

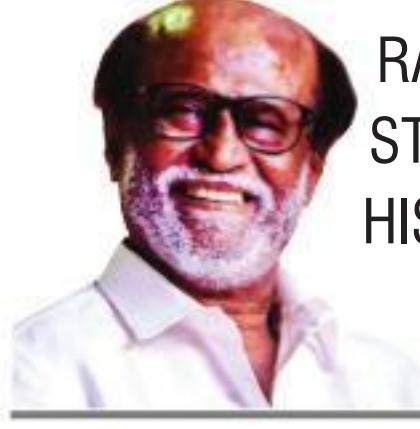


Pages 12 | ₹5 | LC

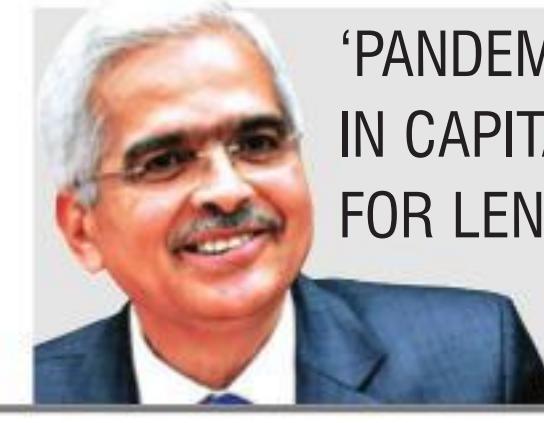
KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

# The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



RAJINI ASKS FANS TO  
STOP PROTESTS OVER  
HIS POLITICAL ENTRY



'PANDEMIC WILL RESULT  
IN CAPITAL SHORTFALL  
FOR LENDERS'

P4



DEMOCRATS TO  
STEP UP BID TO  
IMPEACH TRUMP

P10

twitter.com/TheStatesmanLtd  
facebook.com/thestatesman1875

OFF TO GABBA  
AS TALKS END  
UNCERTAINTY



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 18 and 07 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 57%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 17.5°C (-3) Min: 07.0°C (0)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

07:15 hrs 17:44 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

07:23 hrs 16:50 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



People sit near a bonfire on a cold evening in the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

**Union minister hurt in car accident; wife killed:** Union Minister Shripad Naik's wife and personal secretary died on Monday after the car the three were travelling in met with an accident in Karnataka. His wife and his personal secretary Deepak, who were critical after the crash, died in the hospital, police confirmed. The minister is out of danger. The accident occurred in Ankola district of Karnataka.

**Covid vaccine vials to arrive in Kolkata today:** The first consignment of around 70-80 lakh vials of Covid-19 vaccines is likely to reach the city on Tuesday, a senior official of the state health department said. Four vehicles have been readied to ferry the consignment from the city airport to state-owned Central Family Welfare Stores at Bagbazar—the biggest depot for stockpiling vaccines in Bengal. Five walk-in coolers and four walk-in-freezers have been prepared to store the vials.

## Put farm laws on hold or we will: Top court to Centre

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the Centre's vehement opposition to its suggestion that the implementation of three new farm laws be held back for the time being so as to help find an amicable solution to the ongoing farmers' protest against them at Delhi borders.

While rapping the Centre for its handling of farmers' protest against the new laws, the apex court said that either the implementation of these statutes be held back or the top court itself will proceed to do so on the recommendation of a court-appointed committee which is to be constituted.

We don't see why there is an insistence on implementation of the law, a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said, adding We are not experts on economy and you

### CJI PULLS UP CENTRE OVER AGRILAWS

"We don't see why there is an insistence on implementation of the law. The Union of India has to take the responsibility. The laws have resulted into a strike and now you or we will do this," have to solve the strike."

"The top court said it will constitute a committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India to resolve the impasse. After the implementation of farm laws are stayed, you can carry on protest and we don't want anyone to say that we stifled the protest, Supreme Court bench headed by CJI Bobde told advocates appearing for several organisations

(Centre) tell us whether you are going to hold on these laws or we will do this.

Attorney General KK Venugopal told the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and VRamasubramanian, that a law cannot be stayed unless the court finds it viola-

lates fundamental rights or constitutional schemes.

Law has to be without the power to legislate, only then it can be stayed. No petitioners have raised any such issues, Venugopal said.

The bench however observed, We are doing this

said it may stay the implementation of these laws as talks between the government and farmers are breaking down because the Centre wants to discuss these legislations point by point, while the farmers want them to be repealed.

When the Attorney General said that laws cannot be stayed in such manner, the bench said, We are at this position. We are sorry to say that you have not been able to solve this problem. You as the Union of India has failed to solve the problem and the agitation.

The bench referred to the apexcourt's last year order staying the implementation of 2018 Maharashtra law granting reservation to Marathas in education and jobs.

The bench said that till date it has not been told anything by the Centre on the proposal given by the top court to keep the implementation of these laws at abeyance for

some time. We are still thinking it is equally important that we stay the implementation of law without staying the laws, the bench said.

The top court said it will constitute a committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India to resolve the impasse.

After the implementation of farm laws are stayed, you can carry on protest and we don't want anyone to say that we stifled the protest, the bench told the advocates appearing for several farmer organisations.

The apex court asked the parties to suggest two-three names of former CJIs including former CJI R M Lodha who can head the apex court-appointed panel.

The court was hearing a clutch of pleas challenging the new farm laws as well as the ones raising issues related to the ongoing agitation at Delhi borders.

## Bird flu confirmed in 10 states so far: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The Centre on Monday said bird flu has been confirmed in 10 states so far and stressed on increased surveillance around water bodies, live bird markets, zoos, poultry farms, etc. along with proper disposal of carcass, and strengthening of biosecurity in poultry farms.

"Till 11 January, 2021, Avian Influenza has been confirmed in 10 states of the country," the department of animal husbandry and dairy

Pradesh— as on 10 January.

On Monday, bird flu has also been confirmed in Delhi, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. States have been asked to build awareness

among the public and avoid the spread of misinformation and to prevent panic.

"States/ UTs have been requested to increase surveillance around water bodies, live bird markets, zoos, poultry farms, etc. along with proper disposal of carcass, and strengthening of biosecurity in poultry farms," it said.

The Centre has also directed states to maintain adequate stock of PPE kits and other accessories required for culling operations.

It has asked state animal husbandry departments to ensure effective communication and coordination with health authorities for close vigilance of the disease status and avoid any chances of transmission of the disease into humans.

Details on Page 5

Indian Army hands over apprehended PLA soldier to China

NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The Indian Army handed back to Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier, who was apprehended on 8 January, at Chushul-Moldo this morning. As per the laid down procedures, medical examination of the PLA soldier was done before he was handed over to the Chinese side, The Indian Army said.

The Indian Army had apprehended the Chinese soldier on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control near the south bank of Pangong Tso in Ladakh.

Troops from either side are deployed along the LAC since friction erupted last year due to mobilisation and forward concentration by China," the Army said on Saturday. SNS

## Vihari, Ashwin pull off memorable draw at SCG

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY  
KOLKATA, 11 JANUARY

Years, even decades later, the story will be told and retold for posterity, by fireplaces and at dinner tables.

Monday's inconclusive, nerve-jangling end to the Sydney fest would have made Indians all over the world happy quite obviously because their injury-ravaged and racially slighted team fought successfully to stave off a resurgent host who had been smelting victory and a 2-1 lead in the four-match Test series.

But the inhibiting circumstances, part of which was the bitterly unrelenting hostile milieu so far from home, and the outcome the third Test eventually yielded also added a dimension to the exchanges

that, while not quite ennobling in their entirety, euphemistically speaking, enriched the cricket-watching experience of today's young fans of the game, who might now begin to see things in a new light, one that could leave them in no doubt that Twenty20 was not all there was to it.

The conventional format lends itself to dramatic developments occurring over a period of time in a way that the shorter forms cannot ever be associated with due simply to the fact that the struggle is harder when the battle is longer.

Victory was perhaps a bridge too far but, adding to the drama of the day, India did more than enough in the final session unmistakably to rattle a battle-hardened, abra-

sive Australian team determined to clinch it and trying out all the tricks in the book and some outside it.

That the hosts' globally acclaimed bowling could not account for more than five of the visitors' wickets in the fourth innings when Indian batsmen were expected to tilt naturally underlined India's combative excellence, illustrating once again how a lot of progress had been made

sive Australian team determined to clinch it and trying out all the tricks in the book and some outside it.

And India's defiance tested Australian nerves: that was quite palpable. The stern face, the grimace, the vicious sidelong glance, the suspicion of an expletive: the television screen showed it all.

Hanuma Vihari, nursing a hamstring injury, dealt with 161 balls for just 23 runs and

Ravichandran Ashwin, who had had treatment on his ribs, made 39. They guided India to 334 for five, 73 runs adrift. A punitive 97 from Rishabh Pant and a gutsy 77 from Cheteshwar Pujara were also among the vignettes of an in-your-face resistance which were glory stories in their own right.

The Pant-Pujara partnership, worth 148 runs, and the Ashwin-Vihari one, which produced 62, underscored a collective drive to swim rather than sink, no matter how choppy the waters were.

Catches did come to be dropped, but Australia too had made the most of similar Indian lapses.

Some big Australian knocks were punctuated with lives allowed by fielders. Pant had

come in for a lot of criticism then; Monday was in a way his day of redemption.

Brisbane could explode into an epic—with Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav and KL Rahul still out injured and Ravindra Jadeja not exactly in fine fettle—encounter worthy of everyone's attention, especially the young ones'.

The Pant-Pujara partnership, worth 148 runs, and the Ashwin-Vihari one, which produced 62, underscored a collective drive to swim rather than sink, no matter how choppy the waters were.

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Sydney 2021 has seen an example of it, but wasn't it a draw that only the Australians minded simply because they couldn't force a victory?

Anushka, Virat welcome baby girl

MUMBAI, 11 JANUARY

Actor-producer Anushka Sharma and cricketer husband Virat Kohli on Monday announced the arrival of their first child, a baby girl.

Kohli, who shared the news on Twitter, said both the baby and Sharma were healthy.

"We are thrilled to share with you that we have been blessed with a baby girl this afternoon. We thank you all for your love, prayers and good wishes. "We are feeling beyond blessed to start this new chapter of our lives. We hope that you can respect our privacy at this time. Love, Virat," Kohli said.

Former cricketer RP Singh, badminton ace Saina Nehwal were among the first to congratulate the couple.

PTI



The country is staring at a food crisis. If the BJP continues to remain adamant on the farm laws, there will be a food shortage in our country. The farmers are assets of our country and we should not do anything that goes against their interest

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

## HC allows termination of 28 week pregnancy based on AIIMS board report

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court Monday allowed a woman's plea to terminate her 28-week pregnancy after a medical board constituted by AIIMS said her fetus can be aborted as it suffered from anencephaly, a condition where the skull bone is not formed, and was therefore, incompatible with life.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh permitted the medical termination of the woman's

pregnancy based on the board's report and disposed of her plea.

The court said a detailed order would be issued soon.

The bench on January 7 had asked the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to constitute a medical board to examine the woman and give a report by January 11 on the feasibility of terminating her pregnancy.

According to the woman's plea, "an ultra-soundography at the gestational age of 27 weeks 5 days found that the fetus suffered from anencephaly (skull

bone not formed), thereby making it incompatible with life".

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 prohibits abortion of a fetus after 20 weeks of gestation.

The woman had, therefore, also challenged the provisions of the statute which restrict abortions after 20 weeks.

She had contended that with advances in technology it was perfectly safe for a woman to abort a fetus at any point during her pregnancy.

She had also contended that determination of fetal abnormality in many cases can only be done after the 20th week and "by keeping the ceiling artificially low, women who obtain reports of serious fetal abnormality after the 20th week have to suffer excruciating pain and agony because of the deliveries that they are forced to go through".

"The ceiling of 20 weeks is therefore arbitrary, harsh, discriminatory and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India," the petition had claimed.

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

COURT NOTICE  
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
SH. ANTERPREET SINGH  
Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
CNR No. HRGRO2-00353-  
2020

Next Date: 10-02-2021

Sunita  
Versus  
General Public.  
Publication Issued to:  
General Public, Gurugram,  
Haryana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear person or through counsel on 10-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/v7/rs-district\_notice&district=gurugram.

Dated, this day of 07-01-2021.

Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE  
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
SH. ANTERPREET SINGH  
Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
CNR No. HRGRO2-002675-  
2020

Next Date: 28-01-2021

Devender Kumar  
Versus  
General Public.  
Publication Issued to:  
General Public, Gurugram,  
Haryana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear person or through counsel on 28-01-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/v7/rs-district\_notice&district=gurugram.

Dated, this day of 08-01-2021.

Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram  
Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH.  
ASHISH GUPTA  
ACI/CC/ARC-(South East)  
Saket Courts, New Delhi  
SS-12/2020

In the matter of :

1. Ranbir Nanda, s/o Late Ranbir Nanda, r/o D-17, Maharam Bagh, East of Kaliash, South Delhi, Distt. Noida, 2.

2. Ranbir Nanda, s/o Late Ranbir Nanda, r/o House No. 56, First Floor, Sunder Nagar, Mathura Road, Delhi-110003.

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Shrey Kapoor, successor of Late Deepak Chowdhry for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 02-03-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Cer-

ificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and Seal on 07-01-2021.

ACI/CC/ARC-(South East)

Saket Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

Sale by Auction  
For: 12-01-2021  
RN No: Blk-10

Sealed Tender/Auction are invited on "As is where is" Basis for Sale of Condemned items.

Scientific Lab Equipments

By The First National Auctioneers (9818003790) on behalf THSI Biotech Science

Sales by Auction  
For: 12-01-2021  
RN No: Blk-10

Sealed Tender/Auction are invited on "As is where is" Basis for Sale of Condemned items.

