





*Preaching to other countries about treating minorities in a dignified way even though the plight of minorities in India is getting worse.*

PPD PRESIDENT MEHBOOBA MUFTI

# Not a single case of bird flu in Delhi so far: Sisodia

Delhi deputy chief minister holds meeting to review the govt's preparedness, asks officials to keep a close watch on the situation and take strict measures to prevent avian influenza outbreak

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY

**D**elhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia today directed the officials to take strict precautionary measures to prevent avian flu outbreak in Delhi.

At a meeting with officials of the animal husbandry unit of the development department at the Secretariat, Sisodia reviewed the Delhi government's preparedness in this regard.

Sisodia directed intensive monitoring across Delhi and asked the officials concerned to ensure strict guidelines (dos and don'ts) are immediately implemented across the city. He also directed the officials to carry out large-scale sample collection and ensure its frequent reporting.

He pointed out in the meeting that not a single case of positive bird flu has been reported in Delhi so far.

On 28 October, the Delhi government had issued an alert to

all doctors and the people concerned to monitor bird flu. On 4 January, a guideline was issued to all the doctors to continue their regular sample collection and its strict monitoring. Apart from this, health check-up and monitoring of ducks are also being done in various water bodies in the city.

Doctors at all 48 veterinary hospitals of the Delhi government are said to be continuously monitoring the bird flu threat across the city. Also, 11 rapid response teams have been formed for regularly collecting samples. So far, more than 100 samples have been collected and sent to the designated lab in Jalandhar. The report is expected by Monday. Sisodia said.

In the meeting, the deputy CM directed the officials to keep a close watch on the poultry birds coming in from neighbouring states. He also instructed them to keep a close watch on the birds at major bird sites, especially poultry markets, waterbodies and zoos among other potential

tial hotspots. These include Ghazipur Fish and Poultry Market, Shakti Sthal Lake, Sanjay Lake, Bhalswa Horseshoe Lake, Delhi Zoo and smaller water bodies in DDA parks. Sisodia directed the officials to monitor the sample collection from all such areas on a regular basis and send in frequent reports.

The bird flu or avian influenza outbreak has been reported from various states including Rajasthan, Himachal

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The Centre has sent advisories to states asking them to take measures to contain this infection.



## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF  
MS. PREETI PARWAA  
ACJ/CCJ/ARC  
Room No. 03, Ground Floor  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi - 110001

Petition No. SC-703/2020  
Monika Fernandes & Anr.  
Versus

State & Ors. —(Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESSION  
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN  
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To,  
All concerned.

Where in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for a 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 George Fernandes, s/o R. B. Fernandes died on Dt. 19-02-2020 at KM POLO 8-10 and 8-12 Down Line Near Safdarjung Railway Station (ND N.H.) Are required to send the particulars hereof by writing to the undersigned Court to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 16-01-2021 at 10 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 this 01-12-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC  
Patiala House Courts  
New Delhi

Seal of the Court

LOST & FOUND

IT is notified for the information that my Original/Duplicate Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main/Compartment, Secondary/Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2004 No. 630639 issued by CBSE has been accidentally lost/destroyed/mutilated. Name of the candidate Sushil Kumar. Full Address: Sector 13/158, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091, Mob. 8920607682.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

नायाम नायव तस्वीरदार  
पत्रिका जूनी इंडिया, निया-इंडिया

ब्रॉडकॉल १०४०/२०२० ईडी लिमिटेड/५४०/१/२०२०

संस्थान का सूची दिल्ली जाता है कि अवैध नीति जैन विषय संबंधी  
प्रबन्ध जैन पक्ष जैन विषय संबंधी  
कानून लागू नहीं है। इसके बावजूद जैन  
मध्य ५ मुख्य संघों की १९५९ की  
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पृष्ठ २१५/१२८८-१ क्रमांक: राजनीति  
०४४४, ११६.१, ००९८ विषय कौन  
खलेगा तथा जैन पक्ष जैन विषय  
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आर. सी. पक्ष एस. प्रकाशन क्रमांक-  
०३६८/३८/२०२०-२०२१

नायाम नायव तस्वीरदार  
पत्रिका जूनी इंडिया, निया-इंडिया

ब्रॉडकॉल १०४०/२०२० ईडी लिमिटेड/५४०/१/२०२०

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नायाम नायव तस्वीरदार  
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नायाम नायव तस्वीरदार  
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संघ क्रमांक १२



The approval of Rs 28,400 crore central sector scheme for the industrial development of Jammu & Kashmir by the Cabinet illustrates the special place that Jammu & Kashmir holds in the heart of Modi.

AMIT SHAH  
UNION HOME MINISTER

**The Statesman**  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 08 JANUARY 2021

03

# SAD mobilises parties to protect federal structure

The Akali Dal and 'like-minded parties' will hold a conference in Delhi to deliberate on current erosion of federalism under the BJP-led NDA and its impact on farmers as well as states

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 7 JANUARY

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday said the party has decided to create a joint strategy along with like-minded parties on ways and means to strengthen the federal structure of the country which "is being eroded under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government".

Disclosing this in a statement here, senior SAD leader Prof Prem Singh Chandumajra said the Akali Dal and likeminded parties including Trinamool Congress (TMC), Shiv Sena, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Samajwadi Party (SP) will hold a conference in Delhi after 15 January that will deliberate on current erosion of federalism and its impact on



farmers as well as financial well-being of states.

Chandumajra said a three-member party committee had been formed by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal to reach out to like-minded parties who were perturbed by the rise of a unitary system in the country.

"We have reached out to Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, Indian National Lok Dal, DMK and the Samajwadi Party. We are also trying to get in touch with Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar. The purpose is to hold a conference and work jointly for strengthening the federal structure as visualised by our

Constitution makers," he said. Prof Chandumajra said leaders of regional parties had agreed to be part of the meeting which would be addressed by five-time ex-chief minister and SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal. "Earlier the meeting was fixed for 7 January but had to be postponed due to a slight indisposition of Badal," he added.

The SAD leader said the three agricultural Acts, which had even been "forced" through Parliament, were a direct interference of the Centre in the powers of the states.

He said even though agriculture was a state subject the Centre went ahead to legislate on this issue. "We are clear that these laws can't be legislated by Parliament. They also override state laws and market committees and will only help corporates besides weakening

the finances of the states," he added.

Asserting that states should not be put at the mercy of the Centre, Prof Chandumajra said this trend was increasing as was seen earlier in West Bengal where the Governor was interfering in the functioning of an elected government and even in Punjab recently when its Governor summoned senior government officials bypassing the state government.

"The SAD is against this trend and will do its utmost to unite like-minded parties to form a bulwark against the increasing centralisation of powers in the hands of the Union government," he added.

The SAD was the oldest ally of the BJP but it quit the Modi government and the BJP-led NDA several months ago in protest against the Centre's controversial farm laws.

## Virbhadra urges people to elect honest candidates in HP Panchayat polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 JANUARY

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Virbhadra Singh on Thursday urged the people of the state to elect honest candidates with clean image in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) polls scheduled to be held in January 2020.

While urging people of the state to use their voting rights, Singh said the candidates, who will solve general public issues and work for the development of their respective areas, should be supported and elected.

He warned the people of the state against those candidates who only make false promises and indulge in flaring communal sentiments, and said they should desist from supporting such candidates in the PRIs elections.

"The elections for panchayats and municipal councils are very important as these pave the way for solving the issues of common



issues and stand beside them in the times of adversities.

"Though Panchayati Raj Institutions aren't held on the basis of political ideology yet the candidates are associated or are ideologically connected with a political party.

The people of the state must ensure their participation in the electoral process to elect honest candidates who are committed for the welfare of their village or town," he added.

## WHITEWASHED



A view of Solang Nullah after fresh snowfall in Manali on Thursday.

## Effective steps must be taken to check tax evasion: HP CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 JANUARY

The chief minister assured that the department would be adequately strengthened and equipped with all such facilities which are required for effective and efficient tax administration to maximize the Government Revenue by way of transparency and efficient functioning. Thakur said that greater stress must be laid on Legacy Cases Resolution Schemes to dispose-off legacy cases by payment of settlement fees.

Presiding over the meeting of the state Excise and Taxation department on Thursday, the chief minister expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the department regarding revenue receipts collection during the ongoing financial year 2020-21.

Despite Covid effect, the department collected an amount of Rs 4,703 crore towards the government exchequer during the financial year 2020-21 against Rs 5,066 crores during the same period of last year.

The chief minister expressed his satisfaction on the decreasing gap between cumulative revenue of current financial year and previous financial year from 39 percent in July 2020 to 7 percent in December 2020. Thakur stressed on focusing enhancement of

departmental enforcement capabilities to detect tax evasion and thereby plug in leakages for enhancement of state revenue.

He further directed the department to ensure taxpayers' ease with initiating regular interaction with taxpayers and creating awareness among them.

The chief minister assured that the department would be adequately strengthened and equipped with all such facilities which are required for effective and efficient tax administration to maximize the Government Revenue by way of transparency and efficient functioning. Thakur said that greater stress must be laid on Legacy Cases Resolution Schemes to dispose-off legacy cases by payment of settlement fees.

He said that although the last date to opt for this scheme has been extended from 30 September 2020 to 21 January 2021, Rs 72 crore recovered under this scheme till December last was not enough.

He said that strategy should be chalked out to dispose-off legacy cases and achieve target set under the scheme. He said that more focus must be laid on big cases to achieve more with less effort.

He said that the department should adopt a more proactive approach for revenue enhancement under Goods and Services Tax Act.

The chief minister launched the GST FAQ's booklet for awareness among taxpayers. The chief minister also pre-

sented a cheque of Rs. 1.5 crore to the state Exchequer on behalf of Technical Service Agency, a registered society by Principal Secretary Excise and Taxation J.C. Sharma.

It was emphasized to increase professionalism in the department by way of conduct of intensive and adequate training programmes for capacity building under various enactments and to emulate the best practices and models available in the Country.

Principal Secretary Excise and Taxation J.C. Sharma emphasized on regular monitoring of field officer's performance. He also directed special focus on Physical Verification of E-way bills, Compliance of GSTR3B return filing, Mismatches in returns filed by taxpayers for enhancement of State Revenue. Commissioner Excise and Taxation Rohan Chand Thakur made a detailed presentation of various initiatives taken by the Department to increase Tax collection in the state.

Additional Chief Secretary Finance Prabodh Saxena and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## HP to organise awareness campaigns on road safety

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 JANUARY

The National Road Safety month is being organised from 18 January to 17 February in Himachal Pradesh as part of which various road safety awareness campaigns would also be organised.

Disclosing this in a meeting here on Thursday, Principal Secretary, Transport, KK Pant said a state level function would be organised on 18 January at the Ridge, which would be presided over by the Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

A Cycle rally and Good Samaritan parade would also be flagged off along with various awareness activities.

Various programmes related to road safety would also be organised at district level.

Pant said that an awareness campaign on protection of pedestrian, vulnerable

groups such as old age persons, children, especially abled persons, etc. would be organised on 19 and 20 January.

He said from 21 to 23 January, a campaign on adverse effects of over speeding, awareness about Good Samaritans and workshop on road safety would be conducted. This would follow a campaign on the importance of wearing helmets. A Rose day would be organised on 29 January to motivate drivers.

He said a meeting on measures of road safety would be held with local bodies on 11 February and Zero Tolerance Week would be observed from 12 to 17 February.

The Principal Secretary said that 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 cannot be forced by the Police or anyone else to reveal the identity.

Any passer-by, who assists the person met with an accident, known as Good Samaritan, cannot be restrained in the hospital, cannot be taken to the Police station for interrogation and cannot be summoned for testimony in Court. He said that the number of deaths in road accidents would be reduced by participation of Good Samaritans.

The Principal Secretary directed the officers of the department to ensure completion of preparation of National Road Safety month in a time bound manner.

Director Transport Anupam Kashyap, Director Information and Public Relations Harbars Singh Brascon, Additional Director Transport Hemis Negi and other officials were present in the meeting.

## Villagers build road after govt, leaders fail them

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 7 JANUARY

After making rounds of different government offices and departments and requesting various political leaders to get a motorable road for their village and failing in these efforts, the residents of a remote village, Bindulgoan, in Pauri district in Uttarakhand joined hands to do it themselves.

The Bindulgoan residents generated funds and created the one and half km motorable road with their resources.

Every villager contributed to fulfill one of their most cherishing dreams linked to their native place. The project started in July last year and got completed in three months. Now the road is ready and villagers are openly saying, "Politicians are useless."

The lockdown period pro-

vided the local residents some free time and also motivation to work on the road project, without waiting further for the government support. Bindulgoan is located about 55 kms from district headquarters Pauri. With a population of 270 persons and 70 households, the village is like any remote village in the hill state. The last roadhead, post the lockdown, was at Datpul-from where the villagers used to start the foot march. The motorable road has brought new zeal in the life of the villagers.

An annoyed Bindulgoan village head (Pradhan) Nandan Negi says, "Politicians are of little use. We are even thinking of boycotting the state assembly election this time."

Nandan has every reason to be angry with the political leaders and government department as natives of his

village were constantly provided assurances and false promises since the past two decades. Fed up with the government mechanism the natives of Bindulgoan began discussing about doing the project through their own resources. They formed a WhatsApp group to share their ideas and began collecting funds.

When they managed to collect a part of the fund, they realized they also need technical support.

Ajeet Negi, working with an engineering firm in Gurgoan, says, "I took three months' leave (without salary) from my organization for the road project in native village. The project was made successful through active participation of the local people.

The project was made successful through active participation of the local people. We hired an engineer, deployed earthmover and used common sense in exe-

cuting the operation."

Even after generating Rs 4.50 Lakh for the project, convincing the villagers to provide land for the road was challenging. But, local residents provided all the support. The villagers realized the power of unity by successfully executing the road project.

Bindulgoan villagers working to build a road.

## India's first indoor ski park to come up at Kufri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 JANUARY

India's first indoor ski park will come up at Kufri in Shimla with the objective of making Himachal Pradesh a favourite tourist destination in the country, besides providing tourists world class amenities in the state.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the state government and Nagsons Developers to develop India's first indoor ski park at Kufri in Shimla in the presence of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur last evening.

Jai Ram Thakur assured the developers that the state government would extend all

possible support in developing India's first indoor ski park in Himachal Pradesh.

The state government is serious for making Himachal Pradesh one of the best tourist destinations across India and would go to any extent in making the state more tourist friendly by providing them with world class amenities," he added.

Thakur said the indoor ski project will boost tourism and adventure sports round the year in Kufri area and also promote economic activities in Shimla and adjoining areas, besides increasing the stay of tourists.

The project would also generate employment avenues for about 1000 per-

sons.

The total cost of the project coming up in 5.04 acres in Kufri is Rs 250 crores which included indoor ski park, palatial mall, five star hotel, amusement park, gaming zone and food court, shopping arcade and other amenities and would have a parking facility for more than 1000 vehicles," he added.

The promoter of the mega project and owner of Nagsons Developers, Nishant Nag said that the project has been designed by Infinity Design Studio Mumbai and the project would be executed by Unlimited Snow, Netherlands who were the makers of Ski Dubai and Ski Egypt.

start in March 2021 and the ski park will become functional by April 2022, he added.





BJP leader Locket Chatterjee after a meeting with Governor at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata on Thursday.

**Trains for Kumbh:** To clear the rush of pilgrims during ensuing Kumbh Mela 2021, Eastern Railway will run special trains between Howrah and Yogi Nagar Rishikesh and Howrah and Dehradoon.

While Howrah-Yogi Nagar Rishikesh special train will leave Howrah daily from 12 January to 30 April, Howrah-Dehradoon special will leave Howrah every Tuesday and Friday during the same period. Howrah-Dehradoon special will leave Howrah every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday between 13 January and 29 April. Booking of the special trains for Up direction will be available on and from 9 January through PRS and internet. In addition to fare, 'special' charge will be realized.

SNS

# PM opens another part of rly freight corridor

Says a new chapter is added in Centre's drive to develop modern infrastructure

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI,  
7 JANUARY

Prime minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated 306-km section of western dedicated freight corridor (DFC) from Rewari to Madar through video-conferencing.

The western DFC covers a distance of 1,504 km of double line electric track from Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) to Mumbai via Rewari-Ajmer-Ahmedabad-Vadodara, out of which about 177 km length is passing through Haryana.

