, the ministry said it has set up a "control room" in New Delhi to keep a watch on the situation and to take stock on a daily basis the preventive and control measures undertaken by the state authorities.

In India, the ministry said that the disease spreads mainly by migratory birds coming into India during winter months from September-October to February-March. The secondary spread by human handling (through vomites) cannot be ruled out.

"Infection in humans is not yet reported in India though the disease is zoonotic. There is no direct evidence that AI viruses can be transmitted to humans via the consumption of contaminated poultry products," it noted.

As per the action plan on Avian Influenza, the ministry has suggested the affected states for strengthening the biosecurity of poultry farms, disinfection of affected areas, proper disposal of dead birds/carcasses, timely collection and submission of samples for confirmation and further surveillance, intensification of surveillance plan as well as the general guidelines for prevention of disease.

For contractual employees on Wednesday died after inhaling toxic gases that leaked from a unit at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in apparently the worst industrial accident in Odisha in recent years.

Though what exactly transpired at the 45-minute meeting was not known, sources said the two discussed "various issues", while Nabanna sources termed it as a "courtesy meeting".

Miss Banerjee's visit assumes significance as it has come at a time when the relationship between Raj Bhavan and the state government has reached a new low. SNS

Mamata-Guv in 'courtesy meeting'

KOLKATA 6 JANUARY

In an apparent bid to break the ice between the Bengal government and the governor, chief minister Mamata Banerjee called on Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar at Raj Bhavan this evening.

Though what exactly transpired at the 45-minute meeting was not known, sources said the two discussed "various issues", while Nabanna sources termed it as a "courtesy meeting".

Miss Banerjee's visit assumes significance as it has come at a time when the relationship between Raj Bhavan and the state government has reached a new low. SNS

Gas leak in Rourkela Steel Plant, 4 dead

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ROURKELA, 6 JANUARY

Four contractual employees on Wednesday died after inhaling toxic gases that leaked from a unit at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in apparently the worst industrial accident in Odisha in recent years.

The RSP suspended two deputy general managers of coal chemical departments and energy management department, Navendu Das and GB Barik respectively, for dereliction of duty.

A high-level committee headed by chief general manager CRM Mohapatra is investigating the incident.

TRP case: Cops find 'proof' against Arnab, Republic TV

The deceased contractual workers were identified as Ganesh Chandra Paila (55), Rabindra Sahu (59), Abhimanyu Sah (33) and Bramhananda Panda (51).

Trade union leaders however said 10 workers were affected by the gas leak. Four died and six others are undergoing treatment, they said.

However, as the high court adjourned the matter without hearing any arguments during the day, the police agreed to continue its previous assurance of not taking any coercive action till January 15, the next date of hearing in the case.

The alleged fake TRP scam was unearthed last year after the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint alleging that certain television channels were rigging their TRP numbers, apparently to generate more revenue from advertisements.

On Wednesday, the HC adjourned the matter without hearing any arguments after a Republic TV counsel told the court that senior advocate Harish Salve was unable to appear while the second senior lawyer was stuck due to some medical emergency in family.

Second pan-India dry run of Covid vaccine on 8 Jan

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY



The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday cautioned people against downloading and sharing personal information on some apps named Co-WIN, "created by unscrupulous elements", that sound similar to the upcoming official platform of the government for carrying out the Covid-19 vaccination process.

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. The government has been preparing for the vaccine rollout for the last four months, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said last week when the dry run was held.

During the dry run, over 20 health workers get dummy vaccines at each site, which is meant to test the mechanisms and reveal possible gaps in the

Delhi's positivity rate climbs to 0.88 pc

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The national capital today reported 654 fresh coronavirus cases after recording less than 500 Covid cases for four days continuously since 2 January, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These fresh Covid cases were detected from 74,650 tests, with the positivity rate climbing



Singh is an ex-MLA of the Congress in Bihar, but I don't even know what post he is holding in the party now. We have 19 MLAs in Bihar and all of them are part of the Mahagathbandhan

MADAN MOHAN JHA
BIHAR CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Delhi govt brainstorming on schools' reopening: Sisodia

PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Delhi government is brainstorming on how early schools here can be reopened and the future strategy to resume classroom studies will depend on when a COVID-19 vaccine is available to the public after frontline workers are inoculated, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Wednesday.

Schools in the national capital are closed since March last year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. While a few states have partially reopened schools, the Delhi government had announced that schools will not reopen till a vaccine is available.

"Brainstorming is on for how early schools can be reopened in Delhi, especially for board classes as the dates for exams have already been announced," Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, said while addressing a press conference.

He also said that "our future strategy (on reopening schools) will depend on how early a COVID-19 vaccine is available for public after frontline workers are vaccinated".

Sisodia announced that the Delhi government is organising an international education conference from January 11 to 17 on how the education sector be in a post-COVID world.

"We need to plan about our schools in a post-COVID era, just as we are planning about the COVID-19 vaccination. For this, we are organising an international conference where 22 education experts from India, Finland, England, Germany, Singapore, Canada and Singapore will join panel discussions on different themes of school education," he said.

The coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented situation for children. Therefore, schooling and learning in a post-COVID era cannot be business as usual, Sisodia said, adding that the Delhi government is organising the conference to also brainstorm on future of school education.

Capital records 654 fresh Covid cases, 16 fatalities

Another dry run for coronavirus vaccine rollout is held at Hindu Rao Hospital, other civic facilities

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The national capital today reported 654 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases after recording less than 500 Covid cases for four days continuously since 2 January, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These fresh Covid cases were detected from 74,650 tests, with the positivity rate climbing to 0.88 per cent. The city's caseload rose to 6,28,352, the health bulletin said.

There were 494 coronavirus cases identified in Delhi on 2 January, 424 on 3 January, 384 on 4 January, and 442 on 5 January.

The declining trend in Delhi's single-day Covid tally began on 21 December with 803 cases. This trend of less than 1,000 new cases a day continued till 1 January (585 cases) except for 24 December when 1,063 cases were recorded.

Today, Delhi logged 16 fresh Covid-linked fatalities, which pushed its coronavirus toll to



During the Covid vaccine dry run at Hindurao Hospital in the Capital on Wednesday.

DEEPAK

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. SHRISH AGGARWAL
Administrative Civil Judge-
cum-ARC (Central),
Room No. 323, 3rd Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
SC-114/2019
N.D.H.: 18-01-2021

To,
Anna Gupta
Versus

Anna Gupta, w/o Late Sh.
Suresh Chand Gupta, r/o
House No. 2279, Gali Anwar
Wali, Dharapura Chandni
Chowk, Delhi G.P.O., North
Delhi, Delhi-110006—Petitioner

FOR SUCCESION
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To,
All concerned.

Whereas the abovenamed petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing the name of Late Sh. Suresh Chand Gupta @ A/ Suresh Chand deceased.

Whereas the 18-01-2021 at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 04-01-2021,

Administrative Civil
Judge-
cum-ARC (Central),
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
Seal of the court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING
ATTENDANCE OF
DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the
Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of
Sh. Sanjay Sharma-I
District Judge
(Commercial Court)-01
Room No. 12
Karkardooma, Delhi
Through Ld. District and
Sessions Judge, Gurgaon,
Haryana
Case No. CS (Comm):
271/2019

Orange Fish Events Pvt. Ltd.
Versus

Volkswagen Group Sales
India Private Limited & Ors.
To,

Zenica Performance Cars
Pvt. Ltd., through its
MD/CEO/Authorized person
Orchid Centre, Sector-53, Golf
Course Road, Gurgaon,
Haryana-122001.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 15-01-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

The non-arrival or default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of Dec., 2020.

District Judge
(Commercial Court)-01
Karkardooma, Delhi
Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF
MS. PREETI PAREWA
ACI/CCJ/ARC
Room No. 03, Ground Floor
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi
Petition No. SC-13/2019
In the matter of:
Smt. Meeta Versus
State & Ors.

—(Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESION
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To,
All concerned.

Whereas the abovenamed petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Rakesh Singh, a/Father & son of Dt. 29-12-2018 at F-59, Sector-IV, Roja Bazar, New Delhi-01. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Court to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 28-01-2021 at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 04-01-2021.

ACI/CCJ/ARC
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi
Seal of the court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING
ATTENDANCE OF
DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the
Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of
Sh. Vipin Kumar Rai
Addl. District Judge-06

South-East District,
Room No. 310, Third Floor
Saket Court, New Delhi
Suit No. : CS No. 12002/2016
M/s. Megahertz Infotech Pvt.
Ltd.

— Plaintiff
Versus
GISI Creations Pvt. Ltd.
— Defendant

To,
GISI Creations Pvt. Ltd.,
208, 2nd Floor, Bakshi House
40-41, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 08th day of January, 2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 18th day of December, 2020.

Addl. District Judge-06
South-East District,
Saket Court, New Delhi
Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. NIKHIL CHOPRA
Additional District Judge-02
(South)

Court No. 606, Sixth Floor
Saket District Courts, New
Delhi
PC/LA-12/2020

Date of hearing : 22-02-2021

Col. Anandakash Gupta &
Ors., r/o Daya Ram Gupta,
r/o P-41, South Extension,
Part-II, New Delhi-110049.
Petitioner

Versus

The State (GNC) of Delhi.

— Defendant

Whereas, the petitioner abovenamed has applied by a petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of Letters of Administration, or Probate or Succession Certificate in respect of the Estate left by the deceased Dr. Suresh Gupta, d/o Daya Ram Gupta, r/o P-41, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi-110049 died on 22-08-2004.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public having any interest in the Letters of Administration/Succession Certificate of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may if he/she desires, appears in this Court on 22-01-2021 at 10:00 a.m. and participate in the proceeding before the grant of Letters of Administration/Probate/Succession Certificate or if desire to oppose the application of the petitioner aforesaid, he/she should enter appearance in persons in this court on the aforesaid date and be prepared to adduce on that day any documentary and oral evidence which he/she may desire to give in support of his/her claim to opposition to the application of the petitioner aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this the 23rd day of December, 2020.

Additional District Judge-02 (South)
Saket District Courts,
New Delhi
Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. AJAY PANDEY

Addl. District Judge-II (N/W)

Room No. 317, Third Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi
Case No. GP/6/2020

1. Sh. Bipul Krishan, s/o Sh.
Krishi Ram, r/o Flat No. 39,
Triveni Apartment, West
Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034.

Versus

I, BARNA Das, D.O.B.
07.07.1970, spouse of Rabin
Samaddar, M.G. Road, P.O.: Purba
Nischintapur, P.S.: Budge
Budge, Dist.: South 24
Parganas-700137 have

changed my name from
Barna Das, D.O.B. 07.07.1970
to Barma Das, D.O.B. 07.07.1970
08.07.1970, vide Affidavit
50942 dated 24.12.2020
before the 1st Class Judicial
Magistrate at Alipore.

I, MEGLA Amit Lakhan, R/o. 4,
Grant Street, Block-B, Suit
No. 4, Kolkatta-700013, do
hereby declare that my

name is hereby given by

myself.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this the 23rd day of December, 2020.

Additional District Judge-02 (South)
Saket District Courts,
New Delhi
Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. SANJAY SHARMA-I

District Judge-01 (Commercial Court)-01

Room No. 12

Karkardooma, Delhi
Through Ld. District and
Sessions Judge, Gurgaon,
Haryana

Case No. CS (Comm):
271/2019

Orange Fish Events Pvt. Ltd.
Versus

Volkswagen Group Sales
India Private Limited & Ors.
To,

Zenica Performance Cars
Pvt. Ltd., through its
MD/CEO/Authorized person
Orchid Centre, Sector-53, Golf
Course Road, Gurgaon,
Haryana-122001.

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District Judge
(Commercial Court)-01
Karkardooma, Delhi
Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF
MS. PREETI PAREWA
ACI/CCJ/ARC
Room No. 03, Ground Floor
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi
Petition No. SC-13/2019
In the matter of:
Smt. Meeta Versus
State & Ors.

—(Petitioner)

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CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To,
All concerned.

Whereas the abovenamed petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Rakesh Singh, a/Father & son of Dt. 29-12-2018 at F-59, Sector-IV, Roja Bazar, New Delhi-01. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Court to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 28-01-2021 at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 04-01-2021.

ACI/CCJ/ARC
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi
Seal of the court

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

In the Court of
Sh. Vipin Kumar Rai
Addl. District Judge-06

Affidavit

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this the 10th day of December, 2020.

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

KOLKATA
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Tel: 0177-2815000
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A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004,
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I think it is only through our democratic festivals that we work to strengthen our commitment and our faith and belief in them

ALKA LAMBA
CONGRESS LEADER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 07 JANUARY 2021

03

Listen to farmers, repeal farm laws: Capt to PM

It is high time the Centre listens to protesting farmers' voice and resolve the crisis, says Punjab CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 6 JANUARY

Stressing that there was nothing wrong with the demands of the protesting farmers, Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh today urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately repeal the controversial farm laws in order to resolve the crisis.

Categorically rejecting "highly irresponsible" reports in a section of the media that Punjab had already implemented the Centre's new farm laws, the CM said state food minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu's statement had been "mischievously twisted" by a newspaper, with others picking it up.

Punjab was the first state to have opposed the central farm laws and, in fact, passed amendments Bills in the state Assembly to negate their "dangerous impact" on agriculture, Capt Amarinder pointed out, slamming the Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for spreading "misinformation"



on the issue with their "fake propaganda machinery".

The Governor, said the CM, "should have forwarded our Bills to the President for assent, which he has not done".

Capt Amarinder, in a media

interview, made it clear that Punjab would not allow the lives of its farmers to be ruined by the new central agri laws.

"We will do whatever possible to help the farmers and their families, for whom the state government had already started two helplines on which they could reach out in case of any emergency," he said.

Urging the Prime Minister to withdraw the controversial farm laws and talk to the farmers agitating against them for

months, Capt Amarinder said, "The farmers have made their stand very clear -- that the farm laws should be repealed. It is the job of the Government of India to listen to them."

The Centre can bring in new laws after due consultation with the farmers, the CM said, pointing out that the Constitution has been amended many times and could be done again for revocation of the recently enacted farm legislations.

Noting that farmers from across the country had joined the protests against the contentious farm laws, Capt Amarinder said that after six-seven rounds of meetings between farmer leaders and the Centre, it is time the matter is resolved and the farmers, who have been

camping on Delhi borders amid cold and rains, could go back and everyone else could get on with their lives. The CM lambasted those calling the protesting farmers "Naxals and terrorists", condemning it as "wrong and irresponsible".

'People transformed Covid-19 challenges into opportunities'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 JANUARY

Himachal Pradesh Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj on Wednesday said that the people of the country and the state have transformed the challenges created by the Corona pandemic into opportunities.

He was addressing the participants of Secretariat Services Sports Control Board who had organised an awareness drive on Covid pandemic on the occasion of 56th birthday of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

Bhardwaj said that in 1918, a similar pandemic spread in the country which killed about two crore people and it took many years to prepare medicine for the treatment of pandemic at that time.

Urban development Minister further stated that to tackle the corona pandemic the scientists of the world as well as the country had gained a significant achievement by developing the vaccine within a year.

"It is a matter of pride for the country that the scientists of India have simultaneously developed two vaccines for Coronavirus pandemic," he said, adding soon, the state



would also get this vaccine for the people of Himachal.

He said that almost one year has passed with the Corona pandemic and we had witnessed situations like lockdown but the state government had taken various effective steps to tackle and save the common people from the effects of this global pandemic.

"It is a matter of pride that the state has got its able leadership, who being himself from the rural background, is well aware of the problems of the common people of the state," he added. This corona prevention awareness foot march started from the Secretariat complex via Mall Road and the Ridge ground.

The participants gave a message about prevention from Corona pandemic through various slogans related to prevention of corona pandemic such as 'Do Gaj Doori Hai Jaroori', 'Use Mask' etc to the general public.

General Secretary of Himachal Pradesh Secretariat Services Sport Control Board Rajesh Sharma and other office bearers were also present on the occasion.