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We have requested the central team to allot a laboratory in Kerala to test the samples for avian flu. We hope the centre will accept our request

K K SHAILAJA  
KERALA HEALTH MINISTER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

03

# 4,324 migratory birds die of bird flu in HP

CM says 1,000 dead domestic poultry birds were found dumped in Dharampur and 215 other birds were also found dead in various parts of HP; 65 rapid response teams monitoring the bird flu situation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 11 JANUARY

**H**imachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today called for focusing on "information, education and communication (IEC)" to sensitise the HP people about the need for adopting safety measures to check further spread of bird flu in the state.

He said this while presiding over a meeting here that took stock of the situation arising due to the outbreak of bird flu in the state.

The CM pointed out that a ban had been imposed in HP on import of poultry products from other states for a week in order to ensure that this avian infection does not come from other states through poultry products.

Thakur said that about 4324 migratory birds have died of bird flu in the state so far and that these birds were



being buried as per the protocol in order to prevent the spread of its virus. He said that about 65 rapid response teams of the Animal Husbandry and Wildlife departments were regularly monitoring the affected Pong dam and adjoining areas in this regard.

He said that keeping in

view the intensity of the bird flu outbreak, samples of poultry have been sent to the RDDL (Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory) Jalandhar by the Animal Husbandry department.

The CM said that 1000 dead domestic poultry birds were found dumped in Dharampur sub-division in

Solan district. He said these birds were disposed of through deep burial and the area was being sanitised as per protocols and samples sent to the RDDL Jalandhar for diagnosis. He said that 215 other birds were also found dead in various parts of the state till date. Thakur directed the offi-

cers to keep strict vigil on birds alongside reservoirs, asking them that

people should be sensitised about proper handling of poultry products.

The CM said that it is important to spread awareness amongst people regarding preventive measures against bird flu. He directed the officers concerned to take necessary steps in this direction. He also urged the people to inform the Animal Husbandry and WildLife departments if any bird is found dead in their areas.

Chief Secretary Anil Khachi, Additional Chief Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Nisha Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, RD Dhiman, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, J.C. Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Dr. Savita, Director, Animal Husbandry, Dr. Ajmer Dogra, and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

## Pb imposes infra fee on petrol, diesel, property purchase

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 JANUARY

The Punjab government has decided to impose a special infrastructure development (ID) fee of Rs 0.25 per litre each on sale of petrol and diesel in the state.

The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Monday also gave a go ahead to special ID fee at the rate of Rs 0.25 for every one hundred rupees of the value of purchase of immovable property within the state.

This special ID fee will be deposited in the Development Fund of Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB).

The fee imposed on the aforesaid items would lead to creation of additional revenue of about Rs 216.16 Crore annually into the Punjab Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).

Meanwhile, in a reprieve to the business community especially the small and medium businessmen to sail through these trying times amid Covid-19, the Punjab Cabinet approved the 'Punjab One Time Settlement Scheme (OTs) for Recovery of



'Outstanding Dues-2021' to clear and settle their pending arrears.

With implementation of OTS, the state exchequer would bear a financial burden of Rs 121.06 Crore.

Divulging the details, a spokesperson of the CM's Office said the scheme would be implemented from 1 February, 2021 across the state under which all the dealers whose assessments have been framed upto 31 December could apply under the scheme till 30 April, 2021.

The dealer can even submit additional statutory forms

like C-forms which were not produced at the time of assessment, with the application form and will have to make the self-assessment and submit the proof of payment net tax payable as the result of settlement. The concerned Ward in-charge would issue an order of settlement which would not be reopened in any proceeding by way of review or revision.

An official spokesperson said Covid-19 has resulted in an unprecedented situation for all sections of the society, business community, especially, the small dealers have suffered a lot due to lockdown and subsequent decline in the business activity.

Various trade associations raised a concern that they are facing difficulties in procuring statutory forms prescribed under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 for availing concessional/nil rate of tax on interstate transactions.

They also urged the state government for settling their outstanding dues by introduction of OTS scheme for the clearance and settlement of outstanding arrears under Punjab Value Added tax Act, 2005 and Central Sales tax Act, 1956, the spokesperson added.

## Himachal to expedite move to set up NDRF battalion hq at Balh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 11 JANUARY

**One company would be established at Baddi to deal with any chemical hazard as this area had maximum industrial factories**

ment to take all necessary steps in this direction and also asked the Forest Department for getting FCA (Forest Conservation Act) approval at the earliest.

He said the Government of India has sanctioned new NDRF 14th Battalion for the state keeping in view the geographical conditions and disaster vulnerability of the area.

He said that this would ensure prompt response in

case of natural calamities. Thakur said that NDRF Regional Response Centres (Companies) would also be established in about six places in the state. He said that one company would be established at Baddi to deal with any chemical hazard as this area had maximum industrial factories.

Commandant NDRF Baljinder Singh apprised the Chief Minister about various activities of the Force.

Chief Secretary Anil Khachi, Additional Chief Secretary Revenue R.D. Dhiman, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister J.C. Sharma, Special Secretary Revenue Sudesh Mokhta and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

## HP ULBs polls outcome: Both BJP and Cong claim victory

SANJEEV KUMAR  
SHIMLA, 11 JANUARY

With the state Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh scheduled to be held next year, the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) polls outcome has become a bone of contention between the ruling BJP and the principal Opposition Congress with both parties claiming victory in these polls ahead of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) elections.

The PRIs elections are scheduled to be held on 17, 19 and 21 January in the state and the results will be declared on 22 January.

A day after ULBs polls results, both the Congress and BJP today claimed victory in over 70 per cent seats with the opposition party even

claiming victory in Mandi, home district of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

Addressing media in Shimla, CM Jai Ram Thakur claimed that the BJP had won in 40 out of 50 ULBs for which voting was held on Sunday and results were declared the same day.

"BJP has won majority in 22 of the 29 Municipal Councils and similarly, out of 21 Nagar Panchayats, BJP has won in 18," he said.

Thakur further stated that out of the total 401 wards in ULBs, BJP candidates won in 221 wards while Congress secured win in only 140 wards

**HP CM Jai Ram Thakur is claiming victory in 40 ULBs of the total 50 while state Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore claims victory in 6 districts including Mandi, Jai Ram's home district.**

and independent candidates secured win in 49 wards while 13 candidates were elected unopposed.

"Congress is claiming victory in more seats but the situation will become clear when these ULBs will elect Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons," he added.

Thakur said though these elections were not held on party symbol but BJP had devised a mechanism and had declared a list of party affiliated candidates and on its basis, the party was claiming victory.

He thanked the people of

the state for supporting the pro-people and development agenda of the government and also thanked them for coming out in huge numbers to vote in ULBs elections despite the threat of Covid pandemic.

On the other hand, state Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore too claimed victory in ULBs polls and asked the BJP to release the list of party affiliated candidates.

"BJP's claim of victory in ULBs elections is completely false and aimed at misleading the people of the state as Congress has won majority in ULBs of 6 districts of Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Chamba, Kangra and Solan.

The people of the state have completely neglected the development narrative of the ruling party and despite the misuse of government

machinery in polls, Congress party has won over 70 percent seats in ULBs elections," he added.

Rathore further stated that the BJP government had made deliberate changes in PRIs election roster to gain mileage in polls but despite this, they had suffered a massive defeat.

"Now the BJP leaders and ministers are luring independent as well Congress supported candidates but the party won't let them succeed in their plans and is keeping a close watch on the situation," he said.

He added ULBs polls results were a sign of things to come in future as Congress party's victory march had started and it will culminate with party's win in 2022 assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.

## HC seeks Centre's reply on plea for damages to property forfeited during emergency

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The Delhi High Court Monday sought response of the Centre and the Directorate of Estates (DoE) on a lawsuit seeking damages related to a property in Lutyens' Delhi, whose forfeiture in proceedings initiated during the national emergency was set aside, due to its alleged illegal use for 21 years.

Thesuit has been filed by children of 94-year-old woman Veera Sarin, who recently approached the Supreme Court to declare as unconstitutional the national emergency imposed by the Congress government in 1975. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohris issued summons to DoE, Ministry of Labour and Employment and Competent Authority Under Smugglers And Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of property) Act (SAFEMA) in the suit and asked them to file written statements.

The court listed the suit before the joint Registrar on February 26, for completion of pleadings, service of summons and admission/ denial of documents. The matter will come up before the bench for hearing on April 26.

It said the forfeiture was set aside and quashed by the Delhi High Court in December 2014 and despite several attempts by Sarins, the authorities were not releasing the property to them. Pursuant to the June 2020 order of the high court, Sarins got the possession of the property in July 2020.

This court by order dated July 28, 2020 directed Defendant No. 1 (DoE) to pay arrears of rent as per the last paid rent to the plaintiffs at the rate of Rs 20,500 per month from May 1, 1999 to July 2, 2020.

This court further granted

liberty to the plaintiffs to claim further amounts towards market rent, mesne profits, compensation and interest by instituting appropriate proceedings, the suit said, adding that thereafter, the present proceedings are initiated.

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SUBRATA DUTTA

## Haryana govt to develop Pipili as a 'world class tourist hub'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 JANUARY

Giving a boost to tourism in the state, the Haryana government has decided to develop Pipili in Kurukshetra as a world class tourist hub.

The tourist hub which will be developed on Saraswati Setu in Pipili would attract tourists from within the country and abroad and also place Haryana on the international tourist map.

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday.

The tourist hub in Pipili would be developed by HSHDB. Apart from boating,

the hub would also offer a wide range of facilities like restaurants, parks, museums etc to the visitors. The state government is already developing Adi Badri in Yamunangar

as a tourist destination. It was also decided in the meeting that five-six water bodies would be developed in Yamunangar and Kurukshetra districts for the storage of excess water during the rainy season so that the same could be utilized for irrigation and related purposes. This would not only significantly boost the tourism activities in

## HP CS reviews plans for statehood's golden jubilee celebrations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 11 JANUARY

Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary (CS) Anil Khachi on Monday reviewed the plans for Golden Jubilee celebrations of HP's statehood and said the exhibition should not be static and random but like a book reading experience.

Khachi, while reviewing progress of exhibitions of different departments to be displayed on 25 January on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebrations of Statehood, said it should reflect the progression and evolution of development over the last fifty years.

He advised officers to keep the matter in the displays, minimum enough to qualify the pictures and use bilingual texts where there is need and said

that different themes should be shown through the displays.

"Greater attention is paid to those displays with motion. A static display or stand does not generate the same response as one with moving parts. The viewer should feel the journey of the last fifty years of development in the state."

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"Greater attention is paid to those displays with motion. A static display or stand does not generate the same response as one with moving parts. The viewer should feel the journey of the last fifty years of development in the state."

state government as the water flowing in the River would not only help in overcoming the problem of dark zones in Yamunangar, Karnal and Kaithal districts but also the un-channelized water which adversely affects the crops in the fields could be effectively utilized for irrigating fields and beautification of rural ponds.

HSHDB will organise three-days International Saraswati Mahotsav-2021 from 14 February to 16 February at Adi Badri and Pehowa to showcase the rich heritage and history of the sacred river Saraswati where all of the ancient scriptures including the Vedas and Upanishads were written.

The event would be open to the public and entry would be free.



the area but also improve the underground water level in Kurukshetra, Pehowa, Ladwa and Radaur.

Saraswati River project is a prestigious project of the



*BJP has been working peacefully for all-round development of Assam... It has fulfilled their demands without harming others*

BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT J P NADD

ASSERTING HIS PARTY WILL RETURN TO POWER IN ASSAM IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

India

## 'Govt giving priority to border development'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

Amid the ongoing military stand-off with China, defence minister Rajnath Singh today said the government has given high priority to the development of border areas. The Border Road Organisation has deployed 67 per cent of its workforce in the northern borders, he said at a webinar on 'Atal Tunnel', organised by the BRO.

The tunnel (also known as Rohtang Tunnel) is a highway tunnel built under the

Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas on the Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh. At 9.02 km, it's the longest tunnel above 10,000 feet in the world and is named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It reduces travel time and distance between Manali and Keylong on way to Leh.

Singh appreciated BRO engineers for building this engineering marvel despite technical challenges amid Covid-19 restrictions. For building a great structure

like 'Atal Tunnel', the spirit of national pride was of paramount importance, he added.

Recalling past achievements of Indian scientists and engineers, the minister said they have always shown their prowess in various streams.

Referring to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, he said to overcome Covid-19 challenges, "we were able to quickly mobilise our resources to produce PPE kits, masks, sanitizers not just for domestic requirements but also for other countries."

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## Mamata blames BJP for food crisis, famine in country

SNS & PTI

RANAGHAT/KOLKATA,

11 JANUARY



The country is staring at a food crisis and famine because of the "adamant" approach of the BJP to the continued agitation by farmers for withdrawal of the three new farm laws, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

She also called the BJP a "junk" party for inducting "rotten" leaders from other political outfits.

Reaffirming her opposition to the NRC, CAA and NPR, Banerjee, while reaching out to the Nadia district's Matua population, said all refugees will be granted land rights, and no one can banish them from the country.

"The country is staring at a food crisis. There will be famine and food shortage if the BJP continues to remain adamant on the farm laws. The Centre is trying to create famine through these farm bills."

"The farmers are assets of our country and we should not do anything that goes against their interest," she said, addressing a TMC rally here in Nadia district.

The TMC supremo also demanded immediate repeal of the three farm laws as sought by farmers agitating at Delhi's

where corrupt leaders turn into saints the moment they join them," she said.

Alleging that there's virtual "dictatorship" in the country, Banerjee said the saffron party uses either money or muscle power to poach leaders from other parties.

Talking about the recent defections from the TMC, Banerjee said the BJP might have "bought a few leaders", but it can never buy her off.

"They (BJP) are afraid of me as I have not bowed down before them," she asserted.

Slamming the saffron camp over the CAA, the TMC boss said, those born in this country are its legitimate citizens.

"All refugee colonies in the state have been recognised by the West Bengal government. All refugee families will have land holding rights."

