



WHY NITISH
KUMAR LOST
HIS COOL

P5



'GLOBAL RIGHT
HAS NO NARRATIVE
FOR FUTURE'

P7



BIDEN ANNOUNCES
\$1.9 TRILLION VIRUS
STIMULUS PACKAGE

P10



REAL MADRID OUT
AS GARCIA
STRIKES TWICE

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Moderate to dense fog in the morning. Cold wave conditions at isolated pockets. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 20 and 04 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 62%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 20.8°C (+1) Min: 06.4°C (-1)

SUN RISES 07:15 hrs SUN SETS 17:48 hrs

MOON RISES 10:14 hrs MOON SETS 20:58 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Goa prepares to welcome the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2021) in Panaji on Friday.

PIB

CBI arrests wife of Rose Valley group chief: The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested Subhra Kundu, wife of the jailed owner of Rose Valley Group chairman Gautam Kundu, from Kolkata on Friday in connection with the probe into the multi-crore chit fund scam, sources in the agency said. Sleuths of Economic Offences Wing of the CBI apprehended Subhra Kundu and will take her to Bhubaneswar after obtaining transit remand from a court in Kolkata, they said.

India, Nepal bid to restore normalcy to ties: In the sixth India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired by External Affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Nepal on Friday requested India for early supply of coronavirus vaccines, as the two countries held a comprehensive review of bilateral ties including border management, connectivity and trade, in the first high-level meeting after relations nosedived following boundary row.

P4

No one should test India's patience: Naravane

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY



Chief of the Army Staff, Gen M M Naravane today said his force, while remaining committed to resolving disputes through dialogue and diplomacy, has been swift and decisive in its response to counter any attempts by China to unilaterally change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Speaking on the occasion of Army Day, he said 2020 had been a year full of challenges and opportunities for the Indian Army.

Brave Indian soldiers gave a befitting reply to India's "adversaries", many laying down their lives in the highest traditions of the force, he said in reference to the 15 June Galwan valley clash with the Chinese Army. The sacrifice of the soldiers would not go in vain, he added. "We are com-

mitted to resolve disputes through talks and political efforts but no one should make any mistake of testing our patience," he said.

Referring to the situation along the Line of Control,

General Naravane said Pakistan continues to shelter terrorists and 300 to 400 of them are waiting in training camps on the Pakistani side of the LoC to infiltrate into India.

"There was an increase of 44 per cent in ceasefire violations last year which is proof of Pakistan's sinister plans. There were also attempts to smuggle weapons using drones," he added.

In his message, Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Bipin Rawat paid homage to soldiers who have sacrificed their lives. "Your dauntless courage, indomitable spirit and unparalleled devotion to duty in the true traditions and ethos of the Indian Army will continue to inspire future generations," he said.

Drones of the Indian Army carried out mock kamikaze attacks and first-aid delivery exercises as the service showcased its latest assets during the

Army Day parade held at the Carriaga ground on Friday.

This is the first time drones featured at the parade that also had detachments of the upgraded anti-aircraft weapon system Schilka, BrahMos missile system, infantry fighting vehicle BMP-2, T-72 bridge laying tanks and multi-rocket launcher system Pinaka.

Gen Naravane conferred gallantry awards and unit citations at the event, which was also attended by Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat.

The Indian Army said it carried out a live demonstration of "drone swarming capability" using 75 indigenous designed and developed drones, which executed an array of artificial intelligence (AI) enabled simulated offensive missions and close support tasks, at the event.

New parl building construction begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY



The new Parliament building will have a triangular shape and is expected to be completed by the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022

The construction work of the new Parliament building started on Friday, over a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project under the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment plan.

The new Parliament building will have a triangular shape and is expected to be completed by the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.

The construction work of the Parliament building has started, an official said.

Excavation work has started at the site where a sufficient number of labourers have been engaged to ensure that the project is completed on time, the official said.

approval from the panel and other relevant authorities before starting the construction of the new building.

The construction work could not start earlier as the government had assured the Supreme Court that no construction or demolition work would commence till the apex court decided the pending pleas on the issue.

The new building is being constructed by Tata Projects Ltd. The project is estimated to cost Rs 971 crore.

Tata Projects Ltd. said despite the 35-day delay in the commencement of the construction work, it is confident that it will be able to deliver the project on time.

The new structure will come up in front of the existing Parliament that was built nearly 94 years ago at a cost of Rs 83 lakh at that time and would eventually be turned into a museum.

11 dead in K'taka road accident

DHARWAD (K'TAKA), 15 JANUARY

Eleven people including nine women were killed in a road accident near Ittagi cross on the city outskirts on Friday, a senior police official said.

Dharwad (Rural) Superintendent of Police, P Krishnakant said most of them were residents of the district headquarters town of Davanagere, and they were on their way to Goa. The mini-bus they were travelling in collided head-on with a tipper.

"Eleven people, including the driver, were killed and nine injured", Krishnakant said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives in the accident.

The PMO tweeted, "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a road accident in Karnataka's Dharwad district. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families." PTI

2020 was one of three warmest years on record: UN weather agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS, 15 JANUARY

The year 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record and rivalled 2016 for the top spot, indicating the pace of the "human-induced" climate change which is now as powerful as the force of nature, the UN weather agency has said.

All five datasets surveyed by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) concur that 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record, in a persistent long-term climate trend.

The warmest six years have all been since 2015, with 2016, 2019 and 2020 being the top three. The differences in average global temperatures among the three warmest years are

indistinguishably small. The average global temperature in 2020 was about 14.9C, 1.2 (0.1) C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level.

The confirmation by the World Meteorological Organisation that 2020 was one of the warmest years on record is yet another stark reminder of the relentless pace of climate change, which is destroying lives and livelihoods across our planet, Secretary-General António Guterres said.

He pointed out that at 1.2 degrees of warming above pre-industrial levels, the world is already witnessing unprecedented weather extremes in every region and on every continent.

We are headed for a catastrophic temperature rise of

3 to 5 degrees Celsius this century, he said. Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top priority for everyone, everywhere, he said.

La Niña, which began in late last year, is expected to continue into the early-middle part of 2021.

La Niña refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall. It usually has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as *El Niño*, which is the warm phase of the so-called El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

The exceptional heat of 2020 is despite a *La Niña* event, which has a temporary cooling effect, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said.

La Niña and *El Niño* effects on average global temperatures are typically strongest in the second year of the event.

It is remarkable that temperatures in 2020 were virtually on a par with 2016, when

we saw one of the strongest *El Niño* warming events on record, he added. This is a clear indication that the global signal from human-induced climate change is now as powerful as the force of nature, Taalas said. The extent to which the continued cooling effects of *La Niña* this year may temporarily diminish the overall long-term warming trend

remains to be seen.

The WMO pointed to sustained heat and wildfires in Siberia, diminishing Arctic sea ice and record-breaking hurricanes in the Atlantic as being among the climate events that most stood out in 2020.

The UN weather agency said that temperature is just one climate change indicator.

Greenhouse gas concentrations, ocean heat content, global mean sea level, sea ice extent and extreme events are also factors.

The WMO's consolidated global temperature update incorporates information from five leading international sets of data. It also uses datasets that combine millions of meteorological and marine observations, including from satellites, with models to produce a complete reanalysis of the atmosphere.

The combination of observations with models makes it possible to estimate temperatures at any time and in any place across the globe, even in data-sparse areas such as the polar regions, according to WMO.

The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2C, preferably to 1.5C degrees, compared to pre-industrial levels.

However, the global average temperature in 2020 had already approached the lower limit of the temperature increase that the Agreement seeks to avert.

Moreover, there is at least a one-in-five chance that the average global temperature will temporarily exceed 1.5 C by 2024, according to WMO's Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update, led by the United Kingdom's Met Office.

The 2021 Met Office annual global temperature forecast also suggests that next year will again be one of the earth's hottest years. PTI

MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE THE DEFINING TASK OF 21ST CENTURY

► All five datasets surveyed by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) concur that 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record, in a persistent long-term climate trend

► The warmest six years have all been since 2015, with 2016, 2019 and 2020 being the top three. The average global temperature in 2020 was about 14.9C, 1.2 (0.1) C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level



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Moderate fog in Delhi, min temp rises to 6.4C: Delhi's minimum temperature rose to 6.4 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, on Friday due to partly cloudy weather, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The maximum temperature stood at 20.8 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal. Moderate fog lowered visibility to 201 metres at Safdarjung and 300 metres at Palam in the morning, an IMD official said.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. HARGURVARINDER
SINGH

Addl. District Judge-02
Room No. 605, 6th Floor,

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

PC No. 22/2020

Sh. Mukesh Chander Swami
And Anr.

— Petitioners

Versus

State And Anr:

— Respondent

CITATION UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

Whereas an application under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration to the estate of Late Smt. Durga Swami, w/o Sh. Mukesh Chander Swami, who died on 13-05-2020 has been made by Sh. Mukesh Chander Swami, s/o Sh. Lal Kishore Sharma and Ms. Vaishali, d/o Sh. Mukesh Chander Swami both in r/o C-13, 3rd Floor, Sevak Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59, the immovable property bearing No. under as :

1. Free Hold-Build-up Property No. A-1347-R-Kash-
Shala No. 59/22, Hasting, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi and ad-
measuring 100 Sq. Yds. (pur-
chased vide GPA/SPA/Sale
Agreement dated 08-03-1996).

Whereas the 18-01-2021 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 18-01-2021 and see the proceedings before the Court of Probate (or Letter of Administration).

Given under my hand and
the Seal of this Court on this

05-01-2021.

Addl. District Judge-02

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. HARGURVARINDER
SINGH

Addl. District Judge-02

Room No. 605, 6th Floor,

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

PC No. 33/2020

Hema Venugopal
Versus

The State & Ors.

CITATION UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

Whereas an application under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration to the estate of Late Smt. Poornima Venugopal, w/o Sh. Trivikram Venugopal, r/o A-1/403, Mayank Apartment, Plot No. 21, Dwarka Sector-6, New Delhi-110075 in respect of the moveable property in will annexed dated 08-05-2020 in form of amount lying in Savings Account bearing No. 30043965943 of State Bank of India, Sector-1, Block 7, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

Whereas the 23-01-2021 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 23-01-2021 and see the proceedings before the Court of Probate (or Letter of Administration).

Given under my hand and
the Seal of this Court on this

06-01-2021.

Addl. District Judge-02

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. H. S. JAGGI

Addl. District Judge-02

Room No. 605, 6th Floor,

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

GP No. 18/2020

Smt. Seema — Petitioner

Versus

The State (NCT of Delhi)

— Respondent

CITATION UNDER
GUARDIANSHIP & WARDS
ACT, 1890.

Whereas a petition under Section 8, Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act 1890 has been filed by Petitioner Smt. Seema (Real Mother), w/o Late Shri Ram Kumar, r/o RZ-153, Gali No. 26, Ashok Nagar, Palam Village, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045 for grant of legal custody and permission to sell out undivided share of the minor child namely Karan@Karan Kushwah after death of her husband who died on 23-07-2016 with 1/2 share of minor bearing property No. F-156, Land measuring 30 sq. yds. bearing Khasra No. 487, village Nasirpur, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi.

The 19-01-2021 has been fixed for hearing of the application and notice is hereby given to the General Public that if any other relatives/friends, kinsmen or well-wisher of the aforesaid minor/desire to adopt be appointed as guardian of the person and property of the said minor/Liability of desirous to oppose the application of the petitioner, are advised he/she should enter appearance in person in this court on the aforesaid date and be prepared to adduce on that day and documentary or oral evidence which he may desire to adduce in support of his/her claim to such adoption/appointment of declaration in support his/her opposition to the application of the petitioner aforesaid.

Given under my hand and
the Seal of this Court on this

05-01-2021.

Addl. District Judge-02

Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the
Code of Civil Procedure)
IN THE COURT OF
SH. DIVYAM LILA
Civil Judge-01,
Room No. 208,
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

Case No. CSCC/1169/2019
Corporation Bank

— Plaintiff

Mamta Tripathi — Defendant

To,

1. Mamta Tripathi, r/o Khasra No. 32/24, Saini Mohalla, Bijwasan, Delhi-110061.
The Defendant above named.

Whereas plaintiff has instituted the above application, against you for Suit for Recovery of Rs. 1,68,179/- 151 C.P.C., you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 4th day of February of 2021 at 10:00 O'Clock, to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex parte.

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

Civil Judge-01,
Dwarka Courts,
New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

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

IN THE COURT OF
SH. GIRISH KATHPALIA
Principal District &
Sessions Judge (H.O.)

Court No. 301, 3rd Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Case Reg. No.: MCD Appeal

No. 19/2019

To,

Kulsum Bi — Plaintiff

Versus

North DMC — Defendant

To,

1. Smt. Raeesa Begum, wife of Sh. Pappu, r/o 1773, Pataudi House, Kalan Mahal, Daryaganj, New Delhi.

2. Smt. Shabana Alias Seema, wife of Sh. Ajay, r/o 1773, Pataudi House, Kalan Mahal, Daryaganj, New Delhi.

3. Smt. Navneet Kaur, wife of Sh. Navneet Singh, r/o 348, Main Bazar, Delhi, New Delhi.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 03-02-2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 12-01-2021.

Principal District & Sessions Judge (H.O.)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING
ATTENDANCE OF
DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code
of Civil Procedure) for
Notice for Application
Under Order XXII Rule 4 CPC
and Section 5 of Limitation
Act

IN THE COURT OF
SH. VINEET KUMAR
Addl. District Judge
Shahdara District

Room No. 11, 2nd Floor
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PC 01/2021

Sh. Gaurav Khanna — Petitioner

Versus

The State & Ors. — Respondent

1. State (Govt. Not of Delhi) — Service to be effected through office of the District Magistrate, Vivek Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.

2. Smt. Deepika Dhingra, w/o Sh. Sahil Dhingra, r/o Raj Kumar Khanna, r/o 21/B, Jelia Para Lane, Kolkata-700012. Assessee No. 01-051-14-0033-8, Ward - 51, and grandmother son late Golap Prasad Dutta, who is the father of my client died on 02.03.2006. My client is absolute legal heir of their property and apply mutation of C.M.C.

Anybody have any objection regarding mutation in favour of my client named of the mentioned property, contact me with C.M.C. mutation department within 45 days from published of the notice.

Subhashit Bal — Advocate

Bar Association

Room No. 8

2 & 3, Bank Hall Street
Kolkata-700001

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Kultar Singh, son of Sh. Balwant Singh, Resident of H. No. D-54, Situated at Fateh Nagar, Delhi, is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

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A 'green corridor' should be provided for the processing of all the files aimed at immediate augmentation of water supply

SATYENDRA JAIN
DELHI WATER MINISTER

Khattar govt working out plans to open a film city in Haryana

Haryana CM says a 50-100 acre land has been finalised for the proposed film city project to be located at Pinjore, which would be carried out on a public-private partnership basis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 15 JANUARY

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said that the state government was working out plans to open a film city in the state for which a land spanning an area of 50 to 100 acres has been finalised.

To be located at Pinjore in the state, the proposed film city project would be carried out on a public-private partnership basis.

Meanwhile, to ensure that no youth remains unemployed in the state, the Haryana government has prepared a special six month exit strategy under the Saksham Yuva scheme as per which special efforts would be made for increasing employability of 'Saksham Yuvas' through their skilling, job readiness training and job linkage before they leave the scheme.

This was disclosed at a meeting held under the chairmanship of the CM to review the progress of Saksham



Yuva scheme here today. Under the Saksham Yuva scheme, monthly allowance of Rs 3000, Rs 1500 and Rs 900 are being given to post graduate, graduate and 10+2 students respectively in addition to monthly honorarium of Rs 6000 for 100 hours work.

At present, over 2.30 lakh Saksham Yuvas are currently approved in the Saksham Yuva platform and more than 36,000 such Yuva are working in different government departments.

An official spokesperson said as part of the exit strategy, special efforts would be made to provide employment to those about 5900 Saksham Yuvas who would leave

the scheme during financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 after completing 35 years of age cut off under the scheme.

The six month strategy which has been chalked out for this purpose include 1-3 months short term skilling and upskilling of 3-5 days, one month job readiness train-

ing like CV preparation, interview preparation and career counselling, and two months job linkage with aggregators, local employers and telegram group.

It was informed that a target has been fixed to provide career guidance to 30,000 Saksham Yuvas in the year 2021.

MCD councillors, officers living like lords, while COVID-19 workers don't get pay: HC

PTI
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court Friday said it intends to stop all non-essential, discretionary expenses of the three municipal corporations here, including the perks of councillors and senior officers "living like lords", so that salaries and pensions of COVID-19 front line workers -- doctors, nurses and sanitation staff -- can be paid.

The high court directed the civic bodies to give details of expenses incurred on top officials saying that if anyone in these corporations has to take a haircut on their salaries, it has to be them, starting with the councillors.