BJP slams SGPC chief for not inviting PM Modi for Sikh centenary events

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 6 JANUARY

With the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the highest religious body of the Sikh community, deciding against extending the special invite to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Sikh centenary events owing to his alleged 'anti-farmer' stand over three central farm laws, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday alleged that the SGPC chief Jagir Kaur was playing "cheap and dirty politics" in the matter.

"After honouring the PM with Shiromani award last year, the SGPC's stance in the matter was deplorable and reprehensible as it reflected the demented thinking of Jagir Kaur to disrespect the PM who had taken historic steps for the Sikhs and the Punjabis", Chugh said lambasting the SGPC chief.



Tarun Chugh



Jagir Kaur

With SGPC, the highest religious body of the Sikh community, deciding against extending the special invite to PM for the Sikh centenary events owing to his alleged 'anti-farmer' stand over three central farm laws, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh alleged that the SGPC chief Jagir Kaur was playing "cheap and dirty politics" in the matter

tics of negativity," the BJP leader added.

Chugh said it was because of PM Modi that many Congress leaders including Sajjan Kumar were behind the bars today for their role in 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The PM went overboard to delete the black list that was a cause of concern for the Sikhs abroad.

"For the Kartarpur corridor Modi facilitated all arrangements so that the age-old prayer of the Punjabis to visit Nanakana Sahib was answered," he added.

Normally, the SGPC extends

special invites to the Prime Minister and the President on historical occasions, but Kaur on Tuesday said the SGPC has decided not to extend any special invitation to PM Modi for the upcoming centenary events, including the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The reason, the SGPC chief cited, was the PM's reluctance to revoke the three laws that the farmers fear will affect their livelihoods. Earlier, Modi was the chief guest at the event to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak in November 2019.

passing through a road with some documents in his hand when the calf, standing near a cow, charges towards him and just about hits him.

The man gets unnerved as his documents fall on the ground, leaving him angry. The video then shows the man spanking and kicking the animal before he collects his documents.

A CCTV footage of the incident has been doing the rounds on social media and the police has identified the man as Kamal Singh, a resident of the locality.

Police said after they received information regarding the incident, they rushed to the spot and found the calf in injured condition.

It was taken to the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital for medical examination and a proper treatment was given to it, a senior police officer said.

The CCTV footage of the incident shows the man

standing on its feet, the footage shows. "On the basis of DD (daily diary) entry and the CCTV footage, a case has been registered under section 11.1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the accused arrested," Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Deepak Yadav said.

Himachal to focus on awareness drive to curb road accidents

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 JANUARY

Besides enforcement and other measures, concerted focus and initiatives should be on greater public awareness on road safety through audio-visual, social, print and electronic media to encourage greater public involvement'

As around 95 per cent of road accidents in Himachal Pradesh occur due to human errors, there is a need to create "road safety culture" among masses through awareness campaigns to check road accidents, HP Principal Secretary, Transport, KK Pant said on Wednesday.

Addressing the meeting of the state level standing committee constituted for road safety, Pant said besides enforcement and other measures, concerted focus and initiatives should be on greater public awareness on road safety through audio-visual, social, print and electronic media to encourage greater public involvement.

required standards in future.

According to the guidelines of the Supreme Court, people who assist in the event of an accident do not face any kind of legal problem.

Such a person could not be forced by the police or anyone else to reveal their identity. Any passer-by, who assists the person met to an accident, known as Good Samaritan, cannot be restrained in the hospital, cannot be taken to the police station for interrogation, cannot call them to court for testimony and cannot even be summoned," he said.

He added that the number of deaths in road accidents would be reduced by participation of 'Good Samaritans'.

He also stressed on public awareness to ensure participation of more and more 'Good Samaritans'.

The Principal Secretary, Transport emphasized to make Panchayati Raj institutions aware and said that the width of land gifted by residents for the construction of roads in public interest is less than the required width making these roads prone to accidents.

The representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions would be made aware of this so that the land could be obtained according to the

"During this, people would be informed about the rules related to road safety through various awareness programs.

It is necessary for measures related to road safety that the participation of the general public be ensured," he added.

The Principal Secretary, Transport emphasized to make Panchayati Raj institutions aware and said that the width of land gifted by residents for the construction of roads in public interest is less than the required width making these roads prone to accidents.

Director Transport Anupam Kashyap, Special Secretary Finance Rajesh Sharma, Additional Director Traffic Hemis Negi, Engineer-in-Chief Public Works Department Bhuvan Sharma and officials from other stakeholders departments were also present on the occasion.

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Everyday incidents in J&K serve as a reminder that issues can't be brushed under the carpet...

PDP CHIEF MEHBOOBA MUFTI

SAYING ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE IS DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

THUMBNAILS



Rain in the Capital on Wednesday. ■ IANS

Missing son of former MP traced: The 16-year-old son of former Rajya Sabha MP Biswajeet Dalmay, who was missing from his boarding school in Kokrajhar, was found by the police on Wednesday in Chirang district, a senior police officer said. The boy is yet to be questioned as he is in a state of trauma, another police officer said.

Poll for UP legislative council seats: Polls to 12 legislative council seats in Uttar Pradesh getting vacant later this month and bypolls to two legislative council seats in Bihar and one in Andhra Pradesh will be held on 28 January, the Election Commission said on Wednesday. The seats are getting vacant as the term of the members is coming to an end. One of the 12 members is Nasimuddin Siddiqui, who already stands disqualified.

PAC meet in Bengal: The Public Accounts Committee headed by the Congress MP, Adhir Chowdhury is going to hold its annual meet this year in Kolkata and Behrampore. PAC chief said the event spanning five days (9 January to 13 January) has nothing to do with politics.

Dada's discharge: BCCI chief and former Team India captain Sourav Ganguly, who underwent angioplasty following a mild heart attack, is now stable and will be discharged from the hospital today, an official at the facility said. Sources close to him said Ganguly wanted to avoid the crowds gathered outside the hospital and his residence at Behala.

TENDER

PANIHATI MUNICIPALITY

B.T. Road, Panihati

Kol.-700114

Notice

Tenders are invited from the reputed Agency / Car Service / Individual etc. for the provide of a Car Rental Basis for official usage as per Govt. Norms. Notice Ref. No. PM / VD / 20-21 / Qot-Jan / Hired Veh / 01 Date: 05-01-2021. Last date of submission quotation: 15-01-2021.

Sd/- Executive Officer, Panihati Municipality

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMCL/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

1. Name of work and location	Hiring of Truck Model 207 or similar of minimum 1.0 Metric Ton capacity CNG fuelled for leading of Railway material such as track machine spares, T&P, Oil and other Engg. Material of any length & breadth etc., for a period of 24 months for maintenance of Track Machines in jurisdiction of Dy.CE/TMCL/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi.
2. Completion period of the work	24 Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 13.83 Lakhs
4. Cost of Tender Document	Nil
5. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 27,700/-
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15.00 hrs. on 02.02.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15.00 hrs. on 02.02.2021.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Document is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 19.01.2021 to 02.02.2021. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. : 1-W-DyCETMCL-TRK-07-20-21 Dated : 06.01.2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SC to hear pleas against farm laws on 11 Jan

Top court will take up plea along with other pending matters as the Bench thinks the condition has not improved between farmers and govt



Protesting farmers on a cold and rainy day, at Singhu Border in the Capital on Wednesday. ■ SNS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Supreme Court Wednesday said it would hear on 11 January a batch of pleas challenging the new farm laws as also the ones raising issues related to the ongoing farmers' protest at Delhi borders.

Abenched by Chief Justice SA Bobde, which observed that there is no improvement on the ground regarding farmers' protests, was informed by

the Centre that healthy discussions are going on between the government and farmers over these issues.

Attorney General KK Venugopal said there is a good chance that parties may come to a conclusion in the near future and filing of response by the Centre on the pleas challenging the new farm laws might foreclose the negotiations between the farmers and government.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, while informing the bench that talks are going on

between the government and farmers in a healthy atmosphere, said that these matters should not be listed for hearing on 8 January.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate M L Sharma challenging the farm laws.

The bench issued notice to the Centre seeking its response on Sharma's plea which has alleged that the Central government has no locus under the Constitution to frame these laws.

During the hearing, con-



ducted through video-conferencing, the bench said at the outset, these are farm matters. Where are the other matters? When they are listed? We are going to hear all the matters together.

M L Sharma always files startling petitions and he says that the Centre has no power to make laws, the bench observed, adding, Mr Sharma says that you (government) are colluding and making laws.

The top court said it would take up the plea along with other pending matters because we think that the condition has not improved already.

The apex court had earlier issued notice and sought the Centre's response on a batch of pleas against the three contentious farm laws - Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and

Farm Services Act, 2020, Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020.

Congle leaders take out tractor rally.

Senior Congress leaders on Wednesday took out a tractor rally in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore, which is state chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's home district, to protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

The leaders reached Nasrullaganj along with Congress workers in tractors and demanded that the Centre withdraw the new farm laws immediately.

State BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal, on the other hand, accused the Congress leaders of misleading the farmers.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's grandson extends support to three farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

request you Sir (Tomar) to negotiate with farmer leaders to reach an early resolution. We are hopeful of your achieving success and request that the newfarm laws are not rolled back," he said.

Stating that the new legislations are a "watershed moment" for Indian agriculture, Singh said though the minimum support price (MSP) and APMC mandi system are working well in Punjab, Haryana and parts of western Uttar Pradesh, farmers of these states had "apprehension" about the new laws and the Centre has done its best to "allay" their fears.

He further said "it appears that the vested interest and political opportunists are continuing to mislead them".

Singh also claimed that the new laws are the "way forward" for Indian agriculture as over decades a "farm crisis" had evolved due to non-remunerative farming, price manipulations at the APMC mandis by "vested interests especially at the cost of small and marginalised farmers".

TEMPLE ISSUE



Hindu Right-wing activists protest against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan over the vandalism of a Hindu temple in Pakistan, in Amritsar on Wednesday. ■ IANS

Modi earned prime ministership: Pranab in memoir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The decisive mandate the BJP got in two consecutive general elections in 2014 and 2019 indicated voters' preference for political stability, according to former President Pranab Mukherjee, who said Narendra Modi "earned and achieved" the prime ministership.

Mukherjee also said in his memoir that Narendra Modi became Prime Minister "through popular choice" unlike Manmohan Singh "who was offered the post by Sonia Gandhi".

Every general election has its importance because the issues that are debated during the polls reflect the various views and perceptions of the electorate", Mukherjee wrote in his memoir "The Presidential Years, 2012-2017" which he completed before his death last year.

"The 2014 verdict was historic for two reasons. First, after three decades, a contesting political party received a decisive mandate instead of a fractured one," he wrote.

The second reason, he said, is that the BJP emerged with a simple majority on its own in the Lok Sabha for the first time and was thus able to form the government, though it still did so by co-opting its allies.

"But the real winner was the electorate that came out in large numbers and voted decisively, thus indicating its preference for political stability, which it believed would result in development-oriented pol-

itics," the former Congress stalwart and union minister wrote in the book, which was released on Tuesday.

Mukherjee said he was also of the belief that people were dejected with coalitions and the behaviour of political parties changing sides for parochial gains. "Coalitions are often formed with the only common agenda of blocking a particular party or individual from coming to power."

Comparing Modi with Singh, Mukherjee said the route to prime ministership for the two prime ministers he worked with was very different. Mukherjee, who was the president from July 25, 2012 to July 25, 2017, had worked with both the prime ministers during his tenure.

"However, I did not hesitate to give my advice on matters of policy during our meetings. There were several occasions when he echoed concerns that I had voiced. I also believe that he has managed to grasp the nuances of foreign policy quickly," the book said.

Cong appoints senior leaders as observers for 2021 Assembly poll drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

Gandhi has appointed the leaders as senior observers for overseeing the election campaign management and coordination in states where assembly elections are going to be held in 2021. Their appointment is with immediate effect.

They will discharge their duties in close coordination with AICC general secretaries and in-charges in the respective states, the party said.

Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro and Karnataka's former deputy chief minister G Parameshwar have been appointed as senior observers for the Kerala assembly polls.

Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, the party's general secretary Mukul Wasnik and senior leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan have been appointed as senior observers for the Assam assembly polls. For the elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, senior party leaders and former union ministers M Veerappa Moily and M M Pallam Raju, besides sitting cabinet minister in Maharashtra Nitin Raut have been appointed as senior observers.

For the West Bengal assembly elections, senior party leader B K Hariprasad and Alamgir Alam, besides Punjab minister Vijay Inder Singh have been appointed as observers.

The party is keen to retain power in Puducherry and is seeking to wrest power back in Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Congress is in the process of finalising seat-sharing with its allies in these states, the statement said.

HC to SBI: Maintain status quo on a/c with Ambani's firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court Wednesday asked SBI to maintain status quo with regard to accounts of Anil Ambani's firms - RCom, Reliance Telecom and Reliance Infratel, which have been declared by the bank as fraud accounts.

Justice Prateek Jalan passed the order on a plea by erstwhile directors of the three companies challenging a 2016 circular of the RBI regarding declaration of accounts as fraud by banks.

According to the plea, the circular allows banks to declare an account as fraud without giving any prior notice or communication to the account holder against the principles of natural justice.

Their lawyers told the court that several similar petitions against the circular have been filed since 2019 and

the petitioners in those matters have been protected by the high court.

In view of the orders passed earlier by the high court in similar matters, Justice Jalan directed State Bank of India to "maintain status quo till next date of hearing" with regard to the accounts of the three companies. The court further said that the respondents, including RBI and the three companies, were at liberty to file their replies to the petition by 11 January and listed the matter for hearing on 13 January.

The court further said that SBI and RBI were at liberty to take any steps in the nature of an investigation or filing of complaint proceedings against the erstwhile directors and the three companies independent of the impugned action of declaring the accounts of the three companies as fraud accounts.

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Uttarakhand BJP chief apologises after landing in soup for controversial comment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 6 JANUARY

Uttarakhand BJP president Bansidhar Bhagat found himself in a tight spot after making a controversial statement, recently, against senior Congress leader and leader of Opposition Indira Hridayesh.

Uttarakhand Congress made it a political issue and burned an effigy of the Uttarakhand BJP chief in Dehradun on Wednesday and also approached the top brass of State police to register a case against Bansidhar Bhagat.

Finding the situation hard to handle, state BJP president Bansidhar Bhagat tendered an apology and announced withdrawing the statement on Wednesday.

The state BJP chief crossed his limit at a public function at Bhimtal recently and said,

"The leader of the opposition says that five BJP lead-

ers are in my touch. Old lady who will touch you!"

The comment of Bansidhar Bhagat created a storm in Uttarakhand.

The state BJP president is habitual of creating controversies. Even in the latest case he was adamant.

Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat expressed shock at the comment of Bansidhar Bhagat and tendered an apology from Indira Hridayesh on social media. Expressing pain, the CM said that he will speak

to Hridayesh personally to apologize.

The reaction of Trivendra Singh Rawat made things complicated for the state BJP president. Without wasting time and for damage control, Bansidhar Bhagat issued a statement on Wednesday, "To honour women is the highest priority of my party and me. If my words have hurt the feelings of Indira Hridayesh ji I express my apologies. I would like to add that I had not said the words to hurt her in any way."

BRO roped in for clearing snow from Srinagar airport; avalanche warning issued

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 6 JANUARY

for the fourth day due to heavy snowfall and bad weather conditions.

Snow clearance job continued throughout night but snowfall again covered the roads. However, all teams escalated their work to make possible ambience for aircraft operations but this did not work.

CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR
SUGGESTING CANCELLATION OF R-DAY FESTIVITIES AFTER PM BORIS JOHNSON CALLED OFF INDIA VISIT

Terrorists could acquire chemical weapons: India

Says they have taken advantage of conflict in Syria to entrench themselves posing a threat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

India warns the global community against the possibility of chemical weapons falling into the hands of terrorist organisations and individuals.