"No one can remove you from here. You are born here and are citizens of this country. You don't need the BJP's certificate to prove your citizenship," she asserted.

Reaching out to the Matua community that constitutes roughly 40 per cent population of Nadia district, Banerjee said, the BJP was trying to "fool" them with the promise of citizenship.

"I want to assure everyone that no one needs to be afraid of the NRC, NPR and CAA."

The Matuas, originally from East Pakistan, are a scheduled caste group, who entered

India, particularly West Bengal, after Partition and creation of Bangladesh.

The BJP had made significant gains in the district in the last Lok Sabha polls and bagged the Ranaghat seat. Nadia has two Lok Sabha seats. She exuded confidence about returning to power for the third consecutive term with an even bigger mandate. She also drew a parallel between BJP cadres and US President Donald Trump's supporters who stormed the Capitol recently.

The day the BJP loses elections, its cadre and supporters will behave like those of Trump and say they disagree with the poll results," she said.

Calling BJP president J P Nadda's lunch at a tribal household in the state on January 9 a "show off", Banerjee claimed that the food items served to him were cooked at five-star hotels.

"BJP leaders from other states are coming here with money bags. If they offer you money, take it but don't cast a single vote for them," she said.

Reacting to Banerjee's comments, Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh said the TMC leader has sensed that the days of her government are numbered. "Why is she now calling leaders who have joined the BJP corrupt? If they were corrupt, then why did the TMC government not take any action against them for so many years?" he asked.

"You must have seen some (TMC) leaders switch over to the BJP. They have done it to protect the public money they had looted. We are removing them from our party. The BJP runs the party like a washing machine,

## BJP will win over 200 seats in Bengal Assembly polls: Shahnawaz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PANAJI, 11 JANUARY

BJP national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on Monday said his party would win at least 200 seats in the West Bengal polls scheduled this year and that the TMC government there under chief minister Mamata Banerjee had already started "packing up".

Talking to reporters here, Hussain said his party used

to get "3 to 8 per cent votes" earlier and then rose to win 18 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections.

"This time, we will cross 200 seats in the Assembly polls. Our party workers are also being attacked," he said.

On the Supreme Court's observations on the protests underway against the new farm laws, Hussain said the Centre would study the observations.

He refused to speak further on the issue claiming it was subjudice. The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the Centre for its handling of the farmers' protest against the new farm laws saying it is "extremely disappointed" with the way negotiations between them were going and it will constitute a committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India to resolve the impasse.

As it became clear that the much-awaited exercise would finally happen this week, ministerial aspirants stepped up efforts to secure a berth on Monday even as speculation that a few incumbents may be

dropped kept some on tenterhooks.

Though the chief minister indicated seven new faces will be inducted, he did not make it clear whether it will be a Cabinet expansion or reshuffle.

The ministry currently has 27 members and seven berths are vacant.

As it became clear that the much-awaited exercise would finally happen this week, ministerial aspirants stepped up efforts to secure a berth on Monday even as speculation that a few incumbents may be

taken place from districts which have been in grip of orthodox social customs and have reported "honour killings" which explains the

## K'taka Cabinet exercise on 13 or 14 Jan, Nadda will be invited: BSY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU, 11 JANUARY

Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday said the much-awaited expansion or reshuffle of his Cabinet will take place on 13 or 14 January, and BJP president J P Nadda will be invited for the swearing-in.

Though the chief minister indicated seven new faces will be inducted, he did not make it clear whether it will be a Cabinet expansion or reshuffle.

The ministry currently has 27 members and seven berths are vacant.

As it became clear that the much-awaited exercise would finally happen this week, ministerial aspirants stepped up efforts to secure a berth on Monday even as speculation that a few incumbents may be

dropped kept some on tenterhooks.

After paying tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his death anniversary, he said, about seven people will be inducted.

Asked whether it will be Cabinet expansion or reshuffle, he said: "Let's see, you will get to know."

On returning from New Delhi after holding discussions with Nadda and Union home minister Amit Shah on the Cabinet expansion, Yediyurappa had on Sunday said seven members would be

inducted and that he will finalise the names on Monday.

Yediyurappa was waiting to carry out the expansion/reshuffle as he was asked by the BJP president during their meeting in New Delhi on 18 November to wait for the clearance from the central leadership.

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## Somnath Bharti arrested in UP, youth hurls ink at him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AMETHI/RAE BARELI,  
11 JANUARY

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Somnath Bharti on Monday had ink hurled at him in Rae Bareli and was arrested later for allegedly making objectionable remarks last week.

He was arrested for criminal intimidation and promoting enmity between groups, police said, after remarks allegedly referring to Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and state's hospitals.

Minutes earlier, a youth hurled ink at the Delhi MLA when he was emerging out of a guest house.

Superintendent of Police (Rae Bareli) Shlok Kumar said, "The matter is being probed."

According to a purported video link, the AAP MLA recently said in Hindi, "Children are being born in hospitals, but they are of dogs."

Asked whether public hear-

ing was mandatory before granting approval, he answered, "No." The panel has officers from different organisations and experts as members.

Work on redevelopment of

Rajpath will start soon after this year's Republic Day parade.

The work is expected to be completed in the next 10 months and the 2022 Republic Day parade will be held on a redeveloped Rajpath, the housing secretary said.

The new Parliament will have six committee rooms to conduct business.

Shortly after ink was flung at him, Bharti retweeted a video clip in which he is heard using a derogatory term for Adityanath, while talking about "atrocities on women" in the state.

Reacting to the ink-throwing incident, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal hit out at Adityanath. "Yogi ji, our MLA Somnath Bharti ji was going to see your government school. Ink was thrown at him? Are your schools so bad? If someone goes to see your schools then why do you get so scared? Fix the school. If you do not know how to do, then ask Manish Sisodia," he tweeted.

Shalabh Mani Tripathi, information advisor to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, said: "Arvind Kejriwal is himself a chief minister. If he has the slightest idea about the post of a chief minister, then he should tender an apology to the entire country for the statement made by Bharti for UP's popular CM".

severity of the situation.

One such incident was reported in 2019 from Patna district where a youth was beaten to pulp and had his private parts chopped off with a sharp-edged weapon before being done to death along with his girlfriend in Bihar for daring to fall in love.

The youth came from a backward caste while the girl was from a Rajput family.

Even more horrible incident was reported from Gaya district where two young lovers from different castes were strangled and chopped into pieces for falling in love.

taken place from districts which have been in grip of orthodox social customs and have reported "honour killings" which explains the

were strangled and chopped into pieces for falling in love.

The lovers had earned the ire of the girl's family since they belonged to rival castes. While the girl belonged to influential Yadav caste, the boy, who ran a coaching centre, was from inferior Dalit community.

The girl had fallen in love with the boy while attending the coaching centre run by him. The girl's family lost the cool after the girl eloped with the boy.

In order to eliminate the

caste system, the state government has been promoting such marriages by granting financial incentive to the couples entering into inter-caste wedlock.

Bihar government has been giving Rs 1 lakh to each such couple. In 2017-18, 435 couples availed the grant. A break-up of beneficiaries of the grant scheme shows in 2014-15, barely 252 couples benefited while in 2015-16, their number was 254. In 2016-17, 271 couples went for inter-caste marriage.

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*BJP govt adopting indifferent attitude towards farmers...it's a direct insult to them...*

SAMA-JWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV  
ON THE NEW FARM LAWS

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

05

## THUMBNAILS



The vital Jammu-Srinagar highway has been closed for vehicular traffic after a bridge near Ramban collapsed. Traffic police on Monday announced it might take at least five days to rebuild the bridge. Senior engineers of the National Highways Authority of India reached the spot to assess the damage and restore the strategic road link.

PTI

**Child marriages:** Delhi High Court on Monday sought response of the AAP government on a plea to declare all child marriages performed in Delhi as void ab initio. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to the Delhi government and sought its stand on the petition by a woman who has also sought to nullify her marriage which was allegedly performed when she was a minor.

PTI

**Jem workers held:** Security forces on Monday arrested two underground workers of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) from Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The arrested persons were also transporting arms and ammunition of the militants.

PTI

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,  
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
**O.A. No. 49/2020** Dt. 21-12-2020  
Union Bank of India  
Versus  
M/s Nextra Teleservices Pvt. Ltd.  
& ORS. Respondent  
To,  
Defendant  
1. M/s Nextra Teleservices Pvt. Ltd. Through its Directors Tricone Tower Plot No. 4-B 2nd Floor Mayur Vihar Distr. Centre Mayur Vihar Extn. Delhi - 91 Also at: 2nd Floor SunCity Business Tower Golf Course Road, Sect-54, Gurugram Also at: Lower Ground Floor-10 Vasant Square Mall PLT No. A, Sect. - B Pkt. - V. Community Centre Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70  
2. Sh. Gaurav Bansal (Director / Guarantor)  
3. Sh. Nihil Bansal Director  
4. Sh. Ankit Bansal Director  
5. Smti. Megha Aggarwal Director  
6. Sh. Ashok Bansal Guarantor  
7. Sh. Ram Niwas Bansal Guarantor  
8. Sh. Laxmi Narayan Goyal Guarantor  
9. Sh. Hari Shankar Singh Guarantor  
10. Sh. Rajesh Bansal Guarantor  
All at: D-113 Preet Vihar Delhi - 110092.  
Also at: Tricone Tower Plot No. 4-B, 2nd Floor Mayur Vihar Distr. Centre Mayur Vihar Extn. Delhi - 91  
11. M/s Kumar Ict Factory Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor) Plot No. 3, Patparganj Industrial Area Complex Delhi - 92  
12. M/s Virendra Buldcon LLP (entwile M/s Virendra Buldcon Pvt. Ltd.) (corporate Guarantor) LGD-10 Vasant Square Mall Plot-a Sect. - B Pkt-5 Community Centre Vasant Kunj New Delhi - 70  
Whereas the above named applicant(s) have / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 8,33,94,942/- (Rs. Eight Crore Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Two Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 20-04-2021 at 10.30 A.M.  
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
By order of the Tribunal  
for Registrar  
DRT-II, Delhi

# Staying implementation of farm laws not a solution: Farmer leaders

Say they will continue with their agitation even if top court stays implementation as they want new laws to be scrapped



Farmer protesters at a 'Sikh Museum' near Singhu border, in the Capital on Monday.

## Cong MPs, ex-Akali leader walk out from agriculture meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

Congress MPs Partap Singh Bajwa and Chhaya Verma and former Akali leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Monday staged a walkout from a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture after the panel chairman refused to discuss Centre's three farm laws and their aftermath, sources said.

Citing the large-scale protests undertaken by various farmer unions that have seen thousands of farmers protest at the borders of Delhi for over 40 days, the three Rajya Sabha MPs raised the issue with the chairman of the standing committee.

Due to the refusal of the

chairman to allow the situation to be discussed by the committee, the three MPs decided to walk out of the meeting in protest, the sources said.

**Pawar meets Left leaders:** NCP president Sharad Pawar met Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja here on Monday and discussed the ongoing farmers' agitation.

The meeting at Pawar's residence came on a day the Supreme Court indicated that it may stay the implementation of the contentious farm laws and refused to grant more time to the Centre to explore the possibility of an amicable solution, saying it has already granted the government a long rope.

were going and will constitute a committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India to resolve the impasse.

We are not experts on economy. You tell us whether the government is going to put on hold farm laws or we will do this, the bench said.

We are sorry to say that the Centre has not been able to solve the problem and the farmers' agitation, it said.

The eighth round of talks between the Centre and the farmer unions on 7 January headed nowhere as the Centre ruled out repealing the con-

tentious laws while the farmer leaders said they are ready to fight till death and their "ghar waapsi" will happen only after law waapsi".

The apex court had earlier sought the Centre's response on a batch of pleas against the three contentious farm laws -- the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

## BKU asks farmers of western UP to join agitation in Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MEERUT, 11 JANUARY

Farmer leaders under the flagship of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) have given a call to the farmers of western UP to reach Delhi on January 26 to participate in ongoing movement of farmers against the 3 farm Bills.

BKU's national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait (*in photo*) appealed farmers to ensure their overwhelming participation in the farmers movement in Delhi on 26 January when the country would celebrate Republic Day. Tikait was in Baraut town of district Baghpat on Sunday evening to support the farmers sitting there on a dharna against the three controversial farm bills since 17 December.

Addressing the farmers Tikait said that tractors and tank would roll together on the roads of Delhi during Republic day parade this year.

Rakesh Tikait had been leading the farmers agitation at Delhi-Ghaziabad border since the beginning. He visited the dharna place in Baraut on Sunday evening only to give them a boost and appeal them to ensure max-



imum participation on 26 January.

BKU President Naresh Tikait also appealed the farmers to remain united and announced that farmers will march in the Republic day parade on Rajpath holding our flag in their hands.

National vice president of BKU (Bhau) Ch Diwakar Singh also claimed that the farmers are all gearing up for participation in the movement.

**Pilot reiterates demand:**

Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot on Monday reiterated the demand for withdrawal of new farm laws enacted by the Centre, claiming that the laws were a "threat" to the future of farmers.

"We are making the farmers aware of the disadvantages of the laws. The farmers are agitating peacefully and the government should accept their demands," Pilot said.

'Consider letter as resignation if Centre fails to withdraw farm laws by 26 Jan'

CHANDIGARH, 11 JANUARY

INLD legislator Abhay Singh Chautala wrote to the Haryana Assembly speaker on Monday, saying if the Centre does not withdraw the three recent farm laws by 26 January, then his letter may be considered as his resignation as an MLA from the House.

In a letter to Speaker Gian Chand Gupta, Chautala, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) MLA from Haryana's Ellenabad, slammed the Centre for imposing the "black laws" on farmers in an "undemocratic way" and said the farming community in the entire country is opposing these legislations.