A bench of Justices Vipin

BYPL to hold online Lok Adalat for settling power theft cases in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

Power discom BYPL in association with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) will hold a first-of-its-kind "hybrid" Lok Adalat on Sunday to settle electricity theft cases, a company spokesperson said.

The hybrid Lok Adalat will be a unique blend of online and offline participation to ensure safety of consumers and officials, and seamless connectivity and faster resolution of cases, he said.

Cases of power theft and metre tampering will be settled amicably and on-the-spot at the Lok Adalat. The highest number of such cases are from Daryaganj, followed by Yamuna Vihar, Paharganj, Chandni Chowk and the Nand Nagri divisions, the official said, adding that the BYPL has issued 11,000 notices to the concerned consumers. PTI

30 kg opium, 53K banned drugs seized in Haryana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 15 JANUARY

Haryana Police on Friday claimed to have seized 30 kilogram 340 gram opium, 53200 tablets falling under the category of banned drugs and 384 bottles of country made liquor in separate cases at Karnal and Sirsa. Five accused were also arrested in this connection.

Giving this information today, a Haryana Police spokesperson informed that in the first incident, a Special Task Force team during checking near village Andhera in Karnal intercepted a truck. Search of the vehicle led to seizure of 30 kg 340 gram opium. Police has also recovered Rs Eight lakh cash from the cabin of the truck.

Initial probe revealed the accused used to bring drugs from Guwahati (Assam) at cheaper rates and supply it to other states at expensive prices. Arrested accused were identified as Darshan Singh and Devender Singh alias Vicky, both residents of Patiala, Punjab.



In another case, a team of Anti Narcotic Cell during night patrolling had spotted four suspects near a motor-cart, who tried to run away after seeing the police team. Three of them were apprehended while one accused managed to escape taking advantage of darkness. When searched,

53200 prohibited tablets and 384 bottles of country made liquor were recovered. The arrested accused were identified as Bittu, Kamaldeep and Ranjit Singh, all hails from Sirsa.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police (DGP), Haryana, Manoj Yadava said more than 4.32 lakh migrant workers and labourers were able to return back to their homes during Covid lockdown period with the help of joint operations conducted by police and civil administration.

He said all the stranded migrant labourers and workers were sent back by arranging special trains and buses during lockdown period, last year under "Operation Samvedna" which was carried out by the police.

Yadava said that under the

drive, migrants who expressed the willingness to return to their native states during Covid lockdown were sent back. A total of 100 special trains and about 6600 buses were arranged for safe and secure departure of over 3.20 lakh migrant labourers and more than 1.11 lakh brick kiln workers to their home states.

Similarly, by contacting the nodal officers of other states, about 16860 residents of Haryana, who were stuck in other states, were also brought to Haryana by buses, the DGP said.

Doppler weather radar installed in Kufri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 JANUARY

The accurate weather forecasts not only vital for the farmers to protect their crops from natural calamities, but it also helps in tourism development as the tourists could decide about their travel plans according to the weather situation.

This was stated by Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Health and Family Welfare and Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan after virtual inauguration of First Doppler

Weather Radar (DWR) installed at Kufri, Shimla and at Mukteshwar, Nainital in Uttarakhand on the occasion of 146th India Meteorological Department Foundation Day.

The Union minister also virtually inaugurated Multi Mission Meteorological Data Receiving and Processing System and online version of Mausam journal.

While addressing the occasion virtually Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur thanked the Union Minister for dedicating Radar at Kufri, Shimla.

He said that two more Radars would be installed at Mandi and Dalhousie in Chamba district of the State. He said that site had already been finalized at Mandi and the site for Radar at Dalhousie would be finalized soon.

The chief minister said that at present Radar installed at Kufri is on test mode for a period of two weeks and thereafter its data would be used for forecasting purposes. He said that the range of this Radar was upto 100 kilometres in radial distance. He said that it would

observe and provide the weather data of 100 kilometres in all directions, which would be used for forecasting purpose especially for short range forecast. He said that more precise area specific weather forecast and warning would be issued for particular place, for the weather phenomenon like thunderstorm, lightning, hail-storm, heavy rainfall/snowfall, gusty winds etc.

Thakur said that following basic information from DWR would be obtained reflectively-a measure of water content in the cloud and it would give the base and height of the cloud including area of the particular cloud cell and movement and direction of the clouds. He said that this Centre would help the horticulturists and farmers of the State by providing them accurate information regarding weather.

He said that DWR Kufri would run round the clock and it is fully automatic and computerized programme based. He said that it would transmit the data in various digital format and picture form.

HP Cabinet decides to open all govt colleges from 8 Feb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 JANUARY

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Friday decided that after the winter vacation all government colleges in the state would open for regular classes from 8 February while strictly following laid-down Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Covid-19.

Presided over by Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur, the Cabinet meeting here decided that all the teachers of summer closing government schools in the state would attend the schools from 27 January.

The students of classes 5 and 8 to 12 of summer closing schools would be allowed to attend regular classes from 1 February, 2021 by strictly following laid down Covid-19 SOPs.

The school management of these schools would ensure strict use of face masks, social distancing and use of sanitizers in the school premises. Similarly, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Polytechnic and Engineering colleges would also be opened from 1 February, 2021.

An official spokesman said the cabinet also decided that students of classes 5 and 8 to 12 of winter closing schools would be allowed to attend regular classes after winter



vacations with effect from 15 February, 2021.

The Online system for education under Har Ghar Pathshala would continue. The similar system can be adopted by the private schools in the state.

The spokesman said keeping in view the Covid-19 pandemic, the state government has constructed four MakeShift Hospitals at IGMC Shimla, CH Nalagarh, RPGMC, Tanda and Medical College, Ner Chowk.

Now, due to reduction in Covid-19 active cases, the cabinet decided to facilitate the early construction of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College Chamba complex, the cabinet gave its nod to raze 28 old government structures for the construction site.

The cabinet decided to set up Women Help Desks in District Police Offices and Police Thanas in the state to make police stations more women friendly and approachable. It also gave its nod to purchase 136 scooty/scooter alongwith 272 helmets and 136 Desktop Computer to strengthen the Women Help Desks in the Police department.

HP summer closing schools to open from 1 February for 5 & 8-12 classes while following Covid-19 SOPs

Non Covid Hospitals.

The spokesman said the cabinet gave its approval to issue Letter of Intent in favour of M/s RCCPL Private Ltd., Navi Mumbai regarding mining lease on 599.1935 hectares of area for extraction of lime stones and mining minerals for cement plant in villages Kamandal, Kumarla, Gitrata and Aara of Chopal Tehsil in Shimla district for a period of three years.

The spokesman said in order to facilitate the early construction of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College Chamba complex, the cabinet gave its nod to raze 28 old government structures for the construction site.

The cabinet decided to set up Women Help Desks in District Police Offices and Police Thanas in the state to make police stations more women friendly and approachable. It also gave its nod to purchase 136 scooty/scooter alongwith 272 helmets and 136 Desktop Computer to strengthen the Women Help Desks in the Police department.

PROTEST PITCH



The Himachal Pradesh Congress workers led by state party president Kuldeep Singh Rathore stage a protest against the Centre's controversial farm laws outside Raj Bhawan in Shimla on Friday.

LALIT KUMAR

Last date for submitting application on NSP extended

SHIMLA, 15 JANUARY

A spokesperson of Himachal Pradesh Education department said here on Friday that the last date for applying and submitting an online application form on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has been extended up to 20 January for the session 2020-21.

The spokesperson said that the timelines of filling up of forms for fresh and renewal applications for Post Matric and Merit cum Means based Minority Scholarship Schemes has been extended upto 20 January, 2021. The last date for first level of verification on NSP Portal for submission of Post Matric and Merit cum Mean based Scholarship application is 5th February, 2021. The last date for the second level of verification under the Post Matric and Merit cum Mean based Scholarship application is 20th February, 2021. SNS

Modi's 'stubborn attitude' responsible for farmers' movement: Brahmpura

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 15 JANUARY

Shiromani Akali Dal (Taksali) president and former Member of Parliament, Ranjit Singh Brahmpura said on Friday that the farmers' agitation against new farm laws will only get bigger if the Central government does not give up its "stubborn attitude".

In a statement, Brahmpura said the call given by farmers for a tractor parade towards Delhi on 26 January will prove to be historic as it is the largest movement so far which is going on completely peacefully. Some people are deliberately accusing this movement of being anti-national which is very unfortunate and is a low-level politics that should be avoided, "he said.

The SAD Taksali leader said the farmers' movement in India started from Punjab but now it's a nationwide movement. Advising Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, Brahmpura said farm laws which are against the people as well as the farmers should be repealed with immediate effect.

Brahmpura said PM Modi's "stubborn attitude" is responsible for this movement which is not only hurting the Indian industry but also the traders who are importing and exporting goods from India to various corners of the globe, which is having a direct detrimental effect on the Indian economy.

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

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• PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

ARROW raymond Colorplus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE



Rajeev wrote the most poisonous blind items about Shushant and me, he openly licked mediocre star kids and even as a journalist he was always KJO minion.

ACTOR KANGANA RANAUT

India

THUMBNAILS



A man sitting beside a bonfire on a cold day, In the Capital on Friday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Naik recovering well: Uni on AYUSH Minister Shri pad Naik is recovering well and his vital parameters are normal, Goa Medical College and Hospital said on Friday. Naik, injured seriously in a car accident, has been admitted at the GMCH near Panaji. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Naik over phone. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, who is on Goa visit, also met Naik.

PTI

EAM holds talks with Nepalese counterpart

Talks are taking place under the framework of the Indo-Nepal joint commission meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

Seeking to mend fences in the wake of a bitter border row last year, India and Nepal today held the much-anticipated meeting of their joint commission and comprehensively reviewed all aspects of the multi-faceted bilateral cooperation and explored ways to further strengthen the close and friendly ties.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Thursday gave clear indication that the boundary issue is unlikely to be discussed at the JCM.

The talks are taking place under the framework of the Indo-Nepal joint commission meeting (JCM), officials said. Gyawali arrived here on Thursday on a three-day visit.

He is the first senior political leader from Nepal to visit India after the ties between the two countries

came under strain following a border row.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Thursday gave clear indication that the boundary issue is unlikely to be discussed at the JCM.

The External Affairs Ministry said the two sides discussed several areas of cooperation, including in the areas of connectivity, economy and trade, power, oil and gas, water resources, border management, development partnership, tourism, culture, education and capacity building.

The two ministers also noted the close cooperation

between the two sides in combating Covid-19 pandemic.

The Nepalese minister congratulated India on the remarkable success in the production of Covishield and Covaxin vaccines and requested for early provision of vaccines to his country.

Noting the milestone achieved by the Motihari-Amlekhganj petroleum products pipeline, the two sides discussed the expansion of the pipeline to Chitwan and the establishment of a new pipeline on the eastern side connecting Siliguri to Jhapa in Nepal.

Both sides welcomed the completion of the work on the first passenger railway line between India and Nepal from Jaynagar to Kurtha via Janakpur, and noted that operating procedures for commencement of train services were being finalised.

Other cross-border rail connectivity projects, including a possible Raxaul-Kathmandu broad gauge railway

line, were also discussed.

The joint commission emphasised the need to facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods.

It was noted that the recently inaugurated Integrated Check Posts at Birgunj and Biratnagar have helped in seamless movement of people and trade between the two countries.

Both sides welcomed the commencement of construction of third ICP at Nepalganj. India conveyed that construction of a new ICP at Bhairahawa would be initiated shortly.

Discussions were also held on expediting joint hydropower projects, including the proposed Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, which have numerous benefits for the people of both countries.

Nepal expressed support for India's permanent membership of an expanded UNSC to reflect the changed balance of power. However, it was not clear if the border row also figured during the talks.

Kerala:LDF govt offers welfare balm to all sectors

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
15 JANUARY

Generating nearly eight lakh job opportunities in various sectors, creation of 4000 posts in the health department, raising various welfare pensions, affecting pay hike for state employees and pensioners, fixing of Minimum Support Price of Rs 170 per kg for rubber, and Rs 32 and Rs 28 per kg for coconut and paddy respectively and rolling out of KFON project, which aims to make internet services affordable are the highlights of the last budget of the LDF government in Kerala, presented by finance minister TM Thomas Isaac in the Assembly on Friday.

Isaac proposed a digital platform to connect those seeking employment and the employers. The finance minister said loans would be made available to set up work stations for those employed through the digital platform.

He proposed micro planning to identify, register and provide poor families with jobs, ration cards and health cards, while proposing steps for poverty eradication.

The finance minister announced that laptops would be made available for all households, through a 50% concession for families belonging to weaker sections.

He announced that all welfare pensions would be increased to Rs.1600 and that Kudumbasree Mission to be allotted Rs.5 crore to identify educated, unem-

ployed women and provide them jobs. As many as 10,000 families in coastal areas would be provided houses under various schemes, the minister said.

The finance minister further announced that first phase of K-FON (Kerala Fiber Optic Network), an ambitious IT infrastructure project to make the internet accessible to everyone by next month. The project will provide high speed Internet service at affordable rates.

Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala termed the sixth Budget of the LDF government as disappointing. Terming the budget as 'hollow', he said there is no proposal in the budget to improve the economic condition of Kerala.

The budget has no schemes to make available money in the hands of public in the post-Covid situation, he added.

Muslim League leader Kunhalikutty said that apart from the speech of the finance minister, there was nothing else in the budget after accumulating a debt of Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

BJP state president K Surendran accused Isaac of highlighting the achievements of Centre as his own in the state budget.

TMC MP likens defectors to rejected horses

KOLKATA, 15 JANUARY

Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy today compared defectors of Trinamul Congress with rejected horses but declined to make any comment on Birbhum MP Satabdi Roy.

Roy underlined that some leaders and workers who defected, realised their mistake, and came back to TMC and said defecting and returning is common in any democratic party.

About Roy's fan clubs Facebook post, Mr Roy said, "So far I've no record of MP Satabdi Roy defecting from party. The party is also not aware of it. Whoever is posted in the social media, party is not responsible for that," he quipped.

About BJP state president Dilip Ghosh's comment that Mamata Banerjee rules the state from home, Roy said, "Ghosh is not even aware of different departments in the state government."

Eastern Command observes Army Day



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 JANUARY

lives while protecting the country. Similar ceremonies were organised in all military stations in the Eastern Theatre.

To mark this occasion, eight units from Eastern Command were conferred with the Chief of the Army Staff unit citation for exemplary professional perfor-

mance. On similar lines, units

were have been awarded Army Commendations Citation by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, which includes nine Infantry battalions, three Artillery regiments, three Engineers regiments, and other combat support and services units.

Bulls and men compete at Palamedu 'Jallikattu' in TN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MADRAS, 15 JANUARY

Bulls and men tried to get the better of each other as the bull taming sport 'Jallikattu' began at the famed Palamedu here on Friday.

A test of grit was on full dis-

play with the animals fierce-

ly trying to get past the wait-

ing men while the tamers at-

tempted to get on to their

humps to emerge victorious.

The animals were let out

one after the other from 'Vadi-

vash', a narrow entrance to

the sporting arena after

tained injuries. Organisers repeatedly directed enthuziastic tamers through the public address system to ensure that only one of them took on the bull.

The opening 'Jallikattu' of the Pongal season was held at Avaniapuram on Thursday.

26th KIFF comes to an end

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 JANUARY



tor for his film *God On The Balcony* in Assamese language in the same category.

Rezwan Shahriar Sumit's direction *The Salt In Our Waters* became the winner for the best film in the Asian Select-NETPAC section. It was the only film screened at the 26th KIFF from the neighbouring country this year.

The award for the best short film under National Competition on Indian Short Films was given to Ujjwal Pal's film *Duskand Highways of Life*.

Rahul Riju Naif's *The False Eye* was deemed as the winner of the best film for Hiralal Sen Memorial Award on Indian Languages' Films, with price money of rupees seven lakhs. While Biswajeet Borawas given the award for the 'Best Direc-

tor' for his film *God On The Balcony* in Assamese language in the same category.

With strict Covid-19 norms

in place and winners unable to be physically present at the closing ceremony today, the awardees expressed their joy virtually.

Films of artists who died in 2020 screened at KIFF: Movies of renowned actors and directors who died last year have been screened at the 26th KIFF.

Movies directed by filmmakers Kim Ki Duk of South Korea and Fernando Solanas of Argentina and films starring actors Soumitra Chatterjee, Irrfan Khan, Rishi Kapoor, Tapas Paul and danceuse Alankrita Shankar were screened at six state-run theatres in

Kolkata between January 8 and 15 under the special tribute section.

Films screened under the section include Duk's *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring* (2003), Solanas' *South* (1988) and eight movies starring Soumitra Chatterjee, including *Ganadevata* (1978), *Akash Kusum* (1965), *Koni* (1984) and *Mayurashiki* (2017).

Khan's acclaimed movie *Paan Singh Tomar* (2012), Kapoor's *Mulk* (2018), Pal's *Dadar Kirti* (1980) and *Atta Aater Bongaon Local* (2012) and Santu Mukherjee's *Herman Pakhi* (2001) were also shown.