"Terrorist groups have taken advantage of the decade-long conflict in Syria to entrench themselves posing a threat to the entire region. The world cannot afford to give these terrorists any sanctuary or dilute its fight against these terrorist groups," Permanent Representative of India to the UN Security Council session on the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The session, held virtually, was the UNSC's first open meeting and India made its first official statement after joining the body on 1 January as a non-permanent member.

India, he said, attached high importance to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), a unique, non-discriminatory disarmament instrument which served as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

Tirumurti said India has been firmly opposed to any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody, and under any circumstances.

"We strongly condemn the use

Around 400 terrorists in launch pads across LoC waiting to infiltrate: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU, 6 JANUARY

Around 400 terrorists are currently in launching pads across the Line of Control (LoC), waiting to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir during the winters, after a tight anti-infiltration grid frustrated attempts by Pakistan to push them into the Indian side, according to security officials.

A top police official said that Pakistan is trying to infiltrate terrorists along the

LoC in Jammu and Kashmir even during the winters when most of the passes and mountainous areas along the border are covered in heavy snow.

There have been reports of infiltration by 44 terrorists in 2020 as compared to 141 in 2019, they said. In 2018, 143 terrorists manage to infiltrate into J&K.

Rattled by the success of India's anti-infiltration grid with the blocking of several key routes, the Pakistan Army carried out 5,100

ceasefire violations in 2020, the highest since the 2003 truce came into effect, in its attempt to push in more terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir under the cover of mortar shelling and firing, the officials said.

Pakistani agencies are using tunnels to push in armed terrorists, weapons, ammunition and explosive material in J&K. "They are also using drones to ferry and drop weapons and explosive material into border areas in J&K."

of chemical weapons; and there can be no justification for their use."

With regard to allegations of use of chemical weapons in Syria and investigations conducted in this regard, the Indian envoy said India has consistently underlined the need for an impartial and objective investigation into any alleged use of chemical weapons, scrupulously following the provisions and procedures laid down in the CWC.

Any concerns should be addressed on the basis of consultation among all concerned

parties. In India's view, politicisation of the issue was neither helpful nor productive.

India, Tirumurti said, appreciated the commitment of the Organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat in performing its responsibilities during these challenging times of the pandemic. "We have taken note of the findings mentioned in the two recent reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria."

He said New Delhi has also taken note that the OPCW was in the process of analysing the

information collected from its most recent deployments for cases related to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

"We encourage continued engagement and cooperation between Syria and the OPCW Technical Secretariat towards an early resolution of all outstanding issues. India has provided a financial contribution of \$1 million to the OPCW Trust Fund for activities relating to destruction of chemical stockpiles and related facilities in Syria," the Indian diplomat added.

SPECIAL TRAINS-2021
In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-
04265/04266 Varanasi Jn. - Dehradun - Varanasi Jn. Express Special Train (Daily)

TRAIN NO. 04265	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04266		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	08:25	Varanasi Jn.	15:40	---
06:30	---	Dehradun	---	18:15

Days of Run : 04265 from Varanasi from 10.01.2021 and 04266 from Dehradun from 11.01.2021
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)
Stoppages : Sewapuri, Parsipur, Bhadohi, Mondh (for Train No. 04265 only), Suriawan, Sarai Kansrai (for Train No. 04266 only), Jangha Jn., Badshahpur, Gaura (for Train No. 04265 only), Dandupur, Pratapgarh Jn., Chiliba Jn., Antu, Misrauli (for Train No. 04265 only), Amethi, Gauriganj, Jais, Fursatganj, Raebareli Jn., Harchandpur, Bachhrawan, Lucknow, Lucknow West (for Train No. 04266 only), Almangan, Kakori (for Train No. 04266 only), Malihabad, Dilawagarh (for Train No. 04266 only), Rahimabad (for Train No. 04266 only), Sandila, Balamau Jn., Hardoi, Anjhi Shahabad (for Train No. 04265 only), Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Rampur, Moradabad, Kanth, Seohara, Dhampur, Nagina, Najibabad Jn., Chandok, Laksar Jn., Jwalapur, Haridwar, Raiwala, Doiwala and Harwala (for Train No. 04266 only) stations.
04229/04230 Prayag Ghat - Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Prayag Ghat Express Special Train

TRAIN NO. 04229	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04230		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	23:35	Prayag Ghat	07:25	---
14:35	---	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	---	15:20

Days of Run : 04229 from Prayag Ghat on every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday from 10.01.21 and 04230 from Yog Nagari Rishikesh on every Wednesday, Friday & Monday from 11.01.21
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)
Stoppages : Prayag, Pratapgarh Jn., Amethi, Gauriganj, Raebareli, Lucknow, Hardoi, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Rampur, Moradabad, Najibabad Jn., Laksar Jn., Hardwar Jn., Motichur and Raiwala stations.
04606/04605 Jammu Tawi - Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Jammu Tawi Express Special Train

TRAIN NO. 04606	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04605		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	22:05	Jammu Tawi	03:20	---
10:25	---	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	---	15:40

Days of Run : 04606 from Jammu Tawi from 10.01.2021 and 04605 from Yog Nagari Rishikesh from 11.01.2021
Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)
Stoppages : Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Ludhiana Jn., Khanna, Sihri Jn., Rajpura Jn., Ambala City, Ambala Cantt. Jn., Yamunanagar-Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Hardwar Jn., Motichur, Raiwala and Virbhadra stations.
06093/06094 MGR Chennai Central - Lucknow - MGR Chennai Central Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 06093	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 06094		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	05:15	MGR Chennai Central	06:50	---
20:20	---	Lucknow	---	16:20

Days of Run : 06093 from MGR Chennai Central on every Tuesday and Saturday from 12.01.21 to 30.01.21 and 06094 from Lucknow on every Thursday and Monday from 14.01.21 to 01.02.21
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)
Stoppages : Sullurpetta, Nayadupetta, Gudur, Nellore, Kavali, Singarakonda, Ongole, Chirala, Bapatla, Nidubrolu, Tenali, New Guntur, Vijayawada, Errapalem, Khammam, Dornakal, Mahbubabad, Kesamudram, Warangal, Jammikunta, Peddappa, Ramagundam, Manchiryal, Bellampalli, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Sevagram, Nagpur, Multai, Amla, Betul, Ghoradongri, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Orai and Kanpur Central stations.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

06083/06084 Trivandrum Central- H. Nizamuddin - Trivandrum Central Superfast Special Train (Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 06083	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 06084		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	00:30	Trivandrum Central	04:55	---
22:40	---	H. Nizamuddin	---	05:00

Days of Run : 06083 from Trivandrum Central on every Saturday from 09.01.21 to till further advice and 06084 from H. Nizamuddin on every Monday from 11.01.21 to till further advice
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

05015/05016 Gorakhpur - Yesvantpur - Gorakhpur Superfast Train (Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 05015	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 05016		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	06:35	Gorakhpur Jn.	18:50	---
02:45	---	Yesvantpur	---	23:40

Days of Run : 05015 from Gorakhpur on every Monday from 12.04.21 and 05016 from Yesvantpur on every Wednesday from 14.04.21
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

02591/02592 Gorakhpur - Yesvantpur - Gorakhpur Express Train (Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 02591	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02592		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	06:35	Gorakhpur Jn.	15:40	---
02:45	---	Yesvantpur	---	17:20

Days of Run : 02591 from Gorakhpur every Saturday from 10.04.21 and 02592 from Yesvantpur on every Monday from 12.04.21
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

03239/03240 Patna - Kota - Patna Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 03239	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 03240		
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.		
---	11:45	Patna	19:30	---
11:55	---	Kota	---	18:10

Days of Run : 03239 from Patna on every Monday & Friday from 11.01.21 to till further advice and 03240 from Kota on every Tuesday & Saturday from 12.01.21 to 30.01.21
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

Note : The above Special Trains will have the reserved accommodation only.
For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.
Integrated Helpline No. 139 | Security Helpline No. 182

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STATEMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

The Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) will be inaugurated virtually by chief minister Mamata Banerjee from Nabanna state secretariat on 8 January.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan will join the inauguration virtually and the 26th edition of the festival will continue for seven days. Inviting everyone at the festival, Miss Banerjee informed that the festival will be on a small scale this year.

Taking to Twitter she said: "Together we will overcome this pandemic. But the show must go on. We are going ahead with #KIFF2021 virtually, on a smaller scale. Glad that my brother Shahrukh Khan will join us virtually at the inauguration on Jan 8, 4pm. Watch Kolkata International Film Festival live".

Iconic filmmaker Satyajit Ray's timeless classic, 'Apur Sansar', will be screened at the inauguration.

A special tribute will be paid to the late actor, Soumitra Chatterjee, who passed away

Delhi riots: Brinda writes to Kejriwal on compensation discrimination

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

CPI (M) politburo member Brinda Karat has written to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal questioning discrimination in the payment of compensation between minors and adults killed in last February's north east Delhi riots.

In a letter to Kejriwal, released by her party today, she said she had learnt of the discrimination when she recently met the family members of two victims, both minors, who were killed in the communal violence.

She informed her that

the compensation for the killing of an adult was Rs 10 lakh whereas the compensation for a minor was Rs 5 lakh. There were two such victims, Nitin Paswan, the 15-year-old son of Ram Sugarkar, and Amin, the 17-year-old son of Shahabuddin.

"Presumably, the difference in compensation is because an adult is an earning member and the death of an earning member deprives the family of an income, thus more compensation is required," she wrote.

She said: "This understanding, devoid of compassion itself is flawed but even

within this framework, unfortunately, the usual definition used of an 'earning member' is not sensitive to the reality in poor self-employed families where children even while attending school, take on adult responsibilities as far as assisting in family enterprises is concerned."

Even on these grounds, both Nitin and Amin helped in the family earnings. Therefore, if the ground for compensation is the income loss to surviving members of the victim, then in both cases the victims' families are eligible for the full compensation of Rs 10 lakh, she said.

BSY: Central leadership will decide on Cabinet expansion



Karnataka chief minister B S Yeddyurappa on Wednesday said the BJP central leadership will take a call on the much-awaited Cabinet expansion, amid renewed buzz about the exercise where new aspirants have thrown their hats into the ring.

The CM's statement amid speculations that the Cabinet expansion or reshuffle was likely this month, is seen as an indication of the process getting further delayed.

"Regarding Cabinet expansion, central leaders (of BJP) will take a decision. Someone (aspirant) might have given a statement... why should I make a promise? Naturally whoever has to become (a minister) they will become," Yeddyurappa told reporters in response to a question about promising Cabinet berths.

BJP MLC Shankar had on Tuesday met Yeddyurappa and later claimed the expansion would happen in 2-3 days and that he will be made a minister.

PTI

KCR relative's kidnap case: TDP leader Bhuma Priya arrested

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 6 JANUARY

Former Andhra Pradesh minister and TDP leader Bhuma Akhila Priya was arrested by Hyderabad police today on charges of kidnapping three persons, including former hockey player Praveen Rao who also happens to be a distant relative of Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao over land dispute.

The police have booked cases against several people, including Akhila Priya's husband Bhargava Ram and another senior TDP leader AV Subba Rao. The kidnapping

took place in the guise of an income tax raid by the kidnappers who faked the ID cards.

Praveen Rao and his brothers Sunil and Naveen reside at Manovikas Nagar in Bowenpally and were involved in a land dispute with the accused at Hafeezpet area.

On Tuesday evening around 10 people barged into the residence and showed fake identity cards of IT sleuths.

Creeping dragon

The notion of strategic depth first appeared on the radar of the Indian establishment in a substantive way in the 1980s and 1990s when Pakistan upped its involvement with its western neighbour Afghanistan ~ providing political, ideological, military, and economic support to the anti-Soviet mujahideen ~ thereby gaining more traction on its eastern front with India. New Delhi spent the next two decades trying to counter this development by pouring men, materials, and money into Afghanistan in an effort to deepen its engagement and to ensure Islamabad did not get a free pass on its western flank leaving it free to embark on adventures military and otherwise vis-à-vis India. The strategic architecture in India's East too has been undergoing a transformation for a while now especially with China's persistent wooing of Nepal, traditionally closely allied with India, resulting in Indian policy makers having to rethink their policies including but not limited to reaching out to South-East Asia, Japan, Australia, and the Indo-Pacific region. But the challenges are only growing with Beijing's latest move to gain depth in its south - China's foreign aid agency, CIDCA, is making a major foray into Nepal's northern region by funding 15 pilot development projects in 13 of the 15 districts that share a border with Tibet. CIDCA was established in 2018 with the objective of strengthening strategic planning and coordination of Chinese aid to developing countries. In March 2019, the Nepal government had permitted CIDCA to provide assistance to create capital in the 15 northern districts of Nepal to meet their developmental needs. A framework agreement was signed by Prime Minister KP Oli on his state visit to China in June 2018. Ominously, the Chinese commerce ministry will be the implementing agency for the CIDCA-funded projects. The official view in Kathmandu is that China is interested in the development of and direct connection with Nepal's northern region just as India's interest lies in the development of the country's southern Terai region. But experts say one of the motivating factors behind China's move is its concern about Tibet. While on the surface Chinese investment in the northern region may appear to hold low geo-strategic value, once it plays out fully it will go a long way in warding off the presence of India from the Nepal-China (Tibet) border. Experts underline the qualitative difference in the latest soft power projection by China compared to earlier initiatives under which the Tibetan Autonomous Region government used to supply food and other essentials to the northern districts. Now, with the Chinese development agency directly assisting projects in the region, enhancing infrastructure including roads, health facilities, school buildings, and irrigation channels are part of the mix. Beijing is clearly wary of Indian and Western development agencies' activities in northern Nepal due to its sensitivity about Tibet. By putting their money where their interests lie, the Chinese could well be setting up Kathmandu not to permit non-Chinese players in the northern districts.

Gasping for Air

It would be less than appropriate to engage in a discourse on which of the two is more lethal. Yet figures for 2019, published recently in the reputed journal of science, *The Lancet*, are direly unnerving. It must be more than a little shocking to learn that air pollution resulted in 11 times the number of deaths around the world that year than the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. An enormous responsibility thus devolves on the pollution control authorities not merely to tackle the burning of stubble, as in north India, the bursting of crackers in Kolkata and other parts of the country during Diwali or for that matter the presence of noxious coal-fired power plants. Two years ago, the deaths on account of pollution had outnumbered the country's Covid casualties this year by a substantial margin. The report states that 16.7 lakh people died due to pollution in 2019, much more than the 1.5 lakh claimed by Covid in 2020. In addition, India lost 1.4 per cent of its GDP due to premature deaths and morbidity linked to pollution. The *Lancet* had collaborated with the Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation while crafting this report. The report makes it clear that while public health authorities must combat the virus, they need to do more, much more, to tackle pollution which can only be addressed by the vaccine of development. This must be an unnerving thought on the first anniversary, so to speak, of Covid-19. As the world debates the efficacy of the corona vaccine, there is no such medical antidote against pollution. According to the medical fraternity, "air pollution has clearly emerged as one of the biggest killers in India. There is a long-drawn collective battle against it. A couple of doses of vaccine cannot prevent it. Covid-19 has occupied the lion's share of our mind-space." In the reckoning of the Centre for Science and Environment, pollution is particularly acute across the Indo-Gangetic plain. And then the stern caveat seemingly riveted to West Bengal ~ "Bengal being at the tail-end of the plain needs proactive steps to speed up action on transport, clean fuels in industry, clean power plants, waste management and biomass burning across the state." Sad to reflect that West Bengal has failed on every parameter. Not wholly unrelated is what health authorities call an "alarming rise in non-smoking patients" basically because of indoor and outdoor pollution. "This is a bigger epidemic but currently going unnoticed because of our current obsession with Covid-19." Such obsessions may seem to be a very humane response. While indoor pollution caused 64 per cent fewer deaths over the past two decades, outdoor pollution more than made up. Overall, the very real threat of air pollution needs to be addressed urgently.