An official spokesperson of Haryana government said this DFC will prove to be a milestone in the industrial and economic progress of the state by providing faster and reliable means of freight transportation.

On this occasion, Modi also flagged off world's first dou-



ble-stack long haul (1.5km) goods trains from New Ateli Station (Haryana) and new Kisangarh station (Rajasthan).

Extending New Year wishes to the people of the country, he said with the inauguration, a new chapter has been added in the Centre's drive to develop modern infrastructure in the country.

Modi said the game-changing freight corridor project was accomplished after five to six years of hard work.

Speaking on this occasion, Haryana chief minister

Manohar Lal Khattar thanked Modi for dedicating the freight corridor to the nation.

He said that when this corridor passing through the states of UP, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra upto Mumbai would be completed, the industrial and agricultural products of Haryana would have direct access to the port.

Thus, this corridor would open new export potential from Haryana for the footwear and cement industries of Jhajjar, automobile parts of Sonepat, agro and food pro-

cessing industries and textile of Panipat, plywood of Yamunanagar, scientific equipment of Ambala, agro and food of Sirsa, iron and steel industries of Hisar, paddy producers, footwear and agricultural equipment industries of Karnal and prove to be a milestone in the economic development of the state, the CM said.

The freight corridor would also benefit the automobile, IT, textile, engineering, electronics, chemical and pharmaceutical industries of Gurugram and Faridabad.

## Bird flu outbreak: Central team reaches Kerala

SNS & PTI  
ALAPPUZHA, 7 JANUARY

A three-member Central team arrived here on Thursday to assess the situation arising out of outbreak of bird flu in Alappuzha and Kottayam districts, official sources said.

The team comprising Union Health Ministry's public health

specialist Dr Ruchi Jain, Pune National Institute of Virology scientist Dr Shailesh Pawar and Delhi RML Hospital physician Dr Anith Jindal held discussions with district authorities at the collectoratehere, they said.

Later, the team left for Karuvattu, one of the hotspots of the flu outbreak.

According to the state gov-

ernment, over 69,000 birds, including ducks and chicken, were culled in the districts of Alappuzha and Kottayam till Wednesday to contain the H5N8 strain of bird flu. The outbreak was initially reported in four panchayats.

Nineteen Rapid Response Teams have been engaged in culling birds in both the districts and the regionssus-

pected to have infected the birds will be sanitised on Thursday.

State Animal Husbandry Minister K Raju said there is no history of H5N8 virus being transmitted to humans.

**Ban on poultry import in J&K:** Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday banned import of live poultry birds and processed poultry.

## Owaisi responds to Imam's 'dividing vote' barb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 7 JANUARY

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi today took a dig at the Imams after their statement that they will not allow division of minority vote in West Bengal, wondering why Muslims are lagging behind though votes have not split in the past 70 years.

Buoyed by the success in Bihar Assembly elections AIMIM has decided to contest in upcoming West Bengal elections and Owaisi has met Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui of Furura Shareef on contesting elections together.

Owaisi took to the micro blogging site Twitter after a statement from Bengal Imams' Association that the community does not need any out-



side leader and they do not believe in communal or caste politics.

Owaisi retorted: "Imam sahab, for over 70 years Muslim has not been divided. Muslims are 27 per cent of Bengal population but 37 per cent of state's prison population. In whose favour was this undivided vote? Surely not

80 per cent of Bengal's Muslims who earn only 5000 per month."

He went on to add, "Please also explain to us how/why Mausam Noor lost the election in Malda. I respectfully request you to never underestimate Furura Shareef and yes we are with Abbas Siddiqui." Mausam Noor, the

niece ABA Ghani Khan Chowdhury had quit Congress and joined Trinamul Congress but lost her Malda (North) seat to BJP's Khagen Murmu due to splitting of votes between Congress and Trinamul Congress in 2019 elections. With the entry of AIMIM, parties like Trinamul Congress and Congress are apprehensive of a further split of minority votes, paving the way for BJP's win in the upcoming Assembly elections. It may be recalled that the West Bengal chief minister had introduced allowance for Imams in the state. Owaisi has decided to contest elections in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and the party has seen some success by tying up with smaller parties.

## IAF chief visits EAC amid Sino-India border tensions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 7 JANUARY

Amidst the prevailing tension between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Air Chief Marshal (ACM) of IAF R.K.S Bhaduria is on a two-day visit to the air-bases and Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) in the Eastern Air Command (EAC) to review operational preparedness in dealing with any emerging threats in the airspace posed by China.

The IAF spokesperson shared that ACM Bhaduria is on a two-day visit to air bases and ALGs within the operational command of the EAC and during which he visited forward areas in Sikkim sector and interacted with senior officers and personnel deployed there. He also visited Arunachal Pradesh and took stock of the IAF's battle-readiness to meet any challenges posed by China along the LAC in the North East.

It may be noted that Sikkim and AP both share borders with China and tensions have been prevailing ever since both sides got involved in skirmishes at Eastern Ladakh. The EAC controls air operations over a vast area that includes seven North-Eastern states, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Odisha and Jharkhand. It controls the airspace over 6,300 km long international boundary with China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. IAF sources said even since tensions with China escalated, the IAF has been bolstering its capability in the Eastern Sector too and for which fighter jet flying operations are also being conducted from the civilian airports and ALGs.

Meanwhile, ACM Bhaduria met the Arunachal Governor Brig. (retd.) B.D Mishra and the chief minister Pema Khandu to discuss security issues and the humanitarian missions in the state. Sources said discussions were also held on Advance Landing Grounds for Dirang and Anini. It was also learnt that the IAF chief assured the chief minister Prema Khandu of providing defence pilots to meet the shortage of pilots for fixed-wing civilian aircraft to be operated in the state. Recently, as part of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), IAF carried out Bambi Bucket operations to douse the fire in Dzouku valley near Kohima.

The Customs had first issued a notice to Ayyappan on Monday asking him to appear for questioning on Tuesday in Kochi. However, he refused to appear claim-

## Ganguly discharged from hosp, says 'I'm absolutely fine'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 7 JANUARY

Former Indian skipper and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly was discharged from Kolkata's Woodlands Hospital on Thursday morning, following six days of hospitalisation.

"I am absolutely fine now. I thank all the doctors and nurses at the hospital for the treatment and care," Ganguly said after getting discharged from the hospital. He, however, refused to answer any question from the media.

The 48-year-old had suffered a sudden blackout following mild chest pain during a workout session at his Behala residence on January 2. He was moved to the Woodlands Hospital that day itself where he underwent angioplasty.

Meanwhile, Ganguly's fans gathered in front of the hospital as well as in front of his Biren Roy Road residence at Behala this morning to catch a glimpse of their favourite cricketer.

"I'm keeping fine. I have come back to life," said Ganguly towards his followers after reaching his residence.

Earlier, noted cardiac surgeon Devi Shetty, who came to the West Bengal capital on Tuesday morning, had examined the BCCI chief and said the former batting great was stable and could be discharged.

Ganguly had three blocked coronary arteries and a stent



BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on his way back to home after his discharge from private hospital in Kolkata on Thursday. ■ SNS

Ganguly's health check-ups at the hospital.

According to hospital sources, Ganguly will have to follow a strict guideline for the next two weeks.

Some medical tests will also be conducted upon him during that time.

## Mamata met Dhankhar for 'adjustment': Dilip



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BANKURA, 7 JANUARY

excess wrongdoings."

Ghosh addressed a public meeting at Biborda village in Taldangra block in Bankura today. He also reacted to the remarks by TMC youth president Abhishek Banerjee in North Bengal today. Banerjee while addressing termed Ghosh as a 'Gunda'. Ghosh retorted: "If required I'm ready to behave as a ruffian to resist their vandalism. It's upto them to choose - which Dilip Ghosh they want to see."

Ghosh also replied to Abhishek's charges that the prime minister avails a car that cost Rs 6 crores saying: "Would you please reply how you are staying in a house that costs Rs 7 crores?"

Cong, Left yet to hold seat-sharing talks in Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 7 JANUARY

A slew of agitations programmes against Trinamul Congress and BJP were chalked out at a joint renting between top Congress and Left Front leadership today. Plans were inked to spread the Congress-Left joint programmes from the city to the rural areas though a decision on the probable rally of Rahul Gandhi was not taken nor preliminary talks on seat sharing for coming state Assembly polls were started.

The next programme would be held on 26 January when the people's attention would be drawn about the "abduction of democracy" by Trinamul in the state and BJP at the Centre. The joint rallies would demand the "return of democracy" on the Republic Day. Rajya Sabha MP, Pradip Bhattacharya said a statewide programme have been planned on 23 January to mark the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

## Dollar-smuggling: Customs issues fresh summons to Kerala Speaker's close aide

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
7 JANUARY

In spite of the stance of the legislature secretariat that the Customs have to take permission of the Speaker before summoning Assembly staff, the Central agency has issued a fresh summons to Speaker's assistant private secretary K Ayyappan, asking him to appear before the agency at its Kochi office on Friday morning for interrogation in connection with the dollar-smuggling case. This time, Customs has served the notice to the residential address of Ayyappan.

The Assembly secretary then sent a letter to the Customs saying it has to take permission of the Speaker before summoning Assembly staff, because like lawmakers, they also enjoy certain privileges. Following this, the Customs has issued a fresh summons in the residential address of Ayyappan.

The Customs had first issued a notice to Ayyappan on Monday asking him to appear for questioning on Tuesday in Kochi. However, he refused to appear claim-

ing that he did not receive a notice. Later, the second notice was issued by Customs on Tuesday evening asking him to appear on Wednesday.

Ayyappan, in reply to the Customs' notice, on Wednesday morning, sent an email claiming he cannot appear as he is busy with works related to the Assembly budget session scheduled to begin on Friday.

The Assembly secretary meanwhile, Speaker P. Seeramakrishnan on Thursday said his prior permission should be obtained by Customs before questioning his personal staff.

"Staff of the Assembly also enjoys certain privileges under Rule 165 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assembly," he said.

The Opposition condemned the move to interrupt the interrogation of the Speaker's PA. Congress leader KC Joseph said the Speaker has misused legislative privileges to protect his PA.

## AP: Panels set up to ensure communal harmony

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 7 JANUARY

Andhra Pradesh government has issued an order forming committees both at the state and district-level to promote communal peace and harmony following a series of attacks on temples in the

state. The state-level committee will be chaired by the chief secretary with DGP as vice-chairman. The committee will include representatives belonging to various communities and will tackle problems which might lead to communal flare-ups and build confidence on the ground among communities.

**TENDER**

**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Spl. Pr) City-SP Zone  
2nd Floor, Old Hindu College Building Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006  
No. D/106/EE(Spl.Pr)CSPZ/2020-21  
**ADDENDUM**  
Addendum to NIT No. EE(Spl.Pr)TC/CSPZ/2020-21 dated 09.01.2020 for the work "Construction of Multilevel Car Parking project at Shastry Park Complex in Karol Bagh Zone". Clarification to pre bid queries held on 01.08.2020 along with reschedule of NIT, documents can be held upto 12.01.2021 and submitted by 15.01.2021 has been uploaded on website [www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMC/TENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMC/TENDER) on priority basis for circulation among all concerned.  
R.O. No. 51/DPU/2020-21

**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Engineer-(E)-II SSZ  
Ind Floor, Technical Laboratory Disaster Management Centre, Ghazipur, Delhi-96  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No. 25/EEE-II/SHAH(S)-/2020-21  
Dated : 06.01.2021  
The Executive Engineer EE (Elect)-II Shd. (S) Zone on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites online tender for the following work:-  
Tender No.: 319493. Name of Work : Provision of Smart Class in MC Primary School, Mahila Colony, Baldev Park, South Anarkali, Geeta Colony 6 Block, Buland Masjid/Shastri Park extn., Kanti Nagar, Marginal Band New in AC-60 and AC-61 under Shahdara South Zone Tender Amount : Rs. 48,70,446/-, Earnest Money : Rs. 97,450/-, Time of Completion : 6 Months.  
The last date of re-encryption of online bid for item No. 1 will be 22.01.2021 upto 2:00 PM. Other details/information can be seen on website [www.mcdtenders.com](http://www.mcdtenders.com)  
R.O. No. 78/DPI/East/2020-21  
Executive Engineer (E)-II Shd. (S)  
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303

**OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR**  
Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-30205  
Phone: 0141-2740170 (O), acef.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in  
No. F/1)ACE/PHED/Ar/Dausa/NIT-27/2020-21/6013-33  
Date: 31-12-2020  
(e-NIT No. 27/2020-21)  
Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from the bidder meeting eligibility as per criteria mentioned in the detailed tender document which can be seen and downloaded from website: <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website: <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> as per schedule given below:  

NIT No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Last date for submission of tender	Due date for opening
27/2020-21	RWSS Bilona Kalan Dausa Dist: Dausa	Rs. 397.18 lakh	12-01-2021 (up to 6-00 p.m.)	13-01-2021 (1-00 p.m.)

  
**NIT No.** **NIB No.** **UBN No.**  
27/2020-21 PHE 2021 A 4348 PHE 2021 WSO B08326  
R.C. Mishra Addl. Chief Engineer  
PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur  
SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE</



All facts are coming to us... At appropriate time, we will give you an appropriate answer

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA  
IN CONNECTION WITH DECEMBER'S LAWAYpora ENCOUNTER IN SRINAGAR

## THUMBNAILS



Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar and other officials plant saplings at Yadadri Natural Model Forest in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana on Thursday.

IANS

**Delhi riots:** A court in New Delhi on Thursday sought reply from the police as to how the copy of a supplementary charge sheet, filed against former JNU student leader Umar Khalid in a northeast Delhi riots case, was allegedly leaked to the media even before the accused or his counsel got it.

PTI

**Urban local body reforms:** Telangana has become the third state after Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to complete urban local bodies reforms stipulated by the Union finance ministry.

SNS

**#MeToo:** Former Union minister M J Akbar told a Delhi court on Thursday that false, defamatory statement by journalist Priya Ramani against him alleging sexual misconduct led other persons and the media repeating them.

PTI

**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:** The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held as scheduled on 9 January despite the ongoing Covid pandemic in view of the sentiments of the vibrant Indian diaspora, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday.

SNS

## DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
O.A. No.912/2019  
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA ..... Applicant  
Versus  
RAJESH KUMAR KASHYAP & ORS. .... Respondents

To,  
1. RAJESH KUMAR KASHYAP, S/O. HARIRAM KASHYAP  
R/o. H. No. A-311, Sudampuri, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001.  
2. MRS. KAVITA KASHYAP, W.O. RAJESH KUMAR KASHYAP  
R/o. H.No.-A-311, Sudampuri, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001.  
3. SHUBHKAMNA BUILDTECH PVT. LTD.  
Corporate Office at: A-80, Sector-2, Noida-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.79,35,018/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eighteen Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 04.03.2021 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT Website: [www.tribunal.gov.in](http://www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone Number 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

**Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-**  
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software.

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

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No.23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2020.

Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry. Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone No.: 011-23748473, E-mail : [drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in](mailto:drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in).

By Order of this Tribunal,  
For Registrar



## DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
O.A. No.969/2019  
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA ..... Applicant  
Versus  
RAHUL TYAGI & ORS. .... Respondents

To,  
1. RAHUL TYAGI, S/O. SH. ASHOK TYAGI, R/o. Flat No.S-3A, 1Ind Floor, Plot No.48, Sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201012. Also at: MTNL, A.O. (VAS) BB, 9th Floor, Kidwai Bhawan, Janpath, C.P. Delhi.  
2. KANCHAN TYAGI, W/O. SH. RAHUL TYAGI, Both R/o. Flat No.S-3A, 1Ind Floor, Plot No.498, Sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201012.  
3. SHUBHKAMNA BUILDTECH PVT. LTD.  
Office at: A-80, Sector-2, Noida-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.52,12,473/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 09.03.2021 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT Website: [www.tribunal.gov.in](http://www.tribunal.gov.in) Phone Number 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

**Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-**  
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software.

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

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No.23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 07<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2020.

Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry. Mr. Amit K. Dar, Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone No.: 011-23748473, E-mail : [redrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in](mailto:redrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in).

SEAL OF COURT

By Order of this Tribunal,  
For Registrar

# Govt wants to privatise farm sector with new laws: Nath

Claims 'RSS and Bharatiya Jana Sangh were votaries of privatisation since the beginning'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHOPAL, 7 JANUARY

**M**adhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Thursday alleged the Centre wants to privatise the farm sector with its three new agri-marketing laws, which are being opposed by thousands of cultivators.