Farmers' agitation against the laws has been going on for over a month and the protesting farmers have been camping at Delhi's borders in the cold weather conditions, he pointed out. Over 60 farmers have "attained martyrdom" because of the intense cold weather but the Centre has paid no heed to their demands, Chautala wrote.

The INLD leader said it does not seem that being a responsible member of the House, he can play any role to protect the rights of farmers under the kind of conditions created by the government. A couple of days ago, Chautala had said he would resign from the Assembly if the demands of the farmers were not accepted by the Centre by 26 January.

## Recovery of mortar fuze used by Pak army alarms forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, 11 JANUARY

grenade".

A report was shared with other security agencies including the army which has now taken up the matter with all seriousness, the officials said.

**PDP youth wing president arrested again:**

PDP youth wing president Waheed Para, who was granted bail by an NIA court Saturday, was arrested again on Monday by the Jammu and Kashmir Police over a case related to an alleged nexus involving politicians, terrorists and secessionist forces, officials said.

## Ready for vaccine roll-out: Mamata to PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JANUARY

care workers for the first phase of vaccination that is scheduled to begin from 16 January.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee today informed prime minister Narendra Modi that the state government is completely prepared to roll-out the first phase of vaccination drive and has enrolled 5.8 lakh government and private health

identified as front line workers and should be provided Covid vaccination.

Miss Banerjee has sought a roadmap regarding the vaccination of the people at large and the role of the Centre.

She asked as to whether the state government has to purchase the vaccines for the rest of the population

(beyond the already prioritised categories) in state, in which case, she argued, GOI might provide necessary guidance toward such procurements.

She questioned if the vaccination programme in the first two stages covers only 3 crore people and what will happen for the remaining 12 crore of our population.

## Gangasagar Mela: ICG steps up surveillance

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 JANUARY

In a bid to provide watertight security around the Sagar Island where devotees from across the country have arrived for the Gangasagar Mela, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has enhanced surveillance along the coastline of West Bengal.

The Gangasagar Mela was inaugurated on 10 January and will continue till 16 January during which devotees will take a holy dip at Sagar Island situated at the confluence of Hooghly River and Bay of Bengal on Makar Sankranti.

The ICG's Kolkata-based North East Command has announced it has placed hovercrafts, high speed patrol vessels and interceptor boats near the Sagar Island for providing search and rescue cover.

It further announced that surveillance has been increased along the coastline of Bengal. Additionally, it

said that a life saving rapid action team comprising divers and rubber Gemini boats have also been deployed at the Gangasagar Mela. Headquarters, No. 8 CG district (West Bengal) is in constant touch with state authorities for the same. An ICG official said, "Though the footfall is likely lesser than other years due to the ongoing pandemic, we are ready to extend all cooperation and have thus formed a three tier security around the island. Our expert diving team

will be on patrol and in case of any drowning incident it can quickly respond." Additionally, the ICG also deployed its Dornier fixed-wing aircraft for aerial surveillance.

Commenting on increasing surveillance along the coastline of the state, the official said, "The ICG conducts exercises throughout the year to validate standard operating procedures regarding coastal security mechanism along the coast of West Bengal and Odisha."

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Commenting on increasing surveillance along the coastline of the state, the official said, "The ICG conducts exercises throughout the year to validate standard operating procedures regarding coastal security mechanism along the coast of West Bengal and Odisha."

Overfeeding of green fodder only on selected days leads to complications due to which many cows have died, he added.

## Feed cows with discretion, Guj people told ahead of Uttarayan

AHMEDABAD, 11 JANUARY

An affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Monday appealed to the people of Gujarat to feed the cows with discretion during the forthcoming festival of Uttarayan on 14 January, celebrated as Makar Sankranti elsewhere in the country.

As per religious beliefs, devotees feed cows on Uttarayan day to seek their blessings for prosperity during the coming year.

But, due to over enthusiasm of the people, only few cows sighted in the vicinity of housing colonies get overfed, leading to stomach trouble and even deaths.

Cows should not be fed only green fodder and foliage, said Vijay Parasara of Gau Seva Sangathan which also organised a small exhibition of items comprising 'balanced diet' for bovines.

Over a dozen varieties of green leafy stuff, jaggery, hay, half a dozen different cereals, vegetables like cabbage, carrot, gourd, dry coconut and oilseed extracts were put on display to make people aware about what makes balanced diet for cows. Unlike humans, animals do not know how much to eat and thus they continue as long as people feed them, said Dilip Shah, Director of the State Animal Welfare Board. Shah said that people feed the cows on special days like Uttarayan, Navratri, Shivratri etc due to religious sentiments but forgot about 'Gau Mata' for the rest of the year.

Overfeeding of green fodder only on selected days leads to complications due to which many cows have died, he added.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of all concerned that Train No. 12649/12650 Yesvantpur-H.Nizamuddin-Yesvantpur Karnataka Sampark Kranti Superfast Express will be re-routed via Hubballi-Ballari-Pendekallu stations instead of running via Dharmavaram-Pendekallu to eliminate slip coaches of Hubballi-Londla/H. Nizamuddin of Train nos. 07305/02779/02780. Accordingly Train No. 06249/06250 Yesvantpur-H. Nizamuddin-Yesvantpur Karnataka Sampark Kranti Superfast Festival Special will be running as per following schedule:-

TRAIN NO. 06249		TRAIN NO. 06250	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
—	12:45	Yesvantpur	05:40 —
13:39	13:40	Tumkur	03:00 03:02
14:55	15:00	Arskere Jn.	01:30 01:35
17:13	17:15	Davangere	23:15 23:17
18:28	18:30	Haveri	21:58 22:00
20:50	21:00	Hubballi Jn.	20:35 20:45
21:48	21:50	Gadag Jn.	19:10 19:12
22:38	22:40	Koppal	18:14 18:16
23:15	23:20	Hosapete Jn.	17:35 17:40
01:05	01:10	Ballari Jn.	16:30 16:35
02:05	02:10	Guntakal Jn.	15:30 15:35
04:26	04:27	Kurnool City	12:49 12:50
08:15	08:25	Kacheguda	08:30 08:40
14:10	14:15	Balharsh Jn.	02:25 02:30
17:10	17:15	Nagpur Jn.	22:55 23:00
23:10	23:20	Bhopal Jn.	16:55 17:05
02:55	03:05	Jhansi	

## Wail of the infant

Last Saturday's tragedy at the district hospital at Bhandara in eastern Maharashtra is no less gut-churning as the fire in Kolkata's AMRI hospital in December 2011, though the casualty toll in the latter was far, far higher than in the first. Ten newborns ~ aged between one and three months ~ have perished in the fire in the Maharashtra hospital's neo-natal care ward, an essential facility in any hospital that boasts a gynaecological ward. The cry of a mother ~ "we have lost our daughter even before she was named" ~ has poignantly underscored the enormity of the tragedy. The fact that only seven of the 17 babies were rescued highlights the horribly belated promptitude of the staff, but can bring cold comfort to the bereaved families. It is hard not to wonder whether the 10 newborns ~ who died wailing in darkness ~ had come to this world to die. And so it has been at Bhandara. Central to the gruesome end is believed to be a short circuit or a defective air-conditioner. Though these are fairly common problems in an electrical unit, the fact of the matter must be that little or no action was taken by the hospital authorities in the face of complaints relating to fluctuating power in the ward. Maharashtra's health minister attempts to be wise after the event when he announces the formation of a six-member inquiry committee, helmed by the director of health services, to conduct the probe and furnish a report in three days. There is no word yet about the power fluctuations and the feet-dragging over corrective action. Equally, the death of ten newborns has prompted the chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray, to order a fire audit of all the hospitals. This ought to have been in place long before the infants died. What he calls a "heart-wrenching and mind nubbing" disaster might not have occurred had the authorities been more alert. Going by official reports, three of the ten infants died of burn injuries, while seven others died of suffocation caused by smoke. Forty-eight hours after the tragedy, there is speculation still over what precisely ignited the blaze beyond the official version that it "could be a short circuit". The subtext of the controversy must be that there was little or no maintenance in the four-storey building that boasts a Special Newborn Care Unit, indeed a section that requires continuous supply of oxygen and not least because the babies were underweight. In a word, they did not receive the emergency attention and care that they were entitled to. The Maharashtra government has been blighted.

The other and more disturbing aspect must be the frequency with which infants and newborns die across the country in government hospitals, even if it may not always be from asphyxiation. From Gorakhpur to Aligarh, and from Shahdol to Vidisha, infants in large numbers have been victims of the state's healthcare system. This must end.

## Farce & Reality

Pakistan, at any rate on the face of it, has ramped up its occasionally orchestrated pressure on terrorists. The qualifier is used in the context of experience. Friday's anti-terrorism court order, that has sentenced the operations commander of LeT, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, who allegedly masterminded the Mumbai outrage (26 November 2008), to five years' imprisonment, does not after 12 years readily inspire confidence to the east of the Radcliffe Line. Nor for that matter does the anti-terrorism court's weekend order to arrest Masood Azhar by 18 January. He has been labelled by the United Nations as a "global terrorist". Both have been charged with financing terror, though they must be held accountable for other insidious activities no less. The Lahore court's action comes at a crucial juncture, specifically when Pakistan's case is scheduled for review by the Financial Action Task Force, indeed the global terror watchdog that about a year ago had placed the country on what they call the "grey list". The government in Islamabad has been trying to evade the FATF black list. Should that happen, it will signify yet another turning of the screw on Pakistan, rendering the country to a state of unsplendid isolation.

Lakhvi's sentencing has swiftly been binned as farcical by India which has internationalised the issue by appealing to the comity of nations to hold Pakistan accountable for its support to cross-border terrorism. Not too long ago, Begum Khaleda's BNP government in Bangladesh had to contend with a not dissimilar charge by India. The timing of Pakistan's action on Friday is suggestive of a degree of compulsion on the eve of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group meeting and the next FATA plenary in February. "It has become routine for Pakistan to come up with such farcical actions prior to important meetings," is the core of India's response.

It remains open to question whether FATA will be convinced with the sentence awarded to Lakhvi. It bears recall that the United Nations had proscribed entities and designated terrorists as proxies for the Pakistani establishment to fulfil its anti-India agenda.

In India's reckoning, it devolves on the international community to "hold Pakistan to account and ensure that it takes credible action against terror groups, terror infrastructure and individuals". This marks an assertive forward movement on the part of India after November 2008 when Pakistan's foreign secretary had sought "credible evidence" on its involvement or that of its nationals in the carnage in Mumbai. Pakistan was placed on the grey list by FATA in June 2018 and its government was asked to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019. Far from it. The deadline was extended due to the pandemic. Fundamentally, the problem remains insidious. India will no doubt keep the pressure up.

# Food and the planet

Since 2018, scientists from world over have been working overtime to understand the unexplored links between food systems, health and climate change. The most important insight from the study is that there are massive differences in GHG emissions from different foods

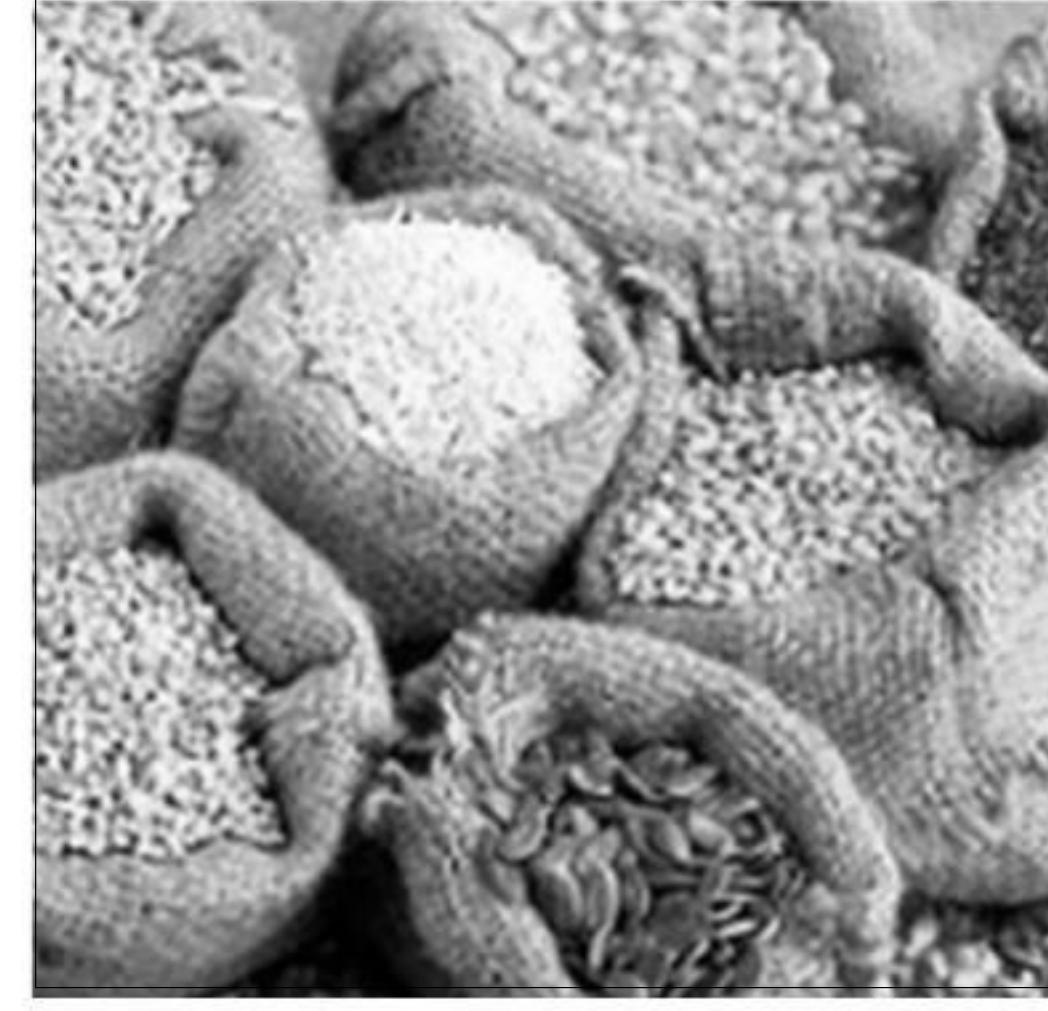
Over the past century, the onset of industrial agriculture and the Green Revolution (more synthetic fertilizer, better pesticides, modern management techniques, better irrigation methods, and more productive cultivars) kept pace with the growing population and made a mockery of popular environmental books such as *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich (1968) that confidently predicted mass famine and death by the 1980s. While the current production of food is sufficient to meet the demand even for the projected global population of 9.8 billion in 2050, the new UN report reveals a stubborn reality of 'immense' global challenge: globally more than 820 million people (or one in nine people) are hungry and malnourished, and the figure is rising.