No: 178-Sig/CW/32/96/Pt-II Date: 15.01.2021 125/2021

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DRAFT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Mandi on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Name of work:- (i) A/R & M/O Sewerage Scheme Mandi, (SH:- Operation, Repair & Maintenance of Sewerage Scheme Mandi Town, Sanyardhi, Bhiuli and Nela, 13 Nos septic Tank at various locations distribution network and main trunk sewer line 74 Km long of having DICL pipes of various sizes for a period of One year).

Estimated Cost :-- Rs. 54,06,773/- Only

Earnest Money :-- Rs. 87,000/- Only

Time Limit :-- One Year

Cost of tender document :-- Rs. 800/-

(ii) A/R & M/O Sewerage Scheme Mandi, (SH:- Operation, Repair & Maintenance of Sewerage Scheme Mandi Town, Sanyardhi, Bhiuli and Nela including STP of capacity 3.83 MLD at Raghunath Ka Padhar and 0.47 MLD at Khaliyar for a period of Six Month).

Estimated Cost :-- Rs. 20,34,594/- Only

Earnest Money :-- Rs. 38,100/- Only

Time Limit :-- Six Months.

Cost of tender document :-- Rs. 400/-

The bids are to be submitted online which are to be encrypted and digitally signed by the contractor/ firms. The bidders are advised to obtain digital signature certificate (DSC) from the suitable vendors or any authorized agency at the earliest.

Schedule of tendering:-

1. Bid Submission start date 15.01.2021 05:00 PM

2. Bid Submission end date 21.01.2021 05:00 PM

3. Opening of Cover-I 22.01.2021 at 11:30 AM

4. Opening of Financial bid Date and place to be notified separately.

Conditions:-

1. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded in two covers :-

i. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility information".

ii. Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.

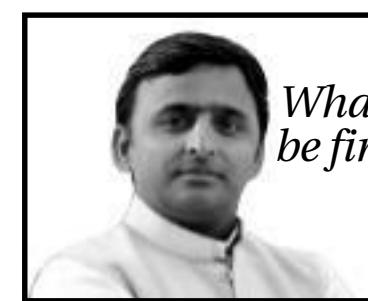
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Mandi

5268/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Divisional Manager CTU &
Director Transport,
U.T., Chandigarh

Ref. No. 462/CT/CTU/2021,
Dated: 15.01.2021

e-TENDER NOTICE



What kind of a decision is this of the BJP that poor farmers be finished and a handful of people are benefited.

SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV
SLAMMING THE BJP GOVT OVER FARM LAWS

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 16 JANUARY 2021

05

THUMBNAILS



Delhi nurses union and hospital workers during a protest at Civic Centre, in the Capital on Friday. SNS

Movie promotion in Leh:
The administration of Ladakh is contemplating to take steps to promote the movies produced by local filmmakers. Secretary, Information & Public Relations, UT of Ladakh, Padma Angmo convened a meeting with executive members of Leh based film societies. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the concerns of the filmmakers in Leh. SNS

Birds found dead in Maha:
As many as 905 birds including 753 poultry birds were found dead in Maharashtra in a 12-hour period and samples have been sent to the labs to check if any of them carried the avian influenza virus, an official said. Since 8 January, 3,949 birds have been found dead in the state, said an official of the Animal Husbandry Department on Friday. PTI

Celebrated biker dies: King Richard Srinivasan, a celebrated biker from Bengaluru, died after his motorcycle crashed into a camel in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, police said on Friday. The incident took place in Fatehgarh subdivision on Wednesday when Srinivasan along with his three friends was headed to Jaisalmer. PTI

'PM doesn't respect farmers'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says if anyone 'attacks' farmers, it is an attack on the country



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadera meet MLAs and MPs from Punjab at Jantar Mantar, in the capital on Friday. SNS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

Farm laws have potential to represent significant step forward for agriculture reforms in India: IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 15 JANUARY

The IMF believes the farm bills passed by the Indian government have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms, but a social safety net is needed to protect those who might be adversely impacted during the transition to the new system, a spokesperson of the global lender said here.

Gerry Rice, Director of Communications at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the new measures will reduce the role of the mid-

dlemen and enhance efficiency.

"We believe the farm bills do have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms in India," Rice said at a news conference in Washington on Thursday.

"The measures will enable farmers to directly contract with sellers, allow farmers to retain a greater share of the surplus by reducing the role of middlemen, enhance efficiency and support rural growth," he said.

"However, it is crucial that the social safety net adequately protects those

who might be adversely impacted during the transition to this new system," the spokesperson said responding to a question on the ongoing protests by farmers against the laws in India.

This can be done by ensuring that the job market accommodates those that are impacted by the reforms, he said.

And of course, the growth benefits of these reforms will depend, critically, on the effectiveness and the timing of their implementation, so need to pay attention to those issues as well with the reform," Rice said.

have basic respect for farmers. He does not even care if over 100 farmers die. He thinks he has the power and the protesting farmers will tire out after some days, but they will not relent," he said.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, are protesting at various border points of Delhi since November 28 against the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. Rahul Gandhi said this agitation has just started and the laws will have to be repealed.

Farmers will not relent till the laws are repealed, said Rahul Gandhi at Jantar Mantar, where he along with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra joined party MPs in their demonstration against the legislations.

The former Congress president's remarks come on a day when the government is meeting protesting farmer unions for the ninth time to break the over-a-month-long deadlock on the three new agri laws.

"The talks are being held only to delay. PM Modi thinks he has the power and will tire the farmers out, but he is mistaken," Rahul Gandhi told reporters.

"Narendra Modi does not

from Punjab have been staging the protest for over a month.

Asked about objections being raised over the proposed tractor rally by protesting farmers on Republic Day, he said, "If farmers want to come out and take out a tractor parade on Republic Day, what is the harm in it."

"The prime minister misunderstands, he thinks this country is run by four to five industrialists, who control him," Rahul Gandhi said, adding that the country is run by farmers, labourers and the youth.

He said if anyone "attacks" farmers, it is an attack on the country. The country's farmers have maintained the country's independence by ensuring food security and the day food security is lost, the country will lose its independence, Rahul Gandhi said.

"This is a financial issue, not a political issue. PM Modi wants to hand over everything that farmers have to his corporate friends," the Congress leader alleged.

He also raised strong objections to protesting farmers

being dubbed as "Khalistanis".

Thousands of farmers have come out to protest against the farm laws and "you should not have dubbed them as 'Khalistanis'", Rahul Gandhi said. Congress MP Bittu had earlier told reporters that it was Rahul Gandhi who had started the protests against the farm laws in Punjab and Haryana and had also undertaken a tractor rally.

Cong workers face water cannon in Chandigarh during protest: Congress workers held protests here on Friday in support of farmers agitating over the new agri-marketing laws, with one group facing a water cannon as it tried to push past police barricades.

The Congress had planned to gherao the Punjab and Haryana Raj Bhavans as part of a nationwide protest called by the party over the new farm laws.

Haryana Congress leaders were detained by police as they marched towards the state Raj Bhavan. A separate march by the party's Punjab unit was also stopped.

Cong activists clash with police during march to Raj Bhawan



JAMMU, 15 JANUARY

Police resorted to mild lathicharge and took several Congress activists led by JKPPC President GA Mir into custody when they tried to break the barricades to march towards the Raj Bhawan here to demand scrapping of the three farm laws and protest against the "unbridled price spiraling".

The protesters had a scuffle with policemen near the Raghunath Temple when they were asked to stop.

A Congress spokesman said that the PCC chief Mir and other senior leaders broke the police barricades and the enthusiastic activists broke the police cordon at several places enroute and forced their march ahead. The detained activists were later released.

The protest was part of the nationwide programme of Indian National Congress "Kisan Adhikar Diwas" in support of the agitating farmers, seeking repeal of three 'black laws' besides roll back of unprecedented hike of petrol and diesel prices. Prominent among the protesters were, former ministers Raman Bhalla, RS Chib, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Ravinder Sharma and former MPTs Bajwa. SNS

Major who laid down life while fighting terrorist in J&K awarded Sena Medal: Major Keta Sharma who sacrificed his life fighting a hardcore Pakistani terrorist was among 15 Army personnel awarded the Sena Medal for their exceptional courage and bravery on Army Day on Friday. Major Sharma had led his team from the front to eliminate the dreaded terrorist after getting information about his presence in a house in Badura village of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on June 17, 2019. PTI

ern borders where we have seen the Chinese belligerence on the LAC where it has tried to alter the status quo which has been contested with resolve and courage by the Indian Army. Thirdly, the internal situation in J&K which is stable and under control but has the propensity to flare up at any time. The Army commander was talking to mediapersons after paying tributes to the bravehearts of the Indian Army by laying a wreath at the Dhruba War Memorial on the Army Day in Udhampur. Referring to the Chinese incursions in Ladakh, the Northern Army Commander said that the challenges in Eastern Ladakh have been further complicated by vagaries of weather and terrain. The Indian Army has displayed immense grit and determination to match the Chinese belligerence and giving them a befitting reply. The Army Commander said that the Northern Command is now perched at a position of operational advantage and are negotiating with the PLA from a position of equivalence. He also maintained that our western adversary Pakistan has not relented from using terror as an instrument of state policy. The Army Commander also brought out the complex, volatile, uncertain and ambiguous conflict paradigm in the Northern Command. Relentless operations on the LC backed with robust multi agency grid in hinterland has forced the deep state in Pakistan to recalibrate its approach to handle this situation. The terrorist network across are trying hard to abet recruitment by extensive use of social media. Success of Indian army is because of gallant soldiers. It is never about weaponry but the man behind it who wins the battle." Referring to the internal situation across Jammu and Kashmir, Lt General Joshi said, "Terrorists network and mentors across are trying to use social media to recruit youngsters'.

Bengal now has 7.32 crore voters, EC final list shows

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 JANUARY

The number of voters in West Bengal has gone up to 7.32 crore with a net increase in 2.01 per cent voters, according to the final electoral roll released today.

The total number of electors in the final roll stands at 7,32,94,980 against 7,18,49,308 in the draft roll. The final vot-

SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Special Trains as per the schedule given below :-

05114/05113 Chhaphra Kacheri - Gomti Nagar - Chhaphra Kacheri Special Express (Daily)

Train No. 05114	STATIONS	Train No. 05113
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
-- 19:20	Chhaphra Kacheri	08:40 --
06:35 --	Gomti Nagar	-- 21:10

Days of Run: 05114 Ex. Chhaphra Kacheri Daily from 27.01.2021 & 05113 Ex. Gomti Nagar Daily from 28.01.2021.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppage : Marhaura, Mashrakh, Dighwa Dubauli, Gopalganj, Thawa Jn., Tamku Road, Dudahi, Padrauna, Ramkola, Kapanganj Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Basti Mankapur Jn., Gonda Jn. & Barabanki Jn. Stations.

09731/09732 Jaipur - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jaipur Special Express (Daily)

Train No. 09731	STATIONS	Train No. 09732
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
-- 07:35	Jaipur	20:20 --
13:45 --	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	-- 14:45

Days of Run: 09731 Ex. Jaipur & 09732 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla Daily from 18.01.2021 to 31.01.2021.

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, AC Chair Car, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppage : Gandhinagar Jaipur, Getor Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui Jn., Alwar Jn., Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations.

Note : The above Special Trains will have the reserved accommodation only.

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

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NORTHER

Caution v haste

While some countries ~ principally the United States, the United Kingdom and a few others ~ have already launched ambitious vaccination programmes and others including India plan to do so in the next few days, the studied reluctance of some countries that had fared relatively well in controlling the coronavirus epidemic to commence vaccination drives must invite attention. These countries have not yet approved any of the vaccine candidates on offer and have opted to observe developments across the world before taking a decision. Among them are Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia. Even Hong Kong's local administration has opted for a cautious approach, notwithstanding China offering vaccines, with a medical expert on the island territory's Executive Council telling a news agency that "it's not a bad thing to sit back a bit and see how others are doing." Many experts in these countries have explained their concern by saying that the vaccines for the first time ~ and following accelerated development programmes ~ use mRNA technology that makes the human body produce proteins that then develop protective antibodies and must thus be evaluated very carefully. But there are other factors at play, too. South Korea, for instance, has expressed concern at the manner in which pharmaceutical companies have sought and obtained legal immunity following rushed negotiations where one party ~ the supplier ~ has held all the cards. The country's Health minister Park Neung-hoo told a recent news briefing, "It is nearly universal around the world that extensive immunity from liability is being demanded." He added that rushing to vaccinate populations "before we identify risks is not so necessary for us." Despite Opposition criticism, New Zealand's approach has been similarly measured, aided no doubt by the fact that the country's early anti-virus measures that won Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern acclaim have largely controlled the epidemic. Another concern cited by these countries is that a botched roll-out of the vaccination programme could further erode public confidence in the efficacy of the vaccines. A recent survey had found that the numbers of those willing to take the vaccine had dropped a whopping 9 percentage points from last October to November. To import vaccines at high cost, to store them in special facilities and then have people refuse them is a daunting prospect. In any event, experts argue that jumping the gun without analysing all factors is inadvisable, unless a country faces a galloping rise in numbers of afflictions, as reported in the USA and UK, making vaccination, even in a worst-case scenario, the lesser of two evils. With most Asian countries having achieved relatively greater success in controlling the virus, and with people having embraced safety precautions with far greater enthusiasm than in parts of Europe and the US, policy-makers believe there is no need to panic, even if the delay in vaccination draws political backlash, as indeed it is now beginning to.

Attack from the skies

A swathe of Syria has been targeted by Israeli warplanes, but the offensive since Wednesday actually reflects the geostrategic reality ~ Tel-Aviv has bared its angst against Iran, indeed positions and arms depots of forces backed by the regime in Tehran. Iran is in the vortex of an international controversy over its nuclear programme. Dozens of fighters are said to have been killed or wounded. The airstrikes were carried out on the basis of intelligence feedback advanced by the United States. This must rank as a rare instance of publicised cooperation between the two countries over choosing targets ~ from the skies ~ in Syria. This explains why the airstrikes targeted warehouses in Syria that were being used to store and then use Iranian weapons. These warehouses also functioned as a pipeline for components that support Iran's nuclear programme. Wednesday's blitz was preceded by talks that the outgoing Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, had with Yossi Cohen, the head of Mossad, Israel's spy agency, in Washington on Monday. Syria has confirmed that the strikes hit areas that straddle the border with Iraq. Short of giving details, the embattled regime in Damascus has confirmed that Syrian air defence responded to the incoming missiles. An Opposition war monitor reported no fewer than 18 strikes in Deir-el-Zour and along the border with Iraq. The offensive was marked by attacks on several arms depots. There were no fewer than 39 Israeli strikes inside Syria last year, targeting as many as 139 military installations, notably military posts, warehouses and vehicles. No fewer than 217 people were killed, by and large militiamen allied to Iran. The latest wave of airstrikes has occurred in the midst of heightened regional tension in the twilight phase of Donald Trump's administration. Thursday's unprecedented second impeachment must have rendered him still more bewildered to react to the renewed ferment in the Arab world. Whereas the Russian aerial bombardment had targeted insurgents in Syria ~ the presidential palace in Damascus was unscathed ~ the Israeli bombing appears to have been calibrated with remarkable precision. Israel regards entrenchment on its northern frontier as a red line. It has repeatedly struck Hezbollah, Lebanon's militant group. The airstrikes also coincide with the Israeli warplane missions in Lebanese skies, that have caused consternation in the Middle East, and have prompted Lebanon to complain to the United Nations. Tel-Aviv has justified the overflights, claiming that Hezbollah has violated the 2006 UN resolution that bars Lebanon from building up its military capabilities and operating near the Israeli border. The geopolitical ferment has intensified as one US President takes the bow and another prepares to enter the Oval Office.

Plularism and politics

For many the increasing corporatization of political life has made the US a false democracy. A major reason for this perception was the Supreme Court decision to treat corporations as individuals and allow unlimited contribution for campaigns and political activities. A new kind of New Deal for the next decade is also necessary to restore the faith of ordinary citizens in the political system



Pluralism contends that the modern liberal state is too complex for any single group, class or organization to dominate society. It regards the political system to be all inclusive and consensual taking into account everyone's interests and ensuring their satisfaction as part of a larger group or association. It affirms the separation of state and civil society and distinguishes economic from political power. It differs from the elite theory that establishes a dichotomy between the ruler and the ruled.

It differs also from the classical democratic theory with regard to two crucial aspects: (1) unlike classical democratic theory that perceives individuals as isolated and discrete persons pluralism views individuals as members of a group that overlaps and accepts that a person in a modern society has multiple identities; (2) it accepts that groups have particular interests and these do not necessarily indicate the absence of general interest. Classical democratic theory assumes the existence of common good thrown up by the democratic system.

