



MISS BANERJEE'S  
CHOICE

P6



CHINESE E-TYCOON  
ENDS SILENCE WITH  
ONLINE VIDEO

P9



LAST-MINUTE  
CLEMENCY: TRUMP  
PARDONS BANNON

P10



CLARKE QUESTIONS  
AUSTRALIA'S  
APPROACH

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. Strong surface winds during the day. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 19 and 08 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 63%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 18.3°C (-3) Min: 07.8°C (+1)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

07:14 hrs 17:52 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

12:47 hrs 0:33 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



Andhra Pradesh NCC Cadets rehearse for Republic Day parade at Vijayawada. IANS

**14 dead in Jalgajuri mishap:** Fourteen members, including four children, of a marriage party were killed and 10 others injured due to a collision between a stone-laden truck and their three vehicles in Bengal's Jalgajuri district. The accident occurred in Jaldhaka area in Dhubguri block on Tuesday night, police said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the incident and announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of the deceased. State chief minister Mamata Banerjee also announced an ex gratia of Rs 2.5 lakh each to the next of kin of those who were killed.

**SC rejects pleas on Aadhaar verdict:** The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its 2018 verdict which had upheld the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid but struck down some of its provisions, including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, by a majority of 4:1, rejected the review pleas.

P5

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 20 JANUARY

**J**oe Biden became the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday, declaring that "democracy has prevailed." He swore the oath of office to take the helm of a deeply divided nation and inheriting a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

Biden's inauguration came at a time of national tumult and uncertainty, a ceremony of resilience as the hallowed American democratic rite unfurled at a US Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks ago. On a chilly Washington day dotted with snow flurries, a bipartisan trio of ex-presidents along with the elite of nation's government gathered, ensuring the quadrennial ceremony persevered, even though it was encircled by security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed," Biden said. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

And then he pivoted to challenges ahead, acknowledging the surging virus that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the United States. Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic's deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation's renewed reckoning on racial injustice.

And he was not applauded by his predecessor. Flouting tradition, Don-



Joe Biden (top) and Kamala Harris are sworn in as President and Vice-President of the United States (screengrabs).

ald Trump departed Washington on Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompanying his successor to the Capitol. Though three other former presidents ~ Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama ~ gathered to watch the ceremonial transfer of power, Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, instead flew to Florida after stoking grievance among his supporters with the lie that Biden's win was illegitimate.

Biden, in his inaugural address, called on Americans to overcome their divisions, declaring that "without unity, there is no peace." Biden also pledged that he would be honest with the country as it continues to confront difficulties, saying that leaders have an obligation "to defend the truth and defeat the lies."

He asked even those who did not vote for him to give him a chance. He said, "Hear me out as we move forward."

As he did frequently during the campaign, Biden pledged that he will be a "president for all Americans" and will "fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did." Headed, "We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue."

Biden, in his third run for the presidency, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. On his first day, Biden will take a series of executive actions ~ on the pandemic, climate, immigration and more ~ to undo the heart of Trump's agenda at a moment with the bonds of the republic strained.

Biden will come to office with a well of empathy and resolve born by personal tragedy as well as a depth of experience forged from more than four decades in Washington. At age 78, he was the oldest president inaugurated.

More history was made at his side, as Kamala Harris became the first woman to be vice president. The former US senator from California is also the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government.

The two were sworn in during an inauguration ceremony with few parallels in history. Tens of thousands of troops are on the streets to provide security precisely two weeks after a violent mob of Trump supporters, incited by the Republican president, stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent the certification of Biden's victory. The tense atmosphere evoked the

1861 inauguration of Lincoln, who was secretly transported to Washington to avoid assassinations on the eve of the Civil War, or Roosevelt's inaugural in 1945, when he opted for a small, secure ceremony at the White House in the waning months of World War II.

The day began with a reach across the aisle after four years of bitter partisan battles under Trump. At Biden's invitation, congressional leaders from both parties bowed their heads in prayer in the socially distanced service just a few blocks from the White House.

Biden was administered the oath by Chief Justice John Roberts; Harris was sworn in by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the Supreme Court.

Trump is the first president in more than a century to skip the inauguration of his successor. In a cold wind, Marine One took off from the White House and soared above a deserted

capital city to his own farewell celebration at nearby Joint Base Andrews. There, he boarded Air Force One for the final time as president for the flight to his Florida estate. "I will always fight for you. I will be watching. I will be listening and I will tell you that the future of this country has never been better," said Trump,

farewell.

Wednesday

1,12,007

beneficiaries

were

vaccinated

till

Wednesday

evening

Wednesday

1,12,007

beneficiaries

were

vaccinated

till

Wednesday

6 p.m.

across

20

states

and

Union

Territories.

Ten

cases

of

adverse

events

following

immunisa-

tion

-

four

in

Deli-

hi

and

Kar-

nata-

and

West

Bengal

-

have

re-

quired

hospi-

talisa-

ti-

on

so far.

Wednesday

1,05,95,660

TOTAL CASES

1,97,201

ACTIVE CASES

13,823

NEW CASES

16,988

NEW RECOVERIES

1,52,718

TOTAL DEATHS

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES

AS OF 8:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021

2021



*Before leaving for Kolkata today, I am inaugurating all these projects which may appear to be small but will create great impact*

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

## Over 1,200 bird deaths in Delhi since 6 Jan: Officials

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Over 1,200 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi in the last 15 days amid the avian influenza situation here, officials said on Wednesday.

Of the 201 samples collected from various places in the national capital, 24 have tested positive for bird flu so far, the director of the animal husbandry unit of the Delhi government's Development Department, Dr Rakesh Singh, told PTI.

"A total of 1,216 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi since January 6. However, all the deaths cannot be attributed to bird flu. Cold stress is another major reason," he said.

On Tuesday, authorities restricted the entry of public into the Red Fort till Friday after a sample of a dead crow tested positive for birdflu.

Around 15 crows were found dead in the premises of the Red Fort on January 10.

"Four cranes were found dead in the Delhi zoo a few days ago. Twelve samples were collected on Monday and sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for testing," Singh said.

Authorities have not received the test results yet from the Bhopal-based lab.

On Saturday, samples from a dead owl in the Delhi zoo had tested positive for avian influenza.

Last week, municipal corporations in the city had imposed a temporary ban on sale and storage of poultry or processed chicken meat after samples taken from crows and ducks at parks and lakes in the national capital tested positive for birdflu.

Around 400 ducks were found at Sanjay Lake on January 11.

The Delhi government had also banned the sale of processed and packaged chicken brought from outside the city and ordered the closure of the Ghazipur poultry market in east Delhi for 10 days.

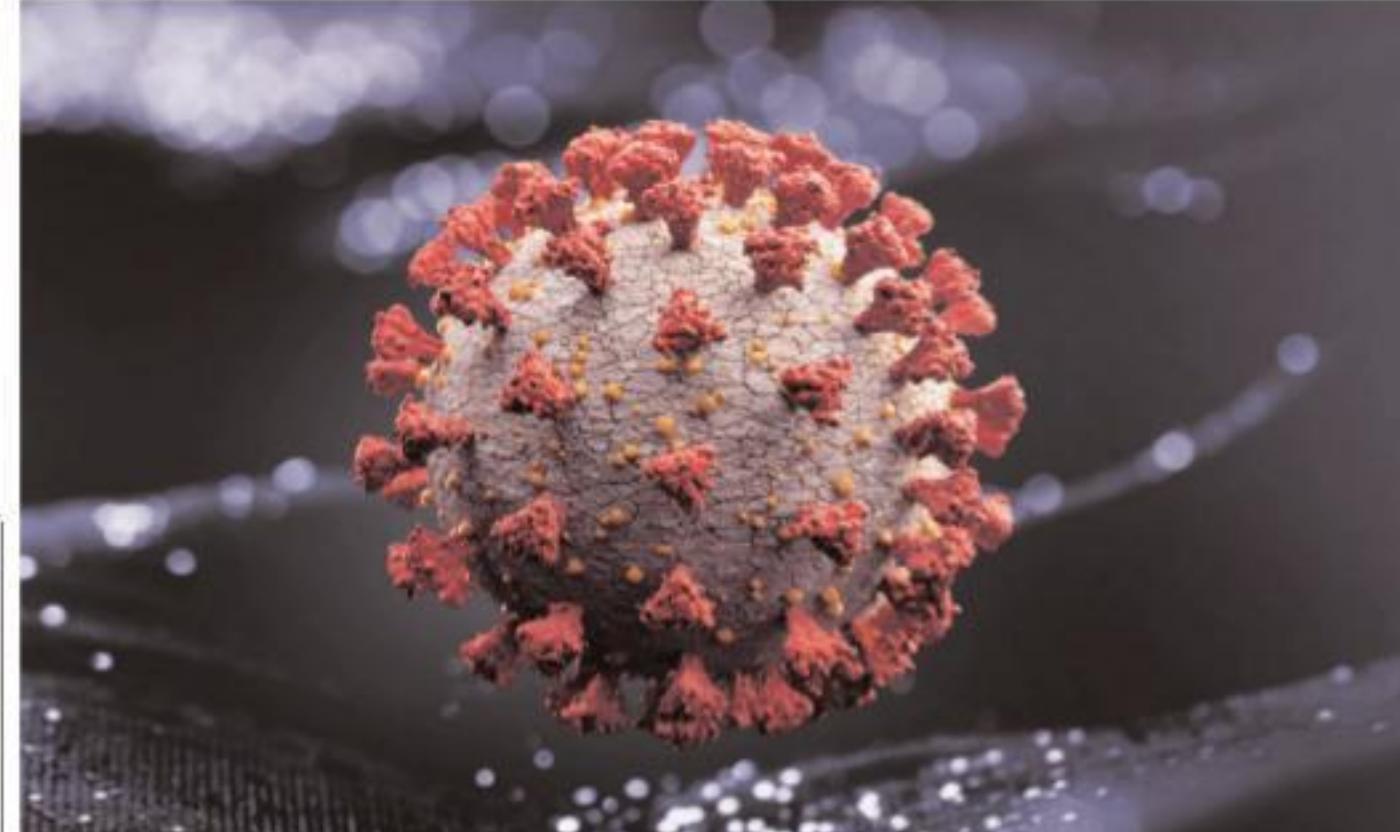
However, the ban was lifted on Thursday after all the 100 samples taken from Ghazipur, Asia's largest poultry market, tested negative.

# Capital records 228 fresh virus cases, 10 fatalities

The total number of Covid tests conducted in Delhi till date crosses the 1-crore mark; active cases tally drops to 2,147; 916 patients under home isolation; positivity rate stands at 0.36 pc

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Delhi today recorded 228 fresh coronavirus infections (Covid-19) and 10 deaths, even as the total number of Covid tests conducted in the city till date crossed the one-crore mark, according to the Delhigovernment's latest health bulletin.



The new cases were detected out of 63,161 tests including 32,957 RT-PCR tests and 30,204 rapid antigen tests, the bulletin stated. The number of tests per million was over 5.2 lakh while the cumulative figure crossed the one-crore mark.

had recorded 293 cases on 26 April, according to official data.

"The fresh cases and active cases both have come down a lot. Seems, the situation is lot under control now in Delhi," Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain had yesterday told reporters.

As many as 585 Covid cases were reported in Delhi on January 1 and 494 on January 2, 424 on January 3, 384 on January 4, and 442 on January 5, 654 on January 6, 486 on January 7 and 444 on January 8, 519 on January 9 and 399 on January 10, 306 on January 11 and 386 on January 12, and 357 on January 13 and 340 on January 14.

From 15 to 18 January, the daily coronavirus figures stood at 295, 299, 246 and 231 respectively.

The city's Covid caseload climbed to 6,33,049 while its coronavirus toll mounted to 10,774, now, the health bulletin said.

Today's new cases were detected out of 63,161 tests including 32,957 RT-PCR tests and 30,204 rapid antigen tests, the bulletin stated.

In the last 24 hours 405 Covid patients recovered, which took the city's total such recoveries to 6,20,128 so far, the bulletin said. Of the active cases, 916 patients were under home isolation.

The national capital's active coronavirus cases tally dropped to 2,147 from yesterday's 2,334. Its Covid positivity rate was 0.36 per cent.

Control Board, Kolkata and may also be seen at the website: www.environment.twb.gov.in of the Department of Environment (West Bengal).

M/S. Motijug Agencies Ltd.

M/S. Modern Gears Pvt. Ltd.

M/S. Machine Works (International) Ltd.

M/S. Motijug Charitable Trust

1, Auckland Place  
Kolkata-700017

## AGM NOTICE

### THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, XXI OF 1960)

#### NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India will be virtually held at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, the 22nd February, 2021, at New Delhi.

The President of the Association will preside.

The Annual Report for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 and the audited accounts of the Association will be presented at the meeting and the results of election of members to the Central Committee under Rule 3(vii) of the Rules and Regulations of the Association will be announced. Such other business as the President may allow will also be transacted.

Secretary-General  
Tuberculosis Association of India  
3, Red Cross Road, New Delhi - 1

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

### TENDERS

#### NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority Govt. of West Bengal vide its Letter No. 35 / EN / T-1-1 / 043 / 2018 dated 15.01.2021 has accorded environmental clearance to M/S. Motijug Agencies Ltd., M/S. Modern Gears Pvt. Ltd., M/S. Machine Works (International) Ltd. and M/S. Motijug Charitable Trust for the construction of residential complex "Alma Heights" at premises No. 10/44, Gobind Chandra Khatik Road, Ward No. 58/2, Kolkata Corporation, Borough-VII, P.S.: Tangra, Kolkata-700046.

West Bengal. Copy of the environmental clearance is available with the office of

West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Kolkata and may also be seen at the website: www.environment.twb.gov.in of the Department of Environment (West Bengal).

Chairperson  
Board of Administrators  
Katwa Municipality

## e-TENDER

The Chairperson, Board of Administrators, Katwa Municipality has invited e-Tender against N.I.E.T. No.:

WBIMAD 61 (DEV / PARAY SAMADHAN / K.M) 2020-21.

N.I.E.T. No.: WBIMAD 58 (DEV / MDF / K.M) 2020-2021.

N.I.E.T. No.: WBIMAD 59 (DEV / MDF / K.M) 2020-2021.

Tender Id No.: 2021\_MAD\_317753\_1.

Tender Id No.: 2021\_MAD\_317779\_1.

Tender Id No.: 2021\_MAD\_317805\_1.

Tender Id No.: 2021\_MAD\_317994\_1.

Intending bidders are requested to visit the web-

site : https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.katwamunicipality.in

Chairperson  
Board of Administrators  
Katwa Municipality

## NIT-02/20-21

Date: 18.01.2021

Principal, Piassey College invites offline quotation for the work of "Construction of 200 users' Toilet Septic Tank of Piassey College, Mira Bazar, P.O.: Piassey, Nadia, PIN-741156".

For details please visit:

w w w . p i a s s e y

college.ac.in

## NIT-20/21

Date: 18.01.2021

Principal, Piassey College invites offline quotation for the work of "Construction of boundary wall on the south side of Piassey College, Mira Bazar, P.O.: Piassey, Nadia, PIN-741156".

For details please visit:

w w w . p i a s s e y

college.ac.in

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Office of the Registrar Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-Tender is invited from reputed Agencies for Conduct of Entire Process of Selection for Recruitment in different posts of North Bengal University. For details please visit:

https://wbtenders.gov.in

(Tender ID: 2021\_DHE\_317231\_1).

Registrar

Advt. No. 384/R-2021

Dated: 19.01.2021

## QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited within 7 days for Purchase of Dress (without Stitching), Amounting expenditure: Rs. 4.02 lakh.

For details please visit:

w w w . s i l i g u r i c o l l e g e .

in

Sd/-

Principal

Siliguri College

Advt. No. 05/SC/Dress

Dated: 21.01.2021

# Redesigning of Delhi roads: CM asks PWD to complete it in 2 yrs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today held a review meeting with PWD officials on the status of the ongoing projects in the national capital of redesigning and streetscaping of seven road stretches and 540 km of identified roads on the lines of the roads in European cities.

Kejriwal directed the officials to remove all obstacles to redesign the road stretches and identified roads of Delhi. He said the process of designing the roads should be done in a swift manner and the project should be completed within the stipulated deadline by 2023. There should be no laxity in completion, he said.

The CM wanted the PWD to ensure the removal of all obstacles and said the projects needed to be completed in two years. The deadline for redesigning the entire 540-km stretch is early 2023.

The agency entrusted with the task of construction will also be responsible for the maintenance of the roads for a period of 15 years.

Kejriwal had approved the project of redesigning



some of the roads falling under the jurisdiction of the PWD in November 2019.

Under the pilot project, the Delhi government decided to redesign the 100-feet wide roads on the lines of those in European cities.

The Delhi government recently redeveloped the Chandni Chowk road as a pilot project, extending the scheme to the 100-foot wide and about 500-km-long roads in Delhi.

The development of these roads will be on the basis of the "Build-Operate-Transfer" (BOT) model and the construction company will take

care of the roads' maintenance for 15 years.