Among the starving people "about 7 to 8 million people die every year of hunger or hunger-related causes," as estimated by the Nobel winning organization, World Food Programme (WFP). Global hunger today is a consequence of many factors, including poverty, natural disasters, lack of economic access (whether people can afford food) and physical access (whether food is reaching them), failed states and war.

India has proudly been projected by her government as self-sufficient in production as well as an exporter of food. But tragically the availability of food to her people is so inadequate that the country stood 97th among 125 countries in Oxfam's Food Availability Index (2018). The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, which ranks India 94 among 107 nations, has once again brought to the fore the government's failure to provide adequate food to a substantial segment of population despite the enactment of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013. With over 200 million food-insecure people, India is now home to the largest number of hungry people in the world.

In economics, the Engel's law establishes a strong and positive relationship between the level of income and the demand for greater varieties of food, and also indicates element for projecting food demand growth. According to the law, as incomes increase, demand for livestock products such as meat, milk and eggs rises, compared with food of plant origin such as cereals. Livestock products are not only tasty and provide high-value protein but are also important sources of a wide range of essential micronutrients, in particular minerals such as iron and zinc, and vitamins such as vitamin A & vitamin B12. This change of food habits is known as dietary transition. Demand of livestock products, particularly for meat, is growing. Over the past 50 years, meat production has more than quadrupled. Growth in meat consumption accelerates as countries pass through middle-income stages.

Worldwide growing addiction for livestock products is putting too much pressure on land, water and environment



leading to climate change. Half of the world's habitable (ice and desert free) land is used for agriculture. The area covered is around 51 million square km. Around 70 per cent of global freshwater withdrawals are for agriculture. Nutrient-rich pollutants of agriculture caused eutrophication in 78 per cent of global ocean and fresh water.

When it comes to tackling Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions vis-à-vis climate change, the focus usually tends to be on 'clean energy' solutions - the deployment of renewable or nuclear energy; or transition to low-carbon transport. Indeed, energy, whether in the form of electricity, heat, transport or industrial processes, accounts for 76 per cent of GHG emissions. But the global food system, which encompasses broadly production, and post-harvest processes such as processing, and distribution is a key contributor to emissions. Since 2018, scientists from world over have been working overtime to understand the unexplored links between food systems, health and climate change. The most important insight from the study is that there are massive differences in GHG emissions from different foods. Overall, animal-based foods tend to have a higher footprint than plant-based. CO2 is the most important GHG, but not the only one; agriculture is a larger source of other GHGs. Hence, to capture all GHG emissions from food production, researchers expressed them in kilogram of CO2 equivalents (CO2e).

In September 2020, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) along with three international organisations, EAT, WWF and Climate Focus, released a report that says that the food production line of the world - which involves everything from growing and harvesting crops to processing, transporting, marketing, consumption and disposal of food and related items - that

sustains around 7.8 billion people, accounts for about a quarter (21 to 37 per cent) of GHG emitted every year due to human activities. This means, our food system is as polluting as sectors like electricity and heat production (which accounts for 25 per cent of GHGs) and industry (21 per cent), and are more polluting than transportation (14 per cent) and buildings and energy use (16 per cent).

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations set a target to limit warming to a limit of 20 C, with more ambitious target of 1.50 C. Based on scientific evidence, the IPCC report concludes that in order to limit warming to 20 C, CO2 equivalent CO2e emissions would need to be reduced by 25 per cent by 2030 (compared to the 2010 level) and go to zero by 2070. To reach 1.50 C, CO2e emissions would need to go down by 45 per cent by 2030 and to zero by 2050. The food system itself is enough to heat up the planet above the 1.5 degree C target under the Paris Agreement sometime between 2051 and 2063. This has been noted in the November 2020 issue of the journal Science.

There are four key elements to consider when trying to quantify food GHG emissions.

(1) Livestock & Fisheries account for 31 per cent of food emissions: Livestock - animals raised for meat, dairy, eggs and seafood production - contribute to emissions in several ways. Ruminant livestock - mainly cattle - for example, produce methane through their digestive processes (in a process known as 'enteric fermentation'). Manure management, pasture management, and fuel consumption from fishing vessels also fall into this category. This 31 per cent relates to on-farm 'production' emission only. It does not include land use change or supply chain emissions from the production of crops for animal feed: these figures are included separately in

the other categories.

(2) Land use accounts for 24 per cent of food emissions: twice as many emissions result from land use for livestock (16 per cent) as for crops for human consumption (8 per cent). Agriculture expansion results in the conversion of forests, grasslands and other carbon 'sinks' into cropland or pasture resulting in Carbon di-oxide emissions. 'Land-use' here is the summation of land use change, savannah burning and organic soil cultivation (plowing and overturning of soil).

(3) Supply chains account for 18 per cent of food emissions: this chain consists of Transport (6 per cent of food emissions), food processing (4 per cent), Packaging (5 per cent) and retailing (3 per cent).

(4) Crop production accounts for 31 per cent of food emissions. Twenty-one per cent of food emission comes from crops for direct human consumption, and 6 per cent from producing animal feed. Moreover, there are direct emissions which result from agricultural production - this includes elements such as the release of nitrous oxide from application of fertilisers and manures, methane emissions from rice production and CO2 from agricultural machinery.

People across the world are becoming concerned about climate change. On an average 8 in 10 people see climate change as a major threat to their country. So, it is essential to reduce GHG emission of food production. The September 2020 assessment by UNEP says reducing land-use change and conservation of natural habitats alone could lower emissions by 4.6 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalents (GtCO2e) a year. Reducing food loss and waste, which accounts for 8 per cent of anthropogenic emissions, could lower the emission load by 4.5 GtCO2e. Improving production methods and reducing methane from livestock could lower emissions by up to 1.44 GtCO2e. A massive 8GtCO2e of emission reduction could be achieved by including higher proportion of plant-based foods in the diet than animal-based foods.

The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health has set global targets for food systems that are environmentally sustainable and human health. Since all of the 14GtCO2e from food system cannot be eliminated by 2050, as it is intrinsic to the biological processes in plants and animals, the commission has set the planetary boundary for food production emissions, or carbon budget, at a maximum of 5GtCO2e. The remaining 9Gt could principally be mitigated by shifting of diets from animal-based diets to plant-based diets (Vegan diets) and by changing production practices and reducing food loss and waste. CO2 emission from plant-based products are as much as 10-50 times lower than most animal-based products. In the words of Albert Einstein: "Nothing will benefit the earth and increase the chances for survival of life on Earth as the evolution of a vegetarian diet."

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**Unviable approach**

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un admitted to a catastrophic failure in meeting the impoverished state's economic goals in his opening address at the latest congress of the ruling Workers' Party on Tuesday. He said the results of a five-year economic development drive, which ended last year, "fell extremely short of our goals," according to the North's state-run news agency. Describing the past five years as the "worst of the worst" times for the country, Kim called for self-reliance to boost its strength. "The surest and fastest way to tackle the current multiple challenges facing us is to make every possible effort to strengthen our own power and our own self-reliant capacity," he said. Conspicuously missing from Kim's speech was a message on the North's relationships with South Korea and the US.

This suggests Pyongyang will likely decide on its course of action after watching what initial moves the incoming US administration will take. It has still kept mum about Joe Biden's election as US president. By keeping silent on inter-Korean ties, Kim has reaffirmed he has no interest in efforts put forth by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to enhance reconciliation with the North.

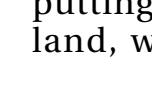
This week's party congress - the second under the current leader, who took over in 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong-il - comes as the North struggles to deal with a triple whammy of fallout from floods, a border closure due to the corona-

**H The Korea Herald**  
avirus pandemic and US-led international sanctions on the recalcitrant regime. In the previous party congress in 2016, Pyongyang announced the five-year economic plan, while pledging to pursue the "Byungjin" policy of simultaneously seeking nuclear arms development and economic advancement.

Kim's acknowledgment of the failure to achieve economic goals proves the policy is unviable. He will continue to have difficulties bolstering the economy to sustain his repressive regime while retaining his nuclear arsenal.

During the ongoing party congress, the North is expected to announce a new economic development plan focused on increasing production in conventional industry sectors closely linked to people's livelihoods. But it will be impossible for the isolated state to pull out of its dire economic situation as long as the international community maintains sanctions on Pyongyang for its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. In past years, the North has sought to overcome its predicament by resorting to measured military provocations instead of changing its unviable policy of pursuing incompatible goals. The tactic has not worked well and will only push it further to the brink.

US President Donald Trump, who met Kim three times in 2018 and 2019 and has boasted of good personal ties between them, has not budged from the position that a significant lifting of sanctions will not come without substantial progress toward the complete denuclearization of the North. Biden, who will be sworn in as US president on Jan. 20, has called for a "principled diplomacy," favoring working-level negotiations over Trump's top-down approach. This means there is even less of a chance that the North will be recognized as a nuclear-armed state by making concessions short of complete denuclearization.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## No place for racist abuse

SIR, This is with reference to the news report, 'Racist abuse of Indian players mars Test', in *The Statesman* today. Racism in sports has a long history. It has not only affected the "gentleman's game" but also the "beautiful game" tennis, athletics and many more sports, so much so that racist abuse has even been witnessed in the greatest of all sporting spectacles, the Olympics.

Incidents of racism have been widely reported from across the globe, covering several sporting events and has apparently been on the rise in recent years. The racist attacks on Indian cricket players is another such incident and it has been witnessed in one of the most iconic of the world's cricketing venues. Ravichandran Ashwin has been quite candid by revealing that they have had similar experiences in past outings as well at this very venue.

It is high time that an independent global anti-racism body is formed with representatives from all sporting nations. The body must have the authority to lay

down strict norms for world sports, impose sanctions on sporting bodies or associations and even take strict action against any such venues that have a history of racist acts by spectators.

Racism is one of the worst

forms of discrimination and it must be tackled with an iron fist.

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi,  
Kolkata, 11 January

**FARICAL**

SIR, It is a routine matter for Pak-



istan to come up with 'farical actions' prior to the international meet on terrorism and MEA is well aware these tactics. The timing of these actions clearly suggests the intention of conveying a sense of compliance ahead of the FATF meeting.

UN proscribed entities and designated terrorists act as proxies

**MUSLIM VOTE**

SIR, Please refer to your today's Editorial 'Muslim vote'. I see Mr Asaduddin Owaisi's recent meeting with Furfura Sharif cleric Pirzada Abbasuddin Siddiqui as an attempt by the AIMIM chief to form a minority-dominated political front in West Bengal ahead of the assembly elections.

Since this would be AIMIM's electoral debut in the state, after its good showing in recent assembly polls in Bihar, the Hyderabad-based outfit with mainly Urdu-speaking Muslims is keen to get the support of local Bengali-speaking Muslims.

Interestingly, Muslims constitute 30 per cent of the state's population, of which 24 per cent speak Bengali. They're the deciding factor in 100-110 odd assembly seats in the state and they voted for Ms Mamata Banerjee till the last Lok Sabha polls, making her almost invincible. Hence any success of AIMIM to form an exclusive Muslim front in the polls could prove detrimental to the ruling Trinamul Congress, which as per the 2019 polls, has only a meagre 3 per cent lead over rival BJP.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 6 January.

HARSHA KAKAR

Joining the armed forces is a calling. An article on a news website last year said, "According to available data, approximately 4 lakh people apply for NDA exams every six months, of whom approximately 400 are finally selected, which is 0.1 per cent of the total applicants" (The Print, 24 March 2020). With a stringent Services Selection Board (SSB), and after a written exam, only those who possess desired qualities make the grade. There are no quotas laid down for each batch at the SSB. The same article adds, "The SSB's follow a scientifically established procedure to select candidates who possess and display certain important traits of officer-like qualities, leadership qualities, teamwork, self-confidence, group dynamics and such like which are essential characteristics of a military officer."

Each youngster selected to serve the nation would have within him the determination, courage, leadership and inner strength essential for his role as an officer in the forces. Once selected, he is put through rigorous training to enable him to fulfil his future responsibilities. The training includes physical and mental aspects designed to convert the individual from a civilian to a dedicated armed forces officer capable of leading from the front effectively, under extreme conditions, with confidence and composure.

Despite precautions, there are some who suffer unfortunate accidents, rendering them physically unfit for the forces. Their dreams are shattered, they are boarded out, to recommence their lives in a different career. Many suffer physical disabilities making them dependent on their families for support. In the past 35 years over 400 cadets from different military training academies have been boarded out on medical grounds, due to injuries obtained during training.

Of these, almost 50 per cent of cases are from the National Defence Academy (NDA). These cadets are paid a lumpsum amount based on their disability percentage which was attributed to military service. They are also given a small ex-gratia payment monthly. However, they are not entitled to any other benefit despite being trainees for a Group A service.

The ex-gratia paid to boarded out cadets is lower than that entitled to those boarded out on similar grounds but undergoing training as recruits for

## Disabled officer cadets deserve better support



assignment as future soldiers. Recruits boarded out are entitled to ex-servicemen status, while officer cadets are not. In contrast, all trainees of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) at every level, including officers, are authorised proper disability pension if disabled during training.