Pluralism, like Madison's theory is preoccupied with factions and pressure groups, for it considers society to be essentially heterogeneous and divergent with diverse aspirations, interests and wills. It accepts Madison's concern for factions and its modern counterpart - interest groups and pressure groups as a natural counterpart of free association in a world where most desired goods are scarce and where the complex industrial system fragments social interests and creates a multiplicity of demands.

Like Madison, the pluralists accept that the basic function of government is to protect the freedom of factions to advance their political interests, while preventing any individual faction from encroaching on the freedom of others. However, they differ from Madison in not regarding factions as a major threat to democratic associations or as a source of instability or as undemocratic in nature. They consider the existence of diverse competitive interests as the basis of democratic equilibrium and for a favourable development of public policy. Other than Madison the pluralists combine Locke's individualism and Dewey's participatory ethic with Burke's concern for continuity and stability.

The pluralists view politics as an arena of resolving conflict between different groups who represent all the dominant interests in a society. They see conflict, as pointed by Lipset, to be 'de-

mocracy's lifeblood' and, as stated by Dahl, to be one of the prime facts of all communities. By accepting conflict as given they prescribe democratic forums to accommodate it. They concede that some marginal groups might be left out, but assert that all the major streams usually get represented. They also argue that certain groups try to establish close links with particular departments in the government which may lead to a neglect of other interests. However, Wilson points to the existence of Whitehall pluralism, meaning that even if one department ignores the interest of a particular group, it is not necessary that others would ignore them as well. Their views could be taken up 'by the fact that other departments have checks and have different departmental views accordingly'.

The pluralists perceive the state as a balancing factor between departments that represent a range of interest groups. Thus, interest groups are accepted as the basic building blocks of the theory. Interest for the pluralists means 'subjective interests' or 'attitudes' according to Truman.

Authority is distributed within government meaning that the state is not controlled and dominated by any single interest. Yet the state is seldom neutral but mirrors the range of group pressures it faces as 'policy arises from the interaction of various social elements' observes Easton. The state attempts to make policy by bargaining between a range of conflicting interests and the government takes into consideration the interests of 'unorganised and potential groups' and, therefore, they do not need according to Truman 'organized expression except when these needs are flagrantly violated'.

Politics, says Dahl, is a constant process of negotiation with new issues emerging all the time that ensures resolution of conflicts peacefully. It is thus contended that an explanation of the actual process of politics is an analysis of groups. Policy emerges as a result of constant method of conflict and exchange between different groups with the government being regarded as just another group. Only by organising themselves into groups could individuals get their interests represented in government.

The state is a distinct organisation that makes policies in respon-

se to the innumerable groups exerting pressure on the government. It is accepted that conflict between groups is persuasive within liberal democracy and this conflict rarely threatens the stability of the system. Consensus defining the limits of political action and the framework of policy outcomes ensures political stability.

The pluralists believe that their view has been actualized by the post-Second World War consensual politics both in the USA and Great Britain endorsing Dicey who had pointed out that the two countries had begun to evolve a similar political culture as mass democracy began to consolidate. The essential assumptions of the pluralists are the primacy of economics over politics, and that the major contradic-

tions of capitalism have been resolved by accommodating all the mainstream players within the political arena. Therefore, politics has become dull as observed by Lipset with a nickel more or less.

But this tranquillity of Anglo-Saxon fundamentalism received a rude shock first with Brexit followed by Trump's unexpected victory in 2016 and impressive increase in his support base extending it to Hispanics and blacks retaining 45 per cent of the Republican Party voters after the chaos created by his supporters on Capitol Hill last Wednesday. In contrast, the liberals have a support base of 26 per cent which is extremely shallow as 3/4th of the voters are illiberal or at best lukewarm liberal in a democracy whose fundamentals rest on Lockean liberalism.

According to the World Value survey, 78 per cent of Trump voters feel that Trump should not concede; 88 per cent of voters believe in the possibility of electoral fraud to change the outcome, 45 per cent approve of the attack while 27 per cent don't think that the attack was a threat to democracy. The Republican voters consider the protestants as patriots, while the Democrats view the protesters as extremists and as domestic terrorists. In 2017, 38 per cent of Americans compared to 25 per cent in 1995 considered it is a good idea to have a strong leader who does not have to bother with elections and the Congress.

Democracy's success story had always been reflected by two essential factors: (1) politics of accommodation wherein political parties try to incorporate differ-

ent groups that were not part of the decision-making process and (2) by a logical assertion that democracy is as much a necessity for economics as for politics. The fact that pluralist democracy had developed fault lines became evident when Clinton defeated George Bush in 1992 mainly because 20 per cent of the vote was captured by third-party candidate Ross Perot. The latter was the first public figure to caution against the ill effects of globalisation and NAFTA's unviability as it had accommodated an unequal Mexico into a larger grouping which led to the inevitable shift of capital to Mexico leaving thousands of steel workers unemployed in the US.

These marginalised groups became the major ones in 2016 to cause the upheaval in the presidential elections that saw Trump emerge victorious. The other issues which propelled Trump to power were fear and anxieties of evangelical Christians and their overwhelming support in 2016 and 2020, immigration issues, relative decline of the US as an economic power and the rise of non-Western powers in general and China in particular. It is an astonishing fact that the US primarily and Great Britain secondarily have transformed themselves from being nations with minor contradictions to those with major ones disproving predictions of political culture theorists like Verba. This unprecedented change was accomplished by the incapacity of the US political system to comprehend the deep-rooted alienation experienced by a large number of people who feel cheated by the political establishment. For the many, the hope of a better future seems bleak and they long for what their parents had.

For many the increasing corporatization of political life has made the US a false democracy. A major reason for this perception was the Supreme Court decision to treat corporations as individuals and allow unlimited contribution for campaigns and political activities. A new kind of New Deal for the next decade is also necessary to restore the faith of ordinary citizens in the political system.

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To take just a couple of two big examples, beginning February last year Trump has unbendingly stuck to the line that Covid will simply go away, but it took tens of thousands of American lives.

And, beginning November he continuously claimed election victory. Such wild falsehoods put him in a league of his own, especially when he believes them too. What happened in the Capitol on January 6 was horrifyingly an insur-

ence to the innumerable groups exerting pressure on the government. It is accepted that conflict between groups is persuasive within liberal democracy and this conflict rarely threatens the stability of the system. Consensus defining the limits of political action and the framework of policy outcomes ensures political stability.

Diagnoses have included emotional fragility, malignant narcissism, and a personal reality that is a "patchwork of knowing falsehoods and sincerely believed fantasies".

Further, the world mental health coalition chief points out: "When such wounded individuals are given positions of power they abuse similar pathology in the population", including delusions at the national level. The treatment, she says, is removal of exposure.

However, either through a Senate impeachment conviction during his presidency or criminal prosecution afterwards, he must be held to account. To protect truth begin there.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru, 15 January.

SIR, The Allahabad High court judgment holding the 30 day public notice under the Special Marriage Act (SMA) optional, promises to put an end to a regressive provision in a law often touted as a Uniform Civil Code template. The court has held that a couple not willing to allow the publication of a 30 day notice requires the marriage officer to solemnise the marriage.

The court has also ruled that the public notice violated the fundamental right to privacy recognised by the Supreme Court. The court has recognised the farcical situation where personal law marriages do not require such public notices.

In a modern, secular society that recognises the right of consenting adults to marry, the SMA should entrust the marriage officer with no greater role than verifying identity, age and valid consent. The right to privacy promises more such resets in the power asymmetry between state and citizens in the coming days.

Through a series of interventions, Allahabad HC has struck some powerful blows for couples torn apart by society, state officers and mistaken laws.

With this resounding HC verdict, the SC must step in and examine the constitutionality of this provision and the near-identical UP, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh laws targeting interfaith marriages and religious conversions. Threats to individual liberties and privacy lie squarely in SC's domain and must occupy its utmost energies.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 15 January.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Historical barriers

I n a move set to further strain bilateral ties, a court here last week delivered a landmark ruling ordering Tokyo to make reparations to South Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery for Japanese soldiers. The ruling comes amid rising tensions between the two countries over an ongoing legal process here to seize and liquidate South Korea-based assets of Japanese firms to compensate victims of forced labor during the colonial era.

Tokyo argues that the sexual slavery issue was settled by a 2015 deal with Seoul, while the forced labor issue has also been resolved by a 1965 treaty to normalize bilateral relations.

Soon after the ruling, Japan's Foreign Ministry summoned South Korea's Ambassador Nam Gwan-Pyo to file a protest and stressed that Tokyo could never accept the court's decision.

Tokyo in particular noted the ruling was in violation of a principle of international law that stipulates a sovereign government cannot be subject to trial in another country.

In handing down the ruling, however, the Seoul Central District Court said the case filed by 12 former sex slaves ~ euphemistically called "comfort women" ~ should be exempted from the principle as it involved a crime against humanity that violates internationally obligatory norms.

The latest court decision may

H The Korea Herald

prompt a series of other compensation lawsuits against the Japanese government, further straining Seoul-Tokyo ties already beset by issues stemming from the unfortunate history shared between them.

Japan imposed curbs on exports of high-tech materials to South Korea in 2019 in an apparent reprisal for the 2018 ruling by the Supreme Court here that ordered Japanese firms to compensate victims forced to work for them during colonial rule. If Seoul takes legal steps to enforce Friday's ruling, Tokyo is certain to make a more serious and far-reaching response.

The ruling is expected to complicate Seoul's recent efforts to mend ties with Tokyo by sending top government and ruling party officials for talks with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and others in Tokyo.

The move was seen as motivated to enlist Tokyo's support for Seoul's efforts to forge an environment for reengagement with Pyongyang particularly on the occasion of the Tokyo Olympics scheduled for later this year. It also came amid the need to prepare for the incoming US administration's possible bid to bring its two key Asian allies closer together to cope with growing military threats from North Korea and an increasingly assertive China.

US President-elect Joe Biden, who will be sworn in on Jan. 20, has pledged to strengthen solidarity with America's democratic allies to enhance Washington's interests and tackle a set of global challenges.

Seoul and Tokyo need to strive to contain tensions between them from further escalating, while continuing to seek fundamental measures to put the unfortunate history behind them.

Japan should make a more sincere atonement for and pay more heed to demands from the victims of sexual slavery and forced labour.

IN MEMORIAM

MITRA SANTOSH KUMAR — In loving memory of who left us this day, 14 years back. Remembered fondly by Reba, Banasri, Shamik and Abritti.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Trump must be held to account

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tion incited by the President of the United States himself.

Indeed, throughout his term psychiatrists questioned his mental health.

Diagnoses have included emotional fragility, malignant narcissism, and a personal reality that is a "patchwork of knowing falsehoods and sincerely believed fantasies".

Further, the world mental health coalition chief points out: "When such wounded individuals are given positions of power they abuse similar pathology in the population", including delusions at the national level. The treatment, she says, is removal of exposure.

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SC'S ROLE

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'Global Right has no narrative for future'

Born in Cochabamba in 1962, Álvaro García Linera was very young when he first drew close to Marxism and the struggles of the Aymara people.

Moving to Mexico, where he graduated in mathematics in the early 1980s, he was influenced by the Guatemalan guerrilla movements fighting for the cause of indigenous population. After his return to Bolivia, he became one of the founders of the Túpac Katari Guerrilla Army, a political organization that combined Marxist class struggle with Katarist principles promoting indigenous emancipation. Held in a maximum-security prison between 1992 and 1997, he went on to teach sociology and to become an influential intellectual. Later joining Evo Morales's Movement for Socialism (MAS), Linera has been since 2006 vice-president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. He is one of the most original voices in the Latin American Left, whose works include *Value Form and Community Form* (1995) and *Plebeain Power* (2008). In this conversation with MARCELLO MUSTO, Associate Professor of Sociological Theory at York University, Toronto, Linera speaks about the situation of progressive forces in this and other parts of the world.

Q: Your political commitment is marked by an awareness that most Latin American communist organizations were incapable of speaking to the popular classes as a whole and occupied little more than a function of observers. In Bolivia, for example, their reliance on the most schematic and economic Marxism-Leninism prevented them from recognizing the specificity of the indigenous question and placing it at the centre of their political activity. They saw native peoples as an indistinct 'petty-bourgeois' peasant mass with no revolutionary potential. How did you come to realize that it was necessary to build something radically different from the Left that at the time?

A: In Bolivia, food was produced by indigenous farmers, buildings and houses were built by indigenous workers, streets were cleaned by indigenous people, and the elite and the middle classes entrusted the care of their children to them. Yet the traditional Left seemed blind to this and occupied itself only with workers in large-scale industry, paying no attention to their ethnic identity. Though certainly important for work in the mines, they were a minority in comparison with indigenous workers, who were dis-

criminated against and even more harshly exploited. From the late 1970s on, the Aymara population organized large mobilizations against the dictatorship as well as the democratic governments that arose after its fall. It did so proudly with its own language and symbols, operating through federated communities of campesinos and furthering the birth of a nation under indigenous leadership. It was a moment of social discovery.

Q. How did you respond to this?

A: I was a school student at the time, and this Indian insurgency made a great impression on me. It seemed clear that the discourse of social struggle in the classical Left, centered only on workers and bourgeois, was one-sided and unsustainable. It had to incorporate indigenous themes and to reflect on the agrarian community, or collective ownership of the land, as the basis for social organization. Moreover, to understand the women and men who made up the majority of the country and were demanding a different history and place in the world, it was necessary to go more deeply into the ethnic-national aspect of the problem of oppressed peoples. And for this, the schematism of Marxist textbooks seemed to me completely inadequate. It sent me in search of other references, from the store of Indianist ideas to the Marx whose writings on anticolonial struggles and the agrarian commune in Russia had enriched his analysis of oppressed nations.

Q. With the passing of time, the complexity of the subject of social transformation – which was so important in your political thinking and activity – has become an essential question for all progressive forces. As the vision of the proletariat as the only force capable of overthrowing capitalism has waned, and as the myth of the revolutionary vanguard has dissolved, what should be the new starting point for the Left?

A: The problem for the traditional Left is that it confused the concept of "the proletarian condition" with a specific historical form of wage labour. The former has spread everywhere and become a worldwide material condition. It is not true that the world of labour is disappearing – there have never been as many workers in the world, in every country. But this huge growth of the global workforce has happened at a time when all the existing trade union and political structures have been breaking up. More than at any time since the early nineteenth



century, the working-class condition is once again a condition of and for capital. But now in such a way that the world of workers has become more complex, hybridized, nomadic and deterritorialized. Paradoxically, in an age when every aspect of human life has been commodified, everything seems to happen as if there were no longer any workers.

Q. What is the character of social struggles today? Are the difficulties that political and trade-union organizations face in organizing migrant, insecure and unskilled workers very different from those that existed in the time of twentieth century Fordist production?

A: The new working class is not unified mainly around labour issues. It does not yet have the strength to do this, and perhaps it will not have it for a long time to come. Social mobilizations no longer take place through classical forms of centralized working-class action, but rather through mixes of different trades, cross-sector issues, and flexible, fluid and changeable forms. We are talking of new forms of collective action thrown up by the workers, even if, in many cases, what emerges is less a labour identity than other, complementary features such as territorial conglomerates or groups demanding the right to healthcare, education or public transport.

Instead of reproving these struggles because their forms differ from those of the past, the Left should pay attention to this social hybridity or heterogeneity – first of all, to understand the existing struggles and to articulate them with others at a local, national and international level. The subject of change is still "living labour": workers who sell their labour power in multiple ways. But the organizational forms, discourses and identities are very dif-

ferent from the ones we knew in the twentieth century.

Q. Amid the social complexity of our times, do you think it is necessary to think anew about the concept of class?

A: Classes, identities, mobilized collectives are not abstractions: they are forms of collective experience of the world that are constructed on a wide scale. Just as they took contingent forms a hundred years ago, they are doing so again through unforeseen and often surprising routes and causes that are very different from those of the past. We should not confuse the concept of social class – a way of statistically classifying people on the basis of their property, resources, access to wealth, etc. – with the actual ways in which they group together on the basis of elective affinities, places of residence, shared problems and cultural characteristics. This is the real movement of the mobilized construction of classes, which only exceptionally coincides with the convergences exhibited in statistical data.

Q. From what you say, it is obvious that the way in which you relate to Marx – who you know very well and about whom you have written a great deal – is very different from that of Soviet Marxism. Do you think that a turn to the Marx of questions and doubts, found in the unfinished manuscripts of his later years, may today be more fruitful than the assertions contained in his published pamphlets and books?

A: Textbook Marxism always seemed inadequate to me. So, I took the initiative of also delving into authors inspired by indigenist ideology,

as well as other Marxists and another Marx who spoke to me of hybrid social identities.

In this way, I discovered a Marx who taught me about colonial struggles, who spoke about agrarian communities, who kept trying to place the theme of oppressed nations on a solid foundation – a Marx on the margins, more plural and more abounding with questions than with answers. It was these questions that enabled me, over the years, to read differently the Grundrisse, the Manuscripts of 1861-1863 and Capital and to find there elements of the genetic logic of capitalism that other authors, before and after Marx, failed to understand.