According to a government official, the main objectives of the project will be removing bottlenecks from the roads for smooth flow of traffic, encouraging the use of non-motorised vehicles and constructing disabled-friendly infrastructure while ensuring efficient use of space alongside the road stretches.

There will be separate spaces for the planting of trees on the sides of the footpaths. There will be separate parking spaces for electric vehicles and auto-

ricks along the footpaths.

The slope of the roads as well as the drains will be redesigned to tackle the problem of waterlogging on the roads. The rainwater harvesting structures will be built inside the drainage systems to store rainwater as groundwater.

Not even an inch of the surface of any road or roadside will be left uncovered to ensure that there is no dust on the roads. Adequate grass and shrubs will be planted on all surfaces to ensure dust control, the official added.

## Strong winds improve Capital's air quality

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Delhi's air quality recorded a marginal improvement on Wednesday, moving to the 'poor' category from 'severe' the day before, due to a favourable wind speed, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said here.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 283 on Wednesday. It was 404 on Tuesday, 372 on Monday and 347 on Sunday.

Before that, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'severe' zone for three consecutive days.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and between 401 and 500 'severe'.

The maximum wind speed

was 15 kmph on Wednesday.

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the city's ventilation index -- a product



Another cold day in the Capital. On Wednesday.

of mixing depth and average wind speed was 9,000 square metres/sec on Wednesday. It is likely to be 11,000 square metres/sec on Thursday.

Mixing depth is the verti-

cal height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/sec, with an average wind speed less than

10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.



*Within our party we have a thinking that assembly elections should be contested as an alliance between NCP, Congress, Goa (Forward) and other like-minded parties. We have not discussed yet. But within our party there is a understanding.*

SHARAD PAWAR  
NCP PRESIDENT

# Centre's 'lies' on agriculture Ordinances exposed: Capt

Punjab CM says an RTI reply has exposed 'lies' of BJP-led Centre as well as SAD & AAP that the 3 farm Ordinances, which were enacted in Sept 2020, were okayed by CMs' panel on agri reforms

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 20 JANUARY

Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh today said that a Right to Information (RTI) response has exposed the "lies" of the Centre's claims that the three controversial farm Ordinances - which subsequently paved the way for the enactment of three farm laws in September 2020 - were approved by the high-powered committee of the CMs on agricultural reforms.

Citing media reports, Captain Amarinder said a reply by the NITI Aayog to an RTI query suggested that the farm Ordinances were promulgated and introduced in Parliament in June 2020 without the report of the Chief Ministers' committee being ever appraised by the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog.

This, said the Punjab CM,



was in "stark contrast" to the claims of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government, which both the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had been "shamelessly parroting" in an apparent bid to "promote" the BJP's "anti-

farmers agenda".

The Union minister of state for consumer affairs, food and public distribution, Raosaheb Dadarao Danve had claimed before the Lok Sabha that the high-powered committee of the CMs had approved the Essential Com-

modities (Amendment) Bill, which Captain Amarinder had categorically rejected and which has now been "proved wrong" by the RTI reply, the Punjab CM said.

Far from basing the farm laws on the discussions and decisions of the high-powered committee, the point, as validated by the RTI response, was that the committee's report had not even been placed till now before the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog, Captain Amarinder said.

Once the report is made public, everyone will now know who said what in the committee's meetings, where Punjab was not even a part in the first one, while the second discussed some financial issues with Manpreet Badal in attendance and the third one participated only by secretary-level officials, the CM said.

He lambasted the Pun-

jab's Opposition parties over their "campaign of lies, deception and misinformation to promote their collective agenda of instigating the people against the democratically-elected Congress government in the state".

"Their bundle of lies have been completely exposed by the RTI response," he charged, slamming the BJP, the SAD and the AAP for "shamelessly misleading" the nation on such a sensitive issue which had triggered massive unrest and had the potential of disturbing the peace of Punjab and the country.

Captain Amarinder claimed it was evident now that the Akalis and the AAP had been "spreading lies" allegedly at the behest of the Narendra Modi-led central government, with whom "the two parties were working in collusion to damage the interests of the farmers".

## Haryana Police reunite missing children with their families

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 20 JANUARY

Haryana Police has reunited four missing children, including two deaf and speech-impaired children, with their families.



Giving this information on Wednesday, a Haryana Police spokesperson said the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of its Crime Branch traced these missing children, who went missing for one or another reason from Haryana, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.

"AHTU teams are in touch with children's homes in all states. As and when police learn about a missing child, we counsel them and put in specific efforts to get positive results. Efforts are on to trace as many missing children not only in the state but also across the country," he added. In the first case, police traced a boy (who is unable to hear and speak) - a resident of Ulhasnagar, Gurugram, who went missing since November 2019 - in a shelter home in Nazafgarh, Delhi. Based on some information provided, a video clip and a photo of the child was sent through WhatsApp and the family recognized the child as their own. In another case, a 13-year-old child, who was reported missing from Gurugram since 2018 and living at Children Home, Cannought Place, Delhi, was reunited with his family. The boy had informed only about his father's name, a native of Darjeeling in West Bengal. During the course of counselling, it was found the child's mother works in Gurugram. The boy was handed over to the mother after completing required formalities. In a separate case, a missing girl child (14), who went missing from district Kathiar (Bihar) since September 2019, was traced and reunited with her family on January 15, 2021. Police took orders from authorities concerned in Fazilka in Punjab and handed it over to family members. The AHTU

teams had also reunited another deaf and speech-impaired child aged 13, who was reported missing from Raipur in Chhattisgarh since February 2020. An FIR to this effect was lodged in a police station of Garibaband district. Police team made special efforts and traced his parents. Haryana Police had traced 1716 missing children in 2020 and handed them over to their families in different parts of the country. Among the traced missing children, 771 are boys and 945 are girls. Some of these children had been missing for a long time. Haryana Police has also tracked and rescued 1189 child beggars and 1941 child labourers during the year. These children were found either working in shops or doing odd jobs for their livelihood.

### INCURSION



People reel under the simian menace at the Ridge in Shimla. On Wednesday.

## HP CM asks officials to consult MLAs before finalising DPRs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 20 JANUARY

"Topmost priority must be given to the MLAs' priorities" as they are the elected representatives and have "best knowledge" of the developmental needs and aspirations of the people of their respective areas.

This was said by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while presiding over a review meeting of the Planning Department here on Wednesday.

The CM said that it had been felt that the MLA priorities got delayed as Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) were not prepared in time by the respective departments. The MLAs must be taken into confidence while finalising the DPRs and they may also be apprised regarding the cause of the delay in the DPRs so that the same could be rectified. He said that regular meeting must be held at the district level regarding planning with active involvement of MLAs.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners to think out of the box and at least start one unique scheme in their respective district. He said that the corona pandemic had caught the entire world unprepared, thus the Deputy Commissioners must come with some suggestions which could be included in the budget for



the next financial year. He said that effective monitoring mechanism must also be ensured for time bound completion of all the projects being implemented in the state. He said special emphasis must be laid on Forest Conservation Act (FCA) and Forest Rights Act (FRA) clearances as several major projects got delayed due to this. He said that accountability must be fixed to check delay in execution of developmental projects.

Thakur said that 114 projects worth Rs. 500 crore had been approved under RIDF-XXVI in Public Works Department whereas 137 projects having investment of Rs 300 crore had been approved under Jal Shakti Vibhag. He said that phasing period for

DPRs to the NABARD and other funding agencies to Rs. 120 crore whereas allocation under Vidhayak Kshetra Vikas Nidhi Yojna had been enhanced to Rs. 1.75 crore.

The Chief Minister said that Planning department must ensure that total plan outlays were apportioned into the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan in the fixed proportion. He said that implementation and monitoring must be done by the concerned departments along-with impact assessment.

Thakur said that implementation of Chief Minister's announcements and budget assurances must be accorded top most priority. The state government had enhanced per Assembly constituency limit for posing

education department officials and school management to ensure proper cleaning of premises and classrooms and follow the Covid-19 safety norms strictly as per guidelines of government of India.

He said that detailed guidelines will also be issued soon to all district education officers which will be circulated to all government, aided and private schools.

The minister said that as the schools have already been allowed to conduct classes from Class V onwards, the district education officers, other officials and teachers have suggested that now the students studying in primary schools should also be allowed to come to the schools.

## POWERGRID to help improve HP remote areas' connectivity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 20 JANUARY

The Himachal Pradesh government and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a central public sector enterprise (CPSE) of the Union government, has signed an agreement for better telecom connectivity in remote areas of the state.

POWERGRID has signed an agreement with HP State Electricity Board Ltd for utilization of 500 km of OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) telecom network, Naresh Kumar, Senior General Manager, Corporate Communications Ltd, said on Wednesday.

"This is in addition to the existing 350 km of OPGW laid on HPSEBL Extra High Voltage (EHV) lines already being used in the state to boost connectivity in remote areas.

This total 850 km long telecommunication network will enable POWERGRID Telecom to reach remote areas of Kangra, Una, Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur, Sirmaur, Palampur, Sundernagar, Banikhet, Amb, Paonta Sahib, Nahan etc," he added.

## APPOINTMENT

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS  
NABADWIP MUNICIPALITY, Nabadwip, Nadia  
Memo No. : 20/NUM/N.M/2020-21  
Date : 19/01/2021

Applications are invited for engagement of Community Organizers at CMU under DAY, NULM, Nabadwip Municipality on contractual monthly remuneration for the post of Community Organizers will be Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand only). Last date of receipt of application is scheduled on 04/02/2021 (Thursday) at 5:00 pm on all working days during office hours. Name of the Post - Community Organizer (Number of post-2). The upper age limit will be 18-40 years as on : 01/01/2021. The details please visit our website [www.nabadwimpimunicipality.in](http://www.nabadwimpimunicipality.in) or Office Notice Board.

Sd/- Chairperson  
Nabadwip Municipality



## HC awards ₹10 lakh compensation to kin of youth electrocuted due to discom negligence

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court awarded Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the family of a 23-year-old man, who was electrocuted when an exposed live electric wire fell on his bicycle, saying the negligence of BSES Rajdhani in maintaining electric wires is writ large.

The high court directed that the compensation amount will be the liability of the discom and Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd, with which BSES Rajdhani was claimed to be insured, jointly and severally and said it is for them to decide whose liability it is to pay the money.

A young boy has died after coming in contact with a live electric wire that has fallen on the road.

In the counter affidavit vague and evasive denial has been made. Clearly based on the above facts and the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur (the thing speaks for itself), it is clear that respondent No.2/BSES-RPL is guilty of negligence. The death of the deceased took place due to the negligence of respondent No.2, Justice Jayant Nath said.

The court's January 15 verdict came on a petition by Bihar resident Munni Devi, who said her son Mintu Kumar was pursuing a bachelor degree from Indira Gandhi Open University and while passing through Kalkaji on his bicycle in May 2007 he lost

his life due to electrocution when an exposed live electric wire fell down upon his bicycle.

The plea claimed that this act was totally attributable to the negligence of Delhi government and BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BSES RPL).

The petitioner woman said she was a housewife, suffering from acute anaemia, and her husband, a labourer, earned about Rs 48000 per annum.

The plea said they had no other source of income and were running from pillar to post in Delhi to get justice for their son.

BSES Rajdhani raised several objections to the claim of compensation, including that it had no knowledge of the incident and maintainability of the petition after 12 years.

Delhi government submitted that it had no role to

play in the incident as it happened in the jurisdiction of the distribution licensee BSES RPL.

On the discom's submission, the high court said, it is a strange submission being made by the distribution company in charge of distribution of electricity in the area.

It is inconceivable that a death has taken place due to electrocution from the distribution wires within the territory of respondent No.2 on a public street and respondent No.2 claims ignorance of such a major incident.

The judge said the plea of the discom cannot clearly be believed and this vague plea fortifies my conclusion of the negligence of respondent No.2.

The negligence of respondent No.2 in maintaining electric wires is writ large on the face of the record.



## Punjab to reopen schools for primary classes from 27 Jan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 20 JANUARY

Punjab school education minister Vijay Inder Singh on Wednesday said that in the wake of the persistent demand of parents the state government has decided to reopen all schools for primary classes from 27 January.

While divulging details, the cabinet minister informed as per the nod given by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, students of Class III and IV will be allowed to attend schools from 27 January and from 1 February onwards, the schools will also be allowed to conduct physical classes for Class I and Class II.

He added timings will remain the same from 10



a.m. to 3 p.m. and parents will have to provide written consent before sending their wards to schools.

Singh also directed the

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

**SWEATER & JACKETS SALE WINTER OFFER**

Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2020 Best Brands Sweaters, Jackets, sweat shirts, Lower, Cardigan & winter wears

upto **60% off**

By Economy Sales: 9212758425

ARROW raymond Colorplus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE

- 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



**Yogendra Yadav speaks for protesting farmers in Kolkata on Wednesday.**

**Dialysis unit:** To provide free dialysis to patients with kidney failure, KMC for the first time has kicked off a dialysis unit at the Mayor's Clinic in Chetla which was inaugurated by the KMC board chairman, Firhad Hakim, today. The unit has 16 general and four beds. Each day, a total of 80 persons can undergo dialysis in this facility.

**Cattle-smuggling:** CBI on Wednesday interrogated the brother of Binay Mishra, a businessman allegedly involved in the cattle-smuggling racket in Bengal and considered close to TMC, sources in the agency said. Anti-corruption branch of the CBI questioned Mishra's brother after he appeared before its officials.

PTI

## S. Asia's first indigenous robotic surgery system launched in Delhi

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

In a bid to make robotic-assisted surgeries accessible to all globally at affordable cost, an indigenously developed Multi-Arm Novel Tele-Robotic Assistance (MANTRA) was launched here on Tuesday.

Launching SSI MANTRA (Multi-Arm Novel Tele-Robotic Assistance) Surgical Robot System in the presence of Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, via web-conferencing.

Dr Sudhir P. Srivastava said, "As the dominant current robotic system is expensive and has limited availability across the world of over six billion population, we offer minimally invasive robotic surgery solutions to all Indian hospitals at affordable cost."

Dr Srivastava also per-

## Rahul to launch campaign for TN polls on 23 Jan

**PTI**  
ERODE (TN),  
20 JANUARY

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will hit the campaign trail on Saturday in Tamil Nadu where Assembly elections are likely to be held in April-May, party state unit chief KSAzhagirisaid on Wednesday. He also asserted the present Congress-DMK

alliance would continue for the elections and said it would be a welcome development if actor-politician Kamal Haasan joined the combine. Haasan, who last week completed his first round of campaign, has ruled out joining hands with ruling AIADMK or the DMK, which is going all out to come back to power in the state after being in Opposition for ten years.

## TENDER

**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (ELECT)-I  
SHAHADA (N) ZONE, Keshav Chowk, Delhi-110053  
NIT NO. E.E.(Elect)-I/Vsh.N/EDMC/2020-21/TC-24 Dated: 19.01.2021

**PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer (E) on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites online tenders in Two Bid System for the following work:  
Last Date to Download Tender Documents : 27.01.2021 upto 12:00 Noon  
Last Date of Bid Preparation & Hash Submission : 28.01.2021 upto 12:00 Noon  
Last Date of Technical and Financial Lock : 28.01.2021 upto 15:00 PM  
Last Date of Re-encryption of Online Bid : 29.01.2021 upto 12:00 Noon  
Last Date of Technical Bid (envelope 1) Opening : 29.01.2021 upto 17:00 PM  
Last Date of Evaluation of Technical Bid : 02.02.2021 upto 12:00 Noon  
Opening of Financial Bid (Tentative) : 05.02.2021 upto 17:00 PM  
**S. No. 1. Name of Work :** 1. Provision of Smart Class Rooms at EDMC Primary School Dilshad Colony, Nand Nagar E-Block and Sunder Nagar F-1 Block in Ward No. 28, 32 & 33 under Shahdara (North) Zone 2. Provision of Smart Class Rooms at EDMC Primary School Balbir Nagar Gen (Ext) and Babarpur in Ward No. 50-E and 51-E under Shahdara (North) Zone  
**Tender Amount :** 5576244. **Head of A/c :** XL-II-A-(ii). **Ernest Money :** 111525. **Time of Completion :** 3 Months. **Tender Cost :** 1000. **Rates hold good for :** 6M. **Online Tender No. :** 319500.  
Tender form and specifications can be downloaded from the website of EDMC <http://mcdtenders.com>  
**RO NO - 80/DP/EAST/2020-21**

**Ex. Engineer (Elect)-I**  
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. 155303

# Polarised Nandigram awaits titanic Mamata-Suvendu clash

Both BJP and TMC leaders say communal divide became visible after 2013 panchayat polls

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NANDIGRAM, 20 JANUARY

A blood-soaked Nandigram made Mamata Banerjee what she is today and the place underpins all that the combustible West Bengal leader wants to be now.

It was strife that pushed the little known agrarian landscape, where characteristics of rural and urban West Bengal merge seamlessly, to national limelight. It is a looming strife again that threatens to break the fragile peace of Nandigram as assembly elections approach.

The scene of one of the bloodiest and most traumatic movements against land acquisition by a government for industrialisation, Nandigram of late stands polarised along communal lines.