Indic Voices

An aware Hindu places his faith in self-actualization for fulfillment in life. This is in contrast to the Abrahamic propensity to collective domination which often leads to clashes and conquest through war



Why only the United Nations but even scholars in the West do not know the fundamental difference between the Abrahamic religions and the Eastern faiths, especially Hinduism. True, Swami Vivekananda had made a marvelous start at the Parliament of Religions at Chicago in 1893 and followed up in the short life left to him. Thereafter, however, not sufficient effort has been made to explain the intellectually wide difference between say Christianity and Hinduism.

ISKCON, for example has spread its lovely temples far and wide. As a result, the Vaishnava deities, their pujas, aarties and prasads have been popularised. The temples are well constructed, kept clean and are therefore welcoming to their devotees whether Hindus or others. But hardly anyone realises and no one explains the invaluable need of the Hindu faith to the world if it wants ongoing peace.

Most people, including the highest to the humblest officials of the United Nations and those that attend its sessions representing their countries have had any real exposure to Hinduism. At best, if they visit India, they visit a temple or two and occasionally admire its carvings but are put off by the oily, slippery floors, the avaricious pandas and the ill-clad beggars. The importance of the faith cannot be appreciated unless one knows its logic and its reasoning. There are a few assumptions in Hindu theology which begins as if it were a science.

As should be well known, the subject of Logic is divided into the Deductive and the Inductive. The former begins with a presumed or given premise and on its basis, corollaries follow. Say there is one god and he is the only god. Only his followers who do good deeds on earth would be judged on doomsday to be eligible to go to heaven. The ill-doing followers would have to proceed to hell, but that is their bad luck. If you come across anyone who does not follow the same god but you like the person, you should try to convert him/her to worship the only god without whose judgment he/she cannot possibly reach heaven.

Other than doing deeds as prescribed by the scriptures of your religion, your duty would be to bring into your fold as many non-believers as you can. Addi-

tionally, to spread the message of your god, you should get him yet more followers by bringing forth more children in your married life. Those who are non-believers in your god and religion feel threatened by you ~ of being taken over.

Christianity first clashed with Islam in 711 A.D. in Spain, conquered the country and onwards the Moors went till they reached Portieres in central France. There, at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD, Charles Martel squarely defeated the Moors. He later expelled the invaders from France. But for his loyalty to Jesus Christ and his brave generalship, the Moors would have been ruling France today.

It took centuries for the Spaniards to vacate the Moors from their land. In the meantime, the Christians inspired by their Popes launched the Crusades to recapture their holy land, namely Jerusalem, and the shrine of Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus Christ lies buried. There were eight crusades between the years 1095 AD to 1270.

Meanwhile, the Turks from central Asia invaded and conquered parts of eastern Europe. Turkey was their first and greatest prize besides Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia et al. The history of Europe is a continual saga of war from 711 A.D. to 1945. The fighting was either Islamo-Christian or intra-Christian.

After World War II ended, the third world war began between the USA and the Soviet Union. The weapons used were unique in the annals of history; that is, escalating nuclear deterrence without firing until the latter side collapsed economically in 1991. In the meanwhile, World War IV had started between the Islamists and the rest of the world. The first shots were fired at the Munich Olympics in 1972 when about a dozen Israeli athletes were massacred by terrorists. After visiting all the continents except Latin America, the war appears to be focusing on Europe. At present, it has zeroed in on France.

The conclusive corollary of the deductive premise of the Abrahamic religions is war and more war. On the other hand,

Hinduism or the Indic theology is based on inductive logic which begins on the ground and moves upwards logically towards a conclusion. There is no given premise such as there being only one god. The core of Hinduism or its early version the Sanatana (eternal) dharma is karma which leads to bhagya or fate. Another way of putting it is "deeds result in destiny". This equation is remarkably similar to the principle of Physics: for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

There was no real question of god originally but more of deities and avatars in order to enable the worshiper to focus his/her attention.

The concept of Bhagwan grew in importance with the advent of the medieval bhakti saints. They stressed the concept of swami and das to enable the common folk to understand and believe, thus focusing on the object of worship. That helped Hinduism to defend itself first against Islamic conversion attempts and thereafter the efforts of the Christian missionaries.

Every Hindu is free to worship as he likes and where he likes. Virtually every temple functions according to the wishes of its priests; there are innumerable denominations.

The lowest common denominator that is karma uncannily comes in the way of quick unity. Every Hindu, if he is satisfied with his own karma, is then in no hurry to go to the help of another Hindu. As a community, Hindus unite when they feel collectively under threat as they do at present vis-à-vis China.

Fundamentally, the Hindu is not readily inclined to kill any living being, leave alone humans. The reason is the widespread belief in rebirth after rebirth. Even when sacrificing a goat, it could occur to a sensitive individual: what if the animal carries the soul of my late aunt who died three years ago? Hindus are largely vegetarian. The Jains, whom the Hindus do not reject, extend their sympathy even to vegetation especially to items grown under the top soil, say roots.

All in all, an aware Hindu places his faith in self-actualization for fulfillment in life. This is

in contrast to the Abrahamic propensity to collective domination which often leads to clashes and conquest through war. Hindu kings or nations have seldom gone out to conquer foreign lands.

If they have gone overseas, as the Cholas and the Pandavas of Tamil Nadu, they have spread culture and conducted trade and not brought home the fruit of the colony's labour. See the example of Indonesia which still displays scenes from the Ramayana. Or take for instance, Cambodia and its Angkor Wat, which today is proud to have the finest of Hindu temples.

One cannot think of any other universal wrongdoing as the plausible reason for humanity's current suffering. What else could nearly all countries have done, which has brought upon virtually the world the menace of Covid-19?

Uncannily, it happens to be true that the animal population of the earth has come down significantly, whereas human population has multiplied manifold. Could there be any co-relation between these two trends?

The countries of the West are developed and affluent but are currently taking a beating at the hands of this global virus. Africa might be forgiven as traditionally not all of that continent's regions have had modern agriculture. On the other hand, the Chinese for long centuries have been eating practically anything that has life. During a fortnight's visit to the country, I had the occasion to see animals, birds and even cockroaches on sale in a wet market at Guangzhou.

As far as dead animals are concerned, almost every posh restaurant in China had large glass jars of water with dead snakes floating in it, ostensibly in demand from consumers who drank the same for enhancing their health.

In his regard, Indian habits are almost in contrast to the Chinese. Therein may lie a clue to why almost every country in the world has been affected by the Covid virus.

Uncannily, while India has had a huge number of Covid-19 cases and patients, the proportion of deaths has been low. Canadian ministers and lately even some 50 UK Members of Parliament, as well as other members of the United Nations understand Hindudom to favour the world with peace.

A MEMBER OF THE



ASIAN VOICES

Beyond commitment

In the early morning of New Year's Day, President Moon Jae-in flew on an airborne early warning and control aircraft to inspect the South Korean military's combat readiness in what his aides described as a show of his commitment to national security.

The E-737 Peace Eye plane with Moon aboard flew over the country and its territorial waters for about two hours Friday. Later, Moon praised soldiers for training day and night to maintain a high level of military readiness and thanked them for their sacrifice to keep the nation safe and help people spend New Year's Day in peace.

It was desirable for Moon as commander in chief to open the year with an event designed to heighten the country's security posture. What is more important, however, is for him to look squarely at the security challenges facing the nation and take firm and coherent steps to surmount them.

The Moon administration's blind pursuit of reconciliation with the recalcitrant regime in North Korea has been criticized for weakening South Korea's military preparedness and undermining its vital alliance with the US. There has been no progress in dismantling the North's nuclear arsenal, despite a string of meetings Moon and US President Donald Trump held with the totalitarian state's dictator Kim Jong-un in 2018 and 2019.

The North might test-fire a range of upgraded ballistic missiles in the early months of the incoming Biden administration in a bid to pressure Washington to agree on a deal on



more favorable terms.

US President-elect Joe Biden, who will be inaugurated Jan. 20, has called for "principled diplomacy" and favors working-level negotiations over Trump's top-down approach. This may mean the North hardly stands a chance of being recognized as a nuclear-armed state by making concessions short of complete denuclearization in return for a significant lifting of sanctions on the impoverished regime.

According to the Land Institute, a US nonprofit research organization, North Korea is pushing ahead with the goal of expanding its stock of nuclear weapons, which was estimated at 50-100 in October, to 200-300.

With Pyongyang sticking to its nuclear ambitions, the alliance between Seoul and Washington has been strained in recent years, as the Moon government stands ready to pander to the Kim regime and Trump puts economic interests ahead of the values binding the allies together.

South Korea-US joint military drills have been scaled down or delayed indefinitely. The two sides have yet to conclude negotiations to renew an accord that expired at the end of 2019 on how to share the costs for the upkeep of the American troops here.

The allies have also shown differences over the issue of South Korea retaking the wartime operational control (OPCON) of its forces from the US. The Moon government hopes to complete the wartime OPCON transfer before Moon's five-year tenure ends in 2022, while Washington believes it will take more time for Seoul to meet the necessary conditions for the transition. In addition to satisfying technical and tactical requirements, South Korea's military needs to tighten its lax discipline, which critics attribute partly to the Moon government's preoccupation with inter-Korean reconciliation, if it can be trusted to take over the wartime OPCON from the US.

In November, for example, a North Korean man crossed the Demilitarized Zone into the South without being detected.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Repair needed in New Year

SIR, There is much repair to be done in the New Year beyond ravages of the pandemic. Prime Minister Modi

in his first term had vowed to annihilate an already thin Opposition only to find governance impaired without

ground level feedback.

And elevated to a high pedestal, he met little constructive criticism from

within his party and an animated following.

Orchestrated trolling by a doting social media attained crescendo to then eclipse the professional print and visual genre.

But increasing major agitations should underscore the PM's need for upright men and institutions for quality inputs.

As it stands, the political Opposition will take quite a while to recuperate and refocus.

But institutions managed by professionals can rebound quickly, once they find themselves free to express and act.

So would informed critique by an unfettered media.

Yours, etc., R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 4 January.

UN REFORMS

SIR, Govind Bhattacharjee's two-part article 'Spring to Winter' is a delightful read. But he did not mention the role of the almost defunct UNO that was formed after World War II "to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Although no Third World War has happened, regional confrontations continue. What is the need for the UN in its existing form if despite its presence, devastating regional conflicts continue? The organisation needs to be thoroughly reformed.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 2 January.

UNPRECEDENTED

SIR, Never in the annals of Visva-Bharati has any vice-chancellor been served with a legal notice for allegedly making a false and baseless allegation against a Nobel laureate.

If the allegations are

found to be fake, the demand for resignation of the vice-chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty would be just and proper in order to protect the reputation of the university.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 2 January.





Kia's new logo represents the company's commitment to becoming an icon for change and innovation

HO SUNG SONG
PRESIDENT & CEO, KIA MOTORS

THUMBNAILS

FM reviews progress of projects: Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday reviewed the progress of projects worth Rs 3.6 lakh crore under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), an official statement said. The projects are being implemented by the ministry of health and family welfare, and the department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation.

PTI

Sebi ban: Sebi has barred GJ Advisory Service, Profit Ideas Advisory Service and their proprietors from the capital markets for providing unauthorised portfolio management services to investors. Besides, they have been prohibited from acting as portfolio managers till further orders. The direction comes after Sebi received a complaint against the entities, alleging that they are indulging in unregistered portfolio management services.

PTI

Farming equipment: New Holland Agriculture donated farming equipment to the Krishivigyan Kendra (KVK), Chhaukas, Dadri and Gautam Budh Nagar in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, as part of the company's initiative to help prevent stubble burning and consequent air pollution. New Holland has donated a set of a tractor, baler, mulcher, and rakes. Kavita Sah, New Holland's head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), said, "Instead of burning the stubble, it can be baled for productive uses as cattle feed, compost manure, fuel for biomass energy, and packing materials. New Holland's machinery helps make this possible by baling the straw."

SNS

Samsung AC: Samsung has launched large capacity variable refrigerant flow (VRF) air conditioning systems in India that can be installed in just 0.5 sq metres of space in premium apartments, villas, bungalows, houses as well as commercial and retail establishments. The new side discharge VRF system ~ DVM S Eco ~ promises an extremely efficient, eco-friendly and quiet air conditioning solution, said a Press release.

SNS

5G smartphone: Smart-phone maker Mi India on Wednesday announced the launch of Mi 10i (5G). The phone features the revolutionary 108MP camera coupled with Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 750G and future proof 5G technology. It has been priced at Rs 20,999 for 6GB+64GB variant, according to a Press release.

SNS

ITC target: ITC Ltd on Wednesday said it has set a target to meet 100 per cent of purchased grid electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2030 as part of its Sustainability 2.0 Vision. Currently, ITC meets over 40 per cent of its electricity requirement through renewable sources.

PTI

Services sector expands at slower rate: Survey

Seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell from 53.7 in Nov to 52.3 in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

India's services sector activity expanded at a slower pace in December as rates of growth in sales eased to a three-month low and staff hiring came to a halt amid weak business optimism, a monthly survey said today.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell from 53.7 in November to 52.3 in December.

The index was above the critical 50 mark that separates growth from contraction for the third month in a row during December, but pointed to the slowest pace of expansion in the three-month sequence.

"Although the news that the service sector remained in expansion mode during December is welcome, the fact that growth lost momentum yet again shouldn't be disregarded," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

► Companies indicated that growth was supported by the securing of new work, though curbed by competitive pressures and the Covid-19 pandemic, the survey noted.

► Global Covid-19 restrictions, particularly travel bans, reportedly restricted international demand for Indian services at the end of 2020. New export business decreased sharply, but at the slowest pace since March.

A spike in Covid-19 cases was reported as a key factor restricting growth of new

work, though curbed by competitive pressures and the Covid-19 pandemic, the survey noted.

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On the employment front, staff hiring came to a halt due to liquidity concerns, labour shortages and subdued demand, while business optimism faded.

"Given the damaging impact of the pandemic on the service economy, some companies are facing financial

difficulties, which is preventing staff hiring. December saw the ninth round of job shedding in ten months," Lima said.

On the price front, a pick-up in input cost inflation was witnessed, the strongest since February, but a renewed fall in selling prices was seen as some firms sought to beat competition and secure new work, the survey said.

Although private sector activity continued to increase at the end of the year, the



upturn eased to a three-month low. The Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, fell from 56.3 in November to 54.9 in December.

However, companies maintained an upbeat view that output will increase in 2021. "It is clear that the early part of 2021 will continue to be challenging, but we're looking at a sustainable recovery and some return to normality once Covid-19 vaccines become available," Lima said.

India's economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter as a pick-up in manufacturing helped the gross domestic product (GDP) clock a lower contraction of 7.5 per cent and held out hopes for further improvement on consumer demand bouncing back.

The GDP had contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of financial year 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021) as the coronavirus lockdown pummelled economic activity.

Spectrum auction to commence from 1 March: DoT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

~ 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz ~ at the base price recommended by the Trai.

The government has kept the frequency bands of 3,300-3,600 MHz band that industry identifies for rolling out 5G services out of the upcoming auction. These frequencies were part of Trai recommendations for the auction.

Bidders opting for 700 MHz band will have to shell out at least Rs 32,905 crore on pan India basis for the frequencies in the premium spectrum band. The signals transmitted in the 700 MHz band are considered to cover three times

compared to 2100 MHz band - popularly known as 3G band. The DoT has made available spectrum in all the 22 telecom circles across the country for 700 MHz band, 800 MHz band and 2300 MHz band, while radiowaves in 1800 MHz band are available in 21 circles, 900 MHz band and 2100 MHz bands in 19 circles each and 2500 MHz in 12 circles only.

Successful bidders opting for full upfront payment will need to do so within 10 days of declaration of the result.

Covid-19 impact: Housing sales fall by 37% in 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

against the reduction in retail price warranted.

The government raised excise duty by Rs 13 per litre on petrol and by Rs 15 a litre on diesel in two installments in March 2020 and May 2020 to garner additional revenue of Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

That adjustment of rate revision against excise duty hike resulted in a 52-day status quo in prices between 17 March 2020 and 6 June 2020. This was followed by no change in rates between 30 June 2020 and 15 August 2020, and 58-day hiatus in petrol price revision and 48-day status quo on diesel rates from 22 September 2020, and 2 October 2020, respectively.