Q. In the last four years, almost everywhere in Latin America, governments have come to power that take their cue from reactionary

ideologies and seek to reimpose a neoliberal economic agenda. The election of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil is the most striking case in point. Is this sharp right turn likely to last a long time?

A: I think the big problem for the global Right is that it has no narrative for the future. The states that preached a free-market liturgy are now building walls against immigrants and goods, as if their presidents were latter-day feudal lords. Those who called for privatizations are now appealing to the very state they used to vilify, in the hope that it will save them from the burden of debts.

And those who once favoured globalization and spoke of a world that would finally be one now clutch at the pretext of "continental security". We are living in a state of planetary chaos, where it is difficult to foresee what the new Latin American Rights will look like in the future. Will they opt for globalization or protectionism? Will they follow policies of privatization or state intervention? They themselves do not know the answers to these questions, since they are sailing in a sea of confusion and can only express short-term views.

These forces of the Right do not represent a future to which Latin American society can entrust its long-term expectations. On the contrary: they are bringing about a rise in injustices and inequalities. The only tangible future they can offer to new generations is one of anxiety and uncertainty.

Q. In many parts of the world, the sharp decline of traditional political parties has gone together with the rise of new political forces that, in their different ways, are challenging neoliberal globalization and the existing order. The "free market" is no longer seen as synonymous with development and democracy, as it mistakenly was after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the debate about alternatives to capitalism is once again arousing considerable interest. What should the Latin American Left be doing to turn things around and to open a new cycle of political involvement and emancipation?

A: The conditions exist for the development of a new progressive stage that will go beyond what was achieved in the last decade. In this context of great uncertainty, there is space for alternative proposals and a collective orientation to new horizons, based on the real involvement of people and the (ecologically sustainable) overcoming of social injustices.

The great task for the Left, in overcoming the limits and errors of twentieth-century socialism, is to chart a new horizon that offers solutions to the actual questions that cause suffering to people. It would serve a new "principle of hope" – whatever name we give to it – which promulgates equality, social freedom, and universal rights and capacities as the basis for collective self-determination.

Translated by Patrick Camiller

OCASIONAL NOTE

It need cause neither surprise nor disappointment to find that the District Boards, as represented at the Calcutta Conference, are disposed to keep their purse-strings tightly drawn. They agree, though without much apparent enthusiasm, that urgent and important permanent works should be financed by means of loans. The idea of raising the amount of the cesses, however, leaves them quite cold. They are willing, on the other hand, to tax non-agricultural incomes, this matter being left to the discretion of the Boards themselves. After all, a tendency to parsimony in public expenditure, provided it is not carried to the penny-wise-pound-foolish extreme, may be regarded as a fault that leans to virtue's side. No one wants to see local authorities in Bengal following the example of those in England whose enthusiasm for social progress sent up rates to extravagant heights. It is quite possible that a definite scheme promising tangible benefit will have more effect than any abstract arguments in convincing the ratepayers that there are material benefits to be gained worth the money needed to pay for them; and in this way the ratepayers and their representatives may be trained to regard local rates or cesses as a good investment. It may also be hoped that the resources of the rural districts will be substantially increased as time goes on through the work of the Agricultural Department, which was represented at the Conference by its new Minister, the Hon. Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury.

NEWS ITEMS

LOANS FOR BUILDING OFFICERS' HOUSES

DELHI, JAN 15

A communiqué has recently been issued concerning the revised rules under which officers wishing to build their own houses may obtain advances from Government. This has given rise to misapprehension, as both press and public have imagined that it was meant to remedy the housing difficulty in Cantonments. This, of course, is not the case. It has been merely a revision of rules which apply chiefly to officers of regiments permanently located in the Himalayas, who have always in the past built their own houses and passed them on when they left India. It was brought to the notice of the Government of India that the amount of money permissible as a loan was inadequate to build under the present conditions.

CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT TRUST

At the 406th meeting of the Calcutta Improvement Trust held at Clive Street, revised estimates for Model Bustees in Beckbagan were considered and approved. The result of this revision is that land and works will cost Rs 1,600, all over, for both sites, and the cost of the lettable area would be Rs 2,600 a kottah. The gross expenditure on Plot No. 1 will be Rs 1,16,250; and on Plot No. 2, Rs 1,32,200. The rent would have to be Rs 17 a month per kottah. The Board has decided that Rs 5 a month is as much as can be charged, there will, therefore, be no return on two-thirds of the money expended on housing these 1,000 tenants.

THE RAILWAY POLICE COMMITTEE

DELHI, JAN 15

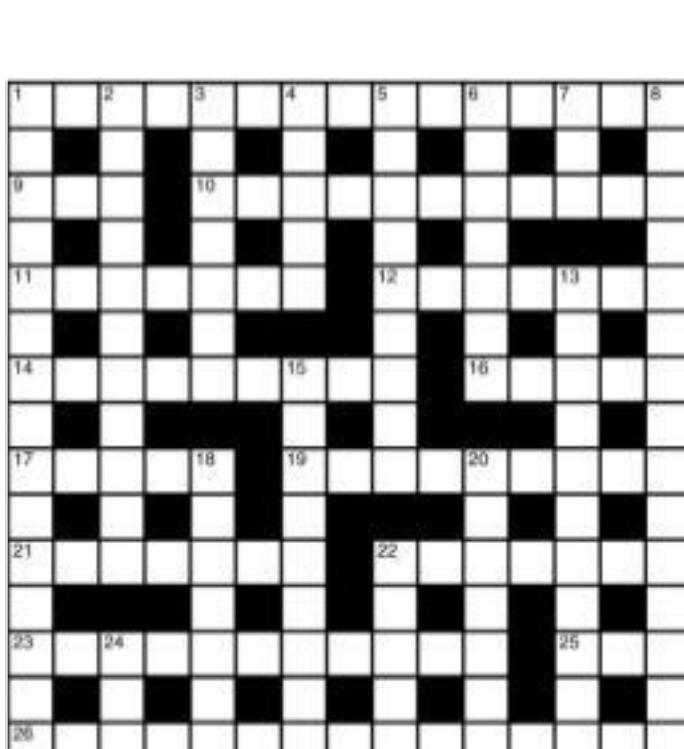
The constitution of the Railway Police Committee has already been announced. Its terms of reference may be summed up as follows: To consider whether the arrangements now made for the protection of travellers and property on railways in India are effective. If the arrangements in question are ineffective, to report how far shortcomings are due to defective organisation, defects in the personnel, defective methods of investigation, defective arrangements made for the protection of passengers and for the protection of goods in transit. To make such recommendations as may seem calculated to mitigate or remove any defects that the committee may discover, or as may seem otherwise germane to the objects of the inquiry. Questions of pay will not form part of the inquiry.

COLLEGES AND NON-COOPERATION

Major Thomas F. O'Donnell, Principal, Agra College, addressed a crowded meeting of college students of Agra, the subject of his speech being "Students and Organisations." Major O'Donnell dwelt at length on the responsibility of students, and pointed out to them the various evils of non-cooperation in matters relating to education. The money spent on education belonged to the people of India and every endeavour should be made to utilise that money to the fullest extent. According to the speaker, it was unfair of any political leader to ask students to non-cooperate. Students should educate themselves in the proper sense of the word, physically, mentally and morally, and educate others. Major O'Donnell's speech made an excellent impression on the college students of Agra.

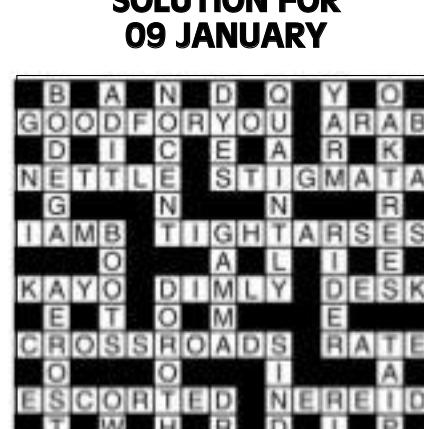
CROSSWORD

NO 28197



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

SOLUTION FOR 09 JANUARY



ACROSS

- 1 Potential national anthem encapsulating the folly in conflict (4,2,3,6)
- 9 Awful toys unwrapped in December (3)
- 10 Bloody Duke, repelled in rebellion, apprehended (5,6)
- 11 Grand centrepiece missing from garden shop (7)
- 12 Nimrod's too old for love and laying it on thick (7)
- 14/16 Blood carrier somehow contains drainage, one in drops (9,5)
- 17/19 In moments that pass too briefly, news of Spartacus? (5-6)
- 21 Diminutive Sergeant-Major coming to barracks (2,5)
- 22 Recalled from Hotel to
- 23 Restricting sodium, scribbled a blue line which cannot be removed (11)
- 25 Just five letters and a digit (3)
- 26 Now trading has ceased prematurely, rebrand as Lily Grey & Co (5-7,3)

DOWN

- 1 Hotel gym's opening: the girl we brought up has to work out to maintain it? (9,6)
- 2 Add u boxes circulating top-notch features (6,5)
- 3 "Frisky nature" describes a spring newborn (7)
- 4 Certainly on one's own this time (5)
- 5 Listened in fearful awe, prepared to bury head (9)

organise minor branch (7)

Roman general who's keeping people enthralled in the auditorium? (7)

Press put out fake news? (3)

Yet more playing on it, one sharing out cuts (8,7)

Having flipped, turtle did as cricket did? (11)

Wimbledon's finalist – not No.1 – lived frustrated with lawn game (4,5)

In service, floater and stinger leading a double life? (7)

Self-esteem given a boost being received by a god of the highest order? (7)

Something you might find puzzling on public transport (5)

This port is warm and dry, did you say? (3)

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



India along with all the BIMSTEC nations will certainly experience unprecedented growth in the post-Covid pandemic world

PIYUSH GOYAL
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

SAIL OFS: The government is expected to garner Rs 2,664 crore from offload-10 per cent stake in India's largest steel maker SAIL through an offer for sale (OFS) which was subscribed over five times on Friday. The shares sought were 522.89 per cent of the overall issue size on the final day of bidding, as per provisional data available on bourses. Earlier this week, the government had proposed OFS of 20.6 crore shares of face value of Rs 10 each (base offer size), with an option to additionally sell up to 20.6 crore equity shares. PTI

ITC bags ICSI award: ITC Limited has been adjudged 'Best Governed Company' at the 20th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2020 in the listed segment: large category in recognition of its consistent growth and performance, contributive capabilities, governance ethos, and sensitised approach towards CSR and sustainable development, the company said in a Press release. SNS

ICICI Bank-Nivo pact: Private sector lender ICICI Bank and fintech firm Nivo have announced a tie-up to issue prepaid cards to micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) workers. MSMEs will now be able to get "ICICI Bank Nivo Bharat Payroll Card" powered by Visa, for their blue-collar workers, who are mostly under-banked. With this, MSMEs can upload the salaries of their workers on the card, which the workers can then utilise as per their need in a seamless manner, said a release. SNS

Honda City sales: Honda Cars India's most successful model in India - Honda City - led the sales in mid-size sedan segment in calendar year 2020 with cumulative sales of 21,826 units during January-December 2020 period, according to a Press release. The Honda City's market share in December 2020 stood at 41 per cent in its segment, the release added.

SNS

Itel smartphone: Smartphone maker Itel has launched a new smartphone - Vision 1 PRO - with bigger screen, bundled with features like triple AI camera, multi-functional fingerprint sensor and Face unlock. Priced at Rs 6,599, Vision 1 PRO is equipped with 16.56 cm (6.52 inch) HD+ IPS Waterdrop In-cell display with 20:9 aspect ratio, 4000 mAh Li-Polymer battery and 2GB RAM + 32GB ROM, said a Press release.

SNS

Dabur foray: Dabur India on Friday announced its foray into the ghee category as part of its plans to expand product portfolio. The company, which has fast-tracked launch of several new products after Covid-19, will launch "Cow Ghee" exclusively on e-commerce platform Grofers, said a statement. PTI

PTI

India took very decisive steps to deal with pandemic: IMF

It predicted a less bad outlook for the country in the upcoming World Economic Update

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 15 JANUARY

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva has praised India for taking "very decisive" steps to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences and asked the country to do more this year to support an accelerated transformation of the economy.

Participating in a global media roundtable on Thursday, the chief of the International Monetary Fund predicted a less bad outlook for India in the upcoming World Economic Update due to the steps taken by it.

When I called on everybody to stay tuned for 26 January, that applies very much to India. You would see a picture in our update that is less bad. Why? Because the country actually has taken very decisive action, very decisive steps to deal with the pandemic and to deal with the economic consequences of it, Georgieva said.

The IMF is scheduled to

What the government has done on the monetary policy and the fiscal policy side is commendable. It is actually slightly above the average for emerging markets. Emerging markets on average have provided six per cent of the GDP. In India, this is slightly above that. Good for India is that there is still space to do more... If you can do more, please do.

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA
IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR

release its World Economic Update on 26 January. Talking about India, she said it was a very dramatic lockdown for a country of this size of the population with people clustered so closely together.

"Then India moved to more targeted restrictions and lockdowns. What we see is that transition, combined with policy support, seems to have worked well. Why? Because if you look at mobility indicators, we are almost where we were before Covid in India, meaning that economic activities have been revitalised quite significantly, she said.

What the government has done on the monetary policy and the fiscal policy side is commendable. It is actually slightly above the average for emerging markets. Emerging markets on average have provided six per cent of the GDP. In India, this is slightly above that. Good for India is that there is still space to do more... If you can do more, please do.

According to the IMF managing director, 2021 is the year to use that space. But use it wisely in a more targeted manner and to support an accelerated transform-

ation of the economy. Because what we see is amazing how much faster structural change takes place. And policymakers ought to be leaning forward in this environment to support this structural transformation and to cushion the impact it has on those that are on the losing side of it, she said. Georgieva said that she is impressed by the appetite for structural reforms that India is retaining.

We welcome that. No question those reforms, and actually that applies very much to South Africa... will determine competitiveness in the future. We need higher productivity. We need more vibrant and inclusive economies. And they are not going to fall from the sky. There have to be reforms that support them, she said.

Welcoming the fact that India does not give up on structural reforms, she said: And I'm saying, yes, do it! Because the world change is accelerating and economies have to be agile and adaptable to change... We have to be constantly leaning forward.

At the same time, she said

that one of the aspects of India's reforms that are still lagging is on gender equality.

I want to just stress it is scary to see how we are losing ground on gender equality over these months so fast. Women are front-line workers, but they are also, by and large, in the contact intensive industries hit. They are often in the informal economy, help cannot easily reach them, so they are hit."

...once people start losing jobs, who is to lose jobs first? [Again] women are on the front line. Labour market participation in India for women has been low. It is shrinking... I know the government is paying attention, it is moving in that [direction], but there is so much space to tap into the productive potential of women and the entrepreneurial potential of women, Georgieva said.

The IMF in its October outlook projected India to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent in 2020. However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, it had said.

Amazon urges Sebi to suspend review of Future-RIL deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

on 21 December, and the validity of the *prima facie* observations contained in the order is presently sub-judice. In the letter, Amazon has requested Sebi not to assist FRL (Future Retail Ltd) in violating the process of law and disregarding the Interim Award passed by SIAC that had restrained the Future Group firm from proceeding with the deal with RIL.

In light of this, we request you not to assist FRL in violating the process of law and disregarding the Interim Award, which is deemed to be an order of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. We hope that your good offices will give due credit to the injunctions operating against FRL and follow the rule of law, Amazon said in its three-page letter.

Amazon has also urged Sebi for suspending review of the Impugned Transaction as well as the scheme involving the Impugned Transaction, and not granting any no-objection in relation to the single-member Bench order passed by Delhi High Court

Amazon has been opposing Future Group's pact with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's RIL that was signed in August last year. The deal entails sale of Future group's retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL). Amazon, in its latest letter dated 14 January, informed Sebi that it has challenged the single-member Bench order passed by Delhi High Court

HCL Tech's revenue crosses \$10 billion, profit rises 31%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

HCL Technologies today posted a 31.1 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit at Rs 3,982 crore on the back of strong momentum in its digital, products and platform segment, and exuded confidence in clocking further acceleration in bookings in the coming quarters.

The IT services major, which had registered a net profit of Rs 3,037 crore in the year-ago period, has also crossed the \$10-billion revenue milestone in calendar year 2020. HCL Tech's revenue grew by 6.4 per cent to Rs 19,302 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 18,135 crore in the year-ago period (as per US GAAP).

The company recorded

revenue growth of 3.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter in constant currency, beating its own estimate of 1.5-2.5 per cent growth for the December quarter.

HCL Tech has now revised its sequential revenue growth guidance to 2-3 per cent (including DWS contribution) in constant currency from its previous estimate of 1.5-2.5 per cent increase quarter-on-quarter for the March 2021 quarter.