It has come a long way since the turbulent 2007 when the slogan "Tomar naam amar naam, Nandigram, Nandigram" suffused the agitated air of the place, reflecting a rare social and political convergence of public opinion against "forcible" land acquisition by the then Left Front government for setting up a Special Economic Zone.

Today, the slogan "Jai Shri Ram" is etched firmly as graffiti on the walls of Nandigram alongside the fading "Tomar naam amar naam, Nandigram, Nandigram". Political rallies of rival parties are being attacked and people injured.

With no industries since the BUPC uprising that left an spec-

ified number of people dead, including 14 in a police firing, Nandigram's primarily agricultural economy supplies rice, vegetables and fresh fish to adjoining areas, skirted asitis by the Ganga and Haldi rivers.

Though the peace of Nandigram was shattered by the protracted violence during 2007-11, leaving many dead in clashes between BUPC and CPI-M supporters, the area was never polarised along religious and communal lines, and the tussle was purely political.

"Nandigram has changed a lot in the last six-seven years. Earlier, all communities used to live in peace together. There were differences and violence, but it was based on politics not religion.

"Now it stems from religion with majority Hindus on one side and Muslims on another. We never witnessed such a situation in the past," Rasool Kazi, a local resident, who participated in the anti-land acquisition movement, said.

Bamdev Mondal of Gokulpur village in Nandigram blamed the TMC government for the communal divide.

"The TMC government went overboard with its policy of (Muslim) appeasement and that pitted one community against the other," Mondal said.

Mondal is also angry over the lack of development in the area after the anti-land acqui-

sition movement.

"Hindus and Muslims fought hand-in-hand but what did we get? Except for a few new roads and to some extent the benefits of the 100 days of work a year, we got nothing.

"Only a handful of leaders and members of a particular community got all the benefits. Now the people are angry and will teach TMC a lesson," he said. A TMC panchayat samiti member, who did not wish to be named, alleged Muslims were getting preference even in student scholarships.

"The CPI-M never discriminated between people on the basis of religion. Tell me why Hindus should not go with the BJP. We cautioned the party leadership against this discrimination but nothing came of it," he said.

Sheikh Sufiyan, a BUPC veteran, however, insisted such claims were part of the BJP's "disinformation campaign".

Nandigram Assembly constituency has around 70 per cent Hindus, while Muslims account for the rest, and names give away the political preferences of the residents.

Local leaders of both the TMC and the BJP maintain the shoots of a communal divide became visible after the 2013 panchayat polls when elected Muslim members were given prominent roles in Zilla Parishads and the ruling party's district unit. The rift widened

further after the 2018 panchayat elections.

The disaffection prompted the Hindu right to assert itself with a massive Ram Navami rally in Nandigram in 2016. Locals said many TMC workers and leaders actively participated in it.

The results were quick for all to see. The BJP, with hardly any support base in the area dominated by the TMC, bagged over 1.96 lakh votes in the 2016 by-elections to Tamluk Lok Sabha seat and finished third. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP further consolidated its position, with its candidate clinching over 5.34 lakh votes.

Dibyendu Adhikari, a younger brother of Suvendu Adhikari won both the elections. Dibyendu and the Adhikari family patriarch Sisir are both TMC Lok Sabha members but had given Mamata Banerjee's Monday rally a miss.

"Nandigram is sitting on a tinderbox and only the TMC's appeasement politics is responsible for it. If you deny the majority community its rights, you will have to face the consequences," Tamluk district BJP general secretary Gouri Hari Maity said.

A local former Congress leader Sabuj Pradhan, who recently joined the BJP, said sporadic communal clashes are taking place in the region for the last few weeks and things could get worse as the elections approach.

# TMC condemns goli maaro slogan by its supporters

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 20 JANUARY

With the nearing of Assembly elections, the bare-knuckle confrontation between the Trinamul Congress and the BJP seems to have taken an ugly turn with 'Goli Maaro' slogan, that was once uttered by a BJP leader Anurag Thakur during the anti-CAA protests in Shaheen Bagh, Delhi, last year, and was fiercely condemned by Trinamul Congress who compare the saffron brigade to a "group of thugs."

Reacting to this development, Kunal Ghosh, TMC spokesperson condemned the act and said those who have uttered the slogans were wrong in doing so. However, Ghosh chose to ameliorate the controversy by justifying that these words "should never be taken literally". He justified these statements which resemble the ones uttered by BJP Bengal president Dilip Ghosh, who often allegedly threatens to assault TMC workers and send them to a crematorium.

However, the 'Goli Maro' slogan was met with scathing criticisms from the Left-Front where its leader Sujan Chakraborty condemned the slogan saying "The Trinamul Congress and the BJP share the same DNA. They share the same blood. I am shuddered to think of the depths to which the TMC has taken Bengal. What separates them from the saffron brigade?"

## Shah to address Matuas over CAA on 30 Jan

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 20 JANUARY

The West Bengal BJP observer Kailash Vijayvargiya said that several leaders from TMC, Congress and CPI-M will join BJP on 30 January where Union home minister Amit Shah will address a public meeting of the Matua community.

Shah will address a Matua congregation in Thakurnagar where community leaders expect him to elaborate on 'time frame' of CAA implementation. He is expected to be on a two-day visit to Bengal, and on his second day will visit the bastion of gaudiya vishwava community at Mayapur.

For the next two weeks, Thakurnagar will see major political shows by the BJP vying for crucial Matua votes who came to the state as refugees during Partition. Besides being electorally significant, the Matuas have also been part of the state's politics over the years which currently has a BJP camp and a TMC camp. The BJP camp, which makes

up for a significant part of the community, has a primary demand - citizenship. Matuas make up close to 2 crore or 20 per cent of Bengal's population and are spread over five districts - North 24 Pargana, Nadia, Howrah and Dinajpur (North and South). In at least 30 constituencies of North 24 Pargana, Nadia and some parts of Howrah in south Bengal, Matuas constitute over 40-50 per cent of the population.

Accordig to the prime minister's itinerary, Modi would arrive at the National Library at around 3.30 p.m. and then visit Artists Camp before delivering a valedictory address in an international seminar on Netaji. After which, he would leave for Victoria Memorial at 4:15 p.m.

A cultural programme would be held at Victoria Memorial. The welcome performance would be presented by drummers of Rajasthan and West Bengal. This would be followed by songs accom-

## Modi to visit Bengal on Parakram Diwas, felicitate INA veterans

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 20 JANUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit West Bengal on 23 January to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which is being celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas'.

Modi will share the dais with chief minister Mamata Banerjee at a programme to felicitate INA veterans in Victoria Memorial in the evening. Prior to which he is slated to visit the National Library to attend an international seminar on Netaji.

According to the prime minister's itinerary, Modi would arrive at the National Library at around 3.30 p.m. and then visit Artists Camp before delivering a valedictory address in an international seminar on Netaji. After which, he would leave for Victoria Memorial at 4:15 p.m.

A cultural programme would be held at Victoria Memorial. The welcome performance would be presented by drummers of Rajasthan and West Bengal. This would be followed by songs accom-

panied by an orchestra. Modi would also inaugurate an exhibition on Netaji.

Next, there would be a felicitation programme of INA veterans and other freedom fighters. Apart from Modi and Miss Banerjee, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar would also be present on the occasion. The INA veterans who would be honoured are Lt Asha Sahai Chowdhury, Sepoy Lalti Ram, Sepoy Yadvay and Nayak Pandey.

Modi's visit assumes significance as the Assembly elections in Bengal are slated to take place in April. Sources said Modi may hold discussions with state BJP leadership during his visit. The BJP has been aggressively campaigning in the state over the past few months.

**HC rejects review petition over CAG audit of Amphan funds**

KOLKATA, 20 JANUARY

A Division Bench Chief Justice TBN Radhakrishnan and Justice Arjit Banerjee of Calcutta High Court today rejected state government's review petition to stay CAG investigation into the irregularities allegedly made in distribution of Amphan funds.

The time limit of three months will be modified to that effect after receiving all relevant documents, the investigation will be completed, it was directed. A report of the investigation will have to be placed before the court.

The court observed that the state cannot delay the CAG investigation due to non-receipt of the utilisation certificate. The CAG will complete the investigation as soon as possible, it was directed.

On 1 December 2020 the court directed a CAG probe into the disbursal of Amphan funds. The state government counsel made an oral prayer for the stay of the order which was rejected.

## Declassify existing files on Netaji: TMC MP urges Centre

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 19 JANUARY

Trinamul Congress Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy wrote to the prime minister Narendra Modi requesting him to declassify the existing files on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and publish a draft on INA compiled by History division of the defence ministry on the eve of 125th birth anniversary of Netaji. He had also sent a copy to the defence minister, Rajnath Singh.

In 2015, Roy said, chief minister Mamata Banerjee declassified all the existing files on Netaji that were available with the state government.

He said eyeing at 2016 Assembly poll, the Centre also declassified about 200 files that were available with them. "But there are more files which contain incriminating documents on Netaji". Now the Centre is claiming they declassified 350 files but that was not the fact.

He said, "There is a close resemblance between the Congress and the BJP for publication of the book and declassifying the remaining files."

Roy alleged that the draft publication of the book on INA was withheld during UPA II government though a case was filed in Delhi High Court by a Netaji scholar Chandra Ghosh.

But the UPA II government wanted to edit and alternate some facts which was duly declined by the Single Bench of Delhi High Court and UPA II moved to the Division Bench to stall the publication of the book.

The Single Bench ordered that an unaltered copy of the book should be handed over to Ghosh if within four months the Centre failed to publish the book on INA but Ghosh should not commercialise the book.

He said, "INA was not a terrorist outfit but it was the first Indian Army formed by a civilian and had 26000 Jawans who fought for the country," and added that it was essential for the country to know about Netaji's end.

It is learnt that during the litigation the defence ministry consulted the external affairs ministry about the publication of the book and whether this publication would embitter the relation with different foreign countries.

The external affairs ministry did not object but cautioned about certain lines.

Meanwhile, CAB former secretary Bisweswar Dey today joined Trinamul Congress. He said that he joined the TMC as he was inspired by Mamata Banerjee.

Telangana began the vaccination programme on 16 Jan-

uary and has so far more than 70 AEFI cases though this is the first death that has been reported. Some health workers in Osmania Hospital have reported fever and body aches after the jab.

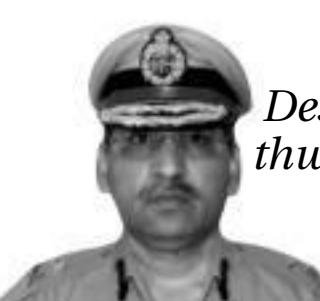
Meanwhile, in a letter to Union minister for health and family welfare Harsh Vardhan KT Rama Rao iterated the request for establishment of a vaccine testing and certification laboratory in Hyderabad, similar to the Central Drug Laboratory at Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh.

Hyderabad is known as the vaccine capital of the world, manufacturing more than 6 million doses each year and contributing one-third of the global vaccines output and the Telangana industry minister pointed out the vaccines manufactured in the city are being sent to Central Drug Laboratory in Kasauli for testing and certification which due to the logistics

External Affairs Ministry has so far more than 70 AEFI cases though this is the first death that has been reported. Some health workers in Osmania Hospital have reported fever and body aches after the jab.

Meanwhile, in a letter to

the state government has already provided land to Indian Council for Medical Research to establish the country's largest National Animal Resource facility for biomedical research in Genome Valley Rao urged the Union Minister to



Despite many challenges on the border, the BSF is alert to thwart any misadventure by Pakistan in the border area...

SPECIAL DIRECTOR GENERAL, WESTERN COMMAND, SURENDER PANWAR  
SPEAKING AT A CIVIL ACTION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE BSF

## THUMBNAILS



A Sikh devotee takes a dip in the holy Sarovar on the birth anniversary of 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh at Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday.

PTI

**J&K Police:** J&K government has declared Special Operation Group and Bomb Disposal Squads as a classified category of the J&K Police. This will benefit 2,288 officers and jawans working on anti-terror front and 179 BDR personnel of the police.

SNS

**'Galwan heroes':** The names of 20 Indian Army personnel, killed while fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June last year, were inscribed on the National War Memorial ahead of the Republic Day, official sources said.

PTI

**Pak firing along LoC:** Four Army soldiers suffered splinter injuries as Pakistani troops fired targeting forward areas along the LoC in J&K's Akhnoor sector, official sources said on Wednesday.

PTI

**Raj Cong MLA Shaktawat passes away:** Rajasthan Congress MLA Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, 48, suffering from liver infection, died at a private hospital in Delhi on Wednesday. He tested Covid positive.

PTI

**Arunachal ex-Gov Mata Prasad passes away:** Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Mata Prasad, 95, died at a hospital in Lucknow following a multi-organ failure, an official said on Wednesday.

PTI

**Varavara Rao's detention:** The conditions of octogenarian poet-activist Varavara Rao's detention are 'cruel, inhuman, and degrading,' senior lawyer Indira Jaising told Bombay HC on Wednesday, and urged it to exercise its jurisdiction to release him from prison.

PTI

<b>PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT</b>	
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)	
<b>IN THE COURT OF</b>	
Sh. R.L. Meena, ADJ-2 + Waqf Tribunal, Room No. 22, PHC, New Delhi	
SUIT No. Muslim Law/30/2018.	
CEO Delhi Waqf Board	Plaintiff
Satnam Singh & Others.	Against
To,	
1. Satnam Singh, President Gurudwara Shri Guru Nanak Kalyan Kendra Village, Tigri Khanpur, Delhi.	
2. Surjeet Singh, Inside Abadi, Village Tigri, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062.	
3. Amarjeet Singh, Inside Abadi, Village Tigri, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062.	
4. Kartar Singh, Inside Abadi, Village Tigri, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062.	
Whereas, you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the <b>18-02-2021</b> 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 <b>05-12-2020</b> .	
(Seal of the Court)	
Judge	
ADJ-02 & Waqf Tribunal (NDD)	
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi	
DIP/SHABDARTH/0567/20-21	

<b>SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED</b>	
<p>General public is hereby informed that one person namely <b>Shanu Siddiqui S/o Chhutan Siddiqui R/o WZ-336, Tihar Village PS Hari Nagar, Delhi-18</b> has been missing/kidnapped from his residence since <b>09.12.2020</b>. In this regard, a case DD No. 29A Dated 10.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shakarpur, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under.</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 23 Years, <b>Complexion:</b> Shallow, <b>Height:</b> 5' 10", <b>Face:</b> Long, <b>Built:</b> Medium, <b>Wearing:</b> Blue colour jeans, white &amp; black linedar colour sweater and grey colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped person then please inform P.S. Shakarpur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: <a href="mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in">cic@cbi.gov.in</a> and Website: <a href="http://cbi.nic.in">http://cbi.nic.in</a></p> <p><b>Ph:</b> 011-24368638, 24368641 <b>Fax No.</b> 011-24368639</p> <p><b>Sd/- S.H.O.</b> <b>P.S. Shakarpur, Delhi</b> <b>Ph:</b> 011-22542992</p> <p><b>DP/298/ED/2020</b></p>	

# Leak of military info is treason, says Antony on Arnab's WhatsApp chats

Says those involved in 'anti-national act' deserve no mercy, should be punished; PM must come clean

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

**L**eaking of official secret of military operations is treason and those involved must be punished and the prime minister must come clean, Congress leader A K Antony said on Wednesday referring to the purported WhatsApp chats of Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami doing the rounds of social media.

Addressing a joint press conference with party leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sushilkumar Shinde and Salman Khurshid here, Antony said those involved in the 'anti-national act' deserve no mercy and the government should immediately order an inquiry into information leaked about the 2019 air strikes.

Referring to the WhatsApp chats between Goswami and ex-BARC CEO Partha Dasgupta, he said India's national security has never been compromised in such a way and never have the high offices

of the prime minister, home minister and others been "brazenly compromised".

"Does the prime minister, home minister, in fact the entire government have any moral, political, constitutional right to continue in office after such damning revelations? We demand that the prime minister should come clean on these accusations immediately in order to restore the severely damaged credibility of the highest office of the country," a joint statement by the leaders said.

"Never before has India's national security been so completely compromised. Never before has the office of the prime minister, office of the home minister, office of the law minister, office of the information and broadcasting minister been so brazenly compromised," the statement also said.

Antony said having worked with the military for long as former defence minister, they could never leak information about such operations and only one of the top five civilians in



the government are suspect in the case. "It has to be enquired immediately on war footing as to who that person is. Whoever is responsible for the leakage must be punished for treason and this journalist who was in possession of sensitive military operations has to be punished. The government must order a proper enquiry. Whoever is responsible, whoever is party to the leakage of this sensitive military operation deserves no mercy," he said.

Former home minister Shinde said the matter involved the violation of the Official Secrets Act and it would be raised in the budget session

of Parliament starting 29 January. He said the charges must be probed under the Official Secrets Act and added that the Congress would talk to other parties on a JPC probe into the matter.

Asked about the joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the matter, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said he could not speak on behalf of other parties yet and would leave it to the wisdom of Parliament as it was only meeting in the next nine days.