Rates were again frozen after last revision on 7 December 2020. Since May 2020, petrol price has risen by Rs 14.28 per litre and diesel by Rs 11.83 a litre, price notifications of oil companies showed.

RBI likely to be on long pause in rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 JANUARY

On that day, the government cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 1.50 per litre in a bid to ease inflationary pressure and boost consumer confidence. Alongside, state-owned fuel retailers cut prices by another Re 1 a litre, which they recouped later.

They first did not pass on to the customers a reduction in price warranted from the slump in international oil rates witnessed due to demand erosion beginning March 2020.

While they promptly passed on an increase in sales tax by state governments such as the one in Delhi, they adjusted a steep increase in excise duty by the Central government



The non-food component in the price basket will continue to keep inflation at a high level and result in a "long pause" in interest rates, a foreign bank said today.

The central bank is likely to pare the pandemic-driven emergency response as well, the report by Singaporean lender DBS said.

It can be noted that the high inflation driven by the food prices has forced the RBI to go for a status quo in rates for the three consecutive reviews of the bi-monthly policy meetings, even as growth continues to be in the negative territory.

The RBI expects the GDP to contract by 7.5 per cent for financial year 2020-21.

The bank report said over a six-month period, food inflation is likely to ease, but non-food may be sticky on account of rigidity in domestic fuel

taxation, marginal hikes in manufacturing costs after months of the shutdown, commodity price rises, telecom price adjustments and return in demand impulses in certain core categories.

The recent rally in commodities lends to fresh cost-push impact, especially industrial metals, it said, pointing out that generic steel hot-rolled coil futures are up by over 80 per cent since late-September 2020, while on oil, Brent crude rallied 30 percent

in the December quarter.

"While India's CPI inflation is expected to ease, 2021 average inflation will stay above the 4 per cent target. Room for outright rate cuts is, thereby, limited, but the central bank will settle into a long pause, with a bias to anchor rates through strong dovish guidance," as per the report.

It added that an upcoming review of the inflation targets is "unlikely" to result in a material change. The 4 per cent inflation target given to the Reserve Bank of India is up for review post-March.

The report said going forward, it expects the central bank to pare part of the pandemic-driven emergency response at an incremental pace and the same will start with a shift in the liquidity stance.

The bias will be to keep significant liquidity surplus, modulating the quantum through regular channels, it said, adding that the fiscal cost of the exercise is yet to be finalised.

(ratio) relaxation, smaller doses of market stabilisation securities will organically tap the liquidity brakes at the margin.

If growth takes root in H2 FY22, part of the ultra-accommodative bias might be moderated, but in a calibrated manner, it said. It can be noted that RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had in the past spoken about exiting the pandemic measures in an orderly manner at the right time.

From an economic recovery perspective, it said a push to activity hinges on efficacy, deployment and timeliness of the vaccination programme and also underlined the challenges of what is said to be the largest vaccination programme in the world.

Plans to vaccinate all the residents will amount to Rs 57,000-80,000 crore of cost, apart from infrastructure and logistics costs, it said, adding that the fiscal cost of the exercise is yet to be finalised.

Coal India optimistic of 120 MT auction bookings this fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

highest-ever since coal sales began under the auction hammer," the PSU said.

The auction sales have surpassed the company's previous estimates and the company said that it is sure of allocating 120 million tons (MT).

CIL's concentrated efforts to book increased volumes of coal under-e-auction to bolster sales revenue, especially in view of the narrowed margins in add-ons during the Covid-19 pandemic period, paid off with the company scoring a strong 76.2 per cent growth during April-December period of the current fiscal, the PSU said in a statement.

"Encouraged by the buoyancy in its e-auction coal sales, CIL is optimistic of closing the current fiscal with auction bookings of 120 million tons (MT). It would be the

ting a 15 per cent premium during April-December.

Among the subsidiaries, Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) clocked the highest 40 per cent increase over the notified prices with Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) registering 23 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively.

The company has identified specific mines in ECL, BCCL, CCL and SECL from where the response has been positive in e-auction and there is potential for further increase, the company said.

Non-power sector consumers, under an exclusive auction window, booked 19.8 MT during the first nine months of the ongoing fiscal posting more than a three-fold increase against 6.8 MT the sector booked on a year-on-year comparison.

Sensex snaps 10-session winning run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 JANUARY

► The Sensex tumbled 264 points on Wednesday as investors booked profits in Reliance Industries as well as IT, finance and FMCG stocks amid mixed global cues.

► After touching its record intra-day high of 48,616.66 points in early trade, the 30-share BSE index pared all gains to end 263.72 points or 0.54 per cent lower at 48,174.06 points.

It touched a record peak of 44,244.15 points during the day.

ITC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.86 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, HCL Tech and HUL.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Bharti Airtel, ONGC, UltraTech Cement and ICICI Bank were among the gainers, spurring up to 4.34 per cent.

Global equities were mixed as investors monitored a key election in Georgia which can give Democrats control of the US Senate.

A favourable outcome for Democrats will enable President-elect Joe Biden to go ahead with his plans of more stimulus and infrastructure spending, but can also result

in higher corporate taxes and increased regulation.

"Market is experiencing volatility due to weak Asian market and profit booking owing to rich valuation. Banks-

ing stocks are supportive, led by good loan growth data for Q3FY21, announced by key private banks.

"In the near-term, trend of the broad market will depend

on FII inflows while stock specific actions will be based on Q3 result, which is about to pick up," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, FMCG, IT, tech and auto indices fell up to 2 per cent, while utilities, metal, telecom, basic materials and power indices rose up to 2.19 per cent.

In the broader markets, the BSE mid-cap index rose 0.39 per cent, while the smallcap gauge slipped 0.14 per cent.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.99 per cent higher at \$54.13 per barrel.

The rupee appreciated by 6 paise to close at 73.11 against the US dollar.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers to the tune of Rs 986.30 crore on Tuesday, according to provisional exchange data.

Tata Motors brings back Safari in new avatar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 JANUARY

Tata Motors today said it is bringing back its iconic brand "Safari" with its upcoming flagship SUV, which is codenamed as the Gravitas.

Tata Safari introduced India to the SUV lifestyle, and glamourised the segment in the country for other players to follow, the auto major said in a statement.

For over two decades, the SUV represented prestige and performance, and in its new avatar, the Safari will carry forward this rich idea and its strong legacy, it added.

In its new avatar, the Safari will appeal to the socially active, fun-loving customers

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I hope that China is speeding up the internal procedures for the earliest possible deployment.

WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

'DISAPPOINTED' AT CHINESE DELAYS IN LETTING EXPERTS IN

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 07 JANUARY 2021

09

53 HK activists arrested

Mass arrests include ex-lawmakers for allegedly violating national security law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG, 6 JANUARY

Hong Kong police arrested 53 former lawmakers and democracy proponents Wednesday for allegedly violating the new national security law by participating in unofficial election primaries for the territory's legislature last year.

The mass arrests, including of former lawmakers, were the largest move against Hong Kong's democracy movement since the law was imposed by Beijing last June to quell dissent in the semi-autonomous territory.

The operation today targets the active elements who are suspected to be involved in the crime of overthrowing, or interfering (and) seriously destroy the Hong Kong government's legal execution of duties. John Lee, Hong Kong's security minister, said at a news conference.

He said those arrested were suspected of trying to paralyze the government, via their plans to gain a majority of the seats in the legislature to create a situation in which the chief executive had to resign and the government would stop functioning.

In a video released by former lawmaker Lam Cheuk-ting on his Facebook page, police turned up at his house and told him he was suspected of violating the national security law, subverting state power. Police told those recording the video to stop or



risk arrest. The legislative election that would have followed the unofficial primaries was postponed by a year by Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who cited the public health risks during the coronavirus pandemic. Mass resignations and disqualifications of pro-democracy lawmakers have left the legislature largely a pro-Beijing body.

Lee said the police would not target those who had voted in the unofficial primaries, which were held in July last year and attracted more than 600,000 voters even though pro-Beijing lawmakers and politicians had warned the event could breach the security law.

All of the pro-democracy candidates in the unofficial primaries were arrested, according to tallies of the arrests being reported by the South China Morning Post, online platform Now News and political groups. At least seven members of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, the city's largest opposition party, were arrested, including former party chairman Wu Chi-wai. Former lawmakers Lam, Helena Wong and James To were also arrested.

Lee also pointed to a 10

ed, according to a post on the party's Facebook page. Benny Tai, a key figure in Hong Kong's 2014 Occupy Central protests and a former law professor, was also arrested, reports said. Tai was one of the main organizers of the primaries. The home of Joshua Wong, a prominent pro-democracy activist who is serving a 13 1/2-month prison sentence for organizing and participating in an unauthorized protest last year, was also raided, according to a tweet posted from Wong's account.

American human rights lawyer John Clancey was also arrested on Wednesday. Clancey was the treasurer of political group Power for Democracy, which was involved in the unofficial primaries.

Police also went to the headquarters of Stand News, a prominent pro-democracy online news site in Hong Kong, with a court order to hand over documents to assist in an investigation related to the national security law, according to a livestreamed video by Stand News. No arrests were made.

Lee also pointed to a 10 steps to mutual destruction plan among those arrested, which included taking control of the legislature, mobilizing protests to paralyze society and calling for international sanctions. That plan was previously outlined by former law professor Tai. He predicted that between 2020 and 2022, there would be 10 steps to mutual destruction, including the pro-democracy bloc winning a majority in the legislature, intensifying protests, the forced resignation of Lam due to the budget bill being rejected twice, and international sanctions on the Chinese Communist Party.

The concept of mutual destruction in which both Hong Kong and China would suffer damages is popular among some protesters and pro-democracy activists. The plot is to create such mutual destruction that if successful ... will result in serious damage to society as a whole, said Lee. That is why police action today is necessary.

EU calls for immediate release of activists: The European Union called for the immediate release Wednesday of the 53 former lawmakers and pro-democracy activists who have been arrested in Hong Kong after being accused of violating a new security law.

The mass arrests, including of former lawmakers, were the largest crackdown on Hong Kong's democracy movement since the law was imposed by China last June to quell dissent in the semi-autonomous territory.

China's CPC clamps new rules for its members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 6 JANUARY

As China's ruling Communist Party gears up to celebrate its centenary year, it has revised rules for its 92 million members, stipulating that no public expression of dissent will be tolerated.

But party cadres have been granted the right to seek the removal of leaders if they are found incompetent, according to the amended party rules published by the Chinese language service of the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Founded in 1921 by Mao Zedong, the Communist Party of China (CPC) -- which took over power in 1949 -- is drawing up grand plans to celebrate its centenary year in July. The CPC is also a rare Marxist party with the longest tenure in power continuing with the one-party political system.

The amended rules include new guidelines on access to information and how to han-

Lawyer seeks to free man acquitted in Pearl's killing

ISLAMABAD, 6 JANUARY

file internal complaints which were portrayed as the boosting democracy within the party.

The new rules make it clear that the party will not tolerate dissenting views from its own ranks, especially airing the complaints in public.

When a party member criticizes, exposes or requests for treatment or punishment, he/she shall use organisational channels. He/she shall not spread it freely or on the Internet, exaggerate or distort facts, fabricate facts, or falsely accuse or frame up, the new rule said. Article 16 of the rule book says party members shall not publicly express opinions that are inconsistent with the decisions of the Central Committee of the CPC.

In an effort to motivate the cadres, the new rules stipulate that work-related mistakes will no longer be treated as discipline violations, the Hong Kong-based South Morning Post reported.

The lawyer for a Pakistani man convicted and later acquitted in the 2002 killing of American journalist Daniel Pearl said Wednesday that he will petition the Supreme Court to free his client.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the key suspect in Pearl's killing, remains in custody in a jail in the southern port city of Karachi, despite the acquittal.

Pearl's family and the Pakistani government have appealed the acquittal to the Supreme Court, which resumed its hearing this week. A decision is expected before the end of the month.

Sheikh's lawyer, Mehmood A. Sheikh, has been trying to get his client, who has been on death row for 18 years, freed since the acquittal.

Parading giant portraits of Hugo Chavez and independence hero Simon Bolivar, allies of President Nicolas Maduro retook control of Venezuela's congress, the last institution in the country it didn't already control.

The symbolic restoring of the images to Venezuela's parliament capped a celebratory day for the ruling socialist party in which they claimed to have avenged the humiliating defeat five years ago when government opponents won control of the legislature and proceeded to remove portraits of the two national icons in a fierce if futile challenge to Maduro's lock on power.

Jorge Rodriguez, the incoming assembly president, vowed to "exorcise" from the legislative palace all vestiges of its previous occupants, who he accused of plotting from its neo-classical chamber Maduro's violent overthrow

Netanyahu re-election hopes hinge on vaccination drive

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 6 JANUARY



For media-obsessed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the coronavirus vaccine has arrived just in time.

With elections approaching in March, Netanyahu has placed his world-leading vaccination drive at the centre of his re-election campaign launching an aggressive media blitz portraying him as almost singlehandedly leading the country out of the pandemic. He appears to be betting that a successful vaccination effort can persuade voters to forget about his corruption trial and the economic damage caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Netanyahu, like his good friend Donald Trump and other world leaders, frequently tries to use social media and tightly controlled press conferences to bypass the traditional media and the scrutiny that has come along with it. While this strategy has often served Netanyahu well, his obsession with controlling the message also threatens to backfire. It lies at the heart of a corruption case in which he is accused of granting favours

to powerful media figures in exchange for positive coverage of him and his family. An expanded indictment released this week outlined 150 incidents showing detailed control he allegedly tried to exert over the media. This included pressure on a news site to drop critical coverage about a lace dress worn by his wife, and pushing the site to publish photos of her meeting actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

Netanyahu's tactics have also contributed to a nascent uprising in his own party. Two prominent defectors accused him of creating a personality cult in their resignation speeches.

Since he became the first Israeli to be vaccinated two

weeks ago in a festive event broadcast live on national television, Netanyahu's office has pumped out a constant stream of statements, tweets and videos showing the prime minister extolling the virtues of the vaccine and claiming credit for making it available to the broader public.

I have brought the vaccines and you are giving the vaccines, he recently told health workers at a clinic in an Arab town in northern Israel as he implored residents to get the shot. The whole world is amazed at Israel. They are writing that Israel is a wonder. Israel aims to vaccinate most of the population by the end of March just around election time.

Kim opens congress with policy failures admission

SEOUL, 6 JANUARY

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un opened its first ruling party congress in five years with an admission of policy failures and a vow to lay out new developmental goals, state media reported.

The Korean Central News Agency reported North Korea has kicked off the Workers' Party Congress in Pyongyang on Tuesday, with thousands of delegates and observers in attendance. In his opening speech, KCNA cited Kim as saying the previous state developmental goals set in a 2016 congress were not met in almost all areas to a great extent. Kim said North Korea must not repeat the painful lessons, according to KCNA. North Korea has said it will lay out a new five-year development plan at the ongoing congress.

This year's congress comes as Kim faces the toughest challenge of nine-year rule because of what he calls multiple crises -- an economy hammered by pandemic-caused border closings, a spate of natural disasters last summer and persistent US-led sanctions.

Another source of worry for Kim is the planned inauguration of Joe Biden, who unlike President Trump is expected to avoid top-down summit diplomacy with him and maintain punishing sanctions on the North.

Officially, the congress is the party's top decision-making body, though key day-to-day decisions are made by Kim and members of his inner circle. The congress would still provide Kim with a chance to solidify his authority by announcing new state goals, naming loyal lieutenants to top posts and calling for a stronger unity behind his leadership.

BUSTLING



People walk in a market in Lagos, Nigeria.