"The calendar year 2021 has started on a very strong financial note. Our strategic bets continue to deliver outstanding results as reflected in our sequential revenue growth of 3.5 per cent in constant currency and 4.4 per cent in US dollars," HCL Technologies president and CEO CVijayakumar said. The com-

pany continues to see a strong pipeline and remains confident of "even further acceleration of bookings in the coming quarters," he added.

"Looking ahead, a combination of a strong pipeline, good order booking gives us a lot of optimism about the growth trajectory. I strongly believe that we are uniquely differentiated through a combination of solutions and services..." he said.

HCL Technologies' revenue has crossed \$10 billion milestone in CY20, delivering 3.6 per cent year-on-year growth in constant currency. Vijayakumar said the July-December period of FY21 - which constitutes the first two comparison quarters since the closure of the IBM deal - registered a y-o-y growth of 13.4 per cent.

Equity indices fall on negative cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 15 JANUARY

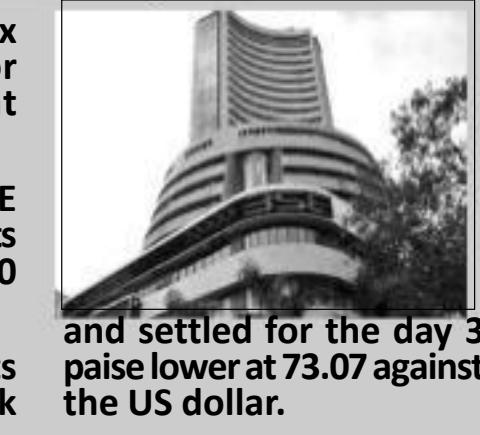
Equity benchmark the Sensex plunged 549 points today, dragged by losses in index majors Infosys, HDFC and ICICI Bank amid a largely negative trend in global markets. Profit-taking at higher levels kept benchmark indices volatile, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index ended 549.49 points or 1.11 per cent lower at 49,034.67 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tumbled 161.90 points or 1.11 per cent to 14,433.70 points. Tech Mahindra was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 4 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, ONGC, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and HDFC. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Bajaj Auto and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

According to Binod Modi, head-strategy at Reliance

SENSEX TUMBLES 549 PTS



and settled for the day 3 paise lower at 73.07 against the US dollar.

Securities, domestic equities witnessed sharp pullback with increased volatility.

"However, we are not surprised with the day's fall as this was broadly expected as benchmark indices had been marking fresh highs for last couple of days, which made valuations quite stretched," he said.

He also noted that any meaningful correction is likely to be bought out in the subsequent period as underlying

strength of the market remains intact. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended on a positive note, while Seoul and Tokyo were in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading in the negative territory in early deals.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.77 per cent lower at \$55.42 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee

Fiat partners Wipro to set up digital hub

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

technologies," it added. FCA ICT India will be built from the ground to meet FCA's specific needs and growth agenda in the region and will showcase world-class high-performance engineering skills.

"The automotive industry needs a robust digital infrastructure that will accelerate the pace of innovation and change it is currently experiencing. We are thrilled to partner with FCA and bring a collaborative operating model that will allow them to build customised digital solutions for their customers," Wipro, head of manufacturing Ashish Saxena said.

Wipro will help catalyse FCA's transformation and innovation by leveraging our global technology partnerships, in-house IPs, and accelerators in the automobile sector, he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

Ahead of the upcoming Union Budget, retailers' body RAI today urged the government for formulation and implementation of national retail policy and let retailers register under MSMEs to get benefits, saying the industry needs support after almost being squashed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The \$854-billion Indian retail sector was one of the worst impacted due to the pandemic. Its ripple effects were felt by all stakeholders down the consumption value chain. Recovery will need unconventional solutions and government support, Retailers Association of India (RAI) said in a statement.

At this juncture, all efforts are required to boost the

local economy and help revive retail, saving millions of jobs. Budget 2021-22 will play a key role in this, it said, adding that consumption drives the economy, and retail is the gateway to consumption.

"The retail business is recovering at a quick pace and this momentum needs to be sustained. The next Budget must prioritise growth-oriented policies and measures for the same," RAI said.

The Union Budget for 2021-22 is slated to be presented on 1 February.

On the Budget expectations, RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopal said the retail industry was almost squashed during the pandemic. It is slowly getting back on its feet with the opening up of the economy.

"To get this crawling indus-

try back to its feet and start running, we believe that the Budget should address two main things that will bring in "ease of doing business" for retailers; freedom from various procedural strangleholds and access to funds necessary for growth."

RAI said apart from various direct and indirect taxes (GST) recommendations, it has suggested the government to consider acceleration of "the formulation and implementation of the national retail policy to boost the retail sector and facilitate ease of doing business."

It also urged the Centre to "allow retailers to register under MSME so that retailers too can be entitled for all benefits available to MSMEs", while asking to encourage states to adopt Model Shops and Establishment Act.

India, Japan sign pact to enhance ICT cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

India and Japan today signed a pact to enhance cooperation in the field of information and communications technology (ICT) with focus on aspects like 5G, telecom security and submarine optical fibre cable system to islands of India, and spectrum management," it said.

The two countries will also cooperate in smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety, the release added.

According to an official release, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by minister for communications, electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad and Japanese minister for internal affairs and communications Takeda Ryota. It was exchanged through a video conference, the release said.

"Department of telecom, Government of India, and ministry of communications, Government of Japan, will enhance mutual cooperation in the field of 5G technologies,

telecom security, submarine optical fibre cable system to islands of India, and spectrum management," it said. The two countries will also cooperate in smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety, the release added. It has been agreed that apart from the ministry-level cooperation, Government of India organisations such as C-DOT and ITI Ltd along with industry partners from Japan would also be part of this cooperation.

Prasad urged the Japanese electronics industry to invest in India and avail the benefits of the new technologies. He further highlighted the huge potential India holds for Japanese investors in the field of 5G and 5G-based services, Internet of things, and digital health technologies.

GAIL announces ₹1,046-crore share buyback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 JANUARY

21. GAIL stock was down 2.2 per cent on the BSE and was trading at Rs 140.75 at 14.15 Hrs.

The government owns 51.76 per cent of GAIL and is expected to participate in the share buyback.

It stands to get Rs 583.6 crore from the dividend payout and another Rs 541.5 crore if it participates in the buyback by tendering a proportionate number of shares.

The buyback plan of Rs 1,046.35 crore represents 2.5 per cent and 2.26 per cent of the aggregate of the fully paid-up equity share capital and free reserves of the company, GAIL said in the filing.

The plan was within the statutory limits of 10 per cent, it said.

AT A GLANCE

- GAIL said its board has approved the buyback of 6.97 crore shares at a price of Rs 150 per share.
- The shares being bought represent 1.55 per cent of the total number of fully paid-up equity shares.
- The company board also declared an interim dividend of 25 per cent (Rs 2.50 per share) for financial year 2020-21.
- The record date for buy-

back of equity shares as well as payment of the interim dividend will be 28 January

The record date for buyback of equity shares as well as payment of the interim dividend will be 28 January, GAIL said.

raising funds to rein in its fiscal deficit.

The firms asked to consider share buybacks include miner Coal India, power utility NTPC, and minerals producer NMDC.

<p



I have also come to know that BJP leader Mukul Roy had called her up and asked her to meet him during her visit to Delhi tomorrow.

TMC SPOKESPERSON KUNAL GHOSH

AFTER MEETING SATABDI ROY

Need to promote Brand Odisha emphasized

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 15 JANUARY

petrochemical hub with export oriented avenues by way of infrastructure development in ports and waterways.

Exploration and exploitation of minerals is the highest in Odisha, he said.

While both the CM and the Union Minister shared views on the growth potential of the state, Pradhan did refer to the challenges ahead in terms of malnourishment and education.

Solutions to these two major issues need to be found for the future growth and prosperity of the state, he noted.

Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, MLA and Chairman of Sambad Group, described the CM and the Union Minister Pradhan highlighted how the state had become a steel hub and a fast emerging

han as two of Odisha's best Brands.

Chairman of Western Odisha Development Council, Asit Tripathy laid out the road map for development of western region of the state and the corridor of industrial development, irrigation projects etc that have been lined up.

In his speech via video conference, CM Naveen Patnaik said Branding & Promotion are essential components of Business & Industry.

The ultimate aim is to bring prosperity, serve people and create a niche for a company, its product or service.

Any branding programme that has a solution to address people's needs will definitely succeed.

The Oyo story of Ritesh Agarwal, a young man of our Odisha, is a case in point. He actually found an easy solution for millions of tourists in the hospitality sector.

"To create a real good brand, one has to truly endeavor to understand people's needs, and find easy solutions to them. Money will flow in, brand will be built," he said.

The younger generation is bubbling with ideas. They must take the plunge into business and industry, create global brands, and generate wealth for themselves and the Nation, he said.

Several entrepreneurs in different categories were awarded at the function.

BJP accuses Odisha govt of misleading people on 'Pari' murder probe

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 15 JANUARY

The Odisha unit of the BJP went hammer and tongs against the Naveen Patnaik government alleging that it had 'misled' people by giving an impression that it had suggested a sitting judge monitored SIT investigation in to the minor girl Pari murder case where-as it had not done so.

The BJP picked up the issue after RTI activist Hemant Panda had told media persons that he had received information from the court on 6 January that no letter of request has been received from the state government regarding appointment of sitting judge of the HC to monitor the SIT probe into the Pari murder case.

It may be noted here that the BJP has been insisting on a CBI probe as it suspects that the state Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo is protecting the accused persons. Pari, a five year old girl of an auto rickshaw driver was murdered in Nayagarh district.

Incidentally, the mother of the victim who had taken part in the BJP organized protests, has engaged top notch lawyers to move the Supreme Court seeking a CBI probe.

It may be pointed out that CM Naveen Patnaik had announced in the Assembly on 27 November that a SIT probe will be ordered and the very next day, the notification to this regard was done. It will be a court monitored probe the government had stated.

Special secretary, Home, Ms Santosh Bala had written to the Registrar General of the

High Court that the state government has proposed to constitute the SIT to be monitored by the High Court to investigate the case.

While the BJP came down heavily on the government today, the ruling BJD countered saying the SIT has already furnished three interim reports on the progress of investigation to the High Court and the court had expressed its satisfaction over the ongoing investigations. The SIT has arrested one person.

The BJP is trying to make an issue of a non-issue as its false propaganda flopped following the arrest of the accused in the case.

OPCC chief Nirajan Patnaik said if the letter communication as put out by the media is true, it is a sad day and the party will raise the issue in the Assembly.

Same sex couple seek police protection

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAJPUR, 15 JANUARY

A same sex couple on Friday approached the Danagadi police in Jajpur district of Odisha seeking protection as they were under threat from their respective families.

The two girls were in love with each other since two years and had married on 5 January.

Presently the same sex couple has been living in Danagadi area under Kalinagar Industrial complex area after their marriage.

The family members of the girls reportedly threatened them. Meanwhile, Danagadi police have provided protection to the couple.

When contacted a police official said the girls are majors and they have married on their own will as per the law.

DANCE FEST



Three day Mukteswar Dance Festival on the lawns of the iconic 10th century Mukteswar Temple in Bhubaneswar.

Limbs of murdered Gaon Sathi found

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ROURKELA, 15 JANUARY

The Sundergarh police is confounded with a gruesome murder as the severed limbs of the deceased were recovered from different locations.

Ramesh Singh, a gaon sathi was last seen on Wednesday while returning from the pan-

chayat office. He had called up his elder brother Bishnu to inform that he will be late in reaching home.

Yesterday evening, the right hand severed from elbow, was recovered from a harvested paddy field just 200 meters away from the Biju Expressway road.

This morning police the

head and one hand, of Singh. Aleg was found in a pond near an under construction cold storage. Search is on for the other portion of his body.

SP Sundergarh, Ms Sagarka Nath said, "the search is on for the missing limbs. At this moment I can only confirm that this is a murder and we are investigating into it."

General Manager, East Coast Railway, Mr Vidya Bhushan inaugurated a series of sports facilities at Railway Indoor Stadium and a Cricket Academy at the Railway Cricket Stadium, Bhubaneswar, today in the presence of Additional General Manager Sudhir Kumar and senior

Vaccines reach districts for inoculation tomorrow

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 15 JANUARY

Like elsewhere in the country, Odisha is fully prepared to launch the Covid vaccination programme tomorrow and has 161 centres ready to administer the first shot to frontline health workers.

Helplines 104 and 1075 will be functional round the clock while a list of 1.92 lakh candidates have been enlisted for the first dose of vaccine.

Of the 161 centers, six are located in Bhubaneswar. Each center has three rooms – vaccination room, waiting room and

observation room. A person will spend at least 40 minutes including the post vaccination observation time of 30 minutes said health department officers.

Meanwhile the state record 186 new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours. Two persons succumbed to the virus taking the overall death toll in the state to 1898. At present, Odisha has 2,166 active cases. State capital Bhubaneswar reported four new cases. Since the reopening of schools in the state, 46 COVID cases among students, teachers and staff have been found in Jharsuguda and Gajapati districts.

The Irrawaddy dolphin is the flagship species inhabiting the lake and its presence is only in Asia, from Chilika to Indonesia.

Today the annual survey was conducted and 156 dolphins were sighted. One significant population is now observed in Southern sector, said the officials.

The GM inaugurated a double storied gymnasium, facilities for TI, handball, Basketball and Kabaddi at the Indoor Stadium.

A Clay Court for tennis and the Cricket Academy at Railway Cricket Stadium at Bhubaneswar was opened.

The facilities will be open for public on payment said railway officers.

Rise in Dolphin population in Chilika

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHILIKI, 15 JANUARY

The Irrawaddy dolphin census in Chilika lake has shown a rise from 150 in 2019 to 156 in 2020, said official sources today.

The largest take along the east coast of India is a hotspot of biodiversity and shelters a number of endangered species that are listed in the IUCN red list.

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Black rice variety gaining popularity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BALASORE, 15 JANUARY

an indigenous variety of Manipur. Currently some farmers are undertaking the variety in several parts of the State. The black rice too has various varieties including aromatic and non aromatic.

According to a report in north Balasore few farmers have been experimenting and cultivating the new variety of rice.

A young diploma engineer of Nilgiri, Soumyakantri Pradhan, resident of Ghataghara Sahi has earned accolades from various quarters after he cultivated black rice in the foothills of Nilgiri.

He said that he undertook cultivating the new variety after being informed and encouraged by a physician of his area, known to him, currently residing in the USA.

He received satisfaction after successfully undertaking the organic black rice cultivation.

A retired professor and research scholar, Ashok Panigrahi said "The Black rice is

much-needed exposure to attract the tourists.

The Andhra Pradesh government by way of valley tourism package has explored the tourism potential of the Araku in the best possible way.

The beauty of Deomali valley is much more pronounced than the Araku valley. That's why; visitors from Andhra Pradesh often wonder why Deomali remains neglected by Odisha Tourism authorities. It is excellent for eco-tourism, said a Telegu family that had visited the valley out of curiosities.

The State needs to provide exposure to Deomali so that it could draw both domestic and international tourists.

The tourism authorities are laying focus solely on tribal tourism in Koraput district while relegating the valley tourism prospects to the rear.

Located 60 kilometer from Koraput district headquarters town, it has excellent road connectivity. One can drive to the top. Road connectivity and landscape of

the valley is much better than of the Araku valley.

It has everything for tourists' delight- forest, mountain, waterfall, scenic beauty of the landscape and serene silence far away from the maddening hustle bustle of urban life.

Ten kilometres of ride can take one almost to the top of

the peak. It's motorists delight to drive along them as the roads leading to the peak are not serpentine as one finds in other valley tourism spots.

As the road connectivity ends, one has to trek for 2 kilometer to reach the peak. The mountaineering experience is also not as risky as is the case in other mountainous ter-

rains.

Even though the tourism department has initiated steps to put in place tourism infrastructure, the lack of exposure has left the idyllic valley largely deserted.

Apart from laying motorable roads along the large chunk of the mountainous peak, the government has built hilltops, rest sheds and watch towers. But all these structures are badly maintained and are languishing in neglect.

The Deomali, the 1672 metre mountain peak, Bagra and Duduma (Machikund) waterfalls besides several other ideal tourism locations of Koraput remain unexplored to a large extent.

KV school building work hangs fire

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BALASORE, 15 JANUARY

The inordinate delay in construction of the Kendriya Vidyalaya (KVII) building has become a matter of public discussion here as the school continues to function from a cyclone shelter in Remuna for the past four years.

After vociferous demands for the second KV, the concerned authorities had conceded and it was established in May 2017 with students enrolled till Class V. Now it has been extended to Class VIII.

The student strength has been increased to 320 and there are plans to open Class IX soon.

But sadly, the school does not have its own campus or building despite the fact that the state government had provided 10 acre land in Chharpur.