He also said the probe must bring out whether Goswami was merely bragging about his proximity to the government or whether he actually got help, which was a serious matter.

Khurshid referred to certain references in the chats about the judiciary and asked whether the judiciary would take cognisance.

He also said that the chargesheet filed by the Mumbai Police as part of the ongoing investigation in the TRP scam carries explosive details

of "cinnivance, collusion and corruption at the highest level of the Modi government".

He alleged that a journalist colluded with the high and mighty of the government to get TRPs manipulated and he manipulated public opinion for the ruling party.

"In the process India and every single Indian lose out on a chance for responsive, clean and progressive governance," the party said.

"The shocked nation has witnessed a reprehensible conduct of those in the highest echelons of power in defrauding every government structure, the atrocious and scandalous attack on India's highest judiciary. The evil manner of playing with the life and dignity of BJP's senior most cabinet minister has shamed and compromised the Modi government beyond repair and recognition," the party statement said.

On 26 February 2019, India had launched air strikes on what was said to be Jaish-e-Mohammed's training camp in Pakistan's Balakot.

## SC rejects pleas seeking review of Aadhaar verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

dated 26 September, 2018. We have perused the review petitions as well as the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion, no case for review of judgment and order dated September 26, 2018 is made out, the majority order of 11 January said.

We hasten to add that change in the law or subsequent decision/judgment of a coordinate or larger bench by itself cannot be regarded as a ground for review. The review petitions are accordingly dismissed, said the bench, also comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, S Abdul Nazeer and B R Gavai.

The review pleas were taken up for consideration in chamber by the bench.

In its 2018 verdict, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, by a majority of 4:1, rejected the review pleas against the apex court's 26 September, 2018 verdict.

Justice DY Chandrachud, one of the five-judges of the bench, dissented with the majority verdict and said that the review petitions be kept pending until a larger bench decides the question related to certification of a Bill as a money bill.

The Aadhaar Bill was certified as a money bill which enabled the government to get it cleared without getting the assent of a majority in the Rajya Sabha.

The present review petitions have been filed against the final judgment and order

**India, Singapore sign accord on submarine rescue support**

NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

India and Singapore today signed the implementing agreement on submarine rescue support and cooperation between the two Navies.

This accord was signed at the 5th defence ministers' dialogue held virtually between defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen.

"Both sides reviewed the progress of various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives being pursued over the last year and expressed commitment to further elevate the scale of engagements between the armed forces as well as in areas of defence technology and industry," a defence ministry statement said. Expressing satisfaction at the growing defence ties, the two ministers also discussed new areas of potential cooperation, it stated.

The two ministers also discussed the efforts of both countries in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and the role of the armed forces in the mitigation measures. Singh highlighted the role of the Indian armed forces in combating Covid-19 and "various missions undertaken to assist in repatriation of Indians stranded overseas", the statement added.

work on expressways and institutes like the AIIMS on, expediting the speed of development, he said, adding big companies are coming to the state even while the doors are open for small industry. Hailing the One-District-One-Product scheme of the UP government for making local workers self-reliant, the PM said it would pave the way for achieving the target of Atmanirbhavar Bharat.

He also praised the efforts of the UP government during the difficult coronavirus times as well as its works for the migrants returning home.

The PM earlier pressed the remote button to release the assistance and interacted with some beneficiaries. Union rural development minister Narendra Tomar and Adityanath were present on the occasion.

Modi had given a call of Housing for All by 2022, for which a flagship programme of PMAY-G was launched on 20 November, 2016. So far, 1.26 crore houses have already been built across the country under the scheme. Stressing that his government aims at extending basic facilities in the rural areas through this scheme to bridge the gap between villages and cities, the PM also referred to the housing schemes of the earlier governments, especially in UP. Saying that the history of housing schemes is very old in the country, the PM said earlier there was a need for cheap housing for the poor but the experience of the poor had been very bad.

**PM Modi releases ₹2,691 cr for PMAY-G beneficiaries in UP**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 20 JANUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lashed out at previous governments, saying the poor had to bear the brunt of their "wrong" policies and intentions.

While releasing financial assistance of Rs 2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the PM said the poor people never believed in the past that the government will help them get a roof over their heads. Modi specifically criticised the state's previous Samajwadi Party government for its alleged failure to take advantage of the PMAY (Gramin) after its launch in 2016.

"When we brought the PMAY-G in 2016, the government here, which you all removed, despite our repeated requests did not provide the names of beneficiaries, said Prime Minister Modi.

"We were ready to provide funds but all requests, letters in this regard were ignored. This behaviour of the government of that time has not been forgotten by the poor," he added, in his 30-minute speech through video conferencing. Modi praised chief minister Yogi Adityanath for the all-round development in the state and speedy implementation of Central schemes.

In the past four years, the manner in which the Central government schemes have been implemented and provided momentum has given a new identity to the state, the Prime Minister said.

On one hand there is strictness with criminals and rioters and control on the law and order situation and, on the other,



work on expressways and institutes like the AIIMS on, expediting the speed of development, he said, adding big companies are coming to the state even while the doors are open for small industry. Hailing the One-District-One-Product scheme of the UP government for making local workers self-reliant, the PM said it would pave the way for achieving the target of Atmanirbhavar Bharat.

He also praised the efforts of the UP government during the difficult coronavirus times as well as its works for the migrants returning home.

The PM earlier pressed the remote button to release the assistance and interacted with some beneficiaries. Union rural development minister Narendra Tomar and Adityanath were present on the occasion.

Modi had given a call of Housing for All by 2022, for which a flagship programme of PMAY-G was launched on 20 November, 2016. So far, 1.26 crore houses have already been built across the country under the scheme. Stressing that his government aims at extending basic facilities in the rural areas through this scheme to bridge the gap between villages and cities, the PM also referred to the housing schemes of the earlier governments, especially in UP. Saying that the history of housing schemes is very old in the country, the PM said earlier there was a need for cheap housing for the poor but the experience of the poor had been very bad.

## Scenes snipped from *Tandav*, trouble continues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 20 JANUARY

At least two scenes were removed from the controversial web series *Tandav*, which found itself in more trouble on Wednesday with an FIR against its makers, this time in Madhya Pradesh, and threats of another in Maharashtra.

A scene of a play and a conversation between two key characters were snipped from the first episode *Tanashah*, a day after the cast and crew of the nine-part starry political saga on Amazon Prime Video once again apologised and said they had decided to implement changes to address the concerns raised.

At the centre of the row over the show, which has hit the national headlines with calls for boycotts, FIRs and protests over its alleged depiction of Hindu deities, was a scene with Zeeshan Ayyub in the role of college student Shiva playing the Hindu god Mahadeva in a play. A conversation between

Former Union minister Vijay Goel leads a dharna demanding a ban on OTT Vulgar Web Series, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ IANS

Lord Shiva and Narad Muni in the theatre production raised hackles.

That scene has gone. Viewers now see Zeeshan's entry on stage as Mahadev amid cheers from the audience and the scene then abruptly shifts to police entering the campus to arrest a student.

Also gone is a conversation depicting prime minister Devki Nandan Singh, played by Tigmanshu Dulha, insulting Dalit leader Kailash Kumar, enacted by Anup Soni. There

have been other changes in the series as well. A dialogue referencing caste between Soni's character and Sandhya Mridul's Sandhya has been shortened. Notwithstanding the cuts, the show, directed by Ali Abbas Zafar sank into more trouble.

Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh said police in the state had received a complaint and formal action would be taken in accordance with the law.

Demanding a law from the Centre to regulate content on the over the top (OTT) platforms to ensure there is no caste-based discrimination or communal divide, Deshmukh told reporters: "We have received a complaint. We will register an FIR and take action formally."

He did not specify who had lodged the complaint.

A four-member team of Uttar Pradesh Police, where three FIRs have been filed, also arrived in Mumbai in the morning to conduct a probe

**NCP slams BJP over Guj's bid to rename dragon fruit**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 20 JANUARY

The NCP on Wednesday targeted the BJP over the Gujarat government's decision to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam', saying the move may not be fair when the saffron party would start calling the country as "Kamalan".

## Miss Banerjee's choice

Manisha Banerjee appears to have bamboozled the political class generally on Monday with her announcement that she would be contesting the Assembly election from Nandigram in East Midnapore ~ a constituency that, in addition to Singur, had catapulted her to the Chief Minister's chair in 2011. It is quite a different story that the place has for the past decade languished as a deserted village, without even a tin shed being erected, somewhat reminiscent of Oliver Goldsmith's depiction of the village of Auburn in the poem, *The Deserted Village*. Whereas in 2011 it was an agrarian crisis, it is pretty obvious that the compulsion this time is to confront the Trinamul renegade and former minister, Suvidha Adhikari, who has switched over to the Bharatiya Janata Party. Significant no less is the fact that she has announced her signal of intent about her preference for Nandigram in Nandigram. "I cannot forget Nandigram's martyrs," she said while alluding to the police firing that killed 14 people in 2007. It would be useful to recall that even Jyoti Basu had condemned the firing, with CPI-M cadres masquerading as police personnel and pulling the trigger in violation of the UN convention. In 2021, Miss Banerjee will be contesting from her home turf of Bhowanipore as well, thus underlining the difference between town and country in the electoral construct. In the context of the Chief Minister's announcement, it is hard not wonder whether she is intent on tackling two issues. The Adhikari family had been Trinamul's local custodians since the party's foundation in 1998. Furthermore, after the recent spate of defections, the party will be in a position to buttress its connection with the voters of Nandigram and East Midnapore generally.

Miss Banerjee utilised the opportunity afforded by Nandigram to launch a sniper attack on the renegades. Without naming Adhikari, she asserted that those who left Trinamul and joined the BJP have made huge money. "They need a shelter to protect that wealth; the BJP is giving them that shelter. The BJP is a washing machine for legalising ill-gotten money". The subtext is that the BJP is corrupt. This is bound to raise the supplementary query ~ How could a former Trinamul minister make "huge money" while in office? Miss Banerjee has linked her party's movement against the CPI-M in 2007 to the current farmers' agitation in northern India. "I will renew my movement from Nandigram if the Centre does not withdraw the three anti-farmer laws." While Bengal awaits the outcome in Nandigram and Bhowanipore, there is little doubt that twin victories will enormously beef up Miss Banerjee's position. With the crucial difference that in Nandigram, she will be pitted against a Trinamul Congress renegade. True to character, Miss Banerjee has countered the Adhikari bouncer with a fierce hook; we will soon know if the ball sails over the rope or leaves her caught out.

## Wikipedia world

Those of a certain vintage may remember a 1960s American film called *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*. A runaway success, the comic heist caper was, however, subjected to severe cuts by its distributor United Artists to give it a shorter running time before general release. As Wikipedia celebrates its 20th anniversary, there is perhaps a parallel to be drawn between it and United Artists to the extent of quality control exercised by an organisation putting content out in the public domain. Critics would argue this is a misreading of the function of the digital age and by extension of an online, free-to-use, 'people's encyclopaedia' which works precisely because it breaks down traditional barriers to accessing information and generating it. The democratisation of knowledge access is certainly good. But if a little knowledge is a very dangerous thing, half-baked information passed off as knowledge is downright disastrous.

The short point is that while Messrs Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger are to be congratulated on establishing a successful corporation (later Trust) and they undoubtedly were the disruptors in the encyclopedia publishing business two decades ago, it's a bit rich to celebrate Wikipedia's anniversary as marking "20 years of free knowledge". In fact, Wales, in describing Wikipedia as "an effort to create and distribute a free encyclopedia of the highest possible quality to every single person on the planet" is more accurate. With the addendum that "highest possible quality" in the context of the Wikipedia model expressly does not constitute a guarantee for accuracy. The question does need to be asked: Who is responsible for the content on Wikipedia? Wikipedia has a giveaway: "You are! Editing is a collaborative effort. Millions of people have contributed information to different parts of this project, and anyone can do so, including you. All you need is to know how to edit a page, and have some encyclopaedic knowledge that you would like to share." That is the equal of saying if occasional bazaar gossip is good enough for you, welcome on board. Of course, the flip side is that if the content on Wikipedia isn't predominantly accurate people will stop using it. But no serious institution of any credibility accepts a Wikipedia attribution as authentic sourcing; only the naïve and those who lack any rigour do so, though they number in the hundreds of millions. If one is charitable, one could say that Wikipedia may provide online leads to kosher websites where domain specialists are responsible and organisations legally liable for content uploaded. But even Google does that. Authenticity in the content business ought to be non-negotiable. That it evidently isn't, as the success of Wikipedia and the like have shown, may mean those who believe so are digital Luddites. Alternatively, we may be living in a mad, mad, mad, mad world.

# Budgets and deficits

The bottom line is that better results would come about not by increased outlays alone but by adequate spending in conjunction with improved governance, which is a function of optimised bureaucratic processes and a reliable mechanism for ensuring accountability



As the Budget-making exercise nears its end, the volume of suggestions to the Finance Minister has reached a crescendo. The 'halwa' ceremony that used to mark the sequestration of budget makers in the bowels of North Block has been duly performed by the FM but due to the Coronavirus scare, the budget-makers have escaped incarceration this year. Another novelty is that both the Government and public have woken up to the need of enhanced social sector spending; the pandemic has made everyone aware of the poor state of public health and education facilities. Some economists have gone so far as to suggest that the expenditure on health services be increased from the present level of 1.5 per cent of the GDP to 2.5 per cent of the GDP. Yet no one, so far, has given any plan or even a roadmap for spending the increased allocation of roughly Rs 2 lakh crore suggested by them.

History shows that allocation of funds beyond the spending capacity of a department results in wastage and worse. To recollect, huge allocations were made to various states under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM); after a series of murders of top health officials in UP in 2010, it was noticed that a sum of around Rs 10,000 crore had been defalcated from NRHM funds. Even after a decade, not even a small part of the misappropriated funds has been recovered and none of the murderers have been brought to book. Neither has there been any significant improvement in healthcare services. Similarly, we have on the authority of the Economic Survey 2012, that Maharashtra's irrigation potential increased by only 0.1 per cent during the years 1999 to 2009, even after Rs 70,000 crore had been spent on various irrigation projects. It is not difficult to guess where such money goes; according to the latest report of Transparency International, India has the highest bribery rate in Asia. The large number of such instances should be an adequate warning to planners not to allocate funds till the exact use of the funds has been decided upon and guidelines for execution have been drawn up.

The Planning Commission has been replaced by the Niti Ayog but there has been no fundamental change in the way plans are made or projects are executed. A recent concept paper

circulated by the Central Vigilance Commission noted that over 80 per cent of public projects were running behind schedule. The paper further noted that the quality of various public projects was a "major area of concern." Needless to add there are significant cost overruns in delayed projects.

For example, the NHAI building in Dwarka took nine years to complete. The building was conceptualised in 2008, tenders were floated in 2011 but it took two governments and eight chairmen to finish the construction. At the inauguration of the building, the Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the photographs of officials responsible for the delay should be displayed in the building "so that people come to know about those great personalities who took nine years to construct a building." Contrast it with the way the Chinese execute projects. Recently, a 1,500-bed hospital for Covid patients was completed in five days in Nangong.

The way bureaucracy works is best exemplified by the way the vaccination drive against Covid-19 is being run. While vaccination centres in other countries operate 24x7, vaccination centres in India function in single shift, five days a week with offs on gazetted holidays. Like most Government digital initiatives, the vaccine registration programme, CoWin, is also acting up. Looking to the fact that around 1.5 lakh people are getting the jab every day and a single person requires two shots, it would be a long time before we reach the critical mass of 100 crore vaccinated people. One could have expected more urgency and better implementation for a project of critical importance, for which preparations were afoot for months.

Most of the times, delays are built in the system but sometimes projects are deliberately delayed for ulterior gains as in the Commonwealth Games scam, where the scamsters did nothing for four years, waiting for deadlines to approach, so that they could bypass rules and procedure to make purchases at inflated prices. Significantly, after the initial hoo-ha the Commonwealth Games scam has

gone in cold storage, with not a penny being recovered from the scammers.

Government schemes are premised on the assumption that Government employees would do their part diligently and honestly but Government employees believe that their role is restricted to writing notes on files and making some moolah on the side. Government schemes often fail because senior officers cannot make their juniors overcome their aversion to honest work. The Government has tried to leverage technology to make up for the lack of performance of its employees, but employees who do not do Job A, would not do Job B also. Additionally, the untried and untested Version 1 computer programmes, as also the outsourced staff manning the Government's computers, hinder its performance.

The death of subsidised ration beneficiaries who could not get PDS food grains because of Aadhaar mismatches highlights the ill effects of badly implemented technological solutions. In many cases, technology has compounded operational problems because most Government Departments have failed to formulate SOPs for the new technology-enabled environment.

Experience shows that increased expenditure on a project can never guarantee a better outcome, which depends almost entirely on well-planned, corruption-free execution. The size of the Union Budget which was Rs 3.38 lakh crore in the year 2000 and Rs 11.08 lakh crore in 2010, has gone up to Rs 30.42 lakh crores in 2020. Whether the tripling of Budget Expenditure every ten years has led to commensurate benefits is a moot question. The bottom line is that better results would come about not by increased outlays alone but by adequate spending in conjunction with improved governance, which is a function of optimised bureaucratic processes and a reliable mechanism for ensuring accountability.