Talking to reporters here while announcing the launch of his party's protest against the government and an awakening drive for farmers which will continue till 23 January, Nath claimed the "RSS and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh were votaries of privatisation since the beginning".

"They (the two organisations) also opposed the nationalisation of banks carried out by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi," the former state chief minister claimed.

The farmers of Madhya Pradesh are simple and the three new laws are against their interests, he claimed.

Thousands of farmers have been camping at several Delhi border points for over 40 days, demanding repeal of the new farm laws and a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for their crops, besides other issues.

Nath alleged that the

"Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its political branches - the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and the BJP - favour a capitalists-driven market economy and are votaries of privatisation".

He equated the three new laws to a "springboard made for industrialists' venture into the 'lucrative' farm produce market."

In contrast, the Congress has always favoured a "socialist economy and ideology" and that is why PSUs were set up under the Congress's rule earlier, the former Union minister said. "Big corporate and multi-national companies are eyeing the farm produce market which is Rs 15 lakh crore to Rs 18 lakh crore in India. The three laws have been brought for these companies to foray into this sector," Nath alleged.

"The RSS and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh opposed public sector undertakings and big dams after Independence. They had opposed PSUs like the Steel Authority of India, the National Thermal Power Corporation, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the IOC," he alleged.

Referring to the Shanta Kumar committee, he said it recommended that the Central government should buy produce under MSP from states whose yield was deficit, whereas the state government should procure food grains from states (under MSP) where the agriculture production was surplus.

"Our protest (against the government) for the farmers' cause at various levels, including blocks and districts across the state, will continue till 23 January," Nath said.

On 15 January, a two-hour-long "chakkajam" (road blockade) will be held from noon across the state. The Congress will hold a massive "kisan mahapanchayat" (farmers' meet) on 20 January in the state's Morena district.



## Tractors take over roads at Singhu border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY

A cacophony of rumbling engines, Punjabi tunes and rousing slogans filled the air as rows of tractors took over the roads at the Singhu border for the protest march by farmers on Thursday.

Thousands of farmers who have been protesting at the Delhi-Haryana borders for over 40 days took out a tractor march to strengthen their agitation against the new farm laws.

The tractor march started from four different points - Singhu Tikri Border, Tikri to Kundli, Ghazipur Palwali and Rewari to Palwal.

"The government has been hosting meeting after meeting. They know we want the laws to be repealed, but all we get are futile talks. With this rally we want to give them a glimpse of what we can do, and what we will do

on 26 January.

"Today the rally is happening on the periphery of Delhi, but when our farmer leaders decide that we need to enter the Capital, we will do that," said Harjinder Singh from Punjab's Hoshiarpur.

Perched on their tractors, protesting farmers moved out of the protest site, and speakers on their vehicles belted out music keeping their spirits high. Some tractors in the march were seen with National Flags.

"We are the sons of soil. If the laws are passed, we will starve to death. This rally is our way of telling the government that we will not give up unless it gives in to our demands," said Jaspal Singh Deol from Punjab's Chamkaur Sahib.

Meanwhile, the crowd thinned at the Singhu border.

Langars kept dishing out meals, and medical camps distributed medicines to all.

## BJP MLA faces farmers' wrath

MEERUT, 7 JANUARY

BJP MLA from Khatauli of Muzaffarnagar district Vikram Saini faced the anguish of farmers during Kisan Mela on Wednesday. He was invited as the Chief Guest.

When the MLA accounted achievements of the BJP government he faced strong opposition of some farmers there who insisted he should speak about farmers and not the government.

On intervention of administrative and agriculture officials, the farmers sobered down and allowed the MLA to continue his address. This is being considered as a reaction in view of the ongoing farmers movement against the three farm laws.

However denying the reports of his opposition in the Kisan Mela, Saini said there were only two farmers who raised issues related to their bank loans and Bills. He refused to comment on the three Bills.

SNS

## Nirav Modi's sister, brother-in-law turn approvers in PNB case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY



Fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi's sister and brother-in-law have "turned approvers" in the \$2-billion PNB fraud case against him and they will help the Enforcement Directorate confiscate assets worth Rs 579 crore, the agency said on Thursday.

Nirav Modi, now lodged in a London jail, his uncle, Mehul Choksi, and others are being probed by the ED in the Punjab National Bank money laundering case since 2018.

The diamond merchant's younger sister, Purvi Modi (47), is a Belgian national while her husband, Maiank Mehta, is a British citizen. They are stated to be based abroad and have never joined the probe in this case.

Purvi Modi was arraigned as an accused in the alleged criminal bank fraud case where multiple charge sheets have been filed by the ED and also the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Her assets, including some Swiss bank deposits, were earlier seized by the ED and she had informed the court that she had "no beneficial interest" in these properties seized by the agency under her name.

"Nirav Modi's sister Purvi Modi and her husband Maiank Mehta turned approver for assisting in confiscation of two flats in New York, one each in London and Mumbai, balances in two Swiss bank accounts and a bank account in Mumbai totalling to Rs 579 crore in the Nirav Modi bank fraud case," the ED said in a statement.

Earlier this week, a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai accepted the plea of the couple for turning approver in this case.

In her application made to the court for pardon, Purvi had

port, comfortable temperature maintained and look after by our electrical team. We are at your service," tweeted the Srinagar airport.

Traffic police said the Jammu-Srinagar highway was closed for traffic due to accumulation of snow and slippery road condition at the Jawahar Tunnel and major landslides at more than six places.

Weather opened in the plains of Jammu where sun came out after four days of incessant rains.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department said that after passing of the Western Disturbance, foggy morning is normally observed in Kashmir Valley because of moisture and a clear sky. "Visibility will definitely improve with the rise of temperature."

Complaints of removal of snow, restoration of power supply at snail's speed have been received from the Valley.

## Flight operations resume at Srinagar airport after 4 days

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 7 JANUARY

Having remained suspended for four days due to heavy snowfall and extremely bad weather, flight operations at the Srinagar airport were resumed on Thursday when a rush of ticket-seekers for flights to New Delhi, Jammu, Mumbai and other places was witnessed at the offices of private airlines.

The airlines were planning extra flights to clear the rush of stranded tourists and local passengers as the 300-km Jammu-Srinagar highway was still closed for vehicular traffic because of snow and landslides at several places.

Keeping in view the spiral in demand for seats in the flights, many airlines have hiked ticket fares for flight from Srinagar to Delhi. The ticket that was earlier available for around Rs 5,500 is now being sold for anything around Rs 10,000, pas-

sengers complained. In view of the rush of ticket seekers, the Srinagar airport tweeted kindly follow airline websites and trusted websites or firm as there was heavy demand of flight booking.

Stranded tourists in particular rushed to the airport soon after the authorities tweeted: "We are happy to have restored and resumed flight operation just after heavy snowfall and bad

weather condition without leaving any stone unturned related to safety parameters for aircraft operation. We welcome our esteemed passengers again".

Traffic jams were witnessed on the roads in Srinagar as the snow clearance operations (in photo) were slow.

"As temperature is below freezing point it is advisable to keep yourself warm and fit. In terminal building Srinagar air-

port, comfortable temperature maintained and look after by our electrical team. We are at your service," tweeted the Srinagar airport.

Traffic police said the Jammu-Srinagar highway was closed for traffic due to accumulation of snow and slippery road condition at the Jawahar Tunnel and major landslides at more than six places.

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Complaints of removal of snow, restoration of power supply at snail's speed have been received from the Valley.

## School principal, students test +ve after classes start in Bihar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, 7 JANUARY

## Tyranny of power

Wednesday's mayhem in Washington, DC that saw the storming of Capitol Hill, the deaths of four persons, fistcuffs between legislators, the desecration of Congress and the blocking of sitting President's social media accounts, has ensured at least three things. First, it has resulted in the wilful destruction of America's place at the high table of democracy through an act termed an insurrection by both a Democratic President-elect and a Republican former President. Next, it has ensured obliteration of the Donald Trump myth, his exhortations to a mob of hooligans that led to the Capitol being stormed having confirmed his place not as the statesman he might have imagined himself to be but as an obstreperous thug who made it to the White House. Finally, it has delivered a grievous blow to the Republican party which sent Mr Trump to America's highest political office and which, as a consequence of his utter lack of grace in conceding an election he had lost, has seen the loss of control of the Senate after twin setbacks in Georgia. While global leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, have condemned the violence and many, including him, have sought a peaceful "transfer of power", it is the jibes from the Chinese that will rankle Americans the most. The Communist Party-run *Global Times* has asked if US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who had once described protests in Hong Kong as a "beautiful sight to behold" would say the same about the violent protests by Trump supporters. But the most biting comment came from Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations who tweeted, "If the United States saw what the United States is doing in the United States, the United States would invade the United States to liberate the United States from the tyranny of the United States."

While it is tempting to conclude from the fact Mr Trump secured 70 million votes that a little less than half of Americans support his disruptive style and his contempt for the organs of governance, that would be unfair. But equally it cannot be denied that Mr Trump has brought extreme right-wingers, racists, rednecks and white supremacists to a common platform, one that will continue to rip American society apart. Many Republican supporters are conservative whites who see in the Democrats' relative socialism a debasement of the American dream and view with scepticism the party's policies on immigration and a host of other issues. These differences, though, have existed for generations, but the sparring has mostly been genteel and confined to the many debating platforms Americans give themselves. The degeneration into violence on the back of what former President Barack Obama terms a "fantasy narrative" that "spiralled further and further from reality" will have worrisome consequences in the days ahead. Mr Joe Biden will inherit not a depleted Presidency but one that in its last days has flirted with criminality. No wonder many Americans want Mr Trump impeached in the last days he remains their President.

## Diplomatic breakthrough

It is a salutary development in geopolitics that there has been a mending of fences between Qatar and Saudi Arabia on the eve of the annual summit of Arab nations. The meeting at the high table can, therefore, be expected to go beyond the customary diplomatic grandstanding. When the desert kingdom's Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman greeted the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, with an embrace on arrival, it was more than a symbolic gesture. Chiefly, the palace in Riyadh has signalled its resolve to end the prolonged embargo that it had imposed on the tiny Gulf state. The other critical initiative, even before the summit gets under way, is the decision to open borders. Hitherto, the diplomatic crisis had divided America's defence partners, distorted societal ties, besides tearing apart a traditional alliance of Arab states. The summit in Al-Ula in Saudi Arabia is expected to yield a detente that ought to influence geostrategies in the Arab region. At the core of the rupture, which has resonated in the echo chambers of other Arab states, had been Qatar's support for Islamist groups and cordial ties with Iran. It has not been wholly effective while playing the honest broker between the United States and the Taliban. Tuesday's diplomatic breakthrough appears to be an upshot of the efforts of the Trump administration and Kuwait to mediate an end to the crisis. It is profoundly significant that the major agreement was announced on the eve of the Arab summit and ahead of the US President-elect Joe Biden's swearing-in. No less important is the timing of the breakthrough. Arguably, Saudi Arabia's objective may be two-fold, i.e. to grant the Trump administration a final diplomatic victory and thus remove the anticipated impediments to forging warm ties with the Biden administration in the White House. Intertwined no less are Wednesday's defining and high stakes Senate run-off elections in Georgia. Thus far, the world has been kept guessing about the concessions that either Saudi Arabia or Qatar may have made. Yet there is little doubt that Qatar has been in unspendid isolation since June 2017, when Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain announced a boycott of the small, albeit influential, country in the Persian Gulf. The Saudi decision to end the embargo will help resolve the crisis, but it isn't time yet for a complete reconciliation. Severely acute has been the rift between Abu Dhabi and Doha; in parallel, there are serious ideological differences between the UAE and Qatar. "We have more work to do," has been the realistic response of the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash. As of now, the world looks forward to the document that Qatar's Sheikh Tamim will sign with the Saudi Crown Prince, marking a new phase in equations within the strategic Gulf.

# Scarcely intuitive

Many Government initiatives fail because of the inherent contradiction between the transformative roadmap drawn-up by the PM and its unimaginative and lack-lustre bureaucratic follow-up. For example, a \$5 trillion economy cannot be built by projecting a fanciful rise in revenue collection



We Indians have a bad habit of preaching to everyone who cares to listen to us and sometimes even to those who don't listen. Thus, we have sundry people advising the Indian cricket team about their batting line-up or some newspaper columnist trying to advise China on how to maintain relations with India or a great multitude of people advising Sonia Gandhi on how to run the Congress party.

Many times, we offer advice that we ourselves don't follow; like the spiritual gurus who preach abstinence but are themselves caught in flagrant delicto or the doctor who advises you to give up smoking while puffing on a cigarette. Free advice provides much-required amusement, but only till someone actually starts following such advice.

Some years ago, in 2010, as a green initiative, the Government advised people to go for solar power. A number of incentives were offered and a target of achieving solar power generation of 20 Gigawatts (GW) by the year 2022 was set, which was achieved in 2018. The target was then revised to generation of 100 GW of solar power by 2022. Our installed solar power generation capacity is 36 GW but there are few takers for the additional solar power of 18 GW being installed in the current year, maybe because our aggregate power generation capacity is 375 GW while peak demand is only 183 GW.

Government guidelines mandating 30 per cent domestic content for solar power projects increases the cost of such projects because the cost of inputs is lower in the global market that also offers better quality and cutting-edge technology. To add to the woes of solar power generators, the price of solar power has fallen to a record low of Rs1.99 per unit. One can only pity the entrepreneurs who installed solar power plants at a cost of roughly Rs 7,500 crore per GW.

Similar is the experience of farmers, who have been exhorted to produce more food grains, right from 1950. Historically, self-sufficiency in food grains production was the primary aim of the Government and cultivation of cash crops was frowned upon. Self-sufficiency in food grains was achieved much before the end of the last millennium, but the advice of the Government and the economics of the agricultural

sector did not change, even by the second decade of the new millennium.

As on today, excess production of food grains has depressed prices resulting in the impoverishment of farmers. Complicating matters further, ad-hoc measures of the Government have created a highly artificial and complex economic structure for agricultural products which has been distorted further by a food subsidy of Rs 1,15,570 crore and a fertiliser subsidy of Rs 71,309 crore, in the current year alone. Significantly, these figures do not include PM-KISAN

payments, water subsidy and electricity subsidy doled out by the Union and State Governments. Just as the debate on demonetisation soon veered round to the promotion of electronic payments, the debate on the recent Farming Acts is now concentrated on the farmers being awash in subsidies with few noticing that subsidies would benefit corporates once the Farming Acts are made operational. Then, farmers are charged with the wasteful use of fertiliser, power and water and an unwillingness to diversify into the cultivation of less resource-intensive crops.

Excess production of food grains by farmers is also blamed for the woes of FCI which procures food grains far in excess of its storage capacity and more than twice the requirement of the Public Distribution System. No one remembers that originally it was the Government that was batteing for increasing the production of food grains.

So far as the contemporary advice for diversification of crops is concerned, example being better than precept, perhaps the Government could provide farmers with the markets, expertise and finance to grow non-traditional crops.

More importantly, farmers are under distress because they find the cost of vital inputs like fertilisers, tractors and diesel getting going up by the day. To make agriculture remunerative, instead of increasing MSP, the Government could implement the comprehensive Swaminathan Report

on Agriculture of 2006, which earlier Governments had failed to implement. Presently, the Government is pushing for Atma-nirbhar Bharat in a big way, forgetting that foreign goods can be discarded only if locally made goods of similar quality are available at comparative prices. The ailing BSNL, which wanted to upgrade to a 4G network, appears to be the latest victim of Atma-nirbhar Bharat, with local vendors offering untested technology at 85 per cent more cost.

In fact, the concept of Atma-nirbhar Bharat is somewhat anomalous; while promoting Atma-nirbhar Bharat, the Government is desperately seeking foreign investment. Ironically, when foreign investment comes knocking at our doors, we do our utmost to discourage it. After Amazon announced a US \$1 billion investment in its Indian business in January 2020, on top of its earlier US \$5.5 billion investment, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that Amazon was not doing a favour to India by the investments and also imputed that Amazon could incur such "big" losses only by its predatory pricing. Further, Mr Goyal denied an audience to the Amazon boss Jeff Bezos.