Venezuela's socialists take control of Cong

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARACAS, 6 JANUARY



A government supporter known as "Caperucita," or Little Red Riding Hood, holds a photo of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Plaza Bolivar, near the National Assembly where newly elected National Assembly lawmakers sworn-in and hold their first session of the year in Caracas, Venezuela. AP

with the help of foreign mercenaries and the Trump administration.

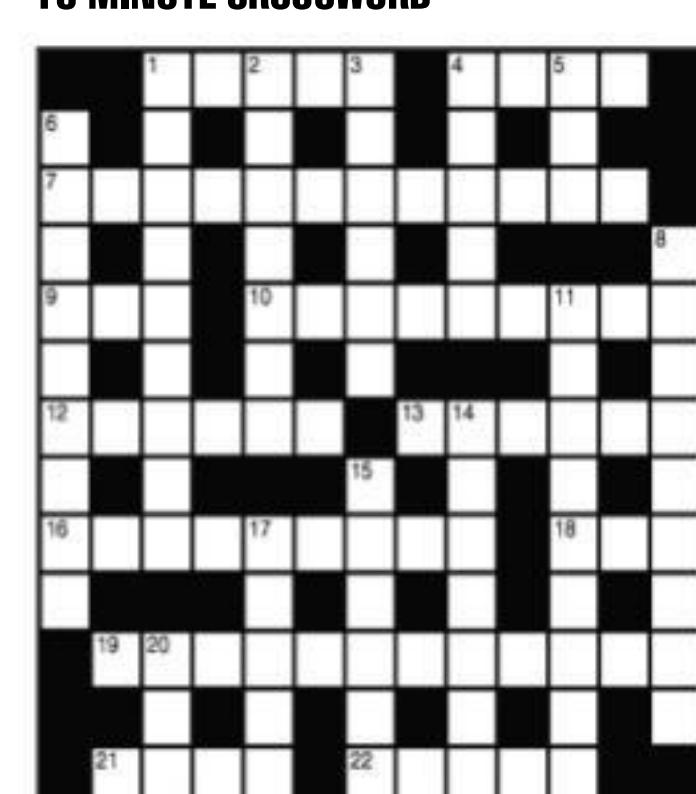
Just so there are no doubts, pretty soon we'll spray every corner of the parliamentary chambers with holy water, joked Rodriguez, who was previously led internationaly sponsored talks with the opposition as well as met with envoys from the Trump administration.

Maduro's allies swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the US, the European Union and several other foreign governments.

While the vote was marred by anemic turnout, it nonetheless seemed to relegate into irrelevancy the US-backed opposition led by lawmaker Juan Guaido. Exactly a year ago, Guai-

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Excavated (coal etc) (5)	1 Play up (9)
4 Badger's burrow (4)	2 Ceaseless (7)
7 Forgetful (6-6)	3 Call for (6)
9 Anger (3)	4 Feeling (5)
10 Citrus fruit (9)	5 Definite article (3)
12 Iced drink (6)	6 Contented (9)
13 Retaliator on behalf of (6)	8 Person on trial (9)
16 Type of plant (9)	11 Harmless (9)
18 Marine fish (3)	14 Deer meat (7)
19 Cutlery item (12)	15 Feel sorry about (6)
21 Untidy state (4)	17 Oxygen, helium, etc (5)
22 Prongs (5)	20 Day before (3)

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

2258626, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

• Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

5495, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

• ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

• Haryana Roadways 23861262

• Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403

• Guru Tegh Bahadur 2317473, 2323520

• Bihar Roadways 23867842, 23860626

• Rajasthan Roadways 23864470

• U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

• INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838,

23466262 (City)

• Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

• Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• Singapore Airlines Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23534373

• Port 011-25



One thing Wisconsin & India may have in common is our large agricultural economies. It would be unfathomable to me that we would make law changes that affect them

THE SPEAKER OF WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY ROBIN J VOS

SUPPORTING FARMERS PROTESTS IN INDIA

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	05°C	02°C
LONDON	17°C	09°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	08°C	04°C
NEW YORK	03°C	01°C
MOSCOW	-03°C	01°C

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

THUMBNAILS



The Peace Monument, also known as the Naval Monument or Civil War Sailors Monument, is framed by the Capitol dome on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP

NYC bomb hoax: A self-described American nationalist, Louis Shenker, 22, suspected of leaving a hoax explosive device in a car at a New York City mall is facing criminal charges after turning himself in to police, authorities have said. The mall was evacuated at 7:30 a.m. on Monday after a device was found in a black Tesla parked in a parking garage. AP

Tanya Roberts dies: Actor Tanya Roberts, best known for James Bond movie *A View to a Kill* and TV series *That '70s Show*, has died at the age of 65 after it was prematurely reported by many publications that she had died on Sunday night. Roberts' representative, Mike Pingel, confirmed to Variety that Roberts died due to a urinary tract infection. AP

Blake case: No charges against Wisconsin officer

KENOSHA, 6 JANUARY

A Wisconsin prosecutor declined Tuesday to file charges against a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back in Kenosha, concluding he couldn't disprove the officer's contention that he acted in self-defense because he feared the man would stab him.

The decision, met with swift criticism from civil rights advocates and some public officials, threatened to reignite protests that rocked the city after the 23 August shooting that left Jacob Blake paralyzed. Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is Black, was more pointed on Twitter: "I wish I could say that I'm shocked. It's another instance in a string of misapplications of justice."

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Gravely said investigators concluded Blake was carrying a knife when police responded to a report he was trying to steal a car. Officer Rusten Sheskey said he "feared Jacob Blake was going to stab him with the knife" as he tried to stop Blake from fleeing the scene. AP

Georgia: Dems on course for Senate control

Two months after Election Day 2020, the voting will also impact Trump's final days in the WH; Trump held a rally on Monday night to encourage GOP voters

ASSOCIATED PRESS ATLANTA (US), 6 JANUARY

Warnock becomes Georgia's 1st Black senator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 6 JANUARY

G Georgians cast their ballots Tuesday in two critical races that will determine control of the US Senate and, in turn, the fate of President-elect Joe Biden's legislative agenda. Two months after Election Day 2020, the voting will also impact Donald Trump's final days in the White House.

Even with the high stakes, state election officials reported light turnout early in the day, including across the deeply conservative region where Trump held a rally Monday night to encourage GOP voters to turn out in force. Wait times at polling sites were almost nonexistent, averaging about one minute statewide, said Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

At issue were two Senate runoff elections, leftovers from the November general election when none of the candidates hit the 50 per cent threshold. Democrats needed to win both races to seize Senate control and with it control of the new Congress when Biden takes office in two weeks. Polls were to close at 7 p.m. The unusual importance for the runoffs transformed Georgia, once a solidly Republican state, into one of the nation's premier battlegrounds during the final days of Trump's presidency.

Biden and Trump campaigned for their candidates in person on the eve of the election, although some Republicans fear Trump may have confused voters by continuing to make wild claims of voter fraud as he tries to undermine Biden's victory.

The Republican president attacked Raffensperger repeatedly this week and raised the prospect on Twitter that some ballots might not be counted even as votes were being cast Tuesday afternoon. There was no evidence of wrongdoing. In Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood, 37-year-old Kari Callaghan said she voted all Democrat on Tuesday, an experience that was new for her. "I've always been Republican, but I've been pretty disgusted by Trump and just the way the Republicans are working and especially the

control of the Senate now boils down to the other Senate runoff from Georgia wherein Republican incumbent Senator David Perdue is trailing against Democrat Jon Ossoff, when reports last came in. The special elections were held on Tuesday.

Both President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden had campaigned for their respective candidates. The 100-member Senate now has 50 seats for the

news this weekend about everything happening in Georgia, she said. I feel like for the Republican candidates to still stand there with Trump and campaign with Trump feels pretty rotten. This isn't the conservative values that I grew up with." But 56-year-old Will James said he voted straight GOP." He said he was concerned by Republican candidates David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler's recent support of Trump's challenges of the presidential election results in Georgia, "but it didn't really change the reasons I voted.

I believe in balance of power, and I don't want either party to have a referendum basically, he said.

Even before Tuesday, Georgia had shattered its turnout record for a runoff with more than 3 million votes by mail or during in-person advance voting in December. The state's previous record was 2.1 million in a 2008 Senate runoff.

The early turnout was

He is the first African-American to represent Georgia in the US Senate. He is also the first Democrat to win the Senate race from Georgia in 20 years.

Republican Party and 49 to the Democrats. The result of the Perdue vs Ossoff is yet to be called in.

In the event of both Republicans and the Democrats having 50 seats in the Senate, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is in her capacity as the Vice Chairman, who presides over the Senate meetings, would cast the crucial vote in favour of the Democrats.

When reports last came in, Ossoff was leading Senator Perdue by a little over 16,700 votes.

Ossoff, if elected, would be the youngest member of the US Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer described it as a brand new day.

For the first time in six years, Democrats will operate a majority in the United

States Senate -- and that will be very good for the American people, he said.

America is experiencing one of the greatest crises we have ever faced, and the Senate Democratic Majority is committed to delivering the bold change and help Americans need and demand. Senate Democrats know America is hurting -- help is on the way, Schumher said.

Senators-elect Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff ran first-rate campaigns and will be outstanding Senators for Georgia. When Raphael Warnock was born, both of Georgia's Senators were segregationists. Yesterday, Georgia just elected its first African-American Senator in its history.

I am so proud of both of their campaigns and excited to welcome them to the Senate, he said.

As Majority Leader, President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris will have a partner who is ready, willing and able to help achieve a forward-looking agenda and deliver help and bold change to the American people, Schumer added.

Pence told Trump he lacks power to challenge election results: Report

Vice President Mike Pence has told Donald Trump that he lacked the power to challenge President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 3 November election despite the US president's insistence that he did not, according to a media report. The New York Times reported on Tuesday that Pence delivered the message to Trump during his weekly lunch with the president. Pence is set to preside over the US Senate on Wednesday as it receives the results of the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner of presidential election. Biden, a Democrat, beat Trump 306-232 in the Electoral College and in the popular vote by more than 7 million ballots. Trump, a Republican, has not conceded the election, reiterating unverified claims that the presidential polls were rigged. Dozens of lawsuits by his campaign challenging election results have failed in US courts. Vice President Mike Pence told President Trump on Tuesday that he did not believe he had the power to block congressional certification of Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s victory in the presidential election despite Trump's baseless insistence that he did, the daily reported, citing unnamed people briefed on the conversation. PTI

expected to benefit Democrats, as it helped Biden in November become the first Democratic presidential candidate to win Georgia since

1992. Republicans were counting on a big turnout on Tuesday to make up for the Democrats' perceived early vote advantage.

Thousands converge in Washington for Trump rally



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 6 JANUARY

Thousands of supporters of Donald Trump have converged here to attend a massive rally to be addressed by the US president on Wednesday in protest against what he alleges to be a rigged presidential election.

Washington is being inundated with people who don't want to see an election victory stolen by emboldened Radical Left Democrats. Our Country has had enough, they won't take it anymore! We hear you (and love you) from the Oval Office. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! Trump said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Trump is scheduled to address the rally at about 11 a.m. The rally is being held at the same time, when in a joint session, the US Congress is scheduled to count the votes of the Electoral College and certify the results of the November 3 presidential election.

"If Republicans bring a challenge to a state, we then break into separate House and Senate sessions to debate. The state delegations and our leaders Representatives Zoe Lofgren, Jamie Raskin, Adam Schiff and Joe Neguse have been working on our Democratic presentation of the Constitutional, historical and thematic justification for respecting the will of the people, Pelosi said. On the Floor of the House, we will have a civics lesson about protecting the integrity of our democracy. Priority to speak has been given to state delegations from states that are expected to face a challenge, she said. AP

Democratic supporters. Some officials feared that if the protests led to violent confrontations, Trump might seek to invoke the Insurrection Act to maintain order and protect the 74 million supporters he falsely contends have been fraudulently disenfranchised by Biden's victory. The Washington Post reported.

The protests could indeed get nasty, and the next few days may be very disorderly. But officials, led by some senior members of the administration, have worked hard to prevent a worst-case scenario in which Trump might seek to overturn the election result by deploying the uniformed military and imposing martial law, the daily said.

In a late night statement, the White House said Antifa activists have brutally attacked law-abiding friends, neighbours, and business owners, and destroyed historic landmarks that the communities have cherished for decades.

This violence and lawlessness have no place in the United States and will be called out for the domestic terrorism that it is, said the White House. Today, President Donald J. Trump signed a memorandum to ensure that Federal officials assess actions of Antifa activists in light of Federal laws that restrict the entry of aliens associated with terrorist organizations and aliens intent on criminal activity. Trump will not allow Antifa, or any terrorist organization, to destroy our great country, the statement added.

GRIM SITUATION



A pedestrian wearing a face mask walks past shops with a bicycle in Munich, Germany. IANS

WikiLeaks founder denied bail in UK

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 6 JANUARY



A British judge on Wednesday denied bail to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, ordering him to remain in a high-security prison while U.K. courts decide whether he will be sent to the United States to face espionage charges.

Judge Vanessa Baraitser said Assange must remain in prison while the courts consider an appeal by U.S. authorities against her decision not to extradite him.

The judge said Assange "has an incentive to abscond" and there is a good chance he would fail to return to court if freed.

On Monday, Baraitser rejected an American request to send Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret military documents a decade

ago. She denied extradition on health grounds, saying the 49-year-old Australian was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions.

The ruling means Assange must remain in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison where he has been held since he was arrested in April 2019 for skipping bail during a separate legal battle seven years earlier.

Assange's partner, Stella Moris, said the decision was "a huge disappointment." WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said it is inhumane.

It is illogical. Lawyers for the U.S. government have appealed the decision not to extradite Assange, and the case will be heard by Britain's High Court at an unspecified date. Clair Dobbin, a British lawyer acting for the U.S., said Assange had shown he would go "to almost any length" to avoid extradition, and it was likely he would flee if granted bail. She noted that Assange had spent seven years inside Ecuadorian Embassy in London after seeking refuge there from a Swedish extradition request in 2012.

Dobbin said Assange had the "resources, abilities and sheer wherewithal" to evade justice once again, and noted that Mexico has said it will offer him asylum. But Assange's lawyer, Edward Fitzgerald, said the judge's decision to refuse extradition "massively reduces" any motivation to

abscond. "Mr. Assange has every reason to stay in this jurisdiction where he has the protection of the rule of law and this court's decision," he said.

Fitzgerald said it's also unclear whether the incoming Joe Biden administration will pursue the prosecution, initiated under President Donald Trump.

Fitzgerald said Assange would be safer awaiting the outcome of the judicial process at home with Moris and their two young sons — fathered while he was in the embassy — than in prison, where there is "a very grave crisis of Covid."

But the judge ruled that Assange still had a strong motive to flee. "As far as Mr. Assange is concerned this case has not yet been won," she said. "Mr. Assange still has an incentive to abscond from these as yet unresolved proceedings."

Balkans feel abandoned as coronavirus vaccinations kick off in Europe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO (BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA), 6 JANUARY

When thousands of people across the European Union began rolling up their sleeves last month to get a coronavirus vaccination shot, one corner of the continent was left behind, feeling isolated and abandoned: the Balkans.

Balkan nations have struggled to get access to Covid vaccines from multiple companies and programs, but most of the nations on Europe's southeastern periphery are still waiting for their first vaccines to arrive, with no firm timeline for the start of their national inoculation drives.

What is already clear is that Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia home to some 20 million people will lag far behind the EU's 27 nations and

sentiment as the world faces its gravest health crisis in a century has gained traction in the Western Balkans - a term used to identify the Balkan states which want to join but still are not part of the EU. It is actively being stoked by pro-Russian politicians in a region sandwiched between Western and Russian spheres of influence.

I felt as if the bottom fell out of my hopes for a return to a normal life, 50-year-old Belma Djonko said in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, describing the emotional fallout of hearing that thousands of doctors, nurses and the elderly across the EU had received the first doses of a vaccine developed by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech while her war-ravaged country is kept waiting.

Many Balkan nations are pinning their hopes on COVAX,

a global vaccine procurement agency set up by the World Health Organization and global charity groups to address rising inequities of vaccine distribution.