Proper training to Government employees and well-thought-out SOPs, in light of recent technical advances and changed business practices, can help in achieving these twin objectives. As things

stand, any question on government functioning is stonewalled with rules, sub-rules, instructions and circulars which are designed to deflect responsibility when things go wrong. For the long-term, the reports of the First and Second Administrative Reforms Commission (1966 and 2005) could be implemented.

Perhaps, to control time and cost overruns we should condense the timeline of all Government projects to one year. Typically, each Government Department has scores of projects running simultaneously. Budget allocations are made in a way that some projects hibernate while some others are speeded-up. For example, while we wait for regular train services to start, last week, eight trains were flagged off from Kevadia in Gujarat on a single day ~ one with a Vista-dome coach ~ which is a novelty for Indian Railways. If, a time period of one year is uniformly allocated for all Government projects, starting from 1 April, cost and time overruns could be easily monitored. As the Chinese example, quoted earlier shows, this is not an impossible proposition; with proper changes in mindset and archaic rules, Government functioning can be substantially accelerated. For projects that really require more than a year's time, definite yearly targets could be set. The Budget and planning processes can also do with some improvements. Currently, bureaucrats in Delhi or the State Capital decide what new initiatives would be taken up and what would be the budget for such initiatives. It does not help that implementers have no say in formulating plans that they would have to execute. Instead of this 'top down' approach we can have a 'bottom up' approach to planning where the actual field workers suggest projects that can be taken up in their area. An aggregate of viable initiatives could form the basis of the Budget. Such projects would have a greater chance of success because both the authorship and the responsibility of implementation would be with the same set of people. Perhaps, the Government should heed PM Narendra Modi's excellent advice on good governance: "While transparency reduces corruption, good governance goes beyond transparency in achieving openness. Openness means involving the stakeholders in decision-making process. Transparency is the right to information while openness is the right to participation."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

**ASIAN VOICES**  
**PM asks India for vaccine help**

Prime Minister Hun Sen is seeking assistance from India for the provision of Covid-19 vaccines as the country has produced its own vaccine which is scheduled to be rolled out to more than 300 million Indians this year. The request was made during his meeting with new Indian ambassador to Cambodia Devyani Uttamkhorbragade. Uttamkhorbragade congratulated Hun Sen and the Cambodian government for their excellent results to date in the campaign to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

The prime minister in turn congratulated India on the country's successful production of Covid-19 vaccines. He then requested that India donate Covid-19 vaccines to Cambodia to help save Cambodian lives because even with the Covid-19 vaccines recently donated by China, the Kingdom would still need millions of additional doses to protect the whole nation. Uttamkhorbragade said she would relay this request for assistance to her government. Last weekend, Hun Sen announced that China had offered to provide one million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Cambodia and that he had decided to accept the offer despite the vaccine not yet having WHO approval due to the urgency of the situation.

He also vowed to be the first Cambodian immunised with the vaccine in order to build public confidence in its safety. Separately, while visiting referral hospitals in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Pailin provinces, Ministry of Health spokeswoman Or Vandine expressed her appreciation for Cambodia's doctors and nurses who had worked so hard to keep the situation under control after the influx

**The Phnom Penh Post**

of Covid-19 patients returning from Thailand. Vandine also urgently requested that all medical professionals in the border provinces increase their level of personal safety measures and precautions while treating Covid-19 patients. "What we have observed across these three provincial health departments are courageous efforts even past the point of exhaustion, physically and mentally, day and night. "This hard work is necessary because we must control the points of entry, check every returning migrant's health and ensure they are placed in quarantine. "Everything ~ all of our efforts ~ depend on this," she said in an interview from Pailin province.

On January 18, a 38-year-old Cambodian worker who returned from Thailand on the night of January 17 via Chambok border checkpoint in Banteay Meanchey province's Malai district died after he fell and hit his head on a rock while he was off relieving himself just prior to boarding an army vehicle to go to a quarantine centre.

In a press release later that day, the provincial administration explained that after the 38-year-old had fallen down, another worker who had accompanied him helped the man into a vehicle. The deceased said he felt very tired after drinking two cans of beer.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**DEB BISWAS AMITA (nee Ghose)**  
— On January 21, 2018 you have left us for your Heavenly Abode. We remember you everyday. May your soul Rest in Peace. — Near and dear ones.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Amartya betrays his political leanings

SIR, It is a shame that a Nobel laureate of international repute could degenerate into a land grabber and many have come forward to defend him on the ground of deterioration of cultural values and even comparing him with another Nobel laureate bearing the brunt of vilification and scathing criticism for his opinions.

It is astonishing why the renowned Nobel laureate does not file a lawsuit against the Visva-Bharati VC Prof. Bidyut Chakraborty to absolve himself of the accusation. Can he deny the charge of illegal encroachment of the property of Visva-Bharati? To compare him with the great poet of cosmopolitan outlook is to belittle the poet himself, for the poet was never a land grabber, nor did he ever make any remarks like a fault-finding politician

with a partisan attitude. The Nobel laureate in question earlier made several comments that definitely betray his political leanings. He consistently targets the ruling dispensation at the Centre for demonetisation, GST, abrogation of Article 370 and introduction of CAA and NRC.

Winning the Nobel Prize cannot be a passport to make random criticism of men and manners, their sentiments, their religious beliefs, however great a scholar the person may be. He is solely res-

ponsible himself for the predicament that confronts him.

Yours, etc., Dipak Kumar Prodhan,  
Howrah, 6 January.

### TRY LATER

SIR, Just make an urgent call and the computerized female voice will utter the following ~ (1) "not answering," (2) "unable to take your call," (3) "the phone is busy, try later". Even if you try after eight hours the same advice will be repeated i.e. "Try later," eight hours is not enough!

This "try later," is a mysterious expression the monopoly of the wonderful telephone department. "Later" means from here to eternity. My land phone (2442-5315) is hibernating for more than six months, but not the bills.

Is this service? Is there any justification? Am I, an 80-year-old man, living in a civilized city or in a remote jungle? Kindly take steps to render proper service, without further delay. I shall be deeply grateful.

Yours, etc., Nargis Sattar,

Kolkata, 8 January.



### LIFESTYLE CHANGE

SIR, This is with reference to the news-item, '2020 was one of three warmest years on record: UN weather agency' (16 January). On a global scale, relative income inequality (as measured by the Gini co-efficient) has been declining steadily and according to the estimates published in Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016, the Gini Index of global inequality fell from 67 in 2008 to 62 in 2013. This is indeed good for global justice and poverty reduction, but not for greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change vis-à-vis greenhouse gas emission is massively inequitable. The average estimate implies that when income of an individual increases by 10 per cent, his/her CO2 emissions increase by 9 per cent. According to the Emissions Gap Report 2020, released by the United Nations Environment Programme, the richest one per cent emits more than double the poorest 50 per cent in the world.

There is no easy solution to the problem to the problem of climate change, since it is very difficult for emerging countries to drastically change their emission pathways. But there are some policies that might help, including, for example, the removal of energy subsidies and a greater focus on air pollution and energy security, both of which are co-benefits of moving away from fossil fuels.

Moreover, the elite will need to reduce their footprint by a factor of at least 30 (from 50) to stay in line with the Paris Agreement target. However, stronger action must include facilitating, encouraging and mandating changes in consumption behaviour by the private sector and individuals.' In the words of Pope John Paul II; "Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle."

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 19 January.

SHUBHAM SHARMA

**O**n 6 January, the seat of the modern imperial power, Capitol Hill in the United States of America, was under siege. The takeover was not a progressive one on the lines of the Bolshevik storming of the winter palace of the Czar, but a regressive one. It was led by right-wing hoodlums on the prompting of their leader, Donald Trump.

The siege was the direct result of his election loss which he and his supporters were loath to accept and the election of a black senator from Georgia, one of the strongest bases of the Republicans. Commentators belonging to the liberal fold have criticised it as an attempt to subvert the democratic process, a naked display of white supremacy, and the shifting of the ground underneath the liberal order. And it is the latter part with which we will concern ourselves.

Right from the end of World War I, the United States has been hailed as the guarantor of the liberal world order. Woodrow Wilson, then President of the United States, is recalled as the first political personification of it. The idea of self-determination is wrongly credited to him. Wilson's idea of self-determination was not for the colonies of the European empires but of the defeated empires, significantly Germany. In his scheme of national emancipation Asian colonies were completely missing. Worst still, his armies invaded Mexico, occupied Haiti, attacked Soviet Russia, and handed one colony after another to his partners in war.

It was Vladimir Lenin who became the first politician to espouse complete self-determination of the colonies from the clutches of European imperialism. The Third International (COMINTERN) was created exactly for this purpose. It aimed to rally revolutionaries worldwide in their fight against imperialism which was then deeply intertwined with capitalism.

On the eve of World War II, liberals on the other side of the Atlantic, who later became the junior allies of the US, chose to appease Hitler through the Munich Pact. The French allowed him to march into Paris fearing the already distressed working class in the capital taking the revolutionary route of the Paris Commune. Liberal treachery was at its worst when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. While the progressive opinion in Britain and France had put forward two basic demands: a second front in Europe to relieve pressure on the Soviets and settlement with India, the liberals chose to defer it till June 1944, renegeing on the promise made to Molotov. And India also suffered harshly due to the famine which was

# The illiberalism of the liberals



created by the forceful diversion of grain to war efforts.

After the war, the US emerged as the guarantor of the liberal world empire against the communist threat. But the order which was created was built on the yet to be destroyed legacies of fascism and conservatism. The best example of this is the post-war reconstruction of West Germany. The attitude of the liberal victors towards the emergence of local anti-fascist committees, mainly consisting of communists and social democrats who had gone underground in their fight against Nazism, was to ignore them as allies to lay the foundations of a new kind of German state. Instead, the Allies quickly turned to the remnants of the Nazi state to provide the basis for the new Germany. Out of the 53,000 state functionaries originally dismissed due to their Nazi connections, only a thousand stood

excluded and the rest were reinstated, especially in the judiciary.

The Allies, especially the US, moved ahead to repress the Left. In 1956, the German Communist Party was outlawed. Other left-wing political alternatives offered by the Social Democrats (SPD) led by Kurt Schumacher were categorically dumped. The latter stood for complete de-Nazification and a very different geopolitical orientation based on a demilitarized and neutral but united Germany. Such an outcome would have seriously undermined the type of liberal order that the US wanted to achieve as it would not have rested on the anti-communist liberal order that it desired.

Germany's entrance into NATO, placing of NATO troops on German soil, German rearment, all rested on the ostracization of the German left - of all hues - and incorporation of

the garrulous elements of the Nazi state apparatus. James Forrestal, the Navy Secretary to Truman's administration, aptly described this strategy as "putting Japan, Germany and other affiliates of the Axis back to work".

Even in the Asian theatre, the US sided with the reactionary authoritarian Kuomintang, the far-right dictatorship of Syngman Rhee in South Korea and brought the Cold War to the shores of South Asia by bringing Pakistan under military pacts. A herbivorous Non-Alignment Movement too remained a digestive issue for the US-led liberal order. A reiteration of the horrors of Vietnam might risk revolutionary overuse.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the (counter)revolution of neo-liberalism, and Deng's Southern Tour, the liberal order looked almost consummated. The ritual incantation of 'end of history' by a Japanese American

priest seemed to conclude the final rites of political and ideological alternatives to the liberal order. But that was not to be. Newer enemies were found.

Political Islam was singled out as the fresh enemy not just to the liberal order, at which right-wing/conservative rodents were already gnawing, but to the values of Judeo-Christian civilization. As the definition of the former remains contested, and UN assembly sessions are plagued by unctuous world leaders trying to define it for the international community, the liberal order milked it to the fullest by creating a new threatening 'Other'. And this time the difference lay in the fact that domestic Muslim minorities were hunted along with the devastation of Muslim majority states on spurious grounds.

Unfortunately, the response to the aggression was not a politically progressive one. Terrorism became the most (in)effective form of anti-imperial struggle. The absence of a formal empire, in the form of formal colonial presence whose sinews of power and capital did not flow from the occupied territory, civilian targeting on the lines of 9/11 became the template, as opposed to the anti-colonial struggle of the first half of the twentieth century - of which India was a proud participant.

After terrorism had exhausted itself, it was found that the Chinese dragon had started to breathe fire. Geo-political firemen (allies) were called from across the spectrum. Hidden from them was the fact that the US was tactically riding the dragon. Servicing of treasury bills, the China price of labour at 67 cents per hour, doubling of Chinese imports and lately Chinese partnership in a \$25 trillion e-commerce market remain, oxymoronically, open secrets.

It was not unpleasant to see the US getting a dose of its own patented medicine, albeit in a much lower dose. The last attempt to administer the anodyne to Venezuela, Operation Gideon 2020, failed. None wondered that the syringe would get inverted so soon.

In their misses to leading India dailies, liberals have made an interesting argument. They argue that similar protests by the Black community in the US would have evinced the full might of the state. They are right. Liberal states are often illiberally ordered. But it is important to establish a link here with India. Our Sikh brothers and sisters have bravely defied the Khalistani barb and are proudly raising slogans reflecting the rebellious legacy of their glorious creed. Imagine if it were for the aggrieved sections of the Muslims to do so in today's India.

The writer is a student of world history at the University of Cambridge.

100 YEARS AGO

## Occasional Note

The story of the "ashes" of Australian cricket is advanced a stage by the result of the third test match published this morning. The trophy which England gained in Australia in the winter of 1911-12 and succeeded in retaining, in England, the following summer, has now definitely returned to the Antipodes. It is to be feared, indeed, that the combination taken out by Colonel Douglas is not quite the equal of some of the wonderful elevens associated in the past with the names of Dr. Grace, Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Maclaren and Mr. Warner. The loss of the first three matches in the existing rubber, however, is no occasion for losing heart. Since the great series of international matches was initiated in the late seventies the struggle has been of a ding-dong character. Australia left the ashes in England in 1880 but she wrested them back two winters later and kept them till 1884. England then wrested them and retained them until 1892. Mr. Stoddart's team was defeated "down under" in the winter of 1897-98, however, and it was not until 1903-04 that Mr. Warner again reversed the position. Since that date the alteration has continued fairly equally. When the Australians take their next team home the verdict will be again contested. Certainly the present defeat will what the appetite of cricket goers at home and vast crowds will assemble in the hope of seeing Colonel Douglas's defeat avenged.

## News Items

### Treatment of Martial Law Prisoners

Lahore, Jan 20

Complaints having been published in the Press of harsh treatment meted out to Martial Law convicts and of insufficient supplies of blankets to such convicts in jail, the Government has made inquiries and is fully assured of the inaccuracy of these complaints. Punishments awarded to these prisoners are those prescribed by law and they are given in those cases only in which they are deserved. As regards blankets, the facts as ascertained are that prisoners are given the following items of bedding: Straw mat about 2 inches in thickness, 2 Bhabbar mats, 4 blankets or 1 razai and 2 additional blankets. If the weather is exceptionally severe another blanket is added and prisoners are allowed one blanket with them whilst at work during the cold weather.

### DISAFFECTED CHIN VILLAGES

Rangoon, Jan 20

Lawhtus and other villages in the Chin Hills, which took part in the rising in Haka subdivision in 1917-18, and whose complete submission was not obtained in the operations of 1918-19 have now all come in. Major Burne, Deputy Commissioner, Chin Hills District, with Major St. J.A. Browne, Battalion Commandant of the Chin Hills Battalion, reached Naring one of the chief disaffected villages. Mr. C.B. Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Kaha, with Captain V.K.N. Davis, Assistant Commandant, and a platoon of Chin Military Police from Haka, reached the tract about the same time as Major Burne, proceeding by different routes. Terms on which their submission will be accepted are now being communicated to the villages concerned and it is hoped that normal conditions will speedily be restored in the tract.

### BOMBAY PORT TRUST

Bombay, Jan 20

The Administration Report of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1919-20 shows revenue of two crores of rupees, the highest in the history of the Trust, the year being marked by a partial revival of pre-war trade conditions with a considerable reduction of Government expeditionary traffic. Under imports, rice and wheat reached the hitherto highest total tonnage of 895,000, while kerosene oil rose to 45,000,000 gallons, an increase of 15,000,000 gallons. Piece-goods fell by 86,000 bales and cases, and sugar, timer, and coal, showed a marked increase. A preliminary report on the scheme for the extension of the docks has been submitted by the Chief Engineer of the Trust, who has gone to England to confer with consulting engineers before submitting his final report.

### COTTON GROWING PROSPECTS IN NIGERIA

The Board of Trade announces that the Empire Cotton-growing Committee has appointed Sir Hector Duff to undertake a mission to Nigeria, and Major Hastings Horne to undertake a similar mission to Tanganyika to investigate the cotton-growing prospects. The Committee believes that there are great cotton-growing possibilities in Nigeria and has asked Sir Hector Duff to report how the industry can best be developed. Major Horne sailed for Tanganyika on October 6.