Government initiatives are sometimes hamstrung by an unsuitable policy framework, for example, the Make in India initiative has been stymied by the uneven rates of GST which has led to increase in input cost and has adversely impacted small businesses and sectors which are not under GST but who have to pay GST on their inputs.

The Government's initiatives like Atma-nirbhar Bharat, Skill India, Doubling Farmers' Income, Ayushman Bharat etc. are commendable in themselves but the scale of their success would increase manifold if they are woven into the policy framework and are supported by a comprehensive economic and taxation policy. Many Government initiatives fail because of the inherent contradiction between the transformative roadmap drawn-up by the PM and its unimaginative and lack-lustre bureaucratic follow-up. For example, a \$5 trillion

economy cannot be built by projecting a fanciful rise in revenue collection, which was not achieved in the last two budgets and which has often led to incidents of 'tax terrorism.'

In fact, a hunger to increase tax collection has led to a levy of 42.8 per cent income-tax on the super-rich ~ a rate much above the Laffer Curve ~ which has resulted in an exodus of High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) from our shores. Then, the imposition of a high rate of VAT on petroleum products, which appears to be an ad-hoc measure to garner revenue, has pushed up the cost of living for the public.

One can conclude that the bane of the Indian economy is the adoption of ersatz solutions for deep-rooted structural problems. Instead of imposing high rates of VAT and GST a well-thought-out scheme of taxing the super-rich would provide a permanent source of revenue and would help in evening out the increasing inequalities in our society. Many countries with a progressive taxation system like Switzerland levy wealth tax.

Wealth tax was abolished in India because the cost of collection was stated to be inordinately high but with the complete computerization of the Income-tax Department, this impediment in the levy of wealth tax has been removed.

So, wealth tax may be reintroduced with suitable amendments and a substantial increase in the earlier threshold of Rs.30 lakh. Similarly, the reintroduction of Estate Duty or a tax on inheritance, would reduce the propagation of income inequality, through successive generations. Here again, computerization has cleared the way for smooth levy. Notably, most countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and France impose a tax on inheritance.

Warren Buffet, the iconic investor, business tycoon and philanthropist had said: "If anything, taxes for the lower and middle class and maybe even the upper middle class should even probably be cut further. But I think that people at the high end ~ people like myself ~ should be paying a lot more in taxes. We have it better than we've ever had it."

One sincerely hopes that India's super-rich and the Indian Government listen to Buffet's sage advice.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIAN VOICES

## Poverty line for 2021-2025

Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on December 29 agreed on the content of a draft decree on the policy of promulgating the national multidimensional poverty line in the 2021-2025 period as part of the monthly government meeting.

Reporting on the draft decree on national multidimensional poverty standards for the 2021-2025 period at the meeting, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs stressed that to achieve the poverty reduction goal, since 1993, Vietnam had revised the national poverty line seven times.

The development of the national multidimensional poverty line in the 2021-2025 period will serve as a basis for more accurate and comprehensive identification of poor households, near-poor households and other beneficiaries of national poverty reduction and social security policies, said the ministry.

According to the ministry, the national multidimensional poverty line in the 2021-2025 period will also serve as the basis for making policies, mechanisms and solutions to achieve multidimensional, inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction.

"Multidimensional poverty measurement criteria include sufficient income and access to basic social services to accurately identify poor and near-poor households, ensuring compliance with the methodology and multidimensional poverty nature," said the ministry.

**Việt Nam News**  
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

Also at the meeting, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development presented a report on the development of the national target programme on building new rural areas in the 2021-2025 period.

Accordingly, the country will strive to have at least 1,776 communes meeting new rural standards in this period, bringing the total number of communes meeting the standards to 80 per cent from the current 62 per cent.

It is expected that the total mobilisation for the implementation of the programme will be more than 2,600 quadrillion dong (\$112.78 billion), an increase of 25 per cent compared to the 2016-2020 period.

The prime minister emphasised the request to improve the living standards of farmers and ethnic minorities. Phuc urged ministries and sectors to coordinate to review the programme and add more resources to best implement this programme.

The government also considered and discussed the programme on making laws, ordinances and promulgating detailed regulations in 2021. Earlier in the day, Phuc urged all ministries, sectors and localities to start making efforts to fulfil all 2021 targets from the beginning of the year, including striving for economic growth of 6.5 per cent or even more.

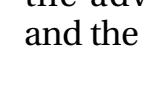
Concluding the 1.5-daylong online meeting with provincial and city authorities across the country on December 29, the prime minister stressed that for stable and sustainable socio-economic development, a stable and sustainable macro foundation must be maintained.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CHATTERJEE GOUTAM** — (Loyola School, Jamshedpur, B.H.U., XLRI, Telco). — Passed away on January 8, 1994. Remembered with love and gratitude by brothers Bhaskar, Vidyarthi and sister, Reeta.

King Jr. aptly said: "If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable."

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 30 December.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Inevitability of Gandhi

SIR, This is with reference to the article, 'Gandhiism could show way to managing resources' by Ricki Levi et al. (*The Statesman*, 30 December). The contemporary model of development (so called) has been derived

from the dehumanization that set in during the Industrial revolution. And it remains unabated. Its essence lies in the maximization of profit by promoting consumerism and at the cost of reckless exploitation of nat-

ural resources.  
Under the illusion of unlimited powers, nourished by astonishing achievements of S&T, modern men fail to distinguish between income and capital (natural resources).

The system seems to live off capital. Growth is being paraded as development. Indeed, Keynesian economics remains behind such development. In his essay *The Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren*, Lord Keynes said in 1930: "For at least another hundred years we must pretend to everyone that fair is foul and foul is fair".

Even though the word 'ecology' does not appear in Mahatma Gandhi's voluminous writings and speeches, his life and work form an

environmental legacy for humanity. He was an exceptional environmentalist. He was a passionate champion of a life pattern based on three cardinal principles ~

## GOVERNORS' ROLE

SIR, In a federal structure like India, the governors of states function and derive their authority from and discharge their responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution. But over the years, governors of states have surpassed their legitimate powers and become agents of the ruling BJP.

Under the piquant circumstance of agitation of kisans to repeal farm laws, the role of governors has been immense. The NDA-led BJP's drive to establish complete political hegemony in the country by destroying the federal structure of our Constitution and erect a unitary structure is creating conflicts between the Union government and elected state governments.

Some regional parties that head state governments are being forced by state governors to come out in opposition to protests. One example is of the Kerala governor who refused to convene a special session of the assembly on December 23 to discuss the farmers' situation.

In the case of Punjab, when the interest of BJP workers is at stake, the governor has summoned senior-most officers for dressing down instead of talking to the Chief Minister. The governor's office is being similarly used in West Bengal and Puducherry. The governors of states should not be mouthpieces of the BJP and instead should protect and preserve the Constitution in an impartial way.

Yours, etc., S K Khosla, Chandigarh. 5 January.



HOLLY BAXTER

**A**t the Save America March in Washington DC on Wednesday afternoon, a few thousand devotees — plus a smattering of media cameras — had a courtside view of the final, frenzied hours of the Trump presidency. This is where it all began.

The wind was blowing on a bitterly cold January day and the president was dressed in his signature suit and red tie with additional black gloves, flanked by two American flags. He followed Rudy Giuliani — who at one point suggested settling the election with a “trial by combat” — and his eldest son Donald Trump Jr., whose personal highlights included: “This gathering should send a message to them: This isn’t their Republican party anymore, this is Donald Trump’s Republican party. This is the Republican party that will put America first.”

Those could be seen as tough acts to follow, but not for Donald J. Trump.

“We’re gonna have somebody in there that should not be in there and our country will be destroyed,” the president said into the mic when he finally took the stage, gesticulating wildly. “There’s weak Republicans. There’s so many weak Republicans... and I helped Mitch get elected.” He paused for a cacophony of boos from the floor. “I could name 24 of them,” he continued. “They’re pathetic Republicans.”

Trump’s ire flailed around, hitting every possible target.

Democratic voters? “Our election was over at 10 o’clock in the evening. Then these explosions of BULLSH\*T!” (The audience screamed in delight, then chanted “Bullsh\*t, bullsh\*t, bullsh\*t” for a minute or two.)

Oprah? “She used to like me! I was one of her five greatest people! Then I’m president and she doesn’t want to know!”

Republican Governor of Georgia Brian Kemp? “He weighs 130 pounds! He says he played offensive lineman in football — offensive lineman? I said that must’ve been a small team.”

George W Bush, “Barack Hussein Obama”, and decisionmakers at the Pentagon? “I said don’t go into Iraq but if you do, keep the oil, and they didn’t keep the oil. So stupid.”

The stimulus checks? “That \$600 thing — I wanted \$2,000. Give them a couple of bucks, I said, let them live! Give them a COUPLE OF BUCKS!”

Media outlets that report on his actions less closely now he’s been voted out? “Now they go silent, it’s just suppression. That’s what happens in a communist country.. You won’t hear about me on the fake news media, the enemy of the people.” Democrats in Congress and Republicans who refuse to back his claims that the election was stolen from him? “Let’s say they’re stiffs and they’re stupid people.”

The conspiracies came thick and fast today. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler were subject to a “setup,” they “didn’t have a chance”. “Human drop boxes — you know what that is, right?” dropped off duffel bags with tens of thousands of votes stuffed

# Trump's promise that rioters kept



inside them outside ballot boxes in the middle of the night. The media works to turn every previous ally against Trump by saying that Bill Barr and conservative Supreme Court justices are in his pocket, “so they rule against Trump” because otherwise it would be bad for their social lives. “It’s genius!” the president declared, throwing up his tiny hands. “If I was the media, well, I hate to say it, but I’d do it the same way.”

At this point, if this was a TV show, there might have been a record scratch and a camera zooming in on a supporter’s face as the internal wheels began to turn. *He’d have... done it the same way? The unacceptably corrupt, conspiratorial way he just outlined? I thought we were supposed to be... against the corruption?* A little like Mitchell and Webb turning to each other and saying with trepidation, “Are we the baddies?”, you’d think something might have clicked.

But as it is, the supporters left

clinging to the frayed and rapidly sinking Trump life-raft are way too far gone for a moment of reflection. “Their election” was finished long before all the votes were counted, after all.

“Mike Pence, I hope you’re gonna stand up,” Trump said to the camera during his speech, on three separate occasions. On three separate occasions, he followed it up with: “And if you’re not — I’m gonna be very disappointed in you, I’m telling you now.” The pause for effect got longer each time.

Unfortunately for the president, as he was going in for a third Pence pressure moment, his VP was stood in Congress, being tasked with officially certifying the 2020 election results. To stick by the man with the hyped-up rabble of scary supporters or to continue centuries of American democratic principle? It really was Sophie’s Choice for poor little evangelical Mike.

Yet even Pence managed to read

the writing on the wall. “It is my considered judgment that my oath to support and defend the Constitution constrained me from claiming unilateral authority to determine which electoral votes should be counted and which should not,” he said, indicating that he would not intervene to attempt to change the outcome of the election. This final demand from his running-mate was impossible to deliver upon. Pence, it seems, does have his limits after all. And so does Mitch McConnell — no longer Senate Majority Leader, after the results of the Georgia runoffs — who followed up by saying that “the right thing” was to certify the democratic results, rubbing salt into the Trumpian wound by adding, “This election was not actually unusually close,” and overruling it would “damage our republic forever.”

But what are limits for except to be defied? Minutes later, hundreds of Trump’s Save America March attendees stormed the Capitol building, tearing down four layers of security fencing. “This is the craziest thing I’ve ever seen in my life,” tweeted *The Blaze* reporter Elijah Schaffer, accompanying his tweet with a video of rioters carrying Trump flags. They were scuffling with police and screaming in their faces. (I guess blue lives only matter when they’re on your side.)

Congress members began reporting on social media that they were sheltering in place and waiting to be safely evacuated. Representative Elaine Luria reported hearing “multiple gunshots”. A woman was later reported to be in a critical condition after being shot on Capitol grounds.

“Today is not the end — it’s just the beginning,” Trump had said at the end of his speech, moments before.

Like the rally, the march and the display of supporters who still blindly believe he somehow won the election, it wasn’t a threat; it was a promise.

The Independent.

## UN needs new rights charter

TARINI MEHTA AND ARMIN ROSENCRANZ

**W**hat rights are we entitled to have protected by our Governments? The destruction that followed the Second World War led to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [UDHR] in 1948. The very first Article proclaimed that ‘all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.’

This fundamental international agreement set forth a number of key civil and political rights, as well as socio-economic rights. For its time it was a revolutionary document that aimed to ensure that never again would there be barbarous acts such as those that the world witnessed from 1933 to 1945.

In the 73 years since UDHR’s adoption, the conception of the essential elements of human life have expanded. The right to a clean envi-



ronment, to food, water, livelihood and culture are some of the rights that have gained recognition around the world. What is now needed is a legally binding declaration. This would strengthen the implementation of these rights at the national and regional levels.

Environmental degradation is

one of the most serious problems facing this and future generations. It has led to the advent of climate change, set to worsen over the coming decades with devastating consequences.

This has led to re-evaluating the right to life itself. What is the strength of the right if it does not take into

account the impact of environmental degradation on life and, therefore, on the right to life?

As the Indian Supreme Court has proclaimed in a number of cases, the right to life encompasses the right to live with dignity, which requires the provision of the basic necessities for life – food, shelter and a clean environment. This shaping of a classic civil political right into a powerful tool for the protection of human dignity is in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the human rights regime. Only when the basic building blocks of life – water, air, food – started getting polluted, putting people’s life and health in peril did modern societies accept this connection and begin to shape laws and policies accordingly.

It is now time for these developments to be reflected in a legally binding international document such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Climate change in particular is likely to lead to some of the worst humanitarian disasters the world has ever seen. In the first half of 2020, disasters displaced 9.8 million people.

Five countries accounted for nearly 75 per cent of the new internal displacements due to disasters in the

first half of 2020. As many as 2.7 million people were displaced in India, 2.5 million in Bangladesh, 811,000 in the Philippines, 791,000 in China and 514,000 in Somalia.

In 2019, nearly 2,000 disasters gave rise to 24.9 million new internal displacements across 140 countries and territories. According to the Migration Data Portal, this is three times the number of displacements caused by conflict and violence. Slow-onset environmental degradation such as droughts and sea level rise is also increasingly leading to migration across the world. Climatic impacts such as droughts and floods will also impact food and water security.

How we respond to these crises and their impacts over the coming decades is going to shape the future of humankind. A new approach – a new Universal Declaration of Human Rights – that places environment, sustainability, and the needs of current and future generations at the centre is the need of the hour.

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Environmental Law, and Dean of the Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability, O.P. Jindal Global University.

NO 28189



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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

### ACROSS

- 8 Top show almost missing its slot for broadcast (9)
- 9 Nothing about revolutionary woman (5)
- 10 Contestant's appearance Ignoring a rule (5)
- 11 Material on roof: that feature's beginning to grate (9)
- 12 Bits of film presented in middle of week showing astronomical phenomenon (7)
- 14 Someone who tries things is tense when cornered by a drug user (7)
- 16 No sarky comments about bridge team offering some
- 18 Absolutely certain woman is to reject first soldier (7)
- 19 Conductor confused situation, overlooking line and metre (7)
- 20 Farmers gutted about cow plants (7)
- 22 Not for many to know with respect to changing (3-6)
- 24 Return of academics keeping year for religious meeting (5)
- 25 Doctor, say, drawn to singular contents of used bottle? (5)
- 26 Legally required to stop imprisoning teacher (9)

### DOWN

- 1 Place never represented in measure of popularity? (10)
- 2 Scheduled League clash? (4)
- 3 Move at chess? Players initially look edgy (6)
- 4 Explanatory material little encountered in essential stuff given to Academy (8)
- 5 A timeless story supported by song and dance connoisseur (10)
- 6 Malevolent spirit turning up in fireplace (4)
- 7 Woman about to enter English resort, spurning European (8)
- 8 Swear nothing is omitted
- 13 Holy times reanimated after priest offers Hindu belief? (10)
- 15 Traffic merging, say – it requires a lot of workers (5,5)
- 16 Unexpectedly tamed one parasitic worm (8)
- 17 Prince taking on monster to get further (8)
- 20 Soccer group's discretion upset rich businessman? (5,3)
- 21 Speak about Democrat and Liberal with regret (5)
- 23 Look – alloy has no little weight (4)
- 24 15's upset about hospital offering no openings (4)

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

Colonel Wedgwood appears to have acquired the trick of saying “bureaucracy” with an intonation implying that it means something objectionable and repellent to all enlightened minds such as the speaker’s. In addressing a meeting of Madras students he declared eloquently that “the dawn is coming in India,” and, further, that “all the powers of the bureaucracy and armed might can never keep back the dawn.” It might have occurred to Colonel Wedgwood as a war veteran that, but for the “armed might” which ended the German menace, there would have been little chance of any dawn for India. As for the bureaucracy, amongst its multifarious functions, it has been hard at work for months past in assisting to bring the reformed regime into working order, and all its powers are relied upon to make the new administrative system a practical success. To talk about the bureaucracy “keeping back the dawn,” therefore, is grotesque at variance with the facts of the case. Perhaps it is too late to rescue the word from the obloquy which has been thrown upon it by speakers and writers who seem to have but vague ideas of what the “bureaucracy” really means. Unfortunately, the art of blowing one’s own trumpet has never been cultivated by the British official, and the result is that his work never shines with the “glistening foil set off to the world.”