Trainees for other central civilian services are granted similar benefits or retained in service in appointments where they can be suitably employed.

A case pertaining to a women officer cadet boarded out from Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai, would explain the insensitivity of the government. She was boarded out in 2010 and had approached the courts for rounding off her disability from 40 to 50 per cent. The court in its judgement stated, "Having not yet entered the services and having remained only at the threshold, the petitioner cannot claim equality with those who have served the armed forces before misfortune hit them. The grant of more benefits to such members of the services cannot be extended to cadets/trainees as they have not served the armed forces but were only being prepared for it."

A committee formed by the

defence minister, Manohar Parrikar, in 2015, slammed the government for its callousness. It stated, "Cadets who are disabled with attributable/aggravated disability and boarded out of training academies are granted a disability pension which is surprisingly not called a 'pension' but termed as a monthly ex-gratia award. This inane nomenclature has been conceptualised so that cadets could be prohibited from falling within the category of ex-servicemen." The MoD has been justifying its stand mentioning that cadets are not governed by Service Acts unlike recruits. Nothing can be more illogical.

The UPSC advertisement for armed forces institutes entrance exams mentions their selection as officer cadets under the Army Act. Training institutes for officer cadets

function under armed forces acts and laws, and do not follow their own rules and regulations. Thus, the MoD logic is flawed. Another inane reason cited is that a recruit on being ordered to join his training establishment is provided with a movement order from the nearest military Movement Control Office, which implies he is 'on duty.' The same is not adopted for officer cadets. This can be corrected with a simple official communication. That fact that it has not been corrected implies complete laxity within the MoD.

In any case, if all central organisations can cater for those injured during their training phase, then cases pertaining to 'officer cadets' needs correction. One of the reasons why these cases have never gained traction has been that numbers are fairly low and have not merited national attention. However, since these cadets received injuries performing official training implies that the government must take responsibility.

What must the government do?

Firstly, they must be granted ex-servicemen status, opening doors for treatment in ECHS and service hospitals. Secondly, the grants made to them must not be termed as ex-gratia but pension and should be financially suitable to enable surviving with the disability. Thirdly, rather than leaving them to fend for themselves, the government must consider employment suitable for their disability, post completion of their education, as with other cadres. They could be employed in multiple central government organisations. Fourthly, cadets should be covered under relevant insurance schemes to enable additional financial support in the event of any mishap.

The responsibility of caring for those injured in unfortunate accidents while undergoing training at military academies remains that of the government. There cannot be different rules for multiple central services. Will the Department of Military Affairs under the CDS take note?

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

Fish is an article of diet of which, it is said, more use might be made at Home and elsewhere. The difficulty in preservation is the main obstacle to the more extensive use of fresh fish, which is always more in demand than the salted article. Fish, herrings especially, are sometimes landed by the fishermen on the British coasts in so great quantities during a period of glut that they cannot be brought to market, and on many occasions they are sold at the place of landing at prices that do not meet the cost of their capture. The possible remedies for this state of affairs are discussed in a special report issued by the Food Investigation Board at Home. It seems that freezing the fish offers the most hopeful solution of the problem, in cases where they cannot be disposed of at once. Fish seem to suffer less from the process of freezing than beef or mutton. The report specially recommends the plan of freezing the fish in brine instead of plain water. The process of freezing in brine, which takes only one-tenth to one-fifteenth of the time required for freezing in air, is recommended on the ground that it is most rapid and gives the best preservation, without deterioration of appearance or flavour. The brine is used in place of water, not for the purpose of preserving or pickling the surface of the fish.

### NEWS ITEMS

### RAE BAREILLY RIOTS

The principal incident was the gathering of a large mob outside the jail where a number of prisoners had been confined. The crowd was moved across the river but near Munshiganj was largely reinforced. It became unmanageable and attacked the police sowars who were compelled to fire, killing four and wounding five or more. As one of the wounded in the attack on Fursatganj has since died the total number of deaths reported is now nine. It has been possible with an augmented police force to successfully handle all other demonstrations and to frustrate a few contemplated attacks on bazaars.

### MADRAS NON-BRAHMIN CONFEDERATION

At the second day's sitting of the non-Brahmin Confederation, resolutions were passed extending a cordial welcome to H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, and urging non-Brahmins to keep up their efforts in future to return non-Brahmin members to all the Councils in the land; that the Government should take the initiative in starting and developing industries, and that non-Brahmins should do everything possible for the uplifting of the depressed classes. The Conference also urged that the Madras Elementary Education Act be worked as vigorously as possible to ensure the very early introduction of free and compulsory education; that the secondary and intermediate course be more diversified and be made really preparatory for vocational training as for higher education; that a larger proportion of funds be spent on primary, secondary and technical education than on university education.

### BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The new Bombay Legislative Council will be formally opened on February 23, but there will be a full meeting the day before for swearing in of members. The Budget will be presented at the opening day, and the general discussion will, it is expected last for two or three days, and votes will then be taken. The demands of each Department will be discussed and voted on. Twelve days, it is expected, will be occupied in the examination and discussion of the budget which must be ready for presentation to the Government of India by March 18. The business of the day will commence with questions addressed to members of the Executive Council and to Ministers.

### PLEADERS' PROTEST AGAINST JUDGE

Members of the local Bar Association are protesting against the decision of the District Judge who has refused to grant the renewal of licence to practice to about 33 practising pleaders of the district bar, including some pleaders of over 18 years' standing. It appears that the pleaders, following the usual practice deposited the necessary fees for the renewal of their licences before the Christmas holidays. The District Judge, however, asked them to furnish certificates from the judicial officers before whom they practice. The secretary of the Bar Association has, it is understood, informed the Judge that as pleaders of the district court, they are not required to furnish any such certificate. Correspondence is passing between the District Judge and the Bar Association and the matter is still unsettled.

## Pakistan has failed its Hazaras



ABbas NASIR

If bodies of slain loved ones can indeed be weaponised by mourning families to blackmail a prime minister, the Hazara Shias of Balochistan must be the most well-armed and lethal community in the country. But is that really the case?

To understand this point, let's take a cursory look at what the Hazara community has gone through over the past two decades. The community is, or was, approximately 0.7 million strong. Over the past 21 years an estimated 1,500 of its members have been murdered.

The rage and the bloodlust of

the murderers has not even spared unarmed women and children, including infants, what to talk of men. If the same proportion of about 220 million Pakistanis had been killed as the Hazaras have lost of their own, the toll would be close to half a million.

Yes. Half a million! That would be about 10 times the total civilian, military, paramilitary and police losses combined in 20 years of the war on terrorism suffered by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Who is unaware of the trauma the loss of those approximately 50,000 plus Pakistanis caused each of us, how it touched us?

Now imagine what pain our

Hazara compatriots live in, in perpetuity. The fear and anguish that must have made a permanent place in their hearts; the despair that must cast a long shadow over their lives and the threat they must have to bear as they go about their everyday chores.

The tragedy visiting them is endless. The number of their dead is tabulated by the Hazara Organisation for Peace and Equality (HOPE), a US-based, registered non-profit human rights organisation documenting war crimes, human rights violations, and systemic discrimination against the Hazaras.

This number does not include Hazara youths who have drowned in the high seas trying to find safer shores in South-East Asia and Australia, but it does include a young man who was murdered in Quetta after his asylum application was rejected and he was deported from Indonesia.

Whilst the number of dead is accurately recorded as is that of Hazaras wounded in assassination attempts by automatic weapons or bombs — running into the thousands certainly — there are no details of what bullet or bomb blast injuries have done to those who continue to live. For example, if they are able to work.

A number of young Hazara men, and some families, have sought asylum abroad. The painful reality is that even though a strong bond unites the community, the more educated members have greater mobility and can, and some have, moved out to safer cities within the country too. Some estimates put migration (domestic and foreign) thus far at up to 40 per cent of the community.

For the vast majority life is hellish. The state has failed them.

Of course, things weren't always like this. The community had a sizeable presence in Quetta's trade and commerce; owned many businesses. From visits to Quetta up to the 1990s (before mass murder visited them), I have a clear recollection of Hazara-owned shops, restaurants and even rickshaws driven by them.

Apart from trade and commerce, the Hazaras had solid representation in the armed forces, boasting a former C-in-C, Gen Muhammad Musa, a three-star Pakistani Air Force officer Air Marshal Sharbat Ali Changezi and many other decorated officers. My father's dear friend and comrade-in-arms Col Barkat Ali was among the finest who wore the uniform.

The Hazaras have contributed to Pakistan's defence, enriched its sports team, most notably football and boxing. They have performed admirably in martial arts, competing in international events and have also excelled academically.

But brutal, systematic violence targeting them has meant an economic meltdown for the community. A large proportion of their businesses outside the two enclaves (ghettos, if we are honest) they have been forced into, have been shut down or sold for a fraction of their real price.

The threat to their life and limb has restricted mobility and this has had a devastating impact on their ability to generate an income. Some among them, such as the miners who had their hands tied behind their backs and throats slit, are forced to leave their ghettos and the little security they are afforded there, in order to find manual labour.

The State has abandoned them. There is no doubt about that. Those close to the ground realities and familiar with the dynamics of Balochistan say the state's own policies have rendered it helpless in doing anything for the Hazaras.

"First there was the need to accommodate the Afghan Taliban who came here in large numbers in the aftermath of 9/11 and brought some of their sectarian prejudices with them," a Quetta-based journalist said.

The journalist reminded me that Afghan Hazara leader Abdul Ali Mazari, who fought against the Soviets, was killed by the Taliban in 1995 when they controlled the Ghazni area, after being invited for talks. He was reportedly taken up in a helicopter and thrown out of it at high altitude.

"Then followed years of looking the other way after Nawab Bugti's killing led to Baloch militancy. Some of the armed extremist Baloch religious groups helping the security forces in 'tackling' Baloch militancy, were simultaneously pursuing their sectarian agenda on the side," he added.

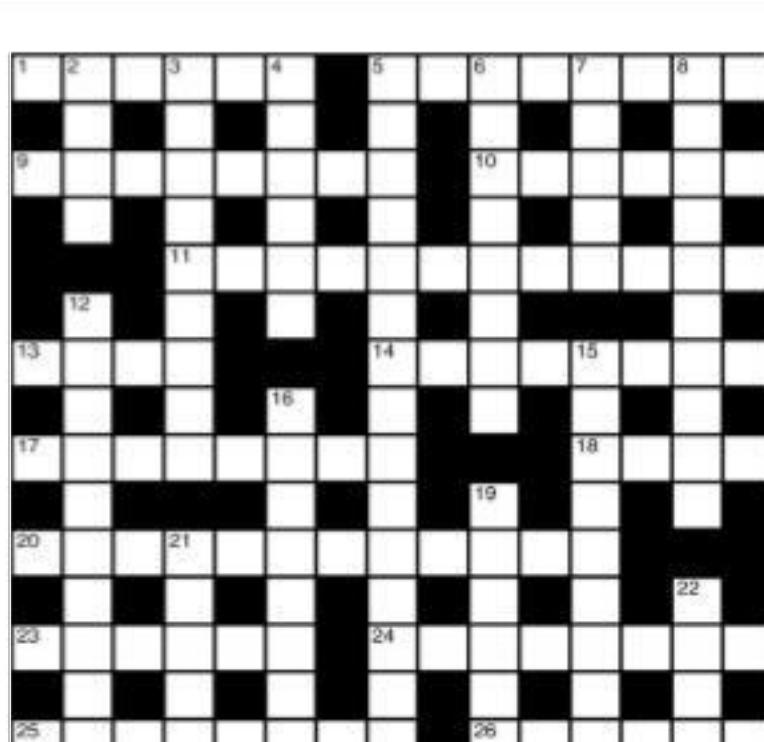
The Hazaras have paid a very heavy price. I know of families now having to live off charity because the main breadwinner(s) was snatched away. Occasionally, they are unable to contain their pain; they do sit-ins not to inconvenience us or to blackmail anyone.

They just want us to acknowledge they are hurting. We may be helpless in protecting them but are we also helpless in displaying a bit of empathy, compassion? If we find ourselves bereft of humanity, let's not call Hazaras blackmailers. They are not.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28186

### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1 I see mariner's brought round ? cutter (6)
- 5 Minor Republican given award for costumes (8)
- 9 Sea area next to the Spanish lines (8)
- 10 Stylish cross put back under cover (6)
- 11 Thoroughly organise cycling in November briefly (12)
- 13 Copy part of the choreography that's followed by foxtrot (4)
- 14 Jokes about youth with rare finery (4,4)
- 17 Medic wears more painful old headgear (8)
- 18 Second-hand uniform has sleeve mended at last (4)
- 20 Use it to groom unkempt Ulster cobs and two other horses? (7-5)
- 23 Riding limited on island - it covers top and bottom only (6)
- 24 Caught avoiding radical indirect cost where 17 is (8)
- 25 Those drinking slowly devour litres like mules (8)
- 26 Old British queen ignoring articles, 2? (6)
- 27 DOWN
- 2 A short sunhat's peak is here (4)
- 3 Manipulating BBC logo, I'm making corrupt programme (5,4)
- 4 Enthusiastic call in support of gunners (6)
- 5 Western pianist and chemist's

#### footwear (10,5)

- 6 Agitated Croatian drops paint in Ulster maybe? (8)
- 7 Gas managed to overwhelm cook (5)
- 8 Wearing 5 perhaps under the counter? (10)
- 12 She studies small church with icehouse erected on both sides (10)
- 15 Hugh's door designed with nails protruding (9)
- 16 Nice guy in suspect image upset island (8)
- 19 European belts up A1 (6)
- 21 Wally primarily talks with idiotic way of speaking (5)
- 22 Nurse dispenses this around one - it's kept in hospital cupboard (4)

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



The next tranche of commercial mining auction would be launched in January 2021, and further tranches will continue thereafter.