## The carrier of a metaphor

MALLIKA SHAKYA

**T**he inauguration of an American president is usually a benign theatricality for the common people around the world who consume American democracy but do not vote in it. Few inaugurations, however, evoke a profound sense of participation and jubilation. Commemorating Barack Obama's inaugural in 2008 was certainly a larger-than-life event not only for those physically present in Washington, DC but everyone else who joined the chorus. For the entire global fraternity of people of colour who woke up on 6 November 2008, to witness the major paradigm shift in American biopolitics, that was a finale of sorts of racial justice long due.

Then came the 2017 inaugural, when an Impeach Trump Now website came up - just as the proceedings of the official event unfurled in the American National Mall. Amid the pomp of the change of the guard, many noticed the awkward moment when the new president failed to recognise his wife's presence as he approached the White House residence to shake hands with his outgoing counterparts.

The Biden inauguration is also a contrast to that of his Republican predecessor in that the racial and

gender behaviours are meaningfully switched. Globally, there is as much curiosity for his vice-president as for the president himself. This is where the stuff about current-day fairytales come into play, especially for people of colour who are the decisive majority, but whose agency continues to be dwarfed by inflated legacies of the white West.

Outside American soil and water, the fairytales have touched everybody, but especially spirited the young. Incoming Vice-President Kamala Harris has sweetly captured the imagination of my little girl as we reached an episode of our bedtime story series I have been conjuring up every night on demand.

This is following some 30 snippets of the Maya Angelou series and endless reciting of her Caged Bird poem, leading up to lunchtime debates as to whether a mom, especially a mom during the pandemic lockdown, is a slave; and whether there ever will be a mom's uprising against their little sweethearts.

It is often the Cinderella-esque glitz which stokes life into mega-events, ranging from street uprisings to state inaugurations. They allow us to insert ourselves into aspirations that should be universal and incessant but are not. It is true that the tale of

tan coast standing on the legacy of a black uprising in Euro-America.

Freetown was built in 1787 by freed black slaves from London, and later joined by Nova Scotian Blacks and Jamaican Maroons who had left the New World after having served the abolitionist side in the American Civil War, but were later disillusioned by white abolitionists claiming to speak for the blacks. Once the beacon of black hope, the city is now a dilapidated faraway zone, but the black man moving into the White House in America reverberated its fairytale history in the Nova Scotian houses still erect in Freetown.

Kamala Harris' arrival on the scene extends this fairytale to South Asia and the Caribbean, two civilisations wide apart from one another, yet common in contesting the yet-to-be provincialised hegemony of Euro-America. The feminism of this fairytale also oozes in her girl-romance and the way the first Second Gentleman flanks the vice-president - not as a husbanding lord but a loyal friend.

Fairytales are as much about virtues as faces radiating them. What the Biden-Harris victory signifies is the victory of decency over bullying tactics of racism, classism and misogyny. That is what brings emotions to this victory, especially for those whose skin colours stand

out against the backdrop of the whiteness of the House they are watching. Before Kamala Harris swept through the screens, from Alaska to the Amazon, it would have been difficult to watch a brown little girl straight in her eye and tell her that her birth doesn't sabotage her potential.

*Out of the huts of history's shame, I rise.*

*Up from a past, that's rooted in pain, I rise..*

*Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave.*

*I am the dream and the hope of the slave.*

*I rise*

*I rise*

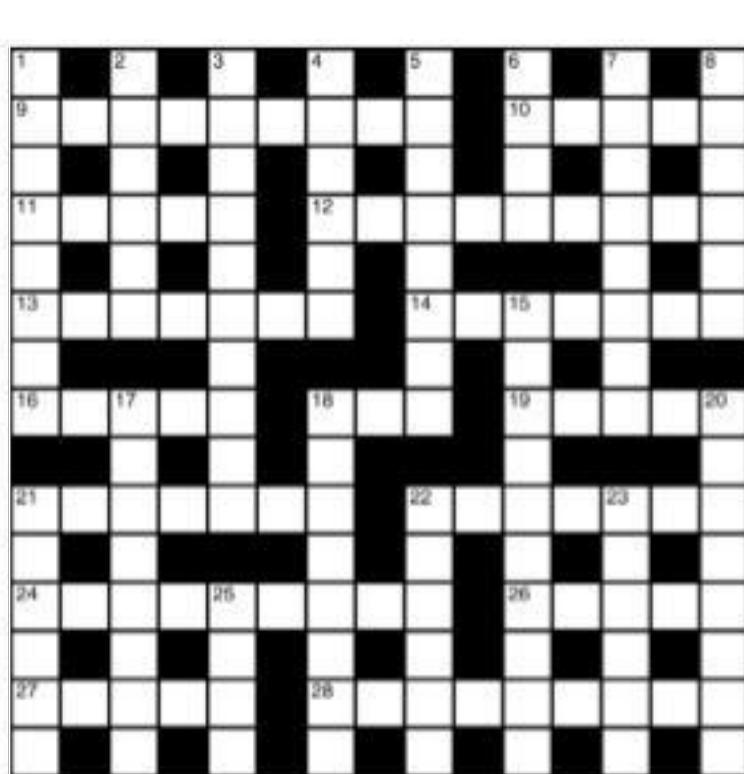
*I rise*

A whole range of women are cheering for Kamala, knowing that the words of Maya Angelou will ring a tinge truer as she becomes the first American vice-president of colour. The message from the US capital has never been more metaphorical. Kamala, a former attorney general of California and US senator, is just a carrier of that metaphor, and the next four years will judge how she carried that poetic duty alongside the legal whose texts she is set to read out on this American inauguration day.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28802

## Crossword



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 9 Old man in French capital gives us back together (4,5)
- 10 Student teacher finds one chewing cud (5)
- 11 Opponent behind (5)
- 12 Drunk having beer stays over: memorable time! (4,5)
- 13 Net income one generates in refurbished atelier (1-6)
- 14 Helen & Co changed formation (7)
- 16 Not completely genuine politician to win (9)

#### DOWN

- 18 surprising victory? (5)
- 19 Really cool hospital given smallest cash amount? (3)
- 21/22 Gag from pen of Spooner? Line causing mischief (7-6)
- 22 Ideal to send back right person in authority (7)
- 24 Artist controlled ticket for use in future (9)
- 26 Friend takes a minute with old soldier making retreat (5)
- 27 Current despondency endless in White House (5)
- 28 Say 51 expelled by monks? Shockingly bad! (9)
- 1 Easy to understand dad backing mum? (8)
- 2 Decay seen in small green vegetable and shrub (6)
- 3 Short ballad penned by a writer in World's End (10)
- 4 Biblical beauty in Paris is that woman? (6)
- 5 What animal, entering flat, turning up in squalid place? (8)
- 6 Alcoholic concoction makes you go mad (4)
- 7 Prisoner, holding a little flower, set to be hung in Tower (8)
- 8 Go in with five by two

- 15 Strengthening strip (6)
- 16 Hears ghoul moving around making raucous cackle (10)
- 17 Awkward and lumbering in an ugly manoeuvre? (8)
- 18 Complaint always loud in the Boleyn castle (3,5)
- 20 Construction you once placed in river (8)
- 21 American silly wearing sleeveless jacket (6)
- 22 See 21 Across
- 23 Greek descendant's animal discovered in vast geological age (6)
- 25 Grab when eating horse meat slice (4)

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



We have asked every insurance company to adopt one aspiration district where awareness creation is done

S C KHUNTIA  
IRDAI CHAIRMAN

## THUMBNAILS

**Cairn arbitration:** A month after a tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ordered India to return \$1.2 billion to UK's Cairn Energy Plc, the company on Wednesday said it is engaged with the Indian government on implementation of the ruling. The three-member tribunal, which comprised a judge appointed by India, last month unanimously overturned a Rs 10,247-crore retrospective tax demand on the British oil and gas company and asked the government to return shares it sold, dividend it seized and tax refunds it stopped to enforce the tax.

PTI

**L&T win:** The power transmission & distribution business of Larsen & Toubro has won a slew of transmission line orders in Bangladesh. The scope of these packages involves design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of extra high-voltage transmission lines on turnkey basis, said a Press release from the company. "The recent wins strengthen the leadership position of our business that caters to power transmission & distribution and renewables EPC projects in the region," said T Madhava Das, whole-time director & senior executive vice-president (utilities).

SNS

**ICC proposal:** The two per cent interest subvention scheme for MSMEs on loans was extended till 31 March next year with few business friendly provisions. The scheme has truly supported Indian MSMEs, said Vikash Agarwal, president, Indian Chamber of Commerce. "The coverage of the scheme is limited to all term loans and working capital to the extent of Rs 100 lakh. We would like to propose that the scheme be extended further with enhanced coverage. We request government to consider 3-4 per cent interest subvention to the extent of Rs 300 lakh," he said.

SNS

**Retail inflation:** Retail inflation for farm and rural workers eased to 3.25 per cent and 3.34 per cent, respectively, in December, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items. "Point to point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers and CPI-RL (rural labourers) decreased to 3.25 per cent and 3.34 per cent in December 2020 from 6 per cent and 5.86 per cent, respectively, in November 2020," a labour ministry statement said.

PTI

**Sebi to Schneider:** Sebi has asked Schneider Electric President Systems to either list on a stock exchange having nationwide terminals within six months or provide exit to its investors under the delisting norms. Sebi said that if the company opts for de-listing, the reference date for computing the floor price would be the date on which the company made the public announcement for the exit offer.

PTI

# Budget must reinvigorate demand: Industry survey

Industry expects govt to continue with its policy focus on strengthening manufacturing ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The upcoming Budget must focus on creating demand, encouraging infrastructure spending and increasing outlays for the social sector, corporate India said in a survey released today.

Corporate India expects the government to continue with its policy focus on strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem, promoting research and development, and incentivising futuristic technologies in the upcoming Budget, the survey by Ficci and Dhruva Advisors said.

With the world's largest immunisation programme currently underway in the country, time is ripe to further accelerate efforts to reinvigorate the economy, it added. "The upcoming Budget must, therefore, focus on creating demand, encouraging infrastructure spends and increasing outlays for the social sector. These are the top

**"**The government's top priority for 2021 should be on pulling the nation through the final phase of the pandemic and enabling quicker economic recovery to pre-Covid levels of growth...

UDAY SHANKAR  
FICCI PRESIDENT





*This new dawn in America is the moment we've been awaiting for so long*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT URSULA VON DER LEYEN  
AS JOE BIDEN READIES TO ENTER THE WHITE HOUSE

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	17°C	15°C
HONG KONG	16°C	12°C
TOKYO	03°C	00°C
LONDON	10°C	09°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	09°C	04°C
NEW YORK	02°C	01°C
MOSCOW	-07°C	-03°C

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

## THUMBNAILS



The sun rises behind the White House at dawn, on Wednesday in Washington. ■ AP

**6 militants killed in Russia:** Chechnya's Kremlin-backed leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, said Wednesday that his forces have killed six suspected militants, including a warlord accused of organizing a 2011 suicide attack at a Moscow airport. He said that troops under his command had tracked down the suspects and killed them on the spot. ■ AP

**Oxygen theft in Mexico:** Thefts of oxygen mounted as Mexico reported its highest daily death toll since the coronavirus pandemic began, with 1,584 deaths confirmed Tuesday. There was also a near-record one-day rise in new virus cases of 18,894. Mexico has seen almost 1.67 million confirmed infections and almost 143,000 test-confirmed deaths. ■ AP

**Italian PM Conte works to cement majority after narrow vote**

ROME, 20 JANUARY

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte worked to solidify his majority in parliament Wednesday after narrowly winning a Senate confidence vote after a junior coalition ally yanked his support over Conte's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Conte was expected to brief President Sergio Mattarella on his prospects to keep governing, though the timing was uncertain. With a reduced majority, Conte will have to cobble together support from outside the current coalition to pass legislation, including aid to help Italy's pandemic-battered economy.

Conte's government on Tuesday survived what amounted to a confidence vote with a 156-to-140 win, with 16 abstentions. The abstentions came from the centrist party of ex-Premier Matteo Renzi, who pulled his ministers from the government last week after complaining about Conte's leadership and management of the European Union's pandemic recovery funds.

Conte's victory margin fell short of the 161 votes needed for an absolute majority in the upper chamber, weakening his already fragile coalition of the 5-Star Movement, the center-left Democratic Party and a smaller party.

Had Conte lost the vote, he would have been required to resign. After the votes were counted, Conte said he intended to press on to confront the pandemic, the economic recession and Italy's Covid vaccination campaign, as well as the spending plan for the more than 2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) in EU recovery funds that Italy is expected to receive.

Now the objective is to solidify the majority. Italy doesn't have a minute to lose, he tweeted.

However, his coalition is already facing pressure from the center-right opposition, which has said it wants an early election. ■ AP

# Trump pardons Bannon, 73 others before leaving WH

Bannon was indicted in defrauding donors in a million dollars fundraising campaign for border wall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 20 JANUARY

Outgoing President Donald Trump has pardoned his former political strategist Steve Bannon, one of the key architects of his 2016 electoral victory, as he issued a wave of pardons using the final hours of his presidency to grant clemency to 143 people.

The record 73 pardons and 70 commutations came in addition to the dozens of similar actions that Trump took after he lost the November 3 presidential elections to Joe Biden of the Democratic Party.

Biden, 78, will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday.

The White House in a statement issued on Wednesday said that Trump granted a full pardon to Bannon, who was in charge of the final months of his 2016 presidential campaign.

Bannon was indicted in August when New York federal prosecutors charged him and three others with defrauding donors of more than a million dollars as part of an online fundraising campaign purportedly aimed at supporting Trump's border wall.

The White House in its statement said Bannon has been an important leader in the conservative movement and is known for his political acumen.

Besides Bannon, other pardon recipients included Elliott Brody, a former top fundraiser for Trump's campaign who pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy relating to a secret lobbying campaign to influence the Trump administration on behalf of a foreign billionaire in exchange for millions of dollars, and Ken Kurson, a friend of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner who was charged last October with cyberstalking during a heated divorce.

As I conclude my term, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together: Trump in farewell video

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 20 JANUARY

Extending his "best wishes" and praying for the success of the new administration in keeping America safe and prosperous, outgoing US President Donald Trump in his farewell address has said that Americans must unify around their shared values and rise above partisan rancour to forge their common destiny.

Trump has still not fully accepted the result of last November's election, which he lost to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump, a Republican, made no mention of Biden in his pre-recorded video address, but did allude to the violence at the Capitol earlier this month.

In the video farewell message released by the White House on Tuesday, Trump, 74, said he embarked on a mission to make America great again for all Americans.

"I took on the tough battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that's what you elected me to do. Your needs were my first and last unyielding focus."

"As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we

have achieved together. We did what we came here to do and so much more," he said. Trump said to serve as the President has been an honor beyond description.

This week, we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck – a very important word,

Trump said on the eve of his departure from the White House for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Trump has announced that he will not attend the inauguration of Biden and Kamala Harris as Vice President. In his message that last-



President Donald Trump gestures as he boards Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on Wednesday in Washington. Trump is en route to his Mar-a-Lago Florida Resort. ■ AP

have achieved together. We did what we came here to do and so much more," he said. Trump said to serve as the President has been an honor beyond description.

This week, we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck – a very important word,

Trump said on the eve of his departure from the White House for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Trump has announced that he will not attend the inauguration of Biden and Kamala Harris as Vice President. In his message that last-

have achieved together. We did what we came here to do and so much more," he said. Trump said to serve as the President has been an honor beyond description.

This week, we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck – a very important word,

Trump said on the eve of his departure from the White House for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Trump has announced that he will not attend the inauguration of Biden and Kamala Harris as Vice President. In his message that last-

Trump also granted a full pardon to rapper Lil Wayne who had pleaded guilty to a gun possession charge in Miami.

Another rapper, Kodak Black, received a commutation after he pleaded guilty to a weapons charge.

Brett Berish of Sovereign Brands, who supports a pardon for Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael

Carter, described him as trustworthy, kind-hearted and generous, the White House said. Wayne has "exhibited this generosity through commitment to a variety of charities, including donations to research hospitals and a host of foodbanks," it said.

He also pardoned former Republican Congressman P. Rick Renzi of Arizona. In 2013, Renzi was convicted of extor-

tion, bribery, insurance fraud, money laundering, and racketeering. He was sentenced to two years in Federal prison, two years of supervised release, and paid a USD 25,000 fine.

Before his conviction, Renzi served three terms in the House of Representatives.

Trump also commuted the prison sentence of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who has served about

administration from January 20, 2017 to January 20, 2021, Trump said it was more than anyone thought possible.

Nobody thought we could even come close, he said as he referred to the largest package of tax cuts, slapping tariffs on China, achieving energy independence and development of a Covid vaccine in a record short span of time. Trump indicated that he might be out of the White House, but he will continue to have an active public life.

Trump has already announced that he will not attend the inauguration of Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice President, becoming the first president to skip his successor's inauguration since Andrew Johnson in 1869.