### NEWS ITEMS

### MESSRS. TATA'S NEW EXPERIMENT

Bombay, Jan 7

An interesting experiment in industrial reorganisation is being made in Bombay by the Tata Mills management, which has formed a joint works committee with the object of fostering the spirit of cooperation between the workmen and managing staff and the officers of the mills, and to place the relations between them on a more personal and sympathetic basis. It is proposed to allow discussions between the representatives of the management and those of the workmen from time to time which may offer opportunities for the interchange of views, the consideration of difficulties, and the ventilation of grievances. The workmen will also be able to appreciate the problems that confront the supervising staff, and the practical difficulties connected with administration.

### GREAT EXODUS FROM BERLIN

The hotels of Berlin are emptying and the outgoing trains are crammed full. The reason is that the visitors fear the closing down of practically all the restaurants in the city. A meeting of the Berlin Hotel Proprietors Association decided to close down their restaurants. The association's decision affects 145 out of Berlin's 300 hotels, and these include all the largest save one. Those not in the association are the very smallest, and many of them, it is believed, will follow suit. Sixty or seventy of the largest wine and beer restaurants, apart from the hotels, will shut at the same time. The reason for this drastic move is the action of the police in raiding hotels and restaurants with a view to discovering if they are taking advantage of profiteering in foodstuffs.

### MIDNAPORE COLLEGE GRANT

For want of funds for the present year the Hon. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal has refused to revise the scale of the grants-in-aid to the Midnapore College though the revision was already overdue by two years. There was a revision, so far as the collegiate school was concerned, two years ago but that of the college was held over till recently. The Director, however, has requested the governing body of the college to sanction the proposed increments of the salaries of the Professors from out of the surplus fee income of the college accruing during the last five years. The governing body at a meeting found that most of the surplus money had been spent over the construction of new buildings.

### NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FOR BOMBAY

Bombay, Jan 7

Major-General James went Home by the mail last week, and has been succeeded in the command of the Bombay district by Colonel H.A.V. Cummins, who is well known in Bombay where he served on the staff before the war, when Major-General Swan commanded the Brigade. Colonel Cummins served with his regiment, the 24th Punjabis, in Mesopotamia and had the misfortune to be taken prisoner at Kut. Since then, with the rank of temporary Brigadier-General, he commanded a brigade at Ismid in succession to General Ironside.



Union Asset Management Company aims to double its asset base to Rs 10,000 crore within a year.

G PRADEEPKUMAR  
UNION AMC CEO

## THUMBNAILS

Lava launches customisable smartphone: Home-grown mobile device maker Lava International on Thursday unveiled the world's first customisable smartphone that will allow customers to choose the components ~ camera, memory, storage capacity and colour ~ on their own from the company's website. The customisable smartphone series, branded as MyZ, has been developed indigenously at Lava's facility and will be available for purchase from 11 January, Lava International president and business head, Sunil Raina, said while announcing the launch. PTI

**PhonePe term insurance:** Digital payments platform PhonePe on Thursday announced the launch of term life insurance plans on its platform, in association with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. With this launch, millions of PhonePe users can now protect their families from financial turmoil in the event of an untimely demise, the company said. The premiums start from as low as Rs 149 per annum. This policy can be availed instantly on the PhonePe app without any health check-ups and paperwork through an all digital customer experience, it said. SNS

**FCA Jeep Compass:** FCA India on Thursday unveiled the 2021 Jeep Compass, setting a new benchmark for a premium ownership experience. The new Jeep Compass will continue to be locally manufactured in India at FCA's joint venture manufacturing facility in Ranjangaon, near Pune. Production of the New Jeep Compass has already begun and is ready for India market launch, said a company release. SNS

**SwitchOff campaign:** Smartphone maker Vivo has launched a SwitchOff campaign, urging smartphone users to choose to take a break from their smartphones and spend quality time with their near and dear ones. The campaign is founded on the observation from "Vivo smartphones and their impact on human relationships 2020" study which brought out that the increased screen time could have an impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of a person. This excessive usage is in turn is having an adverse impact on relationships, said a Press release. SNS

**CBIC-MSMEs:** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) on Thursday said it has introduced liberalised Authorised Economic Operator package for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for swift customs clearances. PTI

**Mahindra Logistics:** Mahindra Logistics on Thursday said it has launched an electric last-mile delivery service ~ Edel ~ in six cities and the service will be expanded to 14 cities going ahead. PTI

# Petrol price at all-time high

State-owned fuel retailers hike petrol price by 23 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise per litre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY

Petrol price today registered its all-time high of Rs 84.20 per litre in the national capital after state-owned fuel retailers hiked rates for the second day in a row.

Petrol price today was hiked by 23 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise a litre, according to a price notification from oil marketing companies.

In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 84.20 per litre and diesel is priced at Rs 74.38. In Mumbai, petrol comes for Rs 90.83 a litre and diesel for Rs 81.07.

This is the highest ever price of petrol in Delhi, while diesel is at record high in Mumbai.

State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) had on Wednesday resumed daily price revision after nearly a month-long hiatus.

Price had been raised by 26 paise per litre for petrol and 25 paise on diesel on Wednesday. The previous highest ever rate of Rs 84 a litre for petrol

## Survey says 69% people want cut in excise duty on fuel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY

A survey has said that 69 per cent respondents want the government to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel to bring down the fuel prices that have touched record highs.

As central excise is one of the two major components of the prices of fuel, moderation in the duty will provide succour to people who are facing the heat of economic slowdown and income disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the survey conducted by Local Circles, a community social media platform.

"The aggregate percentage of responses from 69 percent citizens want the government to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel. Of which, the majority of citi-

ing in 201 districts of India. Of this 71 per cent respondents were men while 29 per cent respondents were women.

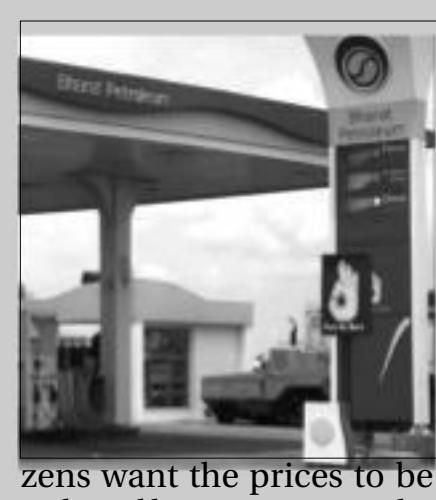
Petrol price today scaled to an all-time high of Rs 84.20 per litre in the national capital after state-owned fuel retailers hiked rates for the second day in a row.

Of the Rs 84 per litre that commoners pay at the pump, the actual value of the petrol is only Rs 26 while the rest are taxes, duty and dealer's commission, the survey said.

The Central government charges Rs 32.98 (125 percent of the base price) as excise and the Delhi government levies Rs 19 (72 per cent of the base price) per litre on petrol value-added tax (VAT), it said, adding, similar levies in commission and taxes are applied on diesel.

The survey had 9,326 responses from citizens resid-

ing in 201 districts of India. Of this 71 per cent respondents were men while 29 per cent respondents were women.



zens want the prices to be reduced by 20 per cent or by Rs 6 or more for both petrol and diesel," it said.

If done, it will reduce the price of petrol to Rs 78 per litre and diesel to Rs 68 per litre in Delhi and similarly across India where the impact to the citizens is even higher, it said, adding, Delhi has one of the lowest prices of diesel and petrol in the country.

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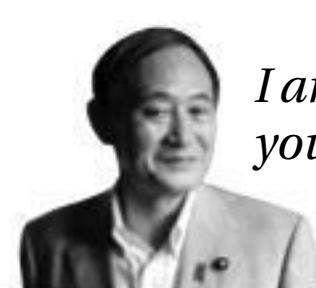
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I am confident we can overcome this, but I must ask all of you endure a restricted life for a while longer

JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER YOSHIHIDE SUGA  
ANNOUNCING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TOKYO

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 08 JANUARY 2021

09

# Virus: Japan declares emergency

Emergency in Tokyo from Friday until 7 February; restaurants and bars to close at 8 p.m.; people asked to stay at home

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TOKYO, 7 JANUARY

Japan declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and three nearby areas on Thursday as coronavirus cases continue to surge, hitting a daily record of 2,447 in the capital.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga issued the declaration at the government task force for the coronavirus. It lasts from Friday until February 7, and centers around asking restaurants and bars to close at 8 p.m. and people to stay home and not mingle in crowds.

The declaration carries no penalties. But it works as a strong request while Japan juggles to keep its economy going.

Shopping malls and schools will remain open. Movie theaters, museums and other events will be asked to reduce attendance. Places that defy



the request will be publicised on a list, while those that comply will be eligible for aid, according to officials.

"I am confident we can overcome this, but I must ask all of you endure a restricted life for a while longer," Suga told reporters after the declaration.

He promised more aid for hospitals treating Covid-19 patients. The Japanese military is ready to help, and efforts are underway to get a

## Restrictions heightened in Hebei

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING, 7 JANUARY

Lockdown measures were being imposed in a northern Chinese province where coronavirus cases more than doubled in the region near Beijing that's due to host some events in next year's Winter Olympics.

Rail, air and highway connections to the Hebei capi-

tal of Shijiazhuang, a city of at least 10 million people, have been suspended and prevention and control measures tightened over urban communities and villages in the area. Classes have been suspended and school dormitories isolated.

The National Health Commission on Thursday announced 51 new cases had been confirmed in Hebei

vaccine approved and delivered, he added.

Shigeru Omi, a doctor who heads the government panel on coronavirus measures,

described the latest wave as "explosive," requiring the emergency declaration.

Tokyo has logged record numbers of daily cases for two

straight days, after 1,591 on Wednesday. Nationwide, cases have been growing steadily by more than 5,000 a day.

Some experts say Japan should have acted sooner, and a government campaign to promote domestic travel through discounts was a mistake.

Opinion on having eateries close early is mixed, since places could simply get more crowded in earlier hours.

Dr Hiroshi Nishiura, an expert on infectious diseases, said the rate of increase in number of cases will decline but infections will continue to rise. He believes more drastic action is needed.

Vaccinations are expected to start next month in Japan, with health and essential workers first. The rollout is likely to take months.

Dr Atsuo Hamada, an expert on infections and professor at Tokyo Medical University Hospital, said curtailing nighttime drinking and dining will help.

"When people go out to eat at night, they tend to get drunk, talk in loud voices and sing so airborne infections spread more quickly," he said in a recent telephone interview.

## Iraq court issues arrest warrant against Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BAGHDAD, 7 JANUARY

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

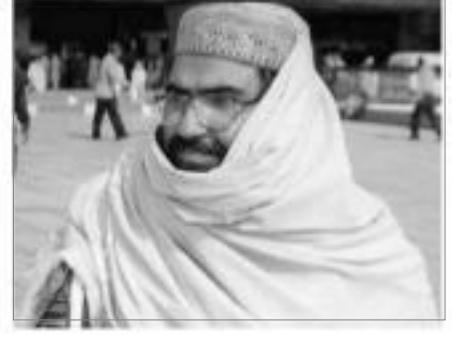
The arrest warrant was for a charge of premeditated murder, which carries the death penalty on conviction. It is unlikely to be carried out but symbolic in the waning days of Trump's presidency.

The decision to issue the warrant "was made after the judge recorded the statements of the claimants from the family of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, according to a statement from the Supreme Judicial Council. The investigation into the killings is ongoing, the court said.

The killings sparked a diplomatic crisis and strained US-Iraq ties, drawing the ire of Shiite political lawmakers who passed a non-binding resolution to pressure the government to oust foreign troops from the country. Iran-backed groups have since stepped up attacks against the American presence in Iraq.

## Pak anti-terrorism court issues arrest warrant for Masood Azhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAHORE, 7 JANUARY



In a significant development, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday issued an arrest warrant for banned Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar on the charges of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Gujranwala issued the warrant during a hearing in a terror financing case instituted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police against some members of the JeM.

"ATC Gujranwala judge Natasha Naseem Supra issued an arrest warrant for Masood Azhar and directed the CTD to arrest him and present him in the court. The CTD told the judge the JeM chief was involved in terror financing and selling jihad literature," an official said. He said the ATC judge issued the arrest warrant for Azhar on the request of a CTD inspector.

Azhar is believed to be hiding in a "safe place" in his native town Bahawalpur.

Following the Pulwama attack, the Pakistan government had arrested over 100 members of banned militant outfits including the JeM chief's son and brother. The government also took control of the JeM, Mumbai terror attack mastermind Haifiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Falahai Insaniat Foundation (FIF) properties including seminaries and mosques across the country. JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

Pakistan's Punjab government claimed to have taken over the administrative control of the JeM headquarters - comprising Madressat Sabir and Jama-e-Masjid Subhanallah in Bahawalpur.

## Attacks in S Afghanistan kill at least 11 civilians, security forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KABUL, 7 JANUARY

Separate attacks in southern Afghanistan left at least 11 civilians and security forces dead, officials said on Thursday, even as Afghan negotiators were in Qatar to resume talks with the Taliban aimed at finding an end to decades of conflict.

In southern Helmand province, at least five civilians were killed and five others wounded in a suspected airstrike late Wednesday on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital, according to Attaullah Afghan, head of the provincial council. He

speak with the media.

Mohammad Karim Karimi, deputy head of the provincial council in Uruzgan, confirmed the attack on the military base in Tirin Kot, the provincial capital, but couldn't provide an exact death toll. He said the explosion was so strong it sent shock waves through the city.

In southern Helmand province, at least five civilians were killed and five others wounded in a suspected airstrike late Wednesday on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital, according to Attaullah Afghan, head of the provincial council. He

said the casualties included children and women.

Abdul Nabi Elham, provincial governor, said officials were investigating to determine whether the assault was an airstrike or some other type of attack.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for either attack.

An Afghan negotiating team is in Qatar's capital of Doha to resume talks aimed at finding an end to relentless conflict even as violence has spiked across the country. The stop-and-go talks come amid growing doubt over a US-Taliban peace deal.

## A year on, questions haunt Iran's downing of Ukrainian plane

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DUBAI, 7 JANUARY

When Navaz Ebrahim learned that a Ukrainian plane had fallen from the sky near Iran's capital, she didn't realize her older sister was on the flight. They had just spoken on the phone. Niloufar had promised her, like she always does, that everything was going to be alright.

As news spread of the jetliner that burst into flames and plunged to the ground, killing all 176 on board, Ebrahim called her mother in Teheran, desperate to hear that her 34-year-old sister and brother-in-law, newly married in the northern mountains of Iran, had taken any other plane home to London. Then her

mother checked the flight number.

A year after Iran's military mistakenly downed Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 with two surface-to-air missiles, the answers that have emerged from the disaster only seem to lead to more questions. Officials in Canada, which

was home to many of the passengers on board, and other affected countries have raised concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability in Iran's investigation of its own military, while grieving families allege harassment by Iranian authorities.

Without knowing what really happened to them, we're stuck in that same horrible night, said Ebrahim, who lives in Dallas, Texas. We haven't received anything close to the truth.

The shootdown ignited an outburst of unrest across Iran, deepened public mistrust in the government and further damaged Iran's relations with the West.

After three days of denial

in the face of mounting evidence, Iran admitted its own aerial defense forces downed the plane by mistake. Just hours before the crash, Iran had fired ballistic missiles at American bases in Iraq in retaliation for the US drone strike that killed Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad. The strike pushed Washington and Tehran to the precipice of war.