PRALHAD JOSHI  
UNION COAL MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

**Amazon writes to Sebi:** E-commerce major Amazon has written to Sebi yet again, apprising it of the formation of the arbitration tribunal at SIAC while urging it to suspend the review of the Rs 24,713-crore Future-RIL deal. It has also filed an appeal with the division Bench of Delhi High Court against the 21 December order of the single member Bench, according to sources. On 21 December, a single member Bench of Delhi HC had rejected Future Group's plea to restrain Amazon from writing to regulatory authorities about the SIAC arbitral order but gave a go-ahead to the regulators to decide over the deal. PTI

**NSE derivatives:** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday launched derivatives on the Nifty Financial Services Index, which will give more flexibility to institutional as well as retail investors to manage their hedge. This is the first time that the exchange has made available weekly futures for the stock index derivatives. The first day witnessed volumes of 1.4 lakh contracts being traded worth Rs 511 crore and open interest of 28,219 contracts at the end of the day, the exchange said in a statement. PTI

**BSNL, MTNL:** BSNL and MTNL turned EBITDA positive in the first half of financial year 2020-21, DoT said on Monday. The department of telecom (DoT) also said that the process for spectrum allocation for 4G services to BSNL on pan-India basis, including Delhi and Mumbai, has been initiated and funds have been provisioned in FY2020-21. PTI

**'Reduce import duty on gold, GST to curb illegal trade':** Ahead of Union Budget, Malabar Group Chairman MP Ahammed has urged the government that tax rate including import duty on gold and GST should be reduced to 7 per cent to curb large scale gold smuggling in the country, boost gold trade and strengthen consumers' confidence amid demand for gold jewellery. SNS

**Sterling Holiday Resorts:** Sterling Holiday Resorts, one of the country's leading leisure holiday and vacation ownership brands, announced the launch of its new property 'Sterling Palm Bliss Rishikesh' in Uttarakhand. The resort boasts of 35 fully-equipped rooms under classic rooms and family suites category, said a Press release statement. SNS

**MINI launch:** MINI India has introduced a special edition of the MINI three-door Hatch, the MINI Paddy Hopkirk Edition in India. Offered as a completely built-up unit (CBU), only 15 units are available and can be booked exclusively on shop.mini.in, according to a Press release. SNS

# Sensex closes above 49,000 for first time

Robust earnings performance by companies bolsters investors' confidence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 11 JANUARY

## NEW MILESTONE

► After touching a record intra-day high of 49,303.79 points, the 30-share BSE index ended 486.81 points or one per cent higher at 49,269.32 points.

► Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 137.50 points or 0.96 per cent to finish at 14,484.75 points. It hit a fresh intra-day high of 14,498.20 points.

► In the forex market, the rupee depreciated by 16



paise to close at 73.40 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a rebound in the American currency overseas.

Securities, domestic equities remained in the grip of bulls with benchmark indices registering fresh highs as robust earnings performance by TCS and D-Mart bolstered investors' confidence.

"Continued improvement in Covid-19 recovery rates and announcement of vaccination process from 16 January offered comfort to markets. Further, expectations of sharp recovery in corporate earnings led by sustained rebound in key economic data may propel market to witness fresh highs in the near term," he stated.

FPI flow may continue to remain favourable given status of global economy, stance of global central bankers and weak dollar, he said, adding that domestic equities can also witness pre-Budget rally in the coming weeks considering broad expectations of growth measures.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 6,029.83 crore on Friday,

according to exchange data. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai was in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a negative note in early deals.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.52 per cent lower at \$55.14 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee depreciated by 16 paise to close at 73.40 (provisional) against the US dollar today, tracking a rebound in the American currency overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.47 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.37 and a low of 73.50.

The local unit finally settled at 73.40, registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had finished at 73.24 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.41 per cent to 90.46.

## Triton to enter market with N4 electric sedan

NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

US-based Triton Electric Vehicle on Monday said it aims to introduce N4 sedan in India with price starting at Rs 35 lakh.

The electric sedan, which would be manufactured in the US, is going to be available in four different variants and a high-performance limited edition in the country, the company said in a statement.

Only 100 units of the limited edition version ~N4-GT~ would be produced, it added.

The N4 model comes powered by 75kWh and 100kWh battery options giving the vehicle a range of up to 523 km and 696 km, respectively, Triton Electric Vehicle said in the statement issued here. PTI

## Vedanta launches open offer to buy 10% in Indian unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

ta Resources had failed to garner the required number of shares to delist its Indian arm at the offer price of Rs 87.5 apiece. Last month, promoters had increased their stake from 50.14 per cent to 55.04 per cent through block deals totalling Rs 2,959 crore.

As per Sebi's takeover code, promoters holding more than 25 per cent but less than 75 per cent shares can buy up to 5 per cent through creeping acquisition in one financial year. Any acquisition of shares beyond 5 per cent may trigger an open offer. The promoters can after a one-year cooling-off period, take another shot at delisting that will simplify the group's complex shareholding structure and allow it better access to consolidated cash while avoiding leakage

during dividend distributions. "The acquirer (Vedanta Resources) together with PACS is making a voluntary open offer for the acquisition of up to 37,17,50,500 equity shares, representing 10 per cent of the fully diluted voting share capital of the target company (Vedanta Ltd)," the filing said.

At the time of raising its stake last month, Vedanta Resources had said the move was aimed at simplifying the group structure.

"This is in line with our strategic priority for simplifying the group structure to align the group's capital and operational structures, streamline the process of servicing the group's financing obligations and improve a range of important credit metrics," it had said.

In October last year, Vedan-

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## Next commercial mines auction soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 JANUARY

The country has reached a position where the coal sector can be the biggest contributor towards the target of India becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2025.

AMIT SHAH  
HOME MINISTER

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We are not fearful. America is the source of terrorism. It's directly involved in killing and starving the Yemeni people

YEMENI POLITICAL FIGURE MOHAMMED ALI AL-HOUTHI  
ON U.S. MOVE TO DESIGNATE YEMEN'S IRAN-BACKED REBELS AS TERRORISTS

The Statesman

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

09

# WHO team tasked to probe origins of Covid-19 to visit China on 14 January

Trump, who has termed coronavirus as China virus, alleged that the virus may have emanated from WIV & called for a probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, JAN 11

**C**hina said on Monday that a group of experts from the WHO will arrive in the country on Thursday for a long-anticipated probe into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, ending the uncertainty and delay which drew sharp criticism from the world health body.

Experts from the WHO will conduct a field visit to China on 14 January, the state-run CGTN quoted China's National Health Commission as saying in a report.

Confirming the visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing on Monday that China-supported scientists around the world to conduct a global study on the origins and transmission routes

of the virus.

Zhao declined to provide details of the schedule of the experts and whether they would be permitted to visit the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

US President Donald Trump, who has termed coronavirus as China virus, has alleged that the virus may have emanated from WIV and called for a probe into it.

WIV has denied the allegation, saying it is politically motivated. The ten-member team of WHO experts is expected to visit Wuhan, but it is not clear yet whether they would visit WIV too.

When asked about it, Zhao directed the questions relating to the schedule of the WHO experts to relevant authorities.

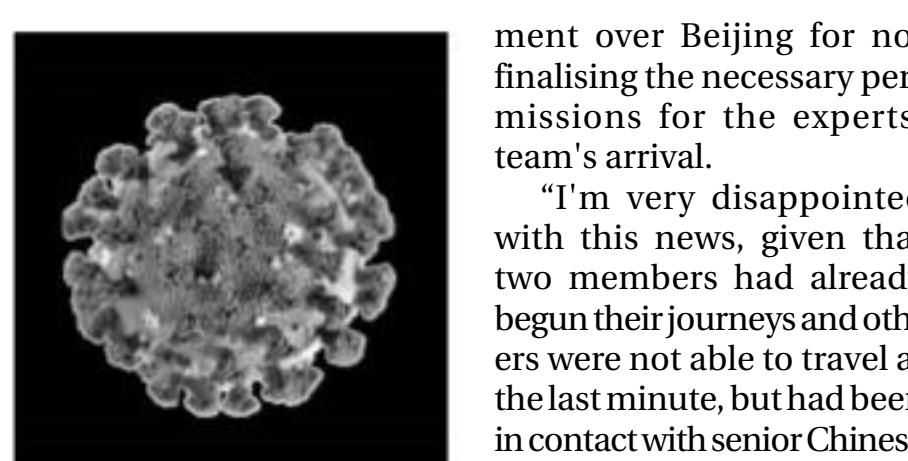
"China stands ready to closely cooperate with WHO and international experts.

With specific details of itinerary, I refer to you to competent authority, he said.

"The origin tracing may involve more countries. The WHO needs to conduct similar studies in other countries and regions," Zhao said, highlighting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent comments that China "raced against time" and was the first country to report coronavirus cases to the world.

More and more research suggests that the pandemic was likely to have been caused by separate outbreaks in multiple places in the world he said.

The team's visit to China, especially to Wuhan where the virus first emerged in December last year, has become a bone of contention as Beijing, which questions the widely-held view about the virus' origins in Wuhan, had delayed granting permission to the 10-



member team of experts.

China has been proactively questioning the view that the deadly outbreak took place in a wet market in Wuhan where live animals, birds and reptiles are sold and spread to humans. The market remained closed and sealed since early last year.

Monday's confirmation came after WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is often accused of being pro-China, in a rare instance of criticism, expressed disappoint-

ment over Beijing for not finalising the necessary permissions for the experts' team's arrival.

"I'm very disappointed with this news, given that two members had already begun their journeys and others were not able to travel at the last minute, but had been in contact with senior Chinese officials," he said.

Tedros said he "made it clear" that the mission was a priority for the UN health agency and it was eager to get it "underway as soon as possible". The delay by China to finalise the visit fuelled concerns that Beijing was obstructing global efforts to trace the origins of COVID-19.

China and the World Health Organization (WHO) have reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation with four video conferences, said Zeng Yixin, who is the deputy head of the National Health Commission.

On 9 January, Zeng told the media here that China and the WHO had reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation with four video conferences.

Once the WHO experts complete their procedures and finalise the schedule, Chinese experts will go to Wuhan with them to conduct the investigation, Zeng said. The experts team was also expected to undergo 14-day quarantine.

In May last year, the World Health Assembly (WHA) - the governing body of the 194-member states of the WHO - approved a resolution to set up an independent inquiry to conduct an "impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of the international response, as well as that of the WHO.

live in settlements scattered across the West Bank. The Palestinians view settlements as a violation of international law and an obstacle to peace, a position with wide international support.

The Palestinian Authority's foreign Ministry condemned the latest announcement, accusing Israel of racing against time to build settlements before President Donald Trump leaves office.

Trump's administration provided unprecedented support to Israel, including by abandoning a decades-old US policy of opposing settlements. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last year became the first top US diplomat to visit a West Bank settlement.

Biden has pledged a more even-handed approach in which he will restore aid to the Palestinians that was cut off by Trump and work to revive peace negotiations.

## Indonesia navy divers hunt for crashed plane's black boxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, 11 JANUARY

Indonesian navy divers scoured the floor of the Java Sea on Monday as they hunted for the black boxes of a Sriwijaya Air jet that nosedived into the waters at high velocity with 62 people aboard.

The Boeing 737-500 jet disappeared minutes after taking off from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, during heavy rain on Saturday, and the search so far has yielded plane parts and human remains but no sign of survivors.

Authorities have said signals from the boxes containing the cockpit voice and flight data recorders were detected between Lancang and Laki islands in the Thousand Island chain just north of Jakarta's coast. Officials said they have marked a location where the sounds were being emitted from the black

boxes, which detached from the tail of the aircraft when it plummeted into the sea.

The cockpit voice recorder holds conversations between pilots, and the data recorder tracks electronic information such as airspeed, altitude and vertical acceleration. When found, they will be transported to port and handed to the National Transportation Safety Committee overseeing the crash investigation.

More than a dozen helicopters, 53 navy ships and 20 boats, and 2,600 rescue personnel have been searching since Sunday and have found parts of the plane in the water at a depth of 23 meters (75 feet), leading rescuers to continue searching the area.

The National Search and Rescue Agency chief Bagus Puruhito said divers using high-tech ping locator equipment were looking for an identified target beneath 20

meters (65 feet) of seabed mud.

Television footage showed landing gear, wheels and a jet engine among the parts found, while other rescuers brought a dozen body bags containing human remains to a police hospital in eastern Jakarta for the identification process.

The transport committee chairman, Soerjanto Tjahjono, said the black boxes could provide valuable information to investigators. Once the device is found and taken to the

investigators' facility, it will take three to five days to dry and clean the device and download its data, Tjahjono said.

He said it need more time to analyse it, depending on the complexity of the problem. Tjahjono ruled out a possible midair breakup after seeing the condition of the wreckage found by searchers.

He said the jet was intact when it plunged and it broke into pieces upon the impact with the water. The debris was concentrated in one area,

while a midair explosion would have caused debris to be spread over a large area, he said.

It was broke apart naturally upon impact with water... there is no indication of unnatural destruction or explosion so far, Tjahjono told *The Associated Press*. However, this still has to be confirmed by reading the black boxes.

The committees investigator Nurcahyo Utomo, said they have collected recordings and transcripts of the conversation between the pilot and air traffic controllers as part of their investigation into the cause of the crash. Utomo said his team is still examining radar data on the planes movements and interviewed the air traffic officers who were in charge of controlling the crashed flight. More interviews of witnesses, including with the airlines technicians, fishermen and experts, will be done in the near future.

One of the worst power outages faced by Pakistan last week was caused due to poor maintenance and subsequent failure of the protection system in the national grid, the Dawn reported on Monday.

The newspaper reported that senior officers held detailed discussions after many cities and towns across Pakistan plunged into darkness Saturday night following a major technical fault in the country's power generation and distribution system.