Trump blocks Venezuelans deportation: With the clock winding down on his term, US President Donald Trump shielded tens of thousands of Venezuelan migrants from deportation Tuesday night, rewarding Venezuelan exiles who have been among his most loyal supporters and who fear losing the same privileged access to the White House during the Biden administration.

seven years behind bars for a racketeering and bribery scheme.

Trump has already pardoned his longtime associates and supporters, including his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort; Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in-law; his longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone; and his former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

# For Biden, chance to turn US crisis into opportunity

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 20 JANUARY

In the 11 weeks since Election Day, the collision of crises confronting President-elect Joe Biden have gone from staggering to almost unimaginable. More than 170,000 Americans have died from Covid during that stretch alone, sending total US deaths soaring past 400,000.

The deep partisan divisions roiling the nation boiled over into violence during the insurrection on the US Capitol, threatening America's long history of peaceful transitions of power and resulting in the second impeachment of the outgoing president.

The economy has steadily weakened, with employers cutting 140,000 jobs just in the month of December.

It falls now to Biden, as he is sworn in on Wednesday, to both level with Americans about the deep trouble facing the nation and cast ahead to a brighter future. He will do so knowing that millions of Americans wrongly believe his election was illegitimate, fueled by the lie perpetuated by President Donald Trump.

Trump himself won't be there to witness Biden's swearing in, having decided to defy tradition and leave Washington Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration.

Taken together, it's as grim a moment as many Americans can remember and far from the celebration Biden, 78, likely imagined over the decades he has pined for the presidency.

There will be no cheering crowd spread out before him on the National Mall when he takes the oath of office as a consequence of the pandemic, but there will be 25,000 National Guard troops securing the streets of Washington in response to the Capitol siege. Historians have put the challenges Biden faces on par with, or even beyond, what confronted Abraham



Lincoln when he was inaugurated in 1861 to lead a nation splintering into civil war or Franklin Delano Roosevelt as he was sworn in during the depths of the Great Depression.

But Lincoln and Roosevelt's presidencies are also a blueprint for the ways American leaders have turned crises into opportunities, pulling people past the partisan divisions or ideological forces that can halt progress.

Crises present unique opportunities for large scale change in a way that an average moment might not, said Lindsay Chervinsky, a presidential historian and author of The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution.

The more intense the crisis, the more likely the country is to get behind someone to try to fix that the concept of uniting in war or uniting against a common threat.

But by some measures, Roosevelt and Lincoln had advantages Biden does not.

Roosevelt's Democratic Party had solid majorities in Congress, helping him power through his expansive agenda.

Lincoln's Republican majorities were added by the secessionist push that dwindled his opponents' ranks in Congress. Biden, meanwhile, will have the narrowest of Democratic majorities in Congress.

There will be no cheering crowd spread out before him on the National Mall when he takes the oath of office as a consequence of the pandemic, but there will be 25,000 National Guard troops securing the streets of Washington in response to the Capitol siege. Historians have put the challenges Biden faces on par with, or even beyond, what confronted Abraham

# Washington DC on lockdown & on edge

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 20 JANUARY



National Guards deploy inside the security perimeter surrounding the Capitol ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration ceremony in Washington. ■ AP

groups the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in. The officials told the AP they had all been removed because of security liabilities. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gen Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, confirmed that Guard members had been removed and sent home but said only two cases were related to inappropriate comments or texts related to the inauguration. He said the other 10 cases were for potential issues that may involve previous criminal behaviour or activities but were not directly related to the inaugural event.

Their removal from the massive security presence at the nation's capital came amid worries from US defense officials about a potential insider attack or other threat from service members following the deadly riot at the US Capitol on January 6 by Trump supporters.

The FBI has been working to vet all 25,000 National Guard in town. Officials have said the Pentagon has found no intelligence so far that would indicate an insider threat. But the FBI has also warned law enforcement officials about the possibility that right-wing fringe groups could pose as members of the National Guard, according to two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter.

Over the summer, a man

carrying a handgun and an assault rifle was arrested in Los Angeles and charged with impersonating a National Guard member during a protest. Actual Guardsmen confronted him when they noticed things out of place on his uniform.

Investigators in Washington are particularly worried that members of right-wing extremist groups and militias, like the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, could descend on Washington to spark violence, the law enforcement officials said.

Some of the extremist groups are known to recruit former military personnel and train extensively and have frequented anti-government and political protests.

That concern intensified significantly after investigators identified members of right-wing extremist groups participating in the Capitol riot.

The nation's capital has been on edge since the deadly insurrection.

A fire in a homeless camp roughly a mile from the Capitol complex prompted an evacuation Monday during a rehearsal for the inauguration.

The arrests of two people with guns who entered the checkpoints set off concerns, though the arrests had no apparent connection to the inauguration.

Federal law enforcement officials have also been wary of increased surveillance of military and law enforcement checkpoints and other posi-

tions. Some National Guard troops have reported people taking pictures and recording them, said the law enforcement officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing security matters.

On the other hand, Biden's inauguration is being held in a city where the police force has been under scrutiny for its handling of protests and the killing of George Floyd.

As Biden prepares to take office, he faces a range of challenges, including the ongoing pandemic, the economic recession, and the social unrest that followed the killing of Floyd.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

He will also face pressure from Congress to pass legislation to address these issues.

# Underpinnings of the farm laws



**State governments may resist the new farm laws because they will impact their revenues, writes ASHIT KUMAR SRIVASTAVA**

**W**hat has transpired in India in the last couple of months is hard to imagine for a democratic country, especially a country that pays obeisance to the value of dissent. However, it is not the first time in 2020 that a mass protest has taken place; lest someone would have forgotten the early January–February protest against the CAA. While that protest was largely diffused by the corona protocols, a similar ambiance contrived to perpetuate the anti-farm laws protest.

Still, this time the Supreme Court has played an instrumental role in seeking to diffuse the tense situation by forming a four-person committee to look into the ground-level situation and has stayed the application of the laws. This is an unprecedented move by the Supreme Court - not going into the legality of the laws but of staying their application. However, the Supreme Court did show dismay at the Government not effectively consulting the interested parties before bringing the laws. Yet, it chose to stay application rather than question the legality of the Acts.

The proclaimed USP of the Acts has been that they will work as a safeguard against the Commission Agent's exploitation, which has been going on for decades. It cannot be denied that for decades there has been a commission agent system operating under the Agriculture Produce Market Act, 1961. As per the APMC or Mandi system conventions, a farmer can sell his agriculture produce through a platform set up in the mandi. The Commission Agent plays the role of a mediator between the farmer and the buyer, for which the Agent is paid a 2.5 per cent commission on the sale. This percentage is further swelled with rural development charge and fee on agricultural sale; cumulatively this makes up 7 to 8 per cent of the sale.

Now, the serious allegation raised against the Commission Agents or Arthiyas (as they are known in Punjab and Haryana) is that they buy the product from the farmers at a low cost and sell the same product to buyers at a higher cost. This particular transaction between the Arthiyas and the Farmer is discreet; no one can decipher what was paid by

the Arthiyas to the Farmer as most of the transactions take place using hard cash, the only proof of payment from Arthiyas to a farmer is Form J.

Most members of Agricultural Product Market Committee, which regulates the mandi, are nominated by the State Government, which leaves scope for nomination of persons with political nexus on the committee. The other reason why the farmers are protesting is the lack of institutional credit, as most of the farmers' transactions are in cash. The Arthiyas or Commission Agents are happy to lend money to farmers at a very high rates; this lending of money and charging high rates happens discreetly and informally. That is why it also becomes a source of floating black-money. This also creates a trust-relation between Arthiyas and farmers. This lending and indebtedness of farmers binds them in a circle of debt, a fact effectively portrayed in an article titled '*Indebtedness among farmers and agricultural labourers in rural Punjab*' available on EPW.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 tries to break this conventional construct of farmers' debt by recognizing their innate capacity as traders and allowing them to sell their produce outside the Mandi. In fact, as per the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection

(Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act), it will be the responsibility of the State government to facilitate the farmers in making inter-state sales of their agriculture produce, even making e-sales outside the State.

So, why are the State Governments against it?

First of all, the farm laws make a big dent in the revenues of the State Government, as the fee on the sale of agricultural produce through Mandi contributes about Rs 3,600 crore to the State Governments. Rendering the mandi obsolete will directly affect the operating revenues of a State Government and impact the life of Arthiyas. It bears recall that in 2017, the Arthiyas association of Punjab bestowed upon Captain Amarinder Singh the title of '*Fakhar-e-Qaum*'. The other reason that State governments do not favour the farm laws is that they regard it as a direct violation of the federal structure of the country. Knowing that agricultural as an entry falls within the State List, how can the Union Government utilise the Concurrent list for making laws on a subject that patently falls within State list, they ask.

This is something the Union Government defends on the grounds of Entries 33 and 34 of the Concurrent List. The Union Government suggests that Entry 33 gives enough power to the Union Government to legislate on agriculture matters. However, State Governments regard it as a direct violation of entries 14, 24, and 28 of the State List. Entry 14 clearly says, "Agriculture including agriculture education and research, protection against pests and protection against pests and prevention of plant diseases." The broad heading of 'Agriculture' gives the State Government enough power to levy fee on agricultural sale in a Mandi especially when read with entry 28, 'Markets and Fairs', which also empowers them to levy rural development charges on an APMC.

The Supreme Court ruling on this matter is quite clear and pretty much in consonance with the wording of the Constitution. Under Article 246 (3), which delineates the sphere of law-making for the State Government, the State's law-making power is subject to the law-making power of the Union Government under Article 246 (2). Article 246 (2) which includes laws made by Parliament under the Concurrent List, says: "...Parliament also, have power to make laws in list III in the Seventh Schedule..." and Article 246 (3) starts with "Subject to clause (1) and (2)...", which means laws made by the Centre would have supremacy over State laws. In the case of *State of West Bengal v. Kesoram Industries Pvt. Ltd.* (2004) 10 SCC 201, the Supreme Court under paragraph 31 has quite clearly held that in case of a clash between the Union Law and State laws, the Union law would prevail. However, the Court also held that in case of a clash of the laws, the Court should try to reconcile the laws with each other to ensure their harmonious existence. In case it is not possible to have a harmonious existence, then the Court should apply the doctrine of Pith and Substance to decipher which sphere (State or Union) has the legitimate right over the entry. The doctrine of Pith and Substance is nothing but a proximity test to determine whether a particular law is closer to the Union List or the State List. However, this is the existing jurisprudence. What the Supreme Court will decide on the issue of these three laws will be known in future.

Yet one point which needs to be clarified is that the new farm laws do not intend to bring the APMC system to an end. Yet the fact that the laws allow a fee-free medium of making inter-state sales and freedom to sell outside the mandi may by default make the mandi obsolete.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Jalandhar.

## WHY JUDGES RULE THE WAY THEY DO

**Decisions of the judiciary in Pakistan appear to evolve according to the situation that exists, argues BASIL NABI MALIK.**

"Two things awe me most, the starry sky above me and the moral law within me"

— Immanuel Kant

**M**orality and the law have never been more closely linked than when it comes to the question of whether the ends justify the means. This is especially true when analysing the Pakistani judiciary's decision-making fundamentals.

Typically, in making any decision, a judge grapples with not only the legal aspects of the matter, but also with ensuring that legal interpretations yield equitable results. For certain judges, an equitable end is imperative. Although processes are useful tools to reach such a conclusion, the judge might view these as possible impediments to substantive justice, and as such, these are used to justify a desirable end as opposed to allowing them to determine the outcome themselves.

For others, the process is of overriding importance, and even if the process results in a lawful, but less than desirable result, that is the price for a non-arbitrary decision-making mechanism. In essence, the judge relies on procedure and process to insulate his or her legal reasoning from daily pressures and influences.

The struggle between these two worldviews is real and polarising. Written judgements signed over the decades showcase these varying approaches, with process-driven verdicts arguably focusing more on procedural elements of the law, and end-specific judgements concentrating on the equities of the decision itself.

The pertinent questions relate to: what determines which approach of a judge? Do all judges have a one-dimensional approach that is applied to all situations? Or do their approaches evolve and adapt to the circum-



stances? In answering these questions, two factors seem to be constants in determining which approach is adopted by a judge when confronted by questions of constitutionality and public interest — firstly, populist sentiment, and secondly, the power dynamics of the establishment and stakeholders vis-a-vis popular sentiment.

Regarding the former, popular sentiments of the population may figure significantly in decision-making at any particular time. This is not to say that the judiciary renders its deci-

sions merely on the touchstone of populist rhetoric and devoid of any legal reasoning, but that such sentiments do hold sway in determining what an equitable end may be, and coincidentally, may also garner greater legitimacy for the judiciary.

In relation to the latter, at no point does it seem that popular sentiment is solely at play in determining what may be an appropriate approach. Power dynamics in the corridors of power vis-a-vis popular sentiment are also seen to have a role in determining where a jus-

tifiable end may lie and whether any decision shall result in more legitimacy for the judiciary. In essence, where the influence of the formal and informal power structures is far more overwhelming than the intensity of populist sentiment, equitable ends tend to gravitate towards decisions institutionalising a sense of stability in otherwise tumultuous times. Such considerations tend to augment existing power structures, that is the status quo.

All in all, the 'equitable result' is hostage to the overall circumstances in which the judgement or decision is rendered. On account of the ever-changing nature of such influence over the decades, one can see radically different decisions being rendered at different times in our history.

That is perhaps why the Supreme Court can in one breath validate martial laws as revolutionary acts, whilst later on denounce the same as unconstitutional and treasonous. It may also explain why, despite the illegality of the 1990 Benazir Bhutto government dissolution, the government was not restored, whilst in dealing with the 1993 Nawaz Sharif government dissolution, the Supreme Court not only held it to be illegal, but also restored Mr Sharif's government.

It also explains why Pakistan's Supreme Court, despite having a clear aversion to military courts in earlier judgements, stepped in and sanctified them in a decision rendered after the horrendous APS tragedy. It also may help us put into a theoretical framework the perceived dissimilarity of response in relation to the reference against the former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, and the present scrutiny of Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

On account of this link and the tension among public sentiment, the prevailing power structures and the overall circumstances, the decisions of the judiciary appear to adapt and evolve according to the existing situation. Being intrinsically linked, it appears that in order to create greater consistency in the decision-making process of the judicial set-up, it is also necessary that greater stability and balance be maintained in the overall power structures of the country.

The writer is a lawyer.

## SHOULD PRINCIPLES PROTECT CRIMINALS?

**Can journalists legitimately refuse to hand over unpublished images of a riot to law enforcement agencies, asks ANTHONY FARGO.**

The images from the January 6 siege on the United States Capitol will likely be seared into the memories of many Americans.

Photographs and video published in print, online and on television showed protesters breaking windows to enter the building, sitting at a desk in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office and confronting an outnumbered Capitol police force.

However, it may be the unpublished images that will be of most interest to law enforcement agencies as they track down and arrest as many of the rioters as possible for breaking a range of laws. The agencies may request or demand that news organizations turn over their unpublished material, which would force the media outlets to make uncomfortable choices.

Journalists argue that if they are forced to reveal confidential sources or turn over any news information they have gathered but not yet published, it will erode the trust of sources and the public, who will doubt the independence that journalists often claim.

Journalists serve the public, not the government. But is the public better served by bringing criminals to justice than protecting a journalistic principle? Many of the people who participated in the attack on the Capitol building have been identified and arrested, some with help from photos published by the media and selfies and videos taken by the protesters.

As the search for more suspects continues, if authorities seek unpublished images from the news media and media outlets willingly cooperate, it could put journalists in greater danger when covering future protests. Protesters may see them as potential informants and physically attack them to avoid being identified later.

If the outlets resist and force authorities to issue subpoenas for the images, it is unlikely to improve the media's standing with a distrustful public because it may appear the news organizations are obstructing justice.

Covering unrest is always dangerous for journalists, but the situation at the Capitol was especially so. The protesters were supporters of President Donald Trump, who has often referred to the media as the "enemy of the people." Someone carved the words "Murder the Media" into a door in the building, and news outlets lost thousands of dollars of equipment when it was stolen and smashed by protesters.

During protests after George Floyd was killed while being taken into police custody last summer, several reporters were injured and possibly targeted by protesters and police officers.

In Seattle, police subpoenaed the *Seattle Times* and several television stations in June 2020 to obtain unpublished images from protests there to identify people suspected of criminal activity. The news organizations challenged the subpoenas in court under Washington state's shield law, which protects journalists from being forced to name confidential sources or turn over unpublished information to state authorities. The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press filed a brief supporting the news organizations' position, in which it argued that enforcing the subpoena would jeopardize journalists' safety as well as their editorial independence.

A judge ruled against them. Police later dropped the subpoenas because media appeals of the judge's decision were likely to take too long to resolve.

Because the Capitol siege happened on federal government property, the incident is being investigated by federal authorities, meaning any court challenges to subpoenas would likely end up in federal court. This complicates matters.

Forty states have shield laws, but there is no federal shield law. In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that journalists do not have a First Amendment right to refuse to reveal sources' identities in response to a valid grand jury subpoena.