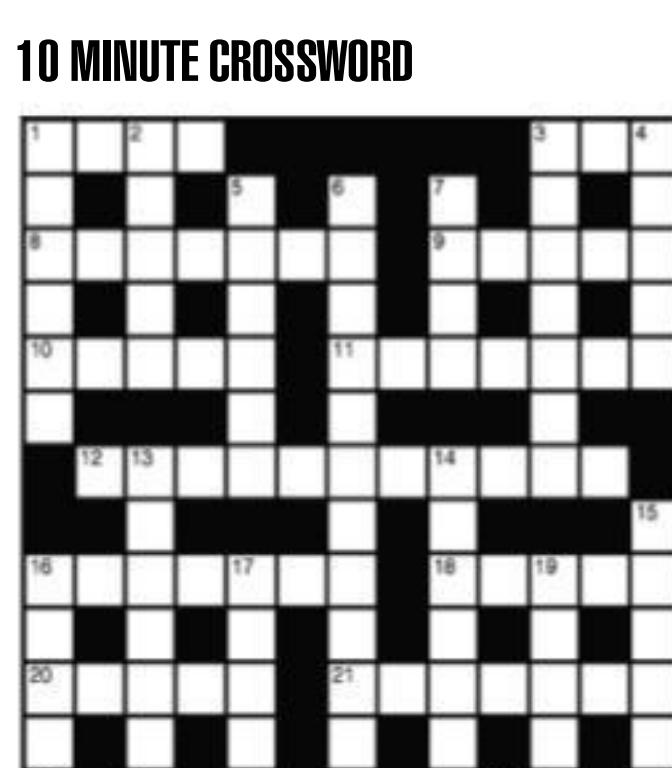
Reliable sources said the related documents have been sent to KV Sangathan for approval and is gathering dust there for over four years.

The principal of the school, Michel Benz confirmed that the land documents have been sent for approval.

The inordinate delay in construction of the school building while irked the residents; they demanded intervention of the elected representatives.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Ursine creature (4)
- 3 Sheltered side (3)
- 8 Japanese dish (7)
- 9 Possessor (5)
- 10 Garret (5)
- 11 Bedroom bathroom (2,5)
- 12 Weather science (11)
- 16 Gloves (7)
- 18 More than enough (5)
- 20 Elegance of movement (5)
- 21 Level of command (7)
- 22 Place (3)
- 23 Just (4)

- 12 Water-logged,
- 13 Asunder,
- 14 Garland,
- 15 Chimey,
- 16 Chandy,
- 18 Invet,
- 20 Axiom.

DOWNS

- 1 Be disloyal to (6)
- 2 Let in (5)
- 3 Area at top of stairs (7)
- 4 Eagle's nest (5)
- 5 Savoury flan (6)
- 6 Uninvited guest (11)
- 7 Sleep (Slang) (4)
- 13 Sea inlet (7)
- 14 Detest (6)
- 15 Young pig (6)
- 16 Important person (5)
- 17 At any time (4)
- 19 Bohemian dance (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (Former Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences



During this pandemic, millions of Americans, through no fault of their own, have lost the dignity and respect that comes with a paycheck

US PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	30	24 H
HONG KONG	20	14 CL
TOKYO	17	5 H
LONDON	4	1 H
DUBAI	23	17 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	17	10 H
NEW YORK	9	1 H
MOSCOW	-16	-21 H

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

THUMBNAILS



Police officer Jennifer Leeman receives a Covid-19 vaccine at Englewood Health in Englewood, NJ, US.

■ AGENCIES

China honours 'Bat Woman': China has honoured a virologist of a controversial Wuhan-based bio-lab, which was at the centre of Covid-19 storm, as a WHO team arrived at the Chinese city to probe the origins of the coronavirus. Shi Zhengli has earned the moniker of 'Bat Woman' for her passionate research into bats and viruses.

PTI

Star-struck inauguration: Pop artists Jennifer Lopez and Lady Gaga will be among A-listers who will perform at the largely-virtual swearing-in ceremony of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States on January 20.

PTI

Familiar faces for top roles: US President-elect Joe Biden is nominating New York emergency department commissioner Deanne Criswell to serve as the Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator and has tapped former CIA deputy director David Cohen to return to the agency in the same role.

AP

US blacklists Xiaomi, CNOOC, Skyrizon

HONG KONG, 15 JANUARY

The US government has blacklisted Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp. and China's third-largest national oil company for alleged military links, heaping pressure on Beijing in President Donald Trump's last week in office.

The Department of Defense added nine companies to its list of Chinese firms with military links, including Xiaomi and state-owned plane manufacturer Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China (Comac).

US investors will have to divest their stakes in Chinese companies on the military list by November this year, according to an executive order signed by Trump last November.

Xiaomi did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Xiaomi Corp. overtook Apple Inc. as the world's No. 3 smartphone maker by sales in the third quarter of 2020, according to data by Gartner. Xiaomi's market share has grown as Huawei's sales have suffered after it was blacklisted by the US and its smartphones were cut off from essential services from Google.

Separately, the Commerce Department put China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) on the entity list, an economic blacklist that forbids US firms from exporting or transferring technology with the companies named unless permission has been obtained from the US government.

The move comes after about 60 Chinese companies were added to the list in December, including drone maker DJI and semiconductor firm SMIC.

AP

Biden announces \$1.9 tn virus stimulus plan

The package includes \$415 bn for combating the pandemic, over \$1 tn in direct aid to individuals, families and \$440 bn in assistance to firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 15 JANUARY

US President-elect Joe Biden has announced a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package for the coronavirus-sapped US economy, including direct financial aid to average Americans, support to small businesses and a national vaccination plan.

"During this pandemic, millions of Americans, through no fault of their own, have lost the dignity and respect that comes with a paycheck," Biden said in an address introducing the American Rescue Plan.

The relief package, announced on Thursday, includes \$415 billion focused on combating the Covid-19 pandemic, over \$1 trillion in direct aid to individuals and families and \$440 billion in assistance to businesses.

It includes an extension for key unemployment programmes from mid-March to the end of September and an increase in weekly additional unemployment assistance from \$300 to \$400 and increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour over time.

Biden's proposal also sets aside \$20 billion for a national vaccination programme and \$50 billion to scale up coronavirus testing.

During his election campaign, Biden made tackling Covid-19 and the economic hardships it had put on Americans a core pitch to voters.

It's not hard to see that we are in the middle of a once-in-several generation eco-

BIDEN PLAN: A SNAPSHOT

President-elect Joe Biden's plan, which would require congressional approval, is packed with proposals on health care, education, labour and cybersecurity. Here's a look at what's in it

CONTAINING THE VIRUS

A \$20 billion national program would establish community vaccination centers across the US and send mobile units to remote communities. Medicaid patients would have their costs covered by the federal government, and the administration says it will take steps to ensure all people in the US can receive the vaccine for free. An additional \$50 billion would expand testing efforts and help schools and governments implement routine testing.

SMALL BUSINESS

\$15 billion in grants to more than 1 million small businesses that have been hit hard by the pandemic, as well as other assistance.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

\$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local and territorial governments to help front-line workers. \$20 billion in aid to public transit agencies.

CYBERSECURITY

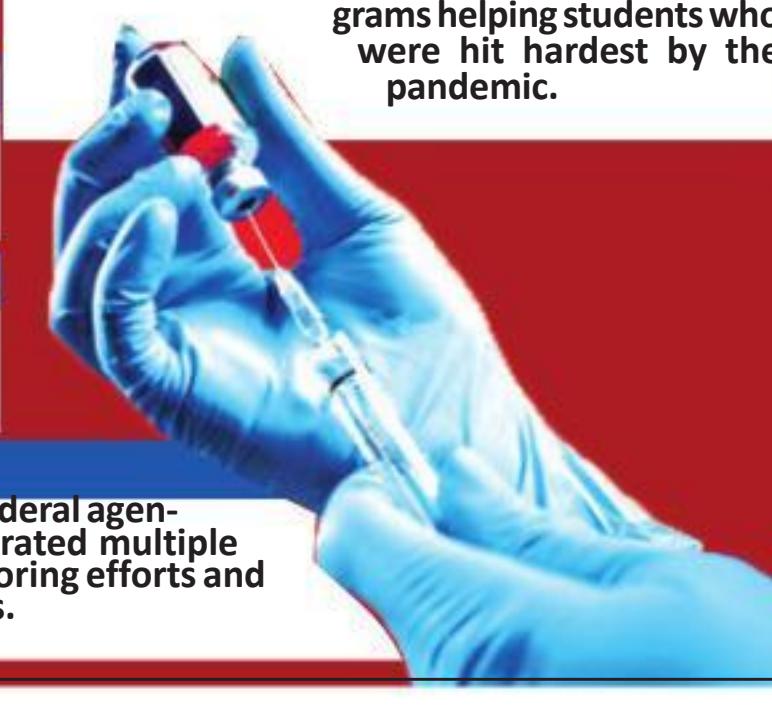
\$9 billion to modernise information technology systems at federal agencies, motivated by recent cybersecurity attacks that penetrated multiple agencies. \$690 million to boost federal cybersecurity monitoring efforts and \$200 million to hire hundreds of new cybersecurity experts.

INDIVIDUALS AND WORKERS

Stimulus checks of \$1,400 per person in addition to the \$600 checks Congress approved in December. By bringing payments to \$2,000, the administration says it will help families meet basic needs and support local businesses. A temporary boost in unemployment benefits and a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures would be extended through September. The federal minimum wage would be raised to \$15 per hour.

SCHOOLS

\$130 billion for K-12 schools to help them reopen safely. The money is meant to help reach Biden's goal of having a majority of the nation's K-8 schools open within his first 100 days in the White House. Schools could use the funding to cover a variety of costs, including the purchase of masks and other protective equipment, upgrades to ventilation systems and staffing for school nurses. Schools would be expected to use the funding to help students who fell behind on academics during the pandemic, and on efforts to meet students' mental health needs. A portion of the funding would go to education equity grants to help with challenges caused by the pandemic. Public colleges and universities would get \$35 billion to cover pandemic-related expenses and to steer funding to students as emergency grants. An additional \$5 billion would go to governors to support programs helping students who were hit hardest by the pandemic.



nomic crisis within a once-in-several generation public health crisis. A crisis of deep human suffering in plain sight. And there is no time to wait, Biden, who is set to be sworn in as the 46th President of the US on January 20, said in his address from his hometown, Wilmington in Delaware.

Biden, a Democrat, described the outgoing Trump administration's vaccine rollout as a "dismal failure."

"The vaccine rollout in the United States has been a dismal failure thus far," he said, noting that he would lay out his vaccination plan on Friday to "correct course" and to meet his goal of 100 million shots over his first 100 days.

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*I will always be committed to stopping the endless wars*

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

REFERRING TO US WARS THAT HAVE DRAGGED ON IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2001 AND IN IRAQ

THUMBNAILS

Russia gas pipeline work: German authorities on Friday gave immediate permission for work to resume on a subsea pipeline bringing natural gas from Russia. The decision by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency can be appealed, meaning there could be another halt to the construction on the Nord Stream 2 project, which has drawn major criticism from the United States, some other European countries and environmental groups.

AP

Avalanche warnings in Switzerland: Authorities in Switzerland have warned of high avalanche risk in mountainous regions of the Alpine nation after heavy snowfall in recent days. Zurich's public transport company halted all tram and bus services on Friday, saying snow had brought down trees and blocked access to three vehicle depots.

AP

Nepal approves India-made AstraZeneca vaccine: Nepal has granted emergency approval for AstraZeneca's India-made Covishield vaccine against the novel coronavirus that has claimed nearly 1,950 lives in Nepal. The decision to grant the approval for the vaccine was taken on Friday, Nepal's Department of Drug Administration said.

PTI

Berlusconi released from hospital: Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged Friday from a hospital in France's Monaco where he underwent medical tests for heart problems. The 84-year-old said that his health was good and he had gone to the hospital for routine tests.

AP

Indonesian divers find parts of crashed plane's black box

JAKARTA, 15 JANUARY

Divers found parts of the cockpit voice recorder on Friday as more personnel joined the search for wreckage and victims from an Indonesian plane that crashed last weekend in the Java Sea with 62 people on board.

The aerial search for the crashed Sriwijaya Air jet was being expanded as well, said National Search and Rescue Agency mission coordinator Rasman, who uses one name.

More than 4,000 search and rescue personnel are supported by 14 airplanes, 62 ships and 21 inflatable boats. They are using an underwater metal detector and remotely operated vehicle to search for human remains, the cockpit voice recorder and more wreckage.

Divers narrowed the search for the cockpit voice recorder after finding some of its parts. We have found the casing, the beacon and the CVR batteries. We need to search for the memory unit, the commander of the navy's First Fleet Command, Abdul Rasyid, said Friday. We hope it will be not far from them, he said. Investigators have downloaded information from the plane's flight data recorder, which was recovered earlier this week.

There are 330 parameters and everything is in good condition. We are learning about it now, said Soerjanto Tjahjono, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Committee.

Families of those on board have been providing DNA samples to help identify them. National Police spokesperson Rusdi Hartono said 12 of the 62 victims had been identified as of Thursday, including a flight attendant and an off-duty pilot.

The committee has said the crew did not declare an emergency or report any technical problems before the plane plunged into the sea minutes after taking off from Jakarta. They said it broke apart upon impact with the water, ruling out a midair explosion, because the debris field is concentrated and engine parts indicate it was running until impact.

AP

42 dead as Indonesia quake topples homes

More than 600 people were injured in the 6.2 magnitude tremor; many people are trapped in the rubble of collapsed homes and buildings

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MAMUJU (INDONESIA), 15 JANUARY

A strong, shallow earthquake shook Indonesia's Sulawesi island just after midnight, toppling homes and buildings, triggering landslides and killing at least 42 people.

More than 600 people were injured by the magnitude 6.2 quake, which sent people fleeing their homes in the darkness on Friday. Authorities were still collecting information about the full scale of casualties and damage in the affected areas. There were reports of many people trapped in the rubble of collapsed homes and buildings.

In a video released by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, a girl stuck in the wreckage of a house cried out for help and said she heard the sound of other family members also trapped. Please help

me, it hurts, the girl told rescuers, who replied that they desperately wanted to help her. The rescuers said an excavator was needed to save the girl and others trapped in collapsed buildings. Other images showed a severed bridge and damaged and flattened houses.

The earthquake damaged part of a hospital and patients were moved to an emergency tent outside. Rescuers struggled to extract seven patients and staff who were trapped under tons of rubble. After several hours, an excavator came to help and the rescuers eventually retrieved four survivors and three bodies.

Another video showed a father crying, asking for help to save his children buried under their toppled house. They are trapped inside, please help, he cried. Thousands of displaced people were evacuated to temporary shelters.

The quake was centred 36 kilometres (22 miles) south of Mamuju, the provincial capital, and many people there remained trapped.

West Sulawesi provinces Mamuju district, at a depth of 18 kilometres (11 miles), the US Geological Survey said.

The Indonesian disaster agency said the death toll climbed to 42 as rescuers in Mamuju retrieved 34 bodies trapped in the rubble of collapsed homes and buildings.

The agency said in a statement that eight people were killed and 637 others were injured in Mamuju's neighboring district of Majene.

It said at least 300 houses and a health clinic were damaged and about 15,000 people were being housed in temporary shelters in the district. Power and phones were down in many areas.

West Sulawesi Administration Secretary Muhammad Idris told TVOne that the governor's office building was among those that collapsed in Mamuju, the provincial capital, and many people there remained trapped.



Rescuer Saidar Rahmanjaya said a lack of heavy equipment was hampering efforts to clear the rubble from collapsed houses and buildings. He said his team was working to save dozens of people trapped in eight buildings, including in the governor's office, a hospital and a hotel.

We are racing against time to rescue them, he said.

Relatives waited as they watched rescuers pull a body of a loved one from a damaged home in devastated Mamuju.

It was placed in an orange body bag and taken away for burial. Oh my God, why did we have to go through this? cried Rina, who uses one name. I can't save my dear sister...forgive me, sister, forgive us, God! President Joko Widodo said in a televised address that he had ordered his social minister and the chiefs of the military, police and disaster agency to carry out emergency response measures and search and rescue operations as quickly as possible.

Landslides were set off in three locations and blocked a main road connecting Mamuju to the Majene district, said Raditya Jati, the disaster agency's spokesperson.

Two ships were heading to the affected areas from Makassar and Balikpapan carrying rescuers and search and rescue equipment, while a Hercules plane carrying supplies was on its way from Jakarta.

Puruhito is already leading more than 4,100 rescue personnel in a separate massive search operation for victims of the crash of a Sriwijaya Air jet into the Java Sea last Saturday.

Among the dead in Majene were three people killed when their homes were flattened by the quake while they were

sleeping, said Sirajuddin, the districts disaster agency chief.

Sirajuddin, who goes by one name, said although the inland earthquake did not have the potential to cause a tsunami, people along coastal areas ran to higher ground in fear one might occur.

Landslides were set off in three locations and blocked a main road connecting Mamuju to the Majene district, said Raditya Jati, the disaster agency's spokesperson.