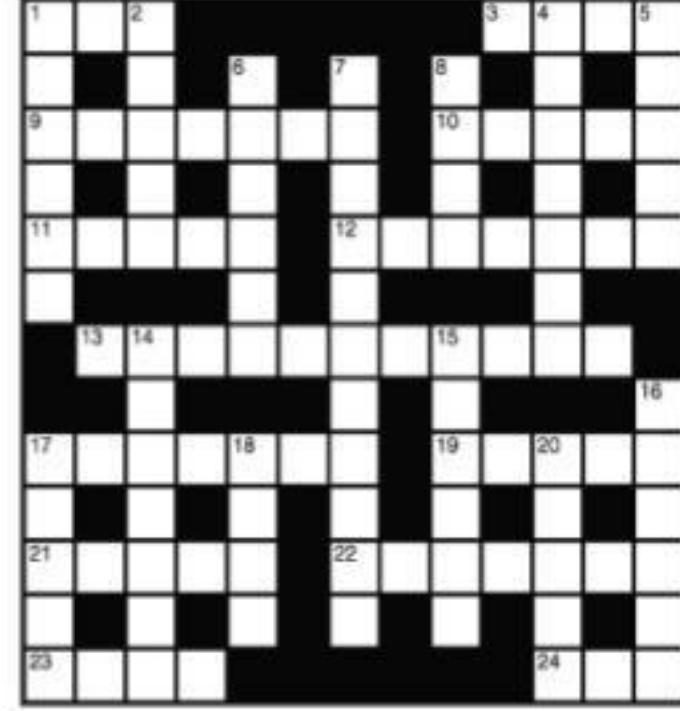
On alert and fearful of American reprisals even as commercial air traffic was allowed to continue, lower-level officers mistook the Boeing 737-800 for a US cruise missile, authorities later reported. After receiving no response from higher command, a missile operator opened fire in violation of protocol.

The civilian airliner, bound for the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, exploded. The bodies of the passengers, including 82 Iranians, 57 Canadians and 11 Ukrainians, were burned beyond recognition and strewn across a field near the village of Shahedshahr just outside of Tehran. They were students, recent graduates, newlyweds, doctors, parents and children. The youngest was a 1-year-old girl.

In the immediate aftermath, Iran denied international accusations of the shootdown and tried to clear the crash site. Bulldozers rolled into the farmland, sweeping up the plane's debris, according to accounts in a Canadian government report released last month.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Beam (3)  
3 Flying insects (4)  
9 Part (7)  
10 Jewelled headdress (5)  
11 Turning tool (5)  
12 Grapple (7)  
13 Nobility (11)  
17 Aide (7)  
19 Fad (5)  
21 Type of disease (5)  
22 Ugly sight (7)  
23 Spool (4)  
24 Cup match (3)

**DOWN**  
1 Outcome (6)  
2 Sailing boat (5)  
4 Stretchy (7)  
5 Form (5)  
6 Arm muscle (6)  
7 Winter sports enthusiast (11)  
8 Eyelid inflammation (4)  
14 Compunction (7)  
15 Salad plant (6)  
16 Go back (6)  
17 Cut off (5)  
18 For fear that (4)  
20 Up above (5)

### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
1 Flared (12)  
3 Average, 15 Evergreen, 16 Green, 18 Cord, 19 Dessert-spoon, 21 Mess, 22 Times.  
**DOWN**  
1 Misbehave, 2 Nonstop, 3 Demand, 20 Eve, 6 Satisfied, 8 Defendant,  
9 Irene, 10 Tangerine.

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

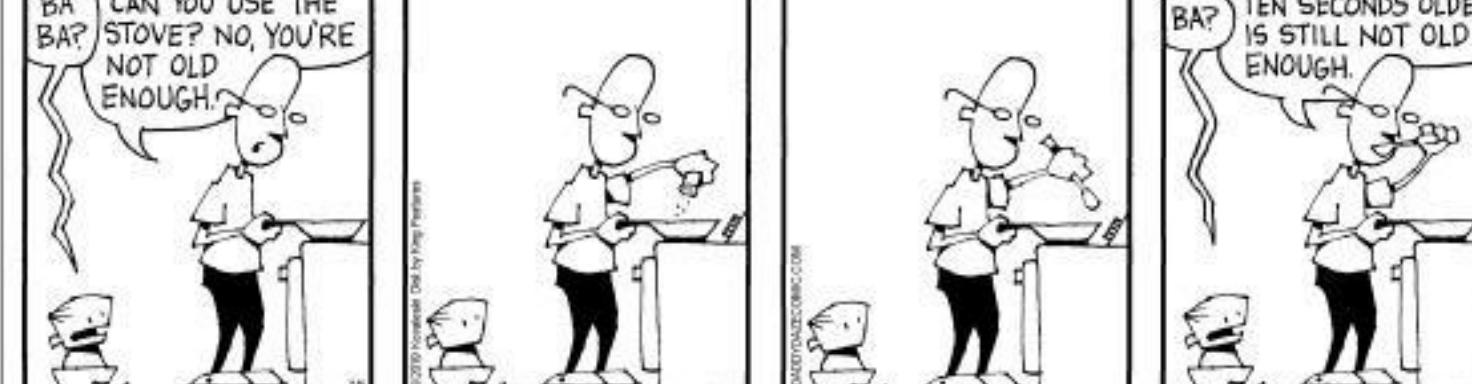
### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

■ Toll Free Nos. 180012511

■ SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

■ ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

■ AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 180018038383

■ INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43512185, Call Center 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186

■ AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

■ AIR FRANCE Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

■ KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

■ port 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

■ TEL AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

■ EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

■ AIRPORT ROADWAYS 23868709

■ AIRPORT ROADWAYS 23864470

■ AIRPORT ROADWAYS 23868709



We will not give in to the violence of a few who want to question democracy. We believe in democracy

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMANUEL MACRON  
AFTER THE US CAPITOL VIOLENCE

# World

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	29	24 R
HONG KONG	15	8 H
TOKYO	6	-2 CL
LONDON	3	-2 H
DUBAI	24	15 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	14	8 H
NEW YORK	6	-1 CL
MOSCOW	-4	-7 H

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

## THUMBNAILS



Staff state health worker prepares a Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to administer for residents and health workers at San Jeronimo nursing home, in Estella, northern Spain, on Thursday. ■ AP

**Indian-American US Army's first CIO:** Indian-American Dr Raj Iyer has taken over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020. One of the highest ranking Indian-American civilians in the US Department of Defense, Mr Iyer, who holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army. ■ AGENCIES

**US human rights lawyer gets bail:** An American human rights lawyer who was detained in Hong Kong with scores of democracy activists and supporters as part of a sweeping crackdown was granted bail, his associate said Thursday. ■ AP

**Beijing at -19.6 C:** The mercury dipped to minus 19.6 degrees Celsius in Thursday morning in Beijing as a strong cold wave swept through the city, marking the coldest morning in the Chinese capital since 1966. The cold wave gripped Beijing since Wednesday, bringing drastic temperature drops and strong winds. ■ PTI

## Resignations after US Capitol violence

WASHINGTON, 7 JANUARY

US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger, first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham and White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Matthews have resigned following the violence at the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Grisham, who previously served as the White House press secretary before making way for current White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany in April, was the first to submit her resignation on Wednesday.

It has been an honour to serve the country in the White House," Grisham said in a statement posted on Twitter.

I am very proud to have been a part of Mrs Trump's mission to help children everywhere and proud of the many accomplishments of this administration," Grisham said. She is the first senior White House staffer to resign.

Matthews also tendered her resignation.

As someone who worked in the halls of Congress, I was deeply disturbed by what I saw today, she said.

I will be stepping down from my role, effective immediately. Our nation needs a peaceful transfer of power, Matthews said.

Trump's deputy national security advisor Pottinger also resigned, officials said.

According to ABC News, White House social secretary Rickie Niceta also submitted her resignation in reaction to the violent protest by Trump supporters. ■ PTI

# 'Unprecedented' US violence shocks world

Global leaders and governments term incident an 'attack on democracy', says outcome of democratic election must be respected

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 7 JANUARY

World leaders and governments expressed shock, disbelief, and horror as unprecedented scenes unfolded in the heart of America after thousands of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol in an attempt to stop a peaceful transition of power.

The violence erupted after Trump supporters breached the Capitol and clashed with police on Wednesday, resulting in the death of four persons and interrupting a constitutional process to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's election victory.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the violence.

"Disgraceful scenes in US Congress. The United States stands for democracy around the world and it is now vital that there should be a peaceful and orderly transfer of power," he tweeted.

"The US rightly takes great pride in its democracy, and there can be no justification for these violent attempts to frustrate the lawful and proper transfer of power," UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "distressed to see news about rioting and violence" in Washington.

"Orderly and peaceful transfer of power must continue. The democratic process cannot be allowed to be subverted through unlawful protests," Modi said in a tweet.

French President Emmanuel Macron in a video posted on his official Twitter account said: "We will not give in to the violence of a few who want to question democracy. We believe in democracy. What happened today in Washington is not American."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' is saddened by the events at the US Capitol, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said, adding that "In such circumstances, it is important that political leaders impress on their followers the need to refrain from violence, as well as to respect democratic processes and the rule of law."

Canadians are deeply disturbed and saddened by the attack on democracy in the United States, our closest ally and neighbour. Violence will never succeed in overruling the will of the people. Democracy in the US must be upheld - and it will be," he said.

## Twitter, Facebook suspend Trump accounts

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 7 JANUARY

In an unprecedented move, Twitter and Facebook have suspended President Donald Trump's accounts after he continued to push conspiracy theories about the November 3 election following the storming of the US Capitol by his supporters.

Twitter suspended Trump's account for 12 hours and also blocked three of his tweets including a video of his address to his supporters.

As a result of the unprecedented and ongoing violent situation in Washington, DC, we have required the removal of three real Donald Trump Tweets that were posted earlier today for repeated and severe violations of our Civic Integrity or Violent Threats policies, will result in permanent suspension of the @realDonaldTrump account, it said.

We will keep the public informed, including if further escalation in our enforcement approach is necessary, it said.

Facebook said it would be blocking the president's account from posting for 24 hours due to two policy violations.



the account will remain locked, said the social media company.

Twitter also warned of permanent suspension of Trump's account if he continued to violate its policies. Future violations of the Twitter Rules, including our Civic Integrity or Violent Threats policies, will result in permanent suspension of the @realDonaldTrump account, it said.

We will keep the public informed, including if further escalation in our enforcement approach is necessary, it said.

Facebook said it would be blocking the president's account from posting for 24 hours due to two policy violations.

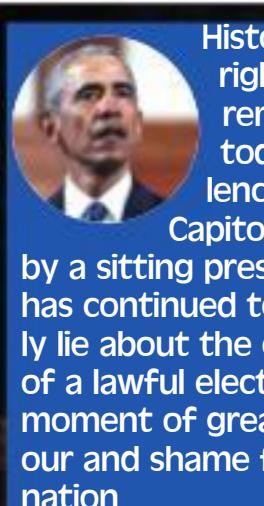
One of Trump's tweets that was removed by Twitter included a video of him repeating unfounded claims that the election was taken from him and encouraging his supporters to disperse after violence erupted at the Capitol.

He said that law and order were needed and that he loved his supporters.

Facebook and YouTube have removed the video from Trump's accounts.

Trump posted that video after protesters entered the Capitol, interrupting lawmakers meeting in joint session to confirm the Electoral College results and President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the election.

"I know your pain. I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election, and everyone knows it -- especially the other side. But you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We have to have law and order," Trump said in his video that lasted for less than a minute.



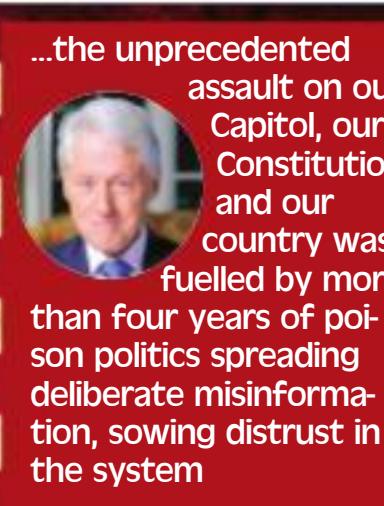
History will rightly remember today's violence at the Capitol, incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election, as a moment of great dishonor and shame for our nation

BARACK OBAMA  
FORMER US PRESIDENT



To those who are disappointed in the results of the election: Our country is more important than the politics of the moment. Let the officials elected by the people fulfil their duties and represent our voices in peace and safety

GEORGE W BUSH  
FORMER US PRESIDENT



...the unprecedented assault on our Capitol, Constitution, and our country was fuelled by more than four years of poison politics spreading deliberate misinformation, sowing distrust in the system

BILL CLINTON  
FORMER US PRESIDENT

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted that the scenes at the US Capitol were an "attack on democracy".

The enemies of democracy will be happy to see these incredible pictures from Washington DC. Inflammatory words turn into violent acts, he tweeted.

"Shocking scenes in Washington, DC. The outcome of this democratic election must be respected," NATO chief

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Trump supporters to "stop trampling on democracy".

The EU's foreign policy chief condemned the "assault on US democracy, its institutions and the rule of law".

"In the eyes of the world, American democracy tonight appears under siege. This is not America. The election results of 3 November must be fully respected," Joseph Borrell tweeted.

The Chinese Embassy in the US warned its citizens about

Jens Stoltenberg tweeted.

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## STORMING OF US CAPITOL BUILDING How world newspapers reacted

The world's media has reacted with shock, with Covid largely pushed off the front pages



the grave situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and the large scale protest march in Washington that prompted the city government to impose a curfew.

The Chinese Embassy to the US reminds Chinese citizens in the US to closely follow their local virus and safety situations, raise their vigilance, be aware of their personal security and consider deeply before visiting public spaces, the Embassy said on its website.

Turkey also warned its citizens in the US.

"We are following with concern the internal developments happening in the US. We call on all parties in the US to maintain restraint and prudence. We believe the US will overcome this domestic political crisis in maturity. We recommend that our citizens in the USA stay away from crowded places and places where shows are held," the Turkish foreign ministry said

in a statement.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison condemned the "very distressing scenes" in the US.

The Chinese Embassy to the US reminds Chinese citizens in the US to closely follow their local virus and safety situations, raise their vigilance, be aware of their personal security and consider deeply before visiting public spaces, the Embassy said on its website.

"We condemn these acts of violence and look forward to a peaceful transfer of Government to the newly elected administration in the great American democratic tradition," he tweeted.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said her country's thoughts were with everyone "devastated" by Wednesday's events.

"Horrible images from Washington D.C. Dear @DonaldTrump, recognise @JoeBiden as the next president today," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte wrote on Twitter.

Irish premier Micheal Martin tweeted, "The Irish people have a deep connection with the United States of America, built up over many generations. I know that many, like me, will

be watching the scenes unfolding in Washington DC with great concern and dismay".

Extremely troubled by the violence and horrible events taking place in Washington DC. American democracy is resilient, deeply rooted and will overcome this crisis," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in a tweet.

**Pelosi's office damaged:** Pro-Trump rioters, who overtook the US Capitol on Wednesday and stormed past police barricades, vandalised the office of Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Pelosi's aides said the mob shattered a big mirror in the office of the 80-year-old top Democrat and took the nameplate from above the door of her office in the highly-secure building. One image captured a Trump supporter sitting with his feet up on the desk of Pelosi, a fierce critic of President Donald Trump.

## Judge Merrick Garland is Biden's pick for AG

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 7 JANUARY

US President-elect Joe Biden on Thursday nominated Indian-American Vanita Gupta to be the associate attorney general and roped in Judge Merrick Garland for the position of attorney general.

He also announced the nominations of Lisa Monaco as deputy attorney general and Kristen Clarke for assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division.

"Our first-rate nominees to lead the Justice Department are eminently qualified, embody character and judgment that is beyond reproach, and have devoted their careers to serving the American people with honor and integrity," Biden said.

"They will restore the independence of the Department so it serves the interests of the people not a presidency, rebuild public trust in the



rule of law, and work tirelessly to ensure a more fair and equitable justice system, he said.

Gupta, 46, is currently serving as President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. If confirmed by the US Senate, Gupta would be the highest ranking Indian-American in the Department of Justice.