Alongside other political-unstable post-communist Balkan nations that have long professed their desire to join the EU but keep failing to fulfil conditions to achieve that goal, Bosnia has reserved vaccines through COVAX and expects to start receiving its first doses in April at the earliest. Serbia is the only Western Balkan nation to receive vaccine shots so far, getting deliveries from Pfizer-BioNTech and the Russian-developed Sputnik V vaccine. However, Serbia does not have enough doses to begin mass vaccinations, as only 25,000 shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 2,400 of the Russian vaccine have arrived.

global vaccine procurement agency set up by the World Health Organization and global charity groups to address rising inequities of vaccine distribution.

The European Union's medicines agency gave the green light Wednesday to Moderna's Covid vaccine, a decision that gives the 27-nation bloc a second vaccine to use in the desperate battle to tame the virus rampaging across the continent.

The approval recommendation by the European Medicines Agency's human medicines committee -- which must be rubber stamped by the EU's executive commission -- comes amid high rates of infections in many EU countries and strong criticism of the slow pace of vaccinations across the region of some 450 million people. This vaccine provides us with another tool to overcome the current emergency, said Emer Cooke, Executive Director of EMA.

It is a testament to the efforts and commitment of all involved that we have this second positive vaccine recommendation just short of a year since the pandemic was declared by WHO. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the approval and added in a tweet: Now we are working at full speed to approve it & make it available in the EU.

The EMA has already approved a coronavirus vaccine made by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. Both vaccines require giving people two shots. Ahead of the meeting on the Moderna vaccine, the agency said in a tweet that its experts were working hard to clarify all outstanding issues with the company. It did not elaborate on what those issues were. Moderna also declined to comment. German Health Minister Jens Spahn, who has in the past been critical of the slow pace of the EMA, said he expected the Moderna vaccine to begin rolling out to EU nations next week. Germany would get 2 million doses in the first quarter and 50 million in all of 2021

An extradition set aside

A recent judgment of the Kerala High Court stopping the extradition of an Indian national to the UAE will have wide-reaching consequences, says SANJEEV SIROHI.

In a significant and positive development, the Kerala High Court on 21 December 2020 in a landmark, learned and laudable judgment titled *Rakhal Krishnan vs the Union of India represented by Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and eight others in WP (C) No. 13875 of 2020 (H)* has rightly held that an international arrest warrant by itself will not suffice to arrest an accused and extradite him to UAE.

This judgment came in the matter of Sreejith Vijayan, who is an accused in a criminal case in Dubai which culminated in the issuance of international arrest warrant against him. Justice N Nagaresh of Kerala High Court who authored this judgment pronounced in no uncertain terms that nationals of contracting states shall not be extradited unless there is a request made by the State concerned.

To start with, the ball was set rolling by stating that, "The petitioner has approached this Court seeking to direct respondents 1 to 4 to initiate action to implement Ext.P2 International Arrest Warrant as per the provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962 and to handover the 8th respondent to the Government of Dubai as per the provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962 and other enabling legal provisions."

While elaborating on the facts of the case, it is pointed out that, "The petitioner states that he was an NRI businessman doing business in Dubai, UAE. The 8th respondent befriended the petitioner claiming that he is a business partner of a well known hotel in Dubai. The 8th respondent borrowed an amount of Six Million UAE Dirhams from the petitioner as a financial help to his businesses. The 8th respondent promised to repay the amount before 10.06.2015. But, before the said stipulated date, the 8th respondent absconded to India without repaying the amount."

Elaborating further, it stated, "The petitioner would submit that the 8th respondent had borrowed money from several banks and other individuals in UAE and had absconded from UAE to India without discharging his debts. There are eight criminal cases registered against the 8th respondent by Dubai Police. The petitioner presented the personal guarantee cheque of 6 Million AED issued by the 8th respondent on 01.04.2016. The cheque was returned unpaid for insufficiency of funds. The petitioner filed a criminal case against the 8th respondent in Naif Police Station in Dubai. By Ext.P1, the Dubai Court convicted the 8th respondent for imprisonment for a term of two years. The petitioner initiated the procedure in Dubai criminal court to issue Interpol Red Warrant against the 8th respondent. An International Arrest Warrant was issued against the 8th respondent on 16.05.2018 as evidenced by Ext.P2."

To put things in perspective, it is stated that, "The petitioner would contend that the Government of Dubai has transmitted the

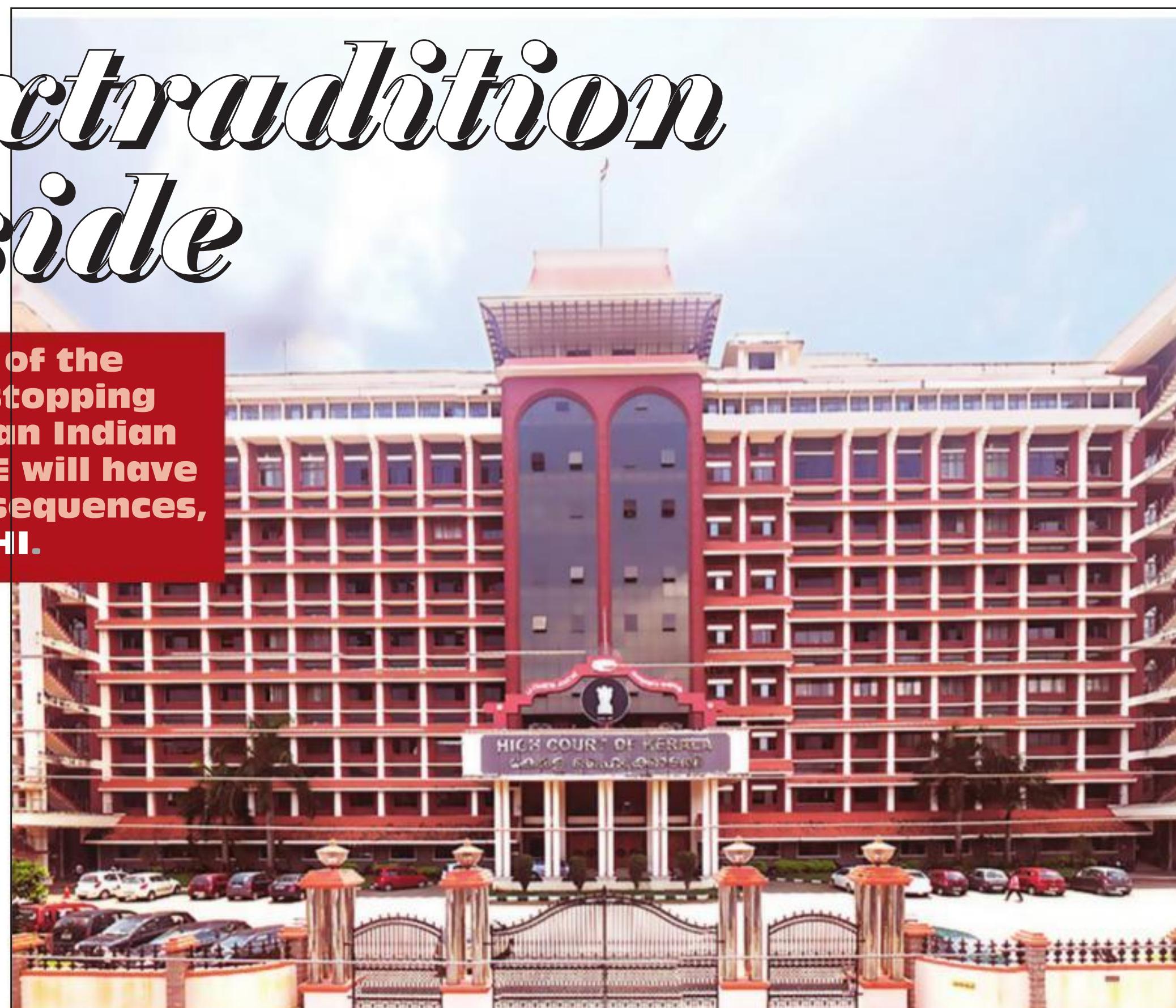
HUMAN RIGHTS, DID YOU SAY?

China's trial and imprisonment of a lawyer turned citizen journalist should open the eyes of the world to the brutality of its regime, says RAFIA ZAKARIA

The early days of the novel coronavirus were soaked in unknowing. There was very little that was known about the virus, how it was transmitted, what symptoms it caused, how many had it and how many were dying of it. Some said that the Chinese government was hiding information to prevent the world from knowing how terrible the situation was. The city of Wuhan was the centre of the world's attention; the virus was supposed to have first jumped species at a wet market, moving from bat to rodent to human in the most lethal chain in modern history.

What was happening in Wuhan in those early days was a mystery, even as the whole globe — ordinary people, world-renowned epidemiologists and infectious disease doctors, world leaders — was hungry for information.

Amid this environment of darkness and fear, Chinese lawyer turned citizen journalist Zhang Zhan was a beam of light. A resident of Shanghai, Zhang travelled to Wuhan in the early days of the pandemic. In Wuhan, she became one of a few citizen journalists who made videos of what was happening inside the plagued city and posted them for all the world, not to mention the rest of China, to see. She made videos of the terrible overcrowding at hospitals and clinics. She made videos of the strictness of the lockdown and the people who were being punished by police for



International Arrest Warrant to the 1st respondent for execution. Government of India has executed Extradition Treaty with the Government of United Arab Emirates. As per Article 2 of the said Treaty, a person sentenced by the court of the requesting State with the imprisonment for six months in respect of an offence, is liable to be extradited. The petitioner contended that the 8th respondent is a fugitive criminal and respondents 1 to 7 are liable to arrest and surrender the 8th respondent to the United Arab Emirates. However, the 8th respondent being an influential person, respondents 1 to 7 are not acting on the International Arrest Warrant. It is under such circumstances that the petitioner seeks interference by this Court."

What ensued then? "The Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, Thiruvananthapuram Range, filed a Statement pursuant to the directions of this Court. In the Statement, it has been stated that in the case of extradition of an Indian national from India to UAE, the provisions contained in Article 5 of the Extradition Treaty is applicable. Article 5 of the Extradition Treaty reads as follows:

The nationals of the Contracting States shall not be extradited to the other Contracting State provided that the requested State shall submit the case to its competent authorities for prosecution if the act committed is considered as an offence under the laws of both Contracting States."

As a corollary, it is stated, "Therefore, the Inspector General would contend that for getting the fugitive extradited, the Government of UAE has to send a formal request to the Government of India through diplomatic channels, strictly as per the provisions of the Treaty and the Central Government will decide whether to extradite the subject or to submit the case to the competent authorities for local prosecution under Section 188 Cr.P.C. No such request or Ext.P2 International Arrest Warrant is received by respondents 5 to 7, contended the Inspector General of Police."

The judgment records: "On behalf of respondents 1 to 3, the Assistant Solicitor General of India filed a Statement. The ASGI stated that there is an Extradition Treaty between India and UAE currently in force. In terms of Article 5 of the Extradition Treaty, the nationals of the Contracting State shall not be extradited to the other Contracting State provided that the requested state shall submit the case to its competent authority for prosecution if the act committed is considered as an offence under the laws of both Contracting States."

Furthermore, it is noted that, "The ASGI further stated that as per Article 5 of India-UAE Extradition Treaty, the 8th respondent cannot be extradited to UAE. However, if an extradition request is made by UAE in respect of the 8th respondent, his case will be submitted to the competent authority for considering local prosecution in India."

It is stated that, "The 8th respondent also filed a counter affidavit in the writ petition. The 8th respondent contended that the Hon'ble Apex Court in Bhavesh Jayanti Lakhani v. State of Maharashtra ([2009] 9 SCC 551) has held that arrest of a fugitive criminal can be made at the instance of Central Government only when request to this effect is received from foreign country and not otherwise. In the case of the 8th respondent, there is absolutely no material to hold that the 8th respondent is a fugitive criminal under the Extradition Act or to hold that the Central Government has received any request from the UAE Government. The writ petition is therefore without any merit and is to be dismissed."

The judgment records: "Ext.P3 is the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the United Arab Emirates signed at New Delhi on 25.10.1999. Article 5 of Ext.P3 Extradition Treaty reads as follows:

"The nationals of the Contracting States shall not be extradited to the other Contracting State provided that the requested State shall submit the case to its competent authorities for prosecution if the act committed is considered as an offence under the laws of both Contracting States."

The writer is a Meerut-based Advocate.

centre of the global Covid-19 pandemic, at a time when many were not even sure there was a new virus. While the Chinese government denies it, it is not known whether they would have admitted to the fact that there was a novel coronavirus that may have originated in a wet market in Wuhan at all. While they would not be able to hide it forever, the early leaked videos produced by Zhang likely created crucial pressure that forced the Chinese government to come clean.

Once upon a time, the international human rights framework ensured that women like Zhang who performed such a valuable service for the world would not be punished and left to languish in a Chinese jail. Human rights advocates would ensure that her case received attention and demand that the Chinese government release her. The failure of that system can be witnessed by the simple fact that, one week after the European Union issued a statement criticising the Chinese government for its treatment of Zhang, they turned around and signed a trade treaty with the very same government.

People often praise China by saying that it is unstoppable in its march towards world domination. They neglect to mention that China is also unstoppable in this other way, punishing the brave truth-tellers who put the welfare of the world before their own self-interest. Zhang's story should provoke some questions about all the other truths that are successfully suppressed by the Chinese government. An emerging superpower that cares more about image rather than truth is unlikely to be concerned with anything except its own survival.

The writer is an attorney teaching constitutional law and political philosophy. Dawn/ANN

INTERVENTION BY THE COURT

It took an initiative by Nepal's Supreme Court to force the government on laws for climate protection, say HARSH MAHASETH and PRANJAL RISAL

The issue regarding environmental conservation has shifted from being a contemporary subject to an obligation for all. Despite political instability and slow economic growth, the current generation is more inclined towards tackling climate change because of its willingness to live in a clean environment. Likewise, the Supreme Court of Nepal has directed its government to enforce the Climate Change Act to promote transgenerational justice by emphasizing more on promoting sustainable development, reducing greenhouse emissions, and opting towards renewable sources of energy.

While giving out the judgement, the court-mandated a completely new law which would include rules for mitigation as well as adaptation measures. Similarly, the Court has noted that greenhouse gases are the main cause. Accordingly it directed the government to use minimum carbon-emitting technology and to search for possible sources of renewable energy to reduce the consumption of fossil fuel; forests areas are to be protected, and there shall be plantation activities to be conducted wherever necessary; to make policies for the public and private organizations working towards climate change; lastly, the announcing arrangements of scientific and legal instruments to evaluate and compensate those who have been adversely affected by pollution or environmental degradation.

In this landmark case titled *Advocate Padam Bahadur Shrestha vs Prime Minister and Office of Council of Ministers and Others* (2018) the petitioners discussed the alarming rise of Nepal's average temperature by an increase of 0.6 degrees every year which, as a consequence, makes the country prone to natural calamities due to its geographical features. Avalanche, drought, and unusual patterns of rainfall are a few of the issues that the nation has seen in recent years. Reflecting upon the following problems, the petitioners claimed the Climate Change Act to be an immediate need and demanded effective implementation of the Climate Change Policy, 2010, the National Adaptation Programme of Action 2010 and the National Framework for Local Adaptation Plan for Action, 2011 all over the nation to mitigate any further damage caused due to climate change, and set the restoration process in motion to avoid further impact on health, agriculture, physical infrastructure, and various other sectors.

The Supreme Court acknowledged the fact that Nepal, being a signatory to Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 2015, must fulfil its obligation to formulate climate change-related laws, which meet international standards. The



Court also pointed out that Article 51(6) of the Constitution of Nepal, requires that the State must formulate preservation, enhancement and consumption-related policies with regard to natural resources and its preservation. The State must make approaches promoting sustainable development, renewable resources, environmental awareness, mitigation of risk arising from industrial and infrastructural development, preservation of biodiversity, the polluter pays principle and eradication of threat to the environment.