The *Branzburg v. Hayes* decision was so divided, however, that many lower federal courts have limited its reach to grand jury situations. This means that journalists have a better chance of winning if they are subpoenaed to provide evidence in civil lawsuits or at criminal trials.

The Jan. 6 incident does not involve confidential sources. Some federal courts have ruled that non-confidential material gathered by journalists, including unpublished images, is also protected from disclosure, but the protection is usually less comprehensive than for confidential material.

Given the seriousness of the Capitol incident, which led to five deaths, it would be difficult for journalists to successfully argue that their interests are more important than those of law enforcement. I have been studying the law regarding journalists and their sources for nearly 24 years. To my knowledge, U.S. journalists have rarely made the argument that they could face physical danger if they are forced to turn over information they have gathered. The closest parallel is a *Washington Post* reporter who successfully fought a subpoena from a war crimes tribunal 20 years ago because of fears of retribution in foreign conflict zones.

One possible solution would be for news outlets to publish all images that have not already been published on their websites. That way, both the public and law enforcement agents would have access without a bruising legal battle over making the images available only to the police. A bonus would be that the public would have even more information about what happened.

The writer is Director, Center for International Media Law and Policy Studies, Indiana University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com



## 'HUGE FALLOUT'

The legendary Shane Warne (in photo, left) believes the embarrassing Test series loss to an under-strength India will result in a "huge fallout" in the Australian team and said a few heads could roll in the coming days. "I think there'll be a huge fallout from this (defeat). There's not too many times that you lose to the second or third (choice) side," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox Cricket.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

**F**irst things first. There is no imminent threat to Virat Kohli's captaincy in any format and neither is BCCI even remotely thinking on those lines.

But that's the news part of the story. When it comes to views, there are many -- some are quite open about the theory of split captaincy and some are speaking about it in hushed tones. Ajinkya Rahane's calm demeanour in India's biggest overseas series win has opened up a debate but to disappoint the fans of the Test vice-captain, there is little chance of a permanent anointment for him in the immediate future.

However, there could be a paradigm shift in how the leadership group in the Indian cricket team works when Kohli re-enters that dressing room after a month-long paternity break.

When Kohli left, it was a team that was down in the dumps -- dismissed for its lowest Test score of 36. But a lot has changed since that fateful afternoon in Adelaide. While head coach Ravi Shastri is absolutely right in saying that this team bears Kohli's "stamp and character" but from December 19 in Adelaide to January 19 in Brisbane, a few senior cricketers will be perceived a bit differently.

Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara and certainly Rahane, in their own little way, have created a legacy but post Brisbane, that

legacy will need proper acknowledgement. These four will not ask for it as they have now earned it after quite literally putting their bodies on line.

So when Kohli enters that Indian dressing room, he will remain the "first" but "among equals" in a leadership group that possibly will be more inclusive.

On Tuesday, when PTI had put forth a question on this to stand-in skipper Rahane after the match got over but expectantly, his tight defence couldn't be breached. The question was how would he feel when he again takes a back-seat with Kohli returning to the steering wheel in his hands. "I don't want to think about all these things. This is a victory that we all need to enjoy and I will think about England series once I am back in India," Rahane dodged the question.

But in his heart, the Mumbaiwala couldn't have possibly forgotten that he, as a sitting vice-captain, was dropped from the Indian playing XI during the 2018 South Africa series.

While one can give a sound explanation for that decision but the fact that a vice-captain was dropped cannot be seen in isolation. Now, Rahane -- India's third highest run-scorer in the series with 268 runs after Rishabh Pant (274) and Cheteshwar Pujara (271) -- has cemented his own place in the annals of Indian cricket history. And however reticent or unexpressive he might be, his voice will now be heard if he wants it to be heard. That has changed certainly.



"His hundred put us back on track," Shastri was the first to acknowledge his impact. Take Ravichandran Ashwin (12 wickets in 3 games) which was just one behind the team's debutant star Mohammed Siraj for example. Even he would agree that this series is his best overseas performance and the way he made Steve Smith his bunny would be remembered for a long time. But as Ashwin, who will probably be the fourth Indian to reach 400-wicket club in some time, been feted as Nathan Lyon has been in his own country? Lyon's wickets at MCG, SCG and Adelaide are spoken in glowing terms but has the extremely cerebral cricketer got his due for all the wickets that he has taken at Chennai, Nagpur, Pune and Hyderabad? When find of the series Siraj (13 wickets) was racially abused, the public stance that Ashwin took and the statement he made was no less than Anil Kumble's statesmanship during the 'Mongkeygate' series.

"When Siraj told us, we seniors, Rohit, Jinks and myself decided that we need to report the matter to the match referee," Ashwin had said in Sydney after the incident. He spoke about how three seniors came together to rally around Siraj and comfort him when he faced abuse. Kohli knows that Ashwin is one of the most astute voices and after the fight in Sydney, he will also be heard more in that dressing room. And then there is Pujara (271), who played 928 balls and

the Brisbane victory belongs to the man from Rajkot as much as it belongs to Pant. Pujara took those blows to show that resistance at times could also mean intent and like Shastri said, he is a "Warrior" who needs to be valued.

Pant was slipping down the radar but Rahane has put an arm around him and let him blossom in his own way.

May be when the ball starts keeping low and turns in Chennai, Kohli will keep faith in him and if dropped, Pant has done enough to owe him an explanation for that. Rohit looked good in three of the four innings and he had that calming influence on India's newest batting sensation Shubman Gill (259 runs) during those opening partnerships. Rohit loves white ball cricket but he values the white India shirt for which he was ready to spend 14 days in hard quarantine in Sydney.

All of it just to play two Test matches. He has taken those five catches at the slips and certainly, as a part of the leadership group, he had a role in Navdeep Saini's pace being preferred over T Natarajan's swing at Sydney.

"It doesn't come overnight but now that you have this self-belief, you can see where you have taken a game as a team. Today forget India, the whole world will stand up and salute you. "So remember what you guys have done today. You need to enjoy this moment, don't let it just go away, enjoy as much as you can," advised the young batsman. Batting mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara, who took blows to his body but stayed firm, match-winner

Forget India, the whole world will stand up and salute you: Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BRISBANE, 20 JANUARY

There were smiles, lots of whistles and a round of applause to each other every few seconds as India coach Ravi Shastri got down to commanding the "courage, resolve and spirit" of his wounded warriors in a stirring dressing room speech after the conquest at Gabba.

It was a little over three-minute speech that Shastri delivered after his injury-ravaged side chased down an imposing 328 in the fourth and final Test to hand Australia their first loss in 32 years at 'Fortress Gabba' to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in style. "The courage, the resolve, the spirit, that you guys have shown is unreal. Not for once you were down, injuries, 36 all out (in the first Test), you had the self-belief in you," an emotional Shastri said with captain Ajinkya Rahane standing calmly by his side.

"It doesn't come overnight but now that you have this self-belief, you can see where you have taken a game as a team. Today forget India, the whole world will stand up and salute you. "So remember what you guys have done today. You need to enjoy this moment, don't let it just go away, enjoy as much as you can," advised the young batsman. Batting mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara, who took blows to his body but stayed firm, match-winner

Rishabh Pant's extraordinary strokeplay, and young opener Shubman Gill's calm counter-attack drew special appreciation from Shastri.

"It started in Melbourne. Sydney was fantastic, it allowed us to come here even-steven. And to pull off something (like this) today was simply outstanding," said Shastri. "Shubman great, great. Puji you will be known as the ultimate warrior," said Shastri to whistles, especially from young pacer Mohammed Siraj, and applause from the team. "And Rishabh, simply outstanding. The way you were batting, you gave heart attacks to a few every moment but what you have done is magnificent," he added as the keeper-batsman looked on with a child-like grin on his face. The man who continued to be resolutely calm amid the obvious excitement was Rahane and he nodded in acceptance as Shastri acknowledged his leadership. "Fix to lead the side from the position where we were to make them bounce back and control things in the middle like the way you have done is simply, simply, brilliant," said the 58-year-old former all-rounder. And finally, Shastri applauded T Natarajan, the net bowler who became a front-liner, and the duo of Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur, the men who made as much difference with the bat as with the ball.

## We were scared to lose, says Clarke

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MELBOURNE, 20 JANUARY

Former captain Michael Clarke (in photo) has criticised Australia's "negative" approach in the Test loss to an under-strength Indian team, saying the hosts instead of pushing aggressively for wins, seemed scared of defeat.

Clarke, however, refused to blame team leader Tim Paine for the unthinkable Test series defeat at home. An injury-ravaged India beat Australia by three wickets in the final game in Brisbane on Tuesday to win the series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"I thought we might have been a tad negative at certain stages throughout because we were scared to lose versus attack hard and look to win the game," Clarke said on Big Sports Breakfast. Under Paine, Australia have competed in 23 Tests and have managed to win only 11 of them. Two Test series defeats at home against India make his record look worse.

"When I played cricket, when I grew up watching my father ... the captain was accountable in the teams I played in. Through that transition of me captaining Australia, that changed.

"There had become a chairman of selectors that had more pull, there had become a high performance manager that

whether we lost with 20 overs left in the game or on the last ball of the game, it didn't matter. We had to win that game to win that trophy."

"I sort of feel we should have approached the first ball of that game to the last ball of that game with a bit more of that attitude," Clarke said. There was a time when the buck stopped with the captain but it should not be the case anymore since there are other professionals, who call the shots in the Australian set up.

"With the bat, you can't fault him. He goes along with Marnus Labuschagne as having one of the best techniques in the team. He stood up and took on the Indian players."

'We were outplayed by India'

Star opener David Warner on Wednesday admitted that Australia were outplayed by India during their 1-2 Test series loss and credited the visitors for achieving the stupendous feat.

A battered and bruised India on Tuesday claimed a three-wicket win in the series-deciding fourth Test at the Gabba, a month after being humiliated at Adelaide where they were bowled out for their lowest-ever Test score of 36.

"... Not the result we would have liked but credit where

credit is due. Well done team India on the series win. Some great stories will and have come out of this for India," Warner, who had missed the first two Tests due to a groin injury, wrote on his Instagram page.

"For us, we fought hard and did our very best, but we were outplayed. Well done to @patcummins30 for a man of the series."

## CA lauds India for epic Test series win

Cricket Australia on Wednesday saluted the Indian team's "resilience, courage and skill" during its historic Test series win over the hosts, and expressed gratitude to the BCCI for the "sacrifices" it made to ensure a smooth conduct of the epic contest. A second-string Indian team, led by Ajinkya Rahane, braved all odds to defeat a full-strength Australia by three wickets at the Gabba here to win the four-Test series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on Tuesday in Brisbane.

"On behalf of everyone at Cricket Australia, we congratulate Team India for their resilience, courage and skill demonstrated in retaining the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in a series that will be talked about for generations to come," CA wrote in a Thank You note to the BCCI.

## Prannoy upsets Christie in Thailand Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BANGKOK, 20 JANUARY

Indian shuttler H S Prannoy battled through pain in his ribcage and a shoulder injury to stun Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie in the opening round of Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

A former top 10 player, Prannoy showed great resilience in the men's singles competition and didn't let the physical discomfort distract his focus, outwitting the world number seven Christie 18-21, 21-16, 23-21 in a thrilling contest that clocked an hour and 15 minutes. It was Prannoy's first win against the sixth seeded Indonesian in last four attempts.

The 28-year-old from Kerala had spent two weeks stressing over his physical and mental health after contracting COVID-19 last November. The infection left him with pain in his ribcage even though everything looked normal in the tests. He could resume training only in the second week of December but had to go through the ordeal of a false COVID positive result ahead of the Yonex Thailand Open last week.

Also released by MI was

## Smith released as Samson named RR captain, Raina retained by CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Sanju Samson replaced Steve Smith as Rajasthan Royals captain after the Australian batsman and some other under-performing stars were released by their respective IPL franchises even as Chennai Super Kings retained veteran Suresh Raina for the upcoming IPL-14.

The deadline for the eight franchises to submit the lists of retained and released players for the next edition of the lucrative league ended on Wednesday.

Samson was appointed to the top job after RR decided against renewing former skipper Steve Smith's contract. "As the IPL has grown, the captaincy has become a year-round task, and as such strong local Indian leadership has become increasingly important," said RR owner Manoj Badale in a statement.

CSK's Harbhajan Singh and Mumbai Indians' Lasith Malinga were among the other big names to be released by their respective sides ahead of next month's auction. Harbhajan was joined by the likes of Kedar Jadhav, Piyush Chawla and Murali Vijay who were also let go by the franchise.

Questions had been raised

Sherfane Rutherford, while Delhi Capitals decided to enter the next edition without English batsman Jason Roy, wicketkeeper Alex Carey, leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane and seamer Mohit Sharma.

## KKR retain Kuldeep, Karthik

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have retained Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav and Dinesh Karthik among others ahead of the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) player auction, which is expected to be held next month. Kuldeep played just five matches in the 2020 season before falling out of contention for a spot in the playing XI. He played just one ODI during India's recently concluded tour of Australia and couldn't make it to the playing XI in the four-Test series even after frontline spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were injured.

Questions had been raised over whether Dinesh Karthik will be retained by KKR this season after he was replaced by Eoin Morgan as captain halfway through the 2020 season. Morgan's England team mate Tom Banton are among the six players who have been released by the two-time IPL champions.

## Kerala Blasters beat Bengaluru 2-1

AGENCIES  
GOA, 20 JANUARY

Kerala Blasters came back from behind to rivals Bengaluru FC 2-1 in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash on Wednesday at the GMC Stadium, Bambolim.

Cleiton Silva had given Bengaluru the lead in the 24th minute but Puitea (73'), who came on as a substitute in the

## They've earned the right, says McCullum

## DANIEL GALLAN

It was frustration, rather than joy or despair, that hung in the air after New Zealand's 199-run win over England at Leeds in June 2015. BJ Watling's 120 in the second dig and wickets across the board saw the Black Caps square the series 1-1.

"If you were a boxing promoter you'd be asking for a rematch right now," said Alastair Cook, who struck 16 and 162 in a 124 run win for his side at Lord's the week before. There would be no decider. Like toddlers arguing over the last remaining cookie, the two captains begrudgingly shared the spoils. "We've got to earn the right," said a philosophical Brendon McCullum on the absence of a third Test. "Our performances over a period haven't been good enough to demand longer Test series."

Back then, New Zealand were ranked as the third best

Test team in the world, two places above England. They hadn't lost a series since 2013 and had gone unbeaten at home since 2012. But these results still weren't deemed good enough for a marquee tour. In fact, New Zealand last played a four-match series in 1999 and have never in their 92-year history played a five-match rubber.

On December last year the Black Caps entered new territory by ascending to the top of the ICC's Test rankings. Two comprehensive wins over Pakistan capped off an impressive run that has seen Kane Williamson's side win 11 of their last 15 series. Now that they're looking down on the rest of the world, their former skipper believes some adjustments are in order. "They should now be considered a big ticket-globally," McCullum tells The Independent. "We're never going to be a big player com-

mercially so I've always said performances will be what earns New Zealand the right to contest three, four, even five-match series. Now there's no disputing that."

McCullum inherited the captaincy from Ross Taylor in January 2013 and in his first innings in charge watched his side bowl out for 45 in Cape Town. "We were underachieving, underworking, had too many egos and were probably overpaid for what we were delivering at the time," McCullum says. "The New Zealand public couldn't stand us. We weren't representing the people like we were supposed to. That was ground-breaking moment for us. We'd hit ground zero and had to rebuild." For three years, McCullum injected an intensity into the side while remaining true to his core values focussed on integrity and hard work. THE INDEPENDENT

## KKFI introduces scientific training for players

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

While the sporting world is still trying to find ways to make a comeback fully after the coronavirus outbreak, the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) along with Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) is all set to uplift the skillset of its players with the introduction of revolutionary High-Performance Assessment and Scientific Analysis & Evaluation Programme - "Rise in Sports Excellence" - for the very first time.

During a rigorous camp of almost a month, scheduled from January 18 to February 16, 138 players, including 18 women players, will be monitored by vastly experienced experts at Manav Rachna Sports Science Centre in Faridabad and SGT University in Gurugram to develop a pool of athletes who are assessed, scientifically monitored and transformed to become champions of the game. The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju along with Rajeev Mehta, General Secretary, IOA and popular sporting personalities like India's individual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra, Sushil Kumar, only Indian to win consecutive Olympic medals, and top cricketers Suresh Raina and Mohammed Shami were present on Tuesday to inaugurate the coaching camp, where Kho Kho players have been selected from across the country for one of its

kind scientific evaluation program. "I have always believed sports science is the future of sports. To make India a sporting powerhouse, each sport needs to be developed, especially indigenous sports like Kho Kho which is a speed-reliant sport. I congratulate Sudhanshu Mittal (Mittal) as well as Amit Burman ji for lending their support," said the Sports Minister Rijiju. "I would like to thank our Sports Minister, Mr Kiren Rijiju for coming here today and motivating the players. This camp will be a milestone for Sports Science and Technology in developing our players in many ways and am grateful for the support towards development by the Ministry, Sports Authority of India and Ultimate Kho Kho, our partners in this vision development," KKFI president Sudhanshu Mittal said.