They are among the most accomplished legal minds in our country who also reflect the best of America's full range of talents and back-

ground, Biden said.

I am honored they accepted this call to serve at such a critical time in our nation's history, he said.

A former acting assistant attorney general and one of the best-known and most respected civil rights attorneys in America, Gupta would be the first woman of colour to serve in this role. She has spent her career fighting successfully for greater equity in our justice system and advancing the rights and dignity of every American, Biden's spokesman said.

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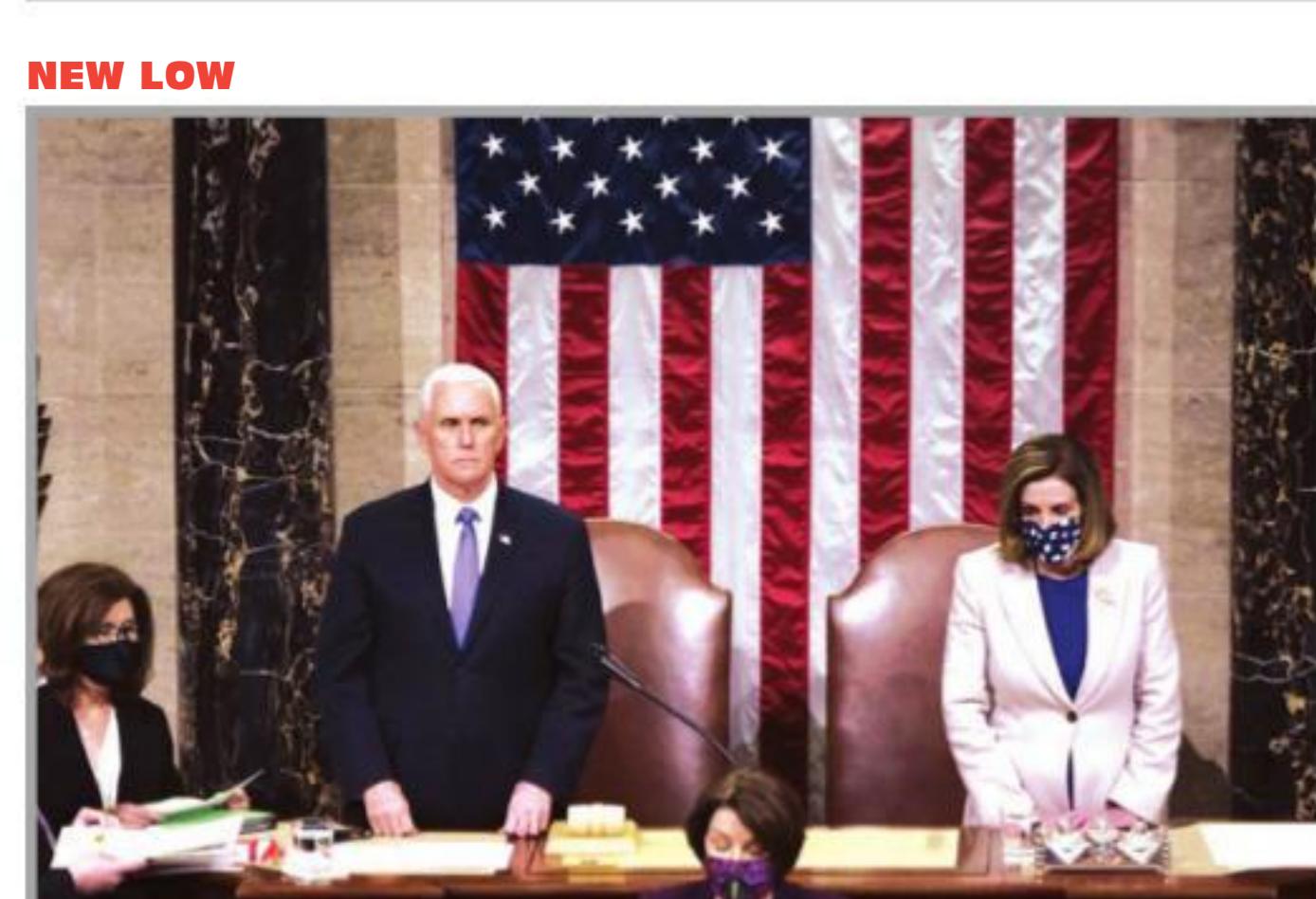
Mitch McConnell, who warned that US democracy "would enter a death spiral" if Congress rejected state election results.

When they resumed debate, however, much of the energy behind the extraordinary push had fizzled. Several Republicans dropped their objections altogether. Hawley and Cruz did not, but they offered scaled-back arguments.

Hawley condemned the day's violence but also called for an investigation into "irregularities and fraud." Earlier in the day, his hometown newspaper, The Kansas City Star, released an editorial charging that Hawley "has blood on his hands" for enabling Trump's false claims.

Others Republicans were clearly more concerned about the day's violence and the events that preceded them.

## NEW LOW





**It is high time for the MSME sector to take a digital leap of faith and pick up its pace in keeping with the rest of the industry and indeed, the world**

#### VIVEK BINDRA

**A**s humanity stands on the cusp of Industry 4.0, businesses worldwide including in India are reinventing themselves. Ironically enough, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises sector in the country has remained on the periphery of this industrial resurgence and reinvention. Limited to basic level technologies and processes adopted by manufacturing and services, it is time for the MSME sector to take that technological leap of faith and pick up its pace in keeping with the rest of the industry and indeed, the world.

At a time when Covid-driven transition of embracing all-round digitisation and latest technologies by businesses across sectors and industries has continued apace, the MSME sector can't and must not remain a passive bystander. Despite the inevitable teething troubles, they must press ahead with new-age technology adoption with full vigour and focus. The end-customer has increasingly displayed an appetite for online purchases and payments - spurred by Covid-19 - must become an added guiding force and motivation for MSME businesses in this respect.

#### Digital technologies can scale up manufacturing and revenues in no time

First, digital technologies can give an instant stimulus to scaling up of MSME's manufacturing processes

and operations and bring in revenues. For an average budget, one's business must go online with integrated sales and marketing channels linked on a common digital platform. Digitisation also expands one's reach across borders exponentially and immediately. Additionally, while allowing one to keep abreast with the latest trends, offerings and innovations in one's sphere of business, it enables one to keep track of competition. Digital marketing tools such as search engine optimisation (SEO), search engine marketing (SEM), content marketing, e-mail marketing, Pay-Per-Click and Google Analytics can in no time translate visibility and traffic into a large pool of subscribers and vastly enhanced revenues.

#### Technology catalyses incredible ease of business

For MSMEs whose business operations are often slow and inefficient due to a great deal of dependence on manual and traditional non-machine mode of sales, marketing and customer engagement; technology can turn out to be the proverbial godsend in terms of improving ease of business. Whether it is supply management, logistics and procurement or manufacturing operations or even human resources, it can enable ease of business across functions and workflows. Keeping this in mind, small businesses must also prioritise and select a set of software solutions that would provide the soft backbone

for the running of their operations. For instance, customer relationship management (CRM) software would help them maintain a comprehensive digital record of customer engagement. In addition to helping them design and customise offerings, it would also ease handling of orders while keeping a tab on sales. What MSMEs should remember that many of these software packages are available at fairly competitive rates with some even being free of cost.

#### Cloud technologies and services make digitisation convenient and cost-effective

For an MSME faced with a cash-strapped budget, instead of setting up the traditional IT infrastructure, cloud technologies and services can be a natural go-to-market strategy. Cloud services not only remove the need for capital expenditure on hardware and their subsequent maintenance, they also free the businesses from the task of software patch-ups and updating. Evidently, this reduces hardware expenditure and cuts down on maintenance costs making digitisation cost-effective. As an on-demand service, they also allow flexibility enabling quick scaling up or modification ensuring data backup and business continuity.

#### Computer Aided Design (CAD) critical to MSMEs

Given that almost 31 per cent of MSMEs by nature of activity are

involved in manufacturing, Cad can be an asset to those firms. With over 6000 products ranging from auto parts and bicycles to sewing machines to electric e-rickshaws to healthcare-related disposables to textile products and accessories, MSMEs carry a significant manufacturing imprint. In that context, exemplifying automation at its best, a combination of Cad with Computer Aided Manufacturing can not only solve the usual design issues that MSME manufacturers face but also facilitate integrated design and manufacturing planning. Through elaborate visualisation and detailing and by way of offering an infinite range of choices, it saves time, improves quality while also allowing simulation and improvisations.

#### Exploring collaboration with technology start-ups

While Covid-19 has spelled disaster for businesses, ironically enough, has also catalysed the rise of several new-age technology startups. In the aftermath of Covid-dictated pivot to digitalisation, several new-age technology startups have cropped up offering digital, remote work, office automation services, cloud connect, healthcare services, education, financial services, gaming, grocery and essentials delivery services, among many others. These new-age technology startups are eager to offer solutions at competitive costs. All that the MSMEs have to do is to find the right partner.

#### Making full-use of government-backed Lean Manufacturing Techniques

The MSMEs must also participate actively in sessions and programmes periodically conducted by the government for introducing and educating them on LM techniques with a view to eventually bring about technology upgradation as well as enhancing their competitiveness. Often conducted cluster-wise, the objective of these programmes is to encourage the MSMEs to acquire product certification/licenses from national/international bodies and embrace other technologies based on global standards.

#### In proliferation of new advanced technologies also lies a manufacturing opportunity

The MSMEs can not only adopt technologies for galvanising their businesses, but can even enter the technology component manufacturing space. The advent of advanced technologies such as AI, advanced robotics, IoT and machine learning has spawned the need for production of a new array of technology sub-components. Herein lies a tremendous opportunity for MSME manufacturing businesses. MSMEs particularly those in manufacturing can enter this tech manufacturing space and benefit from its growing demand.

The writer is founder and CEO, Bada Business

#### ARUNA SINGH

**E**ver noticed the workers in hospital gowns who escort patients for an X-Ray CT-scan or chemotherapy? They are the ones who operate the machines for patients and later interpret the results for doctors. The word used to define them is radiographers. Radiographers, also known as radiologic technologists, are certified technicians who capture images of organs, bones, and tissues for patient diagnosis. Radiographers are equipped with the technological skills to handle imaging equipment and the interpersonal skills necessary for patient care. Educational and licensure requirements vary by state and profession, though completion of a certificate or two-year degree programme is commonly the path to follow to emerge as radiologic technologists. Since India's healthcare sector is now on a growth trajectory, the career opportunities for such allied healthcare workers with expertise in diagnostic science have never been better. Services of diagnostic professionals can be essential for medical treatments and their demand is on the rise.

#### Nature of work

Radiologic technologists perform medical imaging exams and administer radiation therapy treatments. With the help of various imaging technologies, these professionals take pictures of a patient's body for radiologists, who will then interpret the images. Radiologic technologists often specialise in a particular examination technique, such as mammography or bone densitometry. These professionals can also assist oncology teams in delivering radiation therapy to cancer patients. Radiology technicians work in hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, private physician offices or even mobile imaging service centers. While hospitals remain the leading job providers, they also tend to be much busier than outpatient settings.

## CHOOSING FROM DIVERSE OPTIONS

A radiology technician typically works a standard 40-hour week, but some positions require on-call night or weekend work.

#### Career opportunity

A career in radiologic technology opens diverse scopes for a candidate to choose from. Radiologic technologists are needed in every healthcare setting. One can work in a large hospital, a suburban outpatient clinic or a rural physician's office. One can specialise in dozens of clinical areas ranging from prenatal care to orthopedics. One can manage an entire radiology department, including its budget and personnel. Teaching and inspiring new generations of radiologic technologists or performing research that leads to breakthroughs in diagnostic imaging or radiation therapy are also promising ways to flourish in the sector. With additional education, one can become a radiologist assistant, expanding one's capabilities by serving as a radiologist extender. The boundaries of one's career in radiologic technology are determined only by one's own abilities and interests.

#### Necessary skills and qualities

Good communication skills, focus on detail, and careful attention to procedure are essential to succeed as a radiology technician. Physical strength is needed to position patients, and at times, to lift them onto examination tables. As with health care professionals in general, empathy, cultural sensitivity, and high ethical standards are

necessary as well.

#### Course and eligibility

The curriculum for radiologic technology and related programmes includes coursework as well as a series of supervised clinical exercises where students learn how to position patients and perform procedures. A background check, immunisations, and a physical examination may be required prior to entering these programmes. Applicants can pursue certificate, diploma, as well as bachelor's courses in the field of radiology. Duration of diploma is one year and two

years, eligibility is +2 preferably with physics, chemistry and biology/math or equivalent in any stream from a recognised board or university.

#### Remuneration

A career in radiography can be very promising. In India, the average starting salary of a radiographer ranges between Rs.7,000 to Rs10,000 per month in government/private hospitals. However, earnings are more in private practice as compared to salaried jobs. A large aging population in need of imaging to diagnose and treat medical conditions should

keep demand strong for radiologic technologists. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment growth of about nine per cent between 2014 and 2024 in this profession, and 17,200 new positions will be created.

Opportunities are also there in gulf and Middle Eastern countries. In these countries radiographers get salaries between Rs30,000 to Rs50,000 per month. In UK, the average starting salary of a newly qualified radiographer is around £17,000 per year.

The writer is principal, Delhi Paramedical and Management Institute



**Since India's healthcare sector is now on a growth trajectory, opportunities for radiographers with expertise in diagnostic science have never been better**

#### PLUS POINTS

#### Promoting excellence



IIT Kanpur (IIT-K) announced the establishment of a new endowed chair professorship, the Yadupati Singhania Memorial Chair recently. A MOU in this regard was signed by IIT-K represented by Prof Abhay Karandikar, director, and JK Cotton Limited, represented by Abhishek Singhania, authorised signature and director - JK Organisation. The chair has been instituted in the name of Late Yadupati Singhania, past chairman and managing director of JK Cotton Limited and an alumnus of the institute, who passed away in August this year. The chair, supported with a generous endowment from JK Cotton Limited, aims to promote research in cutting-edge technology in engineering sciences for the improvement of life on earth. The chair, with a term of three years, would be occupied by faculty from the engineering departments of IIT-K.

#### Sharpening skills



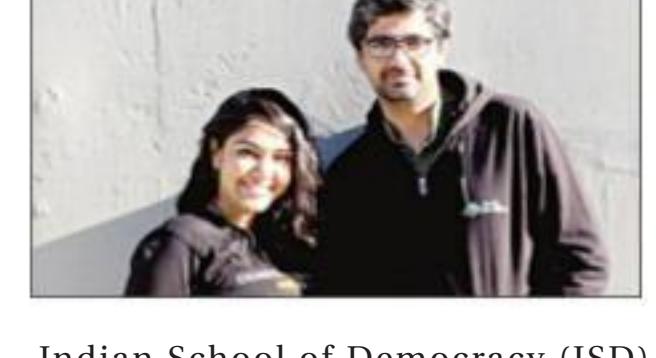
JK Business School (JKBS) is inviting applications for PGDM programme 2021-23. JKBS introduced business simulation gaming as an important criterion with a weightage of 20 per cent in the upcoming PGDM admission. It gives an opportunity to analyse students' analytical skills, thinking and problem solving approach across various functional areas of business processes. The last date for application is 30 January 2021. Those having three-year bachelor's degree or equivalent in any discipline with minimum 50 per cent aggregate marks from any recognised university are eligible to apply. Candidates appearing in the final year of their bachelor's degree can also apply. It is compulsory for students to appear in national entrance exams such as CAT/MAT/CMAT/ATMA/XLRI/GMAT and their equivalent. The validity of such exams is for one year only. For details visit: [www.jkbschool.org](http://www.jkbschool.org)

#### Of festivity



Fourth annual celebration of Kreative Minds was conducted on the YouTube channel of Kreative Minds recently. It was a two-day event of music, dance and fine art. First day started with a welcome note by Amrita Tiwary, founder, Kreative Minds. The event was followed by virtual art exhibition-cum-sale and winners of the competition, which was held online beforehand, were announced. Besides the virtual art exhibition, a cultural event was organised on the second day. It began with Ganesh Vandana by the vocal classical students of Ishita Sen. The cultural event followed by a Kathak recital by Dipali Chakravarty and a Hindustani classical recital by Ishita Sen, accompanied by Pramod Gabbur on tabla and Nandkishore Desai on harmonium. The event concluded with an amazing solo tabla recital by Shailesh Shenoy.