The Court gave its direction on 25 December 2018, and since then the Forest and Environment Ministry Secretary Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli has said that the Ministry is working on a total of eight laws that would either be formulated or be considered for an Amendment to make the country's environment laws more encompassing. Currently, the Ministry is discussing drafts of the Environment Protection Act, the Climate Change Act and the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act to make them more inclusive of environmental conservation issues. These drafts clearly state all duties and responsibilities towards the various administrative organs, i.e. district, provincial, and federal.

Due to a lack of willingness from the respective departments, the petitioners filed a complaint before the Apex Court. Following the complaint, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration on 23 February 2020, more than a year after the Court order, wrote a letter to all local levels across the country to implement programmes related to climate change as per the existing laws. But still, there have been instances where local level governments are completely new to this issue and unaware of its impact.

The writers are, respectively, an Assistant Lecturer at Jindal Global Law School, and a third-year law student at NALSAR University of Law, India.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (in photo, left) believes rival managers draw attention to Manchester United's number of penalties in order to influence referees, following pointed comments by Jurgen Klopp and Jose Mourinho. After Liverpool's defeat by Southampton, Klopp claimed United had won more penalties in the past two years than his side had during his five-year tenure at Anfield.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

In quarantine: Players locked up in their hotel rooms in New Delhi for a week-long quarantine ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, the first domestic event of the season, have been using video-calling apps to follow their workout schedules besides participating in team-bonding sessions with games and general entertainment.

Bell dead: Manchester City legend Colin Bell has died aged 74 after a short illness. Regarded by many as City's greatest player, Bell made 492 appearances and was part of the 1967-8 First Division title-winning side. He also won the FA Cup, the League Cup and the European Cup Winner's Cup during his 13-year stay at City, scoring 152 goals.

Spurs soar: Son Heung-min fired Tottenham Hotspur into the League Cup final as the South Korean's decisive goal sealed a 2-0 win over Championship side Brentford on Tuesday. Moussa Sissoko put Jose Mourinho's team ahead in the semi-final at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. But Tottenham were still searching for the knockout blow.

Welcome address: Mauricio Pochettino insisted "any big player in the world is always welcome at Paris Saint-Germain", as the new coach of the giants answered questions about the possibility of a sensational move for his compatriot Lionel Messi. The Argentinian was asked several times about Messi at his first Press conference.

UAE to face Ireland: United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be playing their first international cricket series against an ICC full member team when they take on Ireland in a four-match ODI series beginning Friday. The four ODIs will be played on January 8, 10, 12 and 14 at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Amre joins Delhi Capitals: Former India cricketer Pravin Amre has joined Delhi Capitals as assistant coach for the upcoming two seasons of the Indian Premier League, the team announced on Wednesday.

Kapil Dev turns 62: Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli led wishes for 1983 World Cup-winning skipper Kapil Dev who turned 62 on Wednesday. "Happy birthday @therealkapildev paaji! Wishing you a year full of happiness & health," Tendulkar said in a tweet. "Happy Birthday @therealkapildev. Wishing you happy times ahead for you and your family. Have a wonderful and a healthy year ahead," wrote Kohli. The BCCI and International Cricket Council (ICC) also took to their official Twitter handles to extend wishes for Kapil.

BARB-TRADING

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (in photo, left) believes rival managers draw attention to Manchester United's number of penalties in order to influence referees, following pointed comments by Jurgen Klopp and Jose Mourinho. After Liverpool's defeat by Southampton, Klopp claimed United had won more penalties in the past two years than his side had during his five-year tenure at Anfield.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

India ready to change Sydney script

India are sticking to the five-bowler theory that has helped them restrict Australia, bringing in right-arm fast bowler Navdeep Saini – who will make his debut – in place of injured Umesh Yadav in the playing XI. They have also included Rohit Sharma as opener in place of Mayank Agarwal

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, 6 JANUARY

Having touched nadir and zenith in a span of 10 days, Ajinkya Rahane's India will look to start afresh against Australia with the big-hitting Rohit Sharma's presence adding a new dimension to what promises to be an enthralling third Test starting here on Thursday.

The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), despite being witness to some extraordinary batting performances from the touring Indian sides over the years, has not exactly been a happy hunting ground with six defeats. The lone win came a good 42 years back.

If Rahane's side can go 2-1 up and ensure the retention of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, it will be one of the finest hours in the history of Indian cricket. Making it even more special is the fact that the side has been without two world class performers and a senior pacer against a nearly full-strength Australian team. Seldom has an Australian batting unit, that boasts of a player of Steve Smith's calibre, looked so circumspect and literally intimidated by an Indian bowling unit, which isn't operating at full strength and, in all likelihood, will pick either Navdeep Saini or Shardul Thakur.

But the white-ball legend has learnt the art of being unfazed, which was evident from his intense net session on Tuesday when he was comfortably facing the first team bowlers like Ravichandran Ashwin. His mere presence has added spring in the strides of the team and the youngsters in this current set-up swear by him, the reason he replaced Cheteshwar Pujara as vice-captain after just one Test. It is quite possible that Rohit's presence in the team



think-tank has prompted them to have a serious debate on whether to play Saini or Shardul.

The Sydney track has traditionally favoured the batsmen as Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri, Sachin Tendulkar and even Pujara and Rishabh Pant, who got centuries here during last tour, will vouch for.

If Rohit and Shubman Gill can give the team a good start, the under-pressure Pujara will be much more relieved while playing his own defensive game.

Rahane, after one of his more copybook hundreds constructed in adversity during the last game, will enter the arena with more confidence while facing the Australian quartet of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon.

KL Rahul's injury is expected to give Hanuma Vihari one more chance despite his return being as underwhelming as

Mayank Agarwal, who will be forced to make way for Rohit.

But it is Australia's wobbly batting that will again be put to test by Ravichandran Ashwin on a track, that has traditionally helped spinners.

With 10 wickets and a newfound confidence, Ashwin has won both on and off-field battles against opposition's key players such as Smith and Marcus Labuschagne. It's not just the wickets that he has scalped but the manner in which the intelligent Chennai engineer has managed to create doubts in the minds of world class batters is worth its weight in gold. As much as Australia needs Smith to be back in form, they would also need someone like Travis Head to deliver as he has failed to get a hang of both pace and spin. Jasprit Bumrah, who is still some games short of 20 Tests, will be leading the pace attack and is expected to show the way with his bagful of tricks.

Whether it's Siraj or Saini, whoever shares the new ball will have their task cut out as they aim to match the highest standards set by the likes of Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma.

Squads: Australia: David Warner, Matthew Wade, Will Pucovski, Marcus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Cameron Green, Tim Paine (captain and wk), Nathan Lyon, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Marcus Harris, Mitchell Swepson, Michael Neser – India (from 12): Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, Navdeep Saini. Match Starts at 5am.

Hotel quarantine in 'normal' Sydney is challenging: Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY, 6 JANUARY

India captain Ajinkya Rahane tried to douse the quarantine controversy on Wednesday, stating that his team is "not annoyed" with strict bio-safety protocols but conceded that it was "challenging" to be confined when life outside their five-star facility here seems to be "normal".

There have been unconfirmed media reports that the Indian contingent has been unhappy with the quarantine protocols in Sydney where they have been confined to hotel and even stricter rules issued for venue of the fourth Test Brisbane, where they wouldn't even move out of their respective rooms.

"We are not at all annoyed but yes there are some challenges in quarantine as life in Sydney is completely normal. We are not at all annoyed and we know what's our priority here," the Indian captain made it clear while fielding a series of questions on the eve of the third Test here. It is understood that the Queensland hotel will have an IPL-like bio-bubble in which players can mingle. Rahane, while sidestepping on unconfirmed series pull-out threats, made it clear that the focus is on the Test match starting tomorrow at the SCG. Players can't be faulted for feeling a bit jaded considering they have been in Australia for the past seven weeks moving from one bubble to another but the skip-



per said the new normal

needs to be embraced. "We all are prepared and we want to play some good cricket. We know that life in Sydney is normal but players are stuck in their rooms which is okay. We know how to handle it and we are prepared for any kind of situation. It's about being in the moment and playing some good cricket," said India's hero of eight-wicket victory in Melbourne.

"First thing first, we are not complaining on anything and we are just focussed on the game. Just want to start well." While he was repeating the same answer for all the quarantine-related queries, he evaded the question about the team returning home after the completion of the third Test in Sydney.

"We as players are just focussing on this Test match and management, they will take the decision. For us, it's all about giving our best on the field. Test match is starting tomorrow and we want to do well as a team and win the Test match," said the non-controversial team leader.

Goa remain third after 1-1 draw with SCEB

AGENCIES
VASCO, 6 JANUARY



fastest off the block in the game and nearly went ahead in the 5th minute of the game courtesy James Donachie. A free-kick whipped in from the left by Brandon Fernandes was met firmly by the Australian, forcing Debjit Mazumdar in the East Bengal goal to come up with a spectacular save to keep the sides at level pegging.

The 'home' side's first big chance of the game came in the 28th minute when Raju Gaikwad's long throw to the back post was met by an onrushing Danny Fox. The Scot though failed to keep his header on target. Goa kept the pressure up in the opening 45 and it took five more saves from Debjit to keep the scores level, going into the break. The Red and Gold themselves had opportunities of their own from set-pieces but couldn't really test Mohammad Nawaz in the Goa goal.

Second half doesn't disappoint once again. The Gaurs were off the mark right from the start in the second half. A ball from Princeton to the left was beautifully taken down by Ortiz on the left flank before taking off on another of his rampaging runs. The winger cut inside brilliantly before unleashing a shot on goal. And it was Debjit again to the rescue of Goa. The 55th minute of the game added another dynamic to the game as Fox was given a straight red for a tackle on Romario Jesuraj. Matti Steinmann got the next big opportunity in the game. The East Bengal midfielder though wasn't able to keep his attempt on target after running nearly half the length of the pitch.

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Rohit did not get his feet moving as he poked at a rising delivery on 15 and was caught behind. Azhar attempted to take the fight back to Jamieson, moving into a short delivery and pulling it through mid-on for four as he advanced to 37. The former Pakistan skipper did not add another run as Jamieson responded with a ball that reared up towards the ribs and it was gloved to the wicketkeeper.

Rizwan was bowled for 10 by a full inswinger that zipped between bat and pad. Boult completed the four-wicket session when he dismissed Fawad Alam for 16 and Pakistan were 134 for seven at tea. Jamieson, Boult and Kane Williamson shared in the final three wickets.

Brief scores: Pakistan 297 and 186 all out (Azhar Ali 37, Zafar Gohar 37; Kyle Jamieson 6/48) lost to New Zealand 659/6 dec by an innings and 176 runs.

After using his height to create extra

Indian bowlers plot victory drive

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, 6 JANUARY



A Test series featuring moments of high drama on and off the field will lurch forward under the threat of the coronavirus on Thursday, with India's bowlers aiming to strike a decisive blow as Australia smashes batsmen attempt to regroup. With a Covid-19 outbreak still smouldering in Australia's largest city, the Sydney Cricket Ground will host a socially distanced crowd capped at 10,000 a day for what would usually be a packed New Year's Test.

The series is level at 1-1, but India head into the third encounter with momentum after dampening Australia's Christmas cheer with a dominant win in Melbourne. Victory would ensure India retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy contested between the nations, two years after their breakthrough 2-1 win in the 2018-19 series. Not all is well with the India camp, though, and the strains of a long bio-secure tour have started to show. Five of India's players are under the microscope for allegedly breaching health protocols when out for a meal.

Batsman Lokesh

Rahul's wrist injury has also robbed India of a potential replacement for struggling opener Mayank Agarwal, though experienced batsman Rohit Sharma is available after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Australia have more serious batting problems, having failed to surpass 200 runs in the series. They are likely to be bolstered by the inclusion of opener David Warner, badly missed while sidelined with a groin strain and set to replace the dropped Joe Burns. The selectors must also decide whether to risk the uncapped and recently concussed Will Pucovski at the top of the order or persist with the makeshift option of Matthew Wade. The form of master batsman Steve Smith, battling through his worst ever run of Test scores with a combined 10 runs for the series, will also be under scrutiny as he faces nemesis Ravichandran Ashwin (*in photo*).

With 10 wickets, Ashwin leads the series bowling with Pat Cummins, and has so far upstaged Australia's spinner Nathan Lyon, needing only two victims to bring up his 400th Test wicket, will hope to turn the tables at the SCG, traditional

Jamieson bags 11 wickets, New Zealand best in the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHRISTCHURCH, 6 JANUARY



Towering paceman Kyle Jamieson (in photo) completed an 11-wicket haul on Wednesday as New Zealand thrashed Pakistan in the second Test to become the world's top-ranked team.

Jamieson was near-unplayable in Pakistan's second innings in Christchurch, finishing with six for 48 to go with his five for 69 in the first innings, as Pakistan were all out for 186 during day four's final session to give New Zealand victory by an innings and 176 runs. The win, which saw them sweep the series 2-0, also confirmed New Zealand had overtaken Australia as the world's number one Test side. Pakistan resumed the day at eight for one, needing to bat for the better part of two days to salvage a draw but they were never in the hunt. Trent Boult captured the first wicket when he had nightwatchman Mohammad Abbas out for three in the fifth over and after that the day was mainly about Jamieson, who recorded his best match performance.

Although he is the junior member of a pace attack headed by higher-ranked veterans Tim Southee and Boult, the 26-year-old has rapidly advanced to playing a senior

bounce and force Abid on to the back foot, Jamieson whipped up a fuller delivery and the batsman's attempt to switch to a drive was sliced to backward point where substitute Will Young took a one-handed, diving catch. In a potent middle session, Jamieson had Haris Sohail and Azhar caught behind, and bowled Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan as he moved through his repertoire.

Soil did not get his feet moving as he poked at a rising delivery on 15 and was caught behind. Azhar attempted to take the fight back to Jamieson, moving into a short delivery and pulling it through mid-on for four as he advanced to 37. The former Pakistan skipper did not add another run as Jamieson responded with a ball that reared up towards the ribs and it was gloved to the wicketkeeper.

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After using his height to create extra

Australian Open CEO assures players all is OK for Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 6 JANUARY

Australian Open chief executive Craig Tiley is reassuring players that the delayed season-opening Grand Slam tournament will get underway on Feb 8 and has asked for patience with the logistics and quarantine planning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world's leading tennis players are set to start arriving in Melbourne from Jan. 15 and must undergo 14 days in hotel quarantine, although they'll be allowed to practice for limited periods daily in a bio-secure bubble. Reports from Europe about players being unclear on charter flight details prompted a series of Twitter posts from Tiley to provide an update. Australian Open organizers are chartering up to 20 flights from Dubai, Singapore and Los Angeles to bring players to Melbourne to play.

"There have been some unavoidable delays finalizing

flight details for players and I'd like to take this opportunity to provide an update," Tiley posted on Twitter. "There are a lot of pieces to this logistical puzzle and the last few are being finalized right now. We appreciate your patience and are conscious that time timelines are very tight." The professional circuit resumes this week, with main-draw action Wednesday at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, where Sofia Kenin leads the field, and Thursday at the ATP's Delray Beach Open. Women's singles qualifying or the Australian Open will be staged in Dubai and men's singles qualifying in Doha, Qatar from Jan. 10-13. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and No. 2 Rafael Nadal will be involved in a 12-team ATP Cup to be staged at Melbourne Park, along with a WTA tournament and an ATP 250 event, from Feb. 1-5 to give players some exposure to match play in Australia. *PTI*

Premier League reveals record number of positive tests

AGENCIES
LONDON, 6 JANUARY

The Premier League has confirmed that 40 players or staff have tested positive for coronavirus in the past week's round of testing, representing a record increase in the number of cases.

In total, 2295 tests were carried out by the Premier League between 28 December and 3 January. The previous week's testing had seen a then-record high of 18 positive cases. The Premier League has been given permission to continue by the government during the third national lockdown, however, several players were found to