On Thursday, a magnitude 5.9 undersea quake hit the same region, damaging several homes but causing no apparent casualties.

Indonesia's meteorology, climatology and geophysical agency, known by its Indonesian acronym BMKG, warned of the dangers of aftershocks and the potential for a tsunami. Its chairwoman urged people in coastal areas to move to higher ground as a precaution.

Russia follows US to withdraw from Open Skies Treaty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 15 JANUARY

Russia on Friday said it will withdraw from an international treaty allowing observation flights over military facilities following the US exit from the pact.

Russia's foreign Ministry said in a statement that the US withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty last year significantly upended the balance of interests of signatory states, adding that Moscow's proposals to keep the treaty alive after the US exit have been cold-shouldered by Washington's allies. The Ministry said Russia is now launching the relevant procedural moves to withdraw from the pact due to the lack of progress in removing the obstacles for the treaty's functioning in the new conditions.

The treaty was intended to build trust between Russia and

the West by allowing the accords more than three dozen signatories to conduct reconnaissance flights over each other's territories to collect information about military forces and activities.

US President Donald Trump declared Washington's intention to pull out of the Open Skies Treaty in May, arguing that Russian violations made it untenable for the United States to remain a party. The US completed its withdrawal from the pact in November.

Russia denied breaching the treaty, which came into force in 2002. The European Union has urged the US to reconsider and called on Russia to stay in the pact and lift flight restrictions, notably over its westernmost Kaliningrad region.

Russia has argued that the limits on flights over Kaliningrad, which hosts sizable military

forces, are permissible under the treaty's terms, noting that the US has imposed more sweeping restrictions on observation flights over Alaska. As a condition for staying in the pact after the US pullout, Moscow sought guarantees from NATO allies that they wouldn't transfer the data collected during their observation flights over Russia to the US, but was unsuccessful.

Moscow has warned that the US withdrawal will erode global security by making it more difficult for governments to interpret the intentions of other nations, particularly amid Russia-West tensions after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014.

The demise of the Open Skies Treaty follows the US and Russian withdrawal in 2019 from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The INF Treaty, which was

signed in 1987 by US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, banned land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometres (310 to 3,410 miles), weapons seen as particularly destabilising because of the shorter time they take to reach targets compared with intercontinental ballistic missiles. The only US-Russian arms control pact still standing is the New START treaty that expires in three weeks. Moscow and Washington have discussed the possibility of its extension, but so far have failed to overcome their differences.

New START was signed in 2010 by US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. It limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers.

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Kids look at penguins through an underwater viewer at London Zoo on the first day of its reopening since lockdown restrictions eased in London, Britain on Friday.

IANS

US rejects UN plea to reverse Yemen rebel terror designation

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, 15 JANUARY

The UN chief and top officials urged the United States on Thursday to reverse its decision to declare Yemen's Iran-backed rebels a terrorist group to prevent massive famine and death in the conflict-torn Arab nation but the Trump administration in its final days stood by its action.

The US deputy ambassador, Richard Mills, told the Security Council the US has listened to warnings of the terrorist designation's humanitarian impact and will take measures to reduce the impact on aid deliveries and commercial imports.

But we do believe that this step is the right move forward to send the right signal if we want the political process to move forward, he said.

In 2014, the rebel Houthi's overran the capital, Sanaa, and much of Yemen's north, driving the government into exile. A US-backed, Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year to try and restore the internationally recognized government, but years of UN efforts to get both

sides to agree to a cease-fire and start peace negotiations have not succeeded.

The conflict has been disastrous for Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, killing more than 112,000 people,

creating the world's worst humanitarian crisis, and

wrecking infrastructure from roads and hospitals to water and electricity networks.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared the Houthi's a foreign terrorist organization late Sunday. The designation takes effect 19 January. UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock warned the Security Council that the US designation will likely lead to a famine.

Data show that 16 million of Yemen's 30 million people will go hungry this year, he said. Already, about 50,000 people are essentially starving to death. ... Another 5 million are just one step behind them.

Lowcock said Yemen imports 90% of its food, nearly all purchased through commercial channels, so aid shipments cannot be enough to stave off hunger. Stressing that the designation is already seeing companies pull back from Yemen, Lowcock warned

Pentagon: US has cut troops to 2,500 in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 15 JANUARY

The US military has met its goal of reducing the number of troops in Afghanistan to about 2,500 by Friday, a drawdown that appears to violate a last-minute congressional prohibition.

Today, the United States is closer than ever to ending nearly two decades of war and welcoming an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led peace process to achieve a political settlement and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, the acting secretary of defense, Christopher Miller, said. Continued fulfillment of these two complementary missions seeks to ensure that Afghanistan is never again used to harbor those who seek to bring harm to the United States of America, Miller said.

President Donald Trump, who ordered the reduction in November, said on Thursday that troop levels in Afghanistan had reached a 19-year low, although he did not mention a troop number.

Iranian Guard drones in drill mirror those in Saudi attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 15 JANUARY

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a drill Friday that saw "suicide drones" crash into targets and explode, triangle-shaped aircraft that strongly resembled those used in a 2019 attack in Saudi Arabia that temporarily cut the kingdom's oil production by half.

Iran has long denied launching the attack on the sites of Abqaiq and Khurais while Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels initially claimed the assault.

However, the United States, Saudi Arabia and U.N. experts believe the drones were Iranian, likely launched amid an escalating series of incidents stemming from President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

President Donald Trump, who ordered the reduction in November, said on Thursday that troop levels in Afghanistan had reached a 19-year low, although he did not mention a troop number.

AP

tanker and begun enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels, as the US sent B-52 bombers, the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and a nuclear submarine into the region as a deterrent in Trump's final days as President.

The nuclear issue is likely to be the Biden administration's first foreign policy test, wrote Simon Henderson, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near-East Policy. "Ultimately, the United States holds the best hand, but Iran may still be able to play the game quite well, even with a weak hand."

Iranian state television described the drill as taking place in the country's vast central desert, the latest in a series of snap exercises called amid the escalating tensions over its nuclear program. The footage showed four of the unmanned, triangle-shaped drones flying in a tight formation.

Another scene showed the drones smash into targets Iran described as being "hypothetical enemy bases" and detonate. One target appeared to be a missile vehicle — a telling target in a region where American forces and their

Gulf Arab allies rely on Patriot missile batteries for defense.

Looking at the footage frame by frame, the triangle-shaped drone appeared to have two fins on either side. This strongly resembles the so-called "Delta" drones used both in the Abqaiq and Khurais assault in September 2019, as well as a May 2019 attack on Saudi Arabia's crucial East-West pipeline. Saudi Arabia showed damaged drones to journalists after the attacks, while U.N. experts included images of the drone in a report.

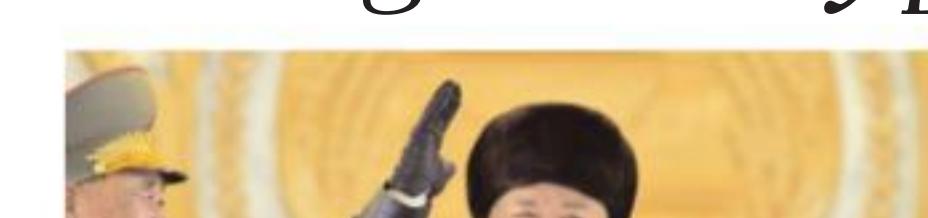
Experts refer to such bomb-carrying drones as "loitering munitions." The drone flies to a destination, likely programmed before its flight, and either explodes in the air over the target or on impact against it.

Iranian officials did not acknowledge the resemblance, nor did they immediately identify the drones used.

"The message of this drill is our might and firm determination to defend our sovereignty, our holy ruling system and our values against the enemies of Islam and Iran," said Gen. Hossein Salami, the Guard's top commander.

N Korea holds huge military parade as Kim vows nuclear expansion

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 15 JANUARY



ly intended to pressure the incoming U.S. government of Joe Biden, who has previously called the North Korean leader a thug and accused Trump of chasing spectacles rather than meaningful curbs on the North's nuclear capabilities. Kim has not ruled out talks, but he said the fate of bilateral relations would depend on whether Washington abandons its hostile policy toward Pyongyang.

Kim's comments are like-

Agency on Friday released photos of Kim wearing a black fur hat and leather trench coat, smiling widely and gesturing from a podium as thousands of troops and civilian spectators filled Kim Il Sung Square, named after his grandfather and North Korea's founder.

The agency said spectators roared as troops rolled out the

country's most advanced strategic weapons, including submarine-launched ballistic missiles described as the world's mightiest. Photos released by state media showed trucks transporting missiles that appeared to be



REALITY STINGS

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard (photo, left) defended his players on Thursday amid a growing debate about teams celebrating goals with hugs and high-fives while England battled Covid-19. The Premier League was holding virtual meetings to reinforce the message that protocols must be respected, but Lampard echoed other managers in suggesting that was easier said than done.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS



Positive test: West Indies leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. was on Friday reported by Dhaka's *Star* to have tested positive for Covid-19. He was subsequently ruled out of a three-match One-Day Internationals series in Bangladesh starting on 20 January.

Amir adamant: Discarded paceman Mohammad Amir has revived his battle against the management of the Pakistan cricket team, saying he sticks to his stance that he cannot play under it. Amir ended his career after being left out of the last tour of New Zealand.

Pak security: South Africa have faith in the security measures put in place for their Test and Twenty20 International tour of Pakistan, coach Mark Boucher said on Thursday as he revealed that he hoped to lure Jacques Kallis back as a batting consultant.



Scary Sandgren: Tenny Sandgren boarded a flight at Los Angeles set for the Australian Open despite testing positive for Covid-19. Sandgren was afforded special permission to fly after announcing he had tested negative. His test on Monday was positive.

Formula One: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has tested positive for Covid-19 but is only experiencing "mild symptoms." His positive result occurs days after Formula One bosses unveiled a new calendar following the postponement of the Australian and Chinese races.

Tokyo Games: Postponing the Tokyo Olympic Games for a second time has never been discussed. Coronavirus infection rates are soaring in Japan, placing a question mark on whether the rescheduled Olympic and Paralympic Games can take place as rescheduled.

No exemptions: Japan will temporarily suspend exemptions allowing foreign athletes to train in the country ahead of the Summer Olympics as it closes its borders to contain a surge in Covid-19 cases six months before the event. The halt will last until 7 February.

Uncertain Games: A Japanese minister admitted on Friday "anything can happen" with the coronavirus-postponed Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first senior official to concede uncertainty about the Games as Japan and other countries battled a surge in infections.

DAWN/ANN

Australian skipper Paine is now the object of global cricket's fury

VITHUSHAN EHANTHARAJAH

In *The Test*, an Amazon documentary charting the journey of the Australia men's cricket team from the lows of Sandpapergate to the highs of retaining the Ashes in 2019, there is a section involving Virat Kohli that warrants revisiting.

The India captain, the most recognised cricketer going, is framed as this great untouchable enemy of the state. The world's best batsman, the game's largest ego, forged by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the Evil Empire of world cricket. That last bit is an exaggeration, but pretty much in keeping with what follows.

The second Test of the India series at the end of 2018 is built-up as The Showdown, where our hero, Tim Paine, goes at it with Kohli. Dramatic music

scores their interactions on the field, as per all cinematic stand-offs, both captains dance their passive-aggressive dances. Cards on the table, it's a pretty compelling watch.

As you'd have guessed, Paine ends up winning. "He had the respect of us, but I think in that moment he had the respect of the country as well, and the fans," beams Travis Head. When Kohli is dismissed in the second innings by Nathan Lyon with a delivery that held its line to catch Kohli's outside edge the music crescendos as if penetrating the Death Star rather than falling into the hands of Usman Khawaja. Our underdog protagonist triumphing against the odds.

Australia square a series they would go on to lose, but a new, gentler order had begun. "He carried himself with

the dignity of a captain, but was going to stand toe-to-toe and stare down Virat Kohli," said SEN's marquee broadcaster Gerard Whateley. "When Virat Kohli was dismissed in that fourth innings, Tim Paine was able to stand there and declare the new Australia."

Fast-forward two years and, as another Australia-India series reaches fever pitch, Virat Kohli is nowhere in sight. Instead, he is back home on Dadday Day Care duties after the birth of his daughter. Paine's battles are now being fought off the field to salvage the goodwill he built back up from Cape Town, not just that week in Perth just over two years ago.

On the final day of the Sydney Test, India's valiant rear-guard to keep the series 1-1 going into Friday's decider in Brisbane was scored by Paine's chat into

the stump microphones. Frazzled, with the match slipping through his gloves, he sets about trying to flap the unflappable Ravichandran Ashwin.

"I can't wait to get you to the Gabba, Ash. I'll tell you what, woohoo!" Ashwin replied, stone-faced: "Just like we want to get you to India. That will be your last series."

Paine: "Maybe. Are you a selector here as well? At least my teammates like me, d*****. I've got a lot more Indian friends that you do. Even your team-mates think you're a goose, don't they? Every one of them."

The "conversation" continued, but that was the gist of it. It did the rounds on social media, picking up enough traction - and then some - that Paine subbed in for media duties the next day.

"I want to apologise for the

way I went about things," he said. "I'm someone who prides themselves on the way I lead this team and yesterday was a poor reflection of that. My leadership wasn't good enough. I let the pressure of the game get to me, it affected my mood and from there affected my performance."

Paine's language was off, but nothing more. No worse than Jos Buttler calling Vernon Philander a "***** d*****" during England's Test in South Africa this time last year. Keepers chat rubbish, that's part of the deal. The difference is Buttler has never been presented as a bastion of cultural change. And therefore not subject to the same calls of hypocrisy as Paine.

There's a lot of this which is not of Paine's making. When you are pitched as an antidote to toxicity, in a documentary that car-

ries tinges of propaganda - as most sporting ones do - you will be judged by those standards, whether you want to or not. And it's hard not to think it's a little bit of the former given the crux of Paine's chat has been around popularity. I've got mates, you don't.

The issues many have with the 36-year-old is not simply that he has been anointed as the saviour, but that he continues to benefit from it.

Has the mask slipped? It's not quite that simple. Under Paine, Australia's on-field behaviour has changed. There have been examples this week, such as taking an active role as a Cricket Australia conduit between the organisation and the India team after reports of racial abuse from the stands. Previous Australia captains may not have been such a willing assis-

tant in an investigation against their own crowd.

But there is a sense Paine is losing control - not so much of himself, but the narrative built up around him. That was reflected with some questionable tactics on the final day at the SCG, and compounded by three drops that could have had Australia going into this final with a 2-1 lead.

You could argue he is well-placed for these stresses. Beyond never being ordained as a future Australian captain, he was rarely indulged as a cricketer. A job at Kookaburra was awaiting him before his second coming as an international. Thus, unlike most of his contemporaries, he carries an attuned gauge on what real-world pressure feels like, even if he has benefitted from plenty of goodwill.

THE INDEPENDENT

Natarajan makes promising start

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRISBANE, 15 JANUARY

T hangarasi Natarajan (in photo right) arrived in Australia last November as a net bowler for the India squad, never expecting to get a shot at a Test debut Down Under.

He celebrated his elevation from backup bowler to cricket's most elite level by taking a pair of key wickets to pegback Australia to 274-5 on the opening day of the series-deciding fourth Test at the Gabba on Friday.

The 29-year-old left-arm played his first One-Day International and his first Twenty20 International in December and completed the full set of formats when he was given a Test debut. It was a kind of a last-man-standing chance after a string of injuries to bowlers culminated in pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah being ruled out of the Brisbane match before today's coin toss.

With one ODI and three T20 internationals worth of experience, Natarajan was straight into action, sharing the new ball with Mohammad Siraj, who was leading a bowling attack which had only a combined four previous Test caps, after the Australians had won the toss and decided to bat.

India had Australia in early trouble at 17-2 before Marnus Labuschagne rallied the innings, posting his fifth Test century and sharing partnerships of 70 with Steve Smith (36) and 113

with Matthew Wade (45) to get the hosts to 200-3 and on the verge of accelerating the scoring. That's when Natarajan struck twice, quickly, to slow the momentum.

Wade and Labuschagne, after surviving dropped catches on 37 and 48, was finally out for 108 after facing 204 deliveries when he skied one to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant in the rookie bowler's 14th.

Natarajan finished the day with figures of 2-63 from 20 overs.

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was unbeaten on 28 and captain Tim Paine was 38 not out at stumps.

The Gabba is a venue where Australia haven't lost a cricket Test since 1988. But for the second consecutive day of Test

cricket, India's gritty, though injury-depleted, line-up troubled Australia.

The Indian players batted through the full final day in the third Test in Sydney on Monday, losing only three wickets, to salvage a draw and keep the series level at 1-1 going into the last match.

A squad already missing injured veteran bowlers Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Shami and skipper Virat Kohli, who returned to India for the birth of his first child, had their depth tested even further when Bumrah (abdominal muscles),

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