#### In-depth learning



Indian School of Democracy (ISD) founded by Teach for India alumni Hemakshi Meghani (2011 cohort) and Prakhar Bharti (2009 cohort) launched their new programme "The Good Politician" beginning from 15 August 2021.

The programme is geared to nurture grassroots political leaders who are already involved in the political sphere. Spanning over one year, it is meant for leaders aspiring to be elected as sarpanches and municipal councillors. To ensure access to a range of people, the programme will be taught in Hindi and English.

The year-long course has rigorous in-person training with expert practitioners and academic faculty. For details visit: <https://www.indianschoolofdemocracy.org/>



## BUBBLE TROUBLE

South African captain Quinton de Kock (photo, left) has questioned the sustainability of "bubble" life in the age of Covid-19, contemplating a tour of Pakistan - another series in which players are likely to be confined to cricket grounds and their hotel rooms. "There are nerves when it comes to the bubble, lots of small things get into your mind, things that you're not used to," he told journalists.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Olympics torch:** The Tokyo metropolitan government announced on Thursday exhibitions of the Olympics torch around the Japanese capital had been postponed "to reduce the flow of people and the further spread of Covid-19." The exhibitions were to restart on Thursday.

**Hockey congress:** Having organised a tour for the Indian women's team of Argentina to get going again, Hockey India is now planning some high-profile events this year, starting with the 47th international federation congress 2021, originally scheduled for 2020.

**Derby distress:** Derby's first-choice squad and interim manager Wayne Rooney are self-isolating after a Covid-19 outbreak and will not play a part in Saturday's FA Cup match at sixth-tier Chorley. Several players and staff tested positive for the virus on Monday.

**Atletico out:** Atletico Madrid became the highest-profile victim of a giant-killing act when they were knocked out of the Copa del Rey by third-tier side Cornellà. A seventh-minute goal from Cornellà defender Adrian Jimenez on Wednesday knocked Atletico out.

**Barca struggle:** Lionel Messi was at the top of his game as Barcelona earned a 3-2 win at Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday to move up to third in La Liga. Athletic got off to a dream start in their first match under new coach Marcelino when forward Inaki Williams struck.

**Milan beaten:** AC Milan saw their 27-match unbeaten run in Serie A ended by Juventus, losing 1-3 to the Bianconeri at the San Siro. Both sides were hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. Milan missed injured Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the suspended Sandro Tonali.

**1-1 draw:** Paris St Germain were held to a 1-1 Ligue 1 draw at St Etienne in coach Mauricio Pochettino's first game in charge on Wednesday as the French champions failed to make their ball possession count. Moise Kean cancelled out Romain Hamouma's opener.

**Asian Cup:** The next edition of Asia's flagship national team competition, the Asian Cup, will take place from 16 June to 16 July, 2023, across 10 cities in China, the Asian Football Confederation and the local organising committee confirmed the decision on Thursday.

**Green light:** The England cricket team passed their coronavirus tests after all-rounder Moeen Ali had been found to have Covid-19. They have been cleared to start restricted training. Ali was found to have the coronavirus shortly after the squad arrived in Sri Lanka.

**Polosak's feat:** Australia's Claire Polosak became the first female match official to conduct a men's Test match when she took up the fourth umpire's role in the third Test between Australia and India which began on Thursday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

## Mohammedan Sporting's plea

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 7 DECEMBER

Mohammedan Sporting Club president MD Amiruddin today confirmed that they were looking for new investors. "We have entered the I-League and without investors or sponsors, it will be hard for the club to continue because the expenses have increased and new players have been taken. We have quality players and hope to win the I-League. To develop the club we need investors," he told a press conference in the club's Maidan pavilion.

Deepak Singh is a club member who might be the investor. EZE Kingsley was chosen captain of the team for the match against Sudeva Delhi FC.

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY, 7 JANUARY

**D**ebutant Will Pucovski and Marnus Labuschagne smacked half-centuries as Australia recovered from an early setback to build a promising first innings in the rain-hit third Test against India on Thursday.

Following David Warner's departure for five, the hosts recovered to 166 for two at stumps after more than three hours' play was lost to persistent drizzle at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Labuschagne was not out 67 while Steve Smith, who has struggled for runs this series, hit an attacking, unbeaten 31. Pucovski contributed 62 in an impressive maiden Test innings.

Fellow debutant Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj, in only his second Test, shared the wickets in a clash both sides are desperate to win with the four-match series level at 1-1.

After captain Tim Paine

won the toss and chose to bat in front of 8,692 socially-distanced fans, just under the quarter of capacity allowed, the rain started falling 35 minutes into the opening session.

It was enough time for Siraj to grab the key wicket of Warner on his return from injury, caught by Cheteshwar Pujara to put Australia on the back foot.

But a 100-run partnership between Pucovski and Labuschagne swung the momentum back in Australia's favour before the 22-year-old fell lbw to Saini.

The patient Labuschagne, who has been Australia's best batsman this series, survived an edge off Jasprit Bumrah on 11, which just failed to carry to slip, but was otherwise authoritative.

He brought up his ninth Test 50 with a boundary off Siraj, while Smith looked in ominous touch at the other end after failing to reach double figures in his four previous innings.

The former captain hit



five boundaries in his 31 which came off 64 balls.

Pucovski resumed on 14 and Labuschagne two when

play finally restarted at 3pm after the lengthy rain delay.

Australia have high hopes for Pucovski, who scored two

double centuries in the Sheffield Shield this season but had been sidelined with a concussion, the ninth of his

short career.

India tried to unsettle him early on with short balls and he rode his luck, being dropped twice. The first came on 26 when Ravichandran Ashwin enticed a thin edge, only for wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to miss what should have been a simple catch.

Three overs later, Pant did it again.

Pucovski, on 32, got a glove to a rising Siraj ball and as Pant dived, the ball popped out of his hand. He made another grab and seemed to have caught it, but replays showed the ball had hit the ground first.

He then survived a run-out opportunity after a misunderstanding with

Labuschagne, but refocused to bring up his 50 with a boundary off Saini.

But Saini, in the team for the injured Umesh Yadav, finally snared his first Test wicket, trapping Pucovski to snap what was shaping as a dangerous partnership.

Veteran Warner had missed the first two Tests in Adelaide and Melbourne with a groin injury and his return was highly anticipated.

But he didn't last long. He showed intent with a two off his first ball but his natural aggression quickly left him undone, swinging at a full Siraj delivery which took at outside edge and flew to Pujara at slip.

## SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS	3.3 ov), 2-106 (Will Pucovski, 34.2 ov)
Will Pucovski lbw b Saini	62
D Warner c Pujara b Md Siraj	5
M Labuschagne not out	67
Steve Smith not out	31
Extras: (nb 1)	1
TOTAL: (55 Ov, RR: 3.01)	1662
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (David Warner;	3,2,2,0

## Barty &amp; Serena in leading roles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MELBOURNE, 7 JANUARY

World No 1 Ashleigh Barty and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams will spearhead the two Women's Tennis Association tournaments in Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open, with the top 32-ranked women split evenly across the simultaneous events, organisers said on Thursday.

The onslaught of Covid-19 has forced a radical change to how the early 2021 tennis season will look, with the Australian Open pushed back three weeks to 8 February.

Players will arrive in Australia from 15 January and undergo a mandatory two-week quarantine before two WTA 500 and two Association of Tennis Professionals 250 events are held alongside the ATP Cup, all at Melbourne Park.

Organisers have branded it the Melbourne Summer Series and named each tournament after areas of Victoria state. That will see the women play the Gippsland Trophy and Yarra Valley Classic from 31 January to 6 February, marking Barty's first appear-

ance in 11 months after the Australian opted out of the US and European swing last year over coronavirus fears.

As well as Williams, the likes of world No 2 Simona Halep, defending Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin and previous Australian Open winners Naomi Osaka, Victoria Azarenka and Angelique Kerber will take part.

The leading men's stars, including Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, will compete in the 12-team ATP Cup, which will be run at the same time and at the same venue.

Those that did not qualify will play in two ATP 250 tournaments - the Great Ocean Road Open and Murray River Open, featuring top names including David Goffin, Stan Wawrinka, Grigor Dimitrov and Nick Kyrgios.

"There's no doubt this will be a historic week of tennis, and is the biggest-ever Australian Open lead-in week we have seen," said Tennis Australia's major events chief Cameron Pearson.

"While we know the circumstances are unique this year, it is a huge coup to secure such strong playing fields."

## Rise of New Zealand began with calamity in South Africa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CHRISTCHURCH, 7 JANUARY

Captain Kane Williamson (in photo) had no trouble on Wednesday pinpointing the moment that laid the foundation for New Zealand to become the world's number one ranked Test cricket team for the first time.

The Black Caps were confirmed in the top spot after a comprehensive victory over Pakistan by an innings and 176 runs in the second Test in Christchurch to sweep the two-Test series.

It meant New Zealand had won six consecutive Tests for the first time, extending their unbeaten home run to 17 and keeping alive their hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final in June.

It is a far cry from eighty years ago, when New Zealand's cricket reputation was in tatters after they were rolled for 45 in the first innings against South Africa in Cape Town. Williamson, now the world's number one-ranked Test batsman, top-scored with 13.

Current Black Caps BJ Watling and Trent Boult, who also played in that innings, made 0 and 1, respectively.

From that embarrassment came the realisation that

things had to change, starting with the culture within the team.

The days of cliques and senior players ignoring younger squad members are over and, as one former Black Cap said, stars were no longer faking injury to avoid training sessions.

"Under Brendon and Heath there were some drastic changes in terms of the culture and that started things off," Williamson said of then captain Brendon McCullum and head coach Mike Hesson.

Williamson said that development had continued through to the current squad and the captain highlighted the emergence of Kyle Jamieson.

"When you see some of the

younger guys come in like Daryl Mitchell and Kyle Jamieson, especially in this game, there were some outstanding contributions, but it's more the attitude they brought that is most satisfying.

McCullum, who captained the side in the disastrous South African Test and on Wednesday presented Williamson with the trophy for winning the Pakistan series, said the players knew change was necessary after the South Africa debacle.

"It was essential to all of us that we wanted the public support and the best way to go about that is to make sure you're out there and trying to represent New Zealand with everything you've got," he said.

## BCCI asks for relaxation of Brisbane quarantine

NEW DELHI, 7 JANUARY

The BCCI on Thursday wrote to Cricket Australia seeking relaxation in hard quarantine protocol of Brisbane for the fourth Test to go ahead, reminding the host board that the visitors are done with the strict isolation that was agreed upon at the beginning of the tour.

It is learnt that a top BCCI executive has written to CA head Earl Eddings citing to him the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two boards on the modalities of the tour which never had any specification on two hard quarantines in separate cities.

The Brisbane Test is due to start on January 15 and the quarantine rules will restrict the players to just their hotel rooms after day's play.

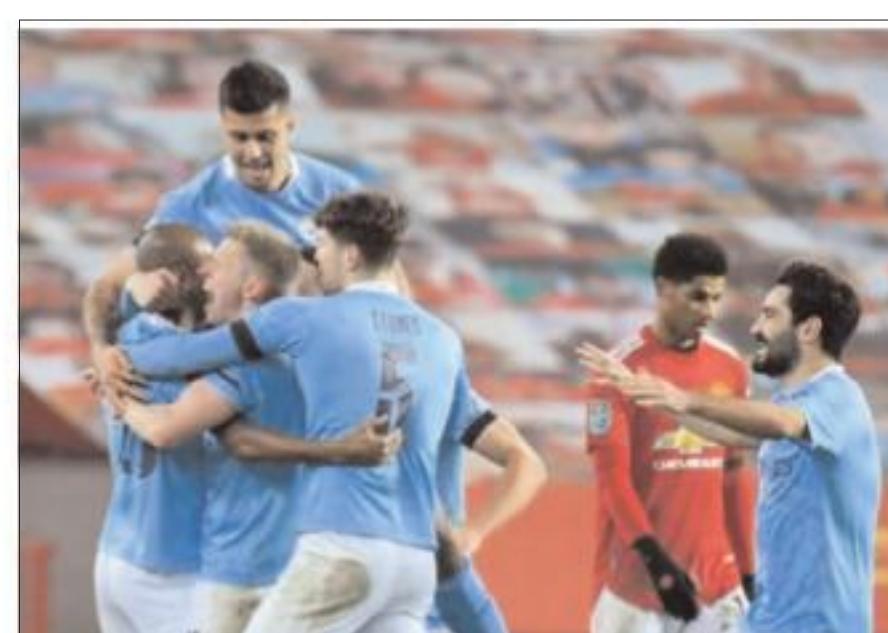
"The discussions are still on but today BCCI has formally sent a letter seeking relaxation of hard quarantine for its players if they are to have the match in Brisbane," a senior BCCI official said. PTI

## Stones &amp; Fernandinho clinch City victory

Manchester United 0  
Manchester City 2

MARK CRITCHLEY

OLD TRAFFORD, 7 JANUARY



Will this year see Manchester City's and Pep Guardiola's fourth successive League Cup triumph? Perhaps, but what is certain is that it has already seen a fourth successive semi-final defeat for Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Manchester United, as their noisy neighbours and this competition's holders last night progressed to April's final at Wembley against Tottenham.

Two set piece goals - one scored by the rejuvenated John Stones, the other by captain Fernandinho - saw City emerge victorious from this 184th and fiercely contested Manchester derby at Old Trafford. A Guardiola-Mourinho showpiece now awaits in the spring - moved from the usual late winter date so that a crowd could potentially be able to attend.

In these strange times, it is as if City reaching the League Cup final is the only certainty.

United, meanwhile, would be happy to reach just one. Since losing at the same stage of this competition to the same opponents last year, then suffering last four defeats in the FA Cup and Europa League to Chelsea and Sevilla respectively, Solskjær has denied that his players suffer from any sort of mental block. That may be true but victory here would nev-

ertheless have at least stopped all talk of a semi-final hoodoo.

For the fourth time in a year, they failed to take that next step.

There was more entertainment in the opening quarter-of-an-hour than in the 90 goalless minutes these two shared last month. Both sides had the ball in the back of the net in the early stages - Marcus Rashford's shot bounced off Stones and across the line, not long before Ilkay Gundogan bundled Phil Foden's pass in at the other end - only for both to look up and see the flag raised against them.

With Ederson still self-isolating, Zack Steffen retained his place in City's goal and was forced into an acrobatic, one-handed save to deny Bruno Fernandes effort from range that was bound for the top right-hand corner. Minutes later, Dean Henderson was helpless as Kevin De Bruyne speculat-

ed from a similar distance but his strike of pure venom cannoned back off the post. Eventually, each side allowed the other to catch their breath and a steady stream of off-sides slowed the pace down further still.

Earlier, Phil Foden had ran clear in behind the United defence, travelling from the halfway line all the way to the six-yard box, then watched a late flag go up as he rolled a finish past Henderson. Guardiola spent the final minutes of the first half on his haunches, rubbing his head and looking rather frustrated - either with the officiating, his side's performance or both. Despite the contest being on knife-edge, City had struggled to create much of note - only really threatening through De Bruyne hitting the post - and United's disciplined, organised defending. All that

Gundogan had done was to score a header from a corner kick, but that was not enough to give United a lead. Guardiola's side had to be content with a point, though, as Stones' header from a free-kick was ruled offside.

Again, United were undone on a set-piece. Aaron Wan-Bissaka at least dealt with the delivery this time but his header only went as far as Fernandinho, perched on the edge of the box. His strike was not as clean as those of De Bruyne and Mahrez before him but bouncing his volley into the ground made its path that little bit more unpredictable. Henderson saw it late and could not get across his goal in time before it settled in the corner. Guardiola lifted his hands in the air, knowing it was won. Solskjær must go away and ask himself why, when on the brink, United's discipline once again lost.

THE INDEPENDENT

## ADMISSION NOTICE-MBBS (2020-21)

Applications are invited for admission to Stray Vacancy Round for MBBS course for the session 2020-21 in MM Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala out of the list of candidates as per DGHS, Govt. of India. Application Form can be downloaded from University website ([www.mmmullana.org](http://www.mmmullana.org)). Last date of receiving duly filled up application with processing fees of Rs. 2000/- is 08-01-2021 upto 3 P.M. positively in University office. Physical counselling shall be held for NRI seats on 09.01.