The officials admitted that the blackout had exposed the mismanagement on the part of the government in running the entire power sector of the country on an ad hoc

basis, it said.

The chief executive officers of all the three key companies concerned - the Central Power Generation Company-Guddu, the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) and the National Power Control Centre (NPCC) - have been working on ad hoc operating charge basis for years.

The Central Power Generation Company (CPGC) runs the Guddu Power Station where the initial technical fault was reported to have taken place, leading to Karachi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan and other places facing the blackout.

The NTDC operates the country's national grid whose protection system should have reacted to the Guddu station's tripping and isolated the fault. Its system, meant to stop the transmission frequency from dropping, apparently did not work resulting in the cascading closure of all the power plants across the country in a matter of seconds.

The NPCC monitors the flow of electricity from power plants to various distribution companies (Discos). It has to manage supply systems for proper load and frequency balancing.

Even the Discos are working without regular chief executive officers for more than two and a half years, the newspaper said.

The country's Prime Minister Imran Khan has reportedly expressed displeasure over non-filling of the posts in power companies.

## Pakistan power outage caused by failure of safeguards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 11 JANUARY

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## Yemen's rebels defiant as aid agencies fear US terror label

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, 11 JANUARY

Yemen's Iran-backed rebels on Monday dismissed the US move to designate them a terrorist organization in the final days of the Trump administration while a leading aid agency warned such a designation would deal another devastating blow to the impoverished and war-torn nation.

The planned designation, announced by US Secretary of

State Mike Pompeo late Sunday, would take effect a day before President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated 20 January. It was not clear whether Biden would overturn the decision.

Yemen is mired in a disastrous humanitarian crisis, with millions of people in wide swaths of the country on the brink of famine as a result of six years of civil war.

Pompeo said he was proceeding with the designation of

the rebels, known as Houthis, along with separate terrorist designations for the three top rebel leaders. At the same time, he pledged the US would help absorb the impact on aid groups and allow humanitarian assistance to continue to flow into Yemen. Hours later, several senior rebel figures slammed Pompeo's announcement.

We are not fearful, tweeted Mohammed Ali al-Houthi. America is the source of terrorism. It's directly involved

in killing and starving the Yemeni people. Others said the designation was an attempt to deflect attention from the US political crisis in the wake of the deadly Capitol rioting and efforts to impeach President Donald Trump. We are honored to be terrorists and the world's gangsters, tweeted the Houthi media official Abdel-Rahman al-Ahouni.

In Iran, the foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned the designation as a doomed-to-failure action at the end of Trump's administration. He said the US would eventually have to enter into negotiations with the legitimate representatives of Yemen referring to the Houthis to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Yemen's internationally recognized government described the Houthis as a terrorist militia and in a statement issued by its foreign ministry called for a continuation of the

escalation and intensification of the political and legal pressures on the Houthis to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Yemen, on the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is the scene of the world's worst humanitarian disaster. The war has killed more than 1,12,000 people and has left the majority of the country's nearly 30 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

The conflict started in 2014

when the Houthis overran the north and the capital, Sanaa. The following year, the Saudi-led coalition intervened to wage war on the Houthis to try to restore the internationally recognized President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's government to power.

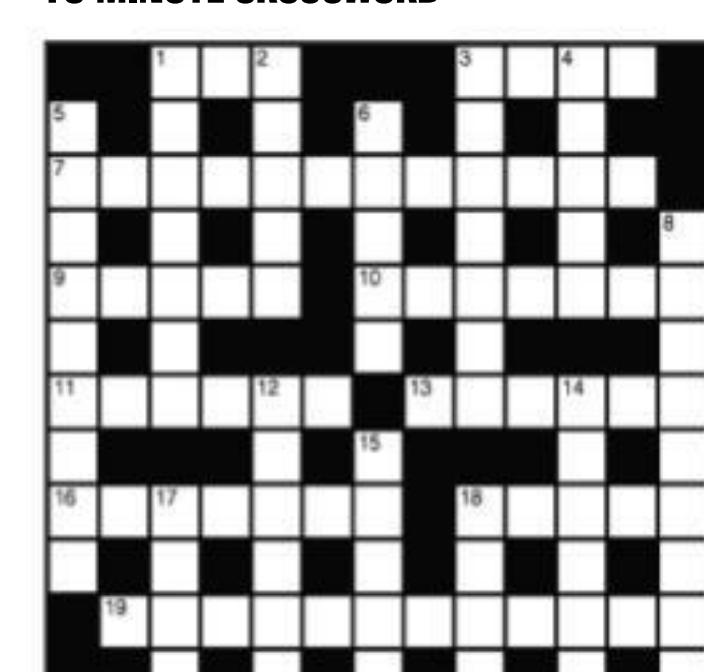
In early January, Hadi's government accused the rebels of firing ballistic missiles that targeted a plane with Cabinet members after landing in the southern port city of Aden, an

attack that killed more than 25 people. The Houthis denied they were behind the strike.

Following the attack, Yemeni PM Maeen Abdulmalik Saad said that the rebels need to realize that if they continue these criminal and terrorist operations, there will be no path to peace. At the time, Abdulmalik said a terrorist designation would be a step of great importance and would help establish peace in Yemen.

### LEISURE

#### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Compete (3)
- 3 Cat's sound (4)
- 7 Not absolutely necessary (3-9)
- 9 Taut (5)
- 10 Laugh gleefully (7)
- 11 Hardly ever (6)
- 13 Infuriate (6)
- 16 First course (7)
- 18 Alloy (5)
- 19 Renaissance artist (12)
- 20 Soon (4)
- 21 Secret agent (3)

DOWN

- 1 Wine merchant (7)
- 2 Result (5)
- 3 Humiliating remark (3-4)
- 4 Respond (5)
- 5 Form of investment (4,5)
- 6 Long seat (5)
- 8 Economic slump (9)
- 12 Attach oneself (5,2)
- 14 Type of school (7)
- 15 Cook (5)
- 17 Extraterrestrial (5)
- 18 Extra payment (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Even so, 12 Ruler, 13 Eyebar, 14 Felt, 15 Claret, 16 Lord's, 17 Serial killer, 20 Whether, 21 Nerve, 22 Barn, 23 Stalls, 24
- DOWN
- 7 Chaste, 8 Tony, 9 Plotter, 10 Operational, 11 Strength, 12 Even so, 13 Eyebar, 14 Felt, 15 Claret, 16 Lord's, 17 Serial killer, 20 Whether, 21 Nerve, 22 Barn, 23 Stalls, 24

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW



*I find it shameful that surrounding these tragic events there has been salacious gossip, unwarranted personal attacks*

USA FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP

## THUMBNAILS



A medical worker collects swab sample from residents at a community Covid-19 testing site in Yuhua District of Shijiazhuang, Capital of north China's Hebei Province, on Tuesday. LANS

**Sweden sends 2 to prison for hammer assault:** A Swedish court on Monday sentenced a man and a woman to 10 years and eight years in prison respectively for attempted murder and accessory to attempted murder in a February hammer attack on a blogger and critic of Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. The pair, who were not named by the Gävle District Court, assaulted Tumso Abdurachmanov on 26 February in his home in Gävle, 170 km north of Stockholm. AP

**South Korea to vaccine its 52M people for free:** South Korea's president says it'll offer Covid-19 vaccinations to all its people free of charge in phases. President Moon Jae-in made the comments in his New Year's address on Monday. He has maintained an earlier government announcement that the inoculation will start from February. South Korean officials have said they'll have vaccines for 56 million people, an amount seemingly enough for the country's 52 m people. AP

**South Africa struggles with post-holiday spike:** South Africa is struggling to cope with a spike in Covid-19 cases that has already overwhelmed some hospitals, as people returning from widespread holiday travel along the coast spread the country's more infectious coronavirus variant. Of particular concern is Gauteng, which includes the cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria. Authorities say it is already seeing a spike in new infections. PTI

**Biden chooses veteran diplomat Burns as CIA director**

WASHINGTON, 11 JANUARY

President-elect Joe Biden announced on Monday he has chosen veteran diplomat William Burns to be his CIA director.

A former ambassador to Russia and Jordan, Burns, 64, had a 33-year career at the state department under both Republican and Democratic presidents. He rose through the ranks of the diplomatic corps to become deputy secretary of state before retiring in 2014 to run the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace.

Amid tumult in the State Department after Donald Trump took office in 2017, Burns held his tongue until last year when he began writing highly critical pieces of the Trump administration's policies in Foreign Affairs and other publications. AP

# US Democrats to step up bid to impeach President Trump

Calls for Trump's impeachment intensified after thousands of pro-Trump rioters stormed US Capitol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 11 JANUARY

**D**emocrats in the House of Representatives have stepped up their bid to impeach Donald Trump in the waning days of his presidency, contending that he should be held accountable for the unprecedented mayhem by thousands of his supporters at the US Capitol.

The move to impeach Trump gained momentum on Sunday with the House Democrats announcing to introduce the article of impeachment against the outgoing Republican President on Monday.

This comes hours after the House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a Dear Colleague letter to the Democratic members laid the ground rules for the move and gave an ultimatum to Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment of the Constitution.

The 25th Amendment allows for the President to be removed from office by the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet.

On Monday, I intend to help introduce a resolution impeaching President Trump for high crimes and misde-

mours, Congressman Brad Schneider said on Sunday.

Describing the ground rules, Pelosi said, first thing Monday morning, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer will request Unanimous Consent to bring up the Raskin resolution which calls on the vice president to convene and mobilise the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment to declare the President incapable of executing the duties of his office, after which the Vice President would immediately exercise powers as acting President.

If we do not receive Unanimous Consent, this legislation is planned to be brought up on the Floor the following day. We are calling on the Vice President to respond within 24 hours. Next, we will proceed with bringing impeachment legislation to the Floor, Pelosi said.

In protecting our Constitution and our Democracy, we will act with urgency, because this President represents an imminent threat to both. As the days go by, the horror of the ongoing assault on our democracy perpetrated by this President is intensified and so is the immediate need for action, she wrote.

The calls for Trump's impeachment intensified after

thousands of pro-Trump rioters on Wednesday stormed the US Capitol, interrupting a joint session of Congress where lawmakers were set to certify President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' win in the 3 November election. Five people died in the incident.

Trump would be succeeded by Biden on January 20 as mandated by the Constitution.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton called on the House and Senate to pass a resolution censuring President Trump for an attempted coup in trying to overturn the results of the presidential election and incitement of insurrection for the attack on the Capitol last week.

Norton, who has also co-sponsored several impeachment resolutions since the attack on the Capitol, said censure is the only remedy that can pass both chambers imme-

diate and, unlike impeachment, will not delay President-elect Biden's agenda in the Senate. Norton will introduce the censure resolution on Monday.

President Trump is a clear and present danger to the United States and has committed impeachable offenses, Norton said.

The Vice President and Cabinet should remove him under the 25th Amendment and, if not, Congress should remove him from office and bar him from ever holding federal office again, she said.

The Senate is out of regular session until January 19th. It would take unanimous consent for the Senate to return before then.

In the case of impeachment, once the House transmits the impeachment resolution to the Senate and after the Senate comes back into session, it must take up the resolution.

# Biden faces challenge in guiding American past Trump era

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 11 JANUARY

US President-elect Joe Biden appeared on television last week as a bipartisan group of lawmakers huddled in an undisclosed location to protect themselves from a violent mob that was ransacking the US Capitol.

In addition, it is an open constitutional question whether a president can be impeached after leaving office.

Top Republican Senator Marco Rubio described the impeachment move as unfortunate.

It's unfortunate that instead of uniting us right now, Biden and the Democrats have chosen to use this as an opportunity to talk about ridiculous things like let's impeach a president who isn't even going to be in office in about nine days...he told Fox News.

Joe Biden ran as a guy who is going to unify the country, and he's going to spend the first couple weeks of his presidency not confirming his nominees, not dealing with the pandemic but the first couple weeks of his presidency is going to be about removing a president that is already not in office, he said.

Republican Congressman James Comer said that he is opposed to yet another Trump's impeachment that will further inflame tensions in the US.

response legislation.

For now, Biden seems content to leave decisions about Trump's fate to Congress.

What the Congress decides to do is for them to decide," Biden told reporters last week. But I'm going to have to and they're going to have to be ready to hit the ground running, because when Kamala (Harris) and I are sworn in, we're going to be introducing, immediately, significant pieces of legislation that will deal with the virus, deal with the economy, and deal with economic growth. Two Republican senators, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania, have called on Trump to resign.

Biden essentially framed his presidential campaign as a response to Trump, pledging to restore the soul of America. He has said he decided to seek the White House after watching Trump say there were very fine people on both sides of a deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Still, the insurrection sharpens the debate over how to break with the Trump era. Many Democrats say the best way for Biden to restore faith in government is to achieve tangible results on issues that matter to all Americans, including the pandemic and the economy.

## Armenian, Azerbaijani leaders in Russia for talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOSCOW, 11 JANUARY



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday hosted his counterparts from Armenia and Azerbaijan, their first meeting since a Russia-brokered truce ended six weeks of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh.

As he sat down for talks in the Kremlin with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Putin said that the peace agreement has been successfully implemented, laying the foundation for a fair settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The November 10 peace deal ended 44 days of hostilities in which the Azerbaijani army routed Armenian forces and reclaimed control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas.

He noted that senior offi-

cials from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia will now discuss further moves to restore traffic links in the region after the decades-long conflict.

The November 10 peace deal ended 44 days of hostilities in which the Azerbaijani army routed Armenian forces and reclaimed control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but was under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. That war left Nagorno-Karabakh itself and substantial surrounding territory in Armenian hands.

Hostilities flared up in late September and the Azerbaijani military pushed deep

into Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas in six weeks of fighting involving heavy artillery and drones that left more than 6,000 people dead on both sides.

Under the peace deal, Russia has deployed about 2,000 peacekeepers to Nagorno-Karabakh for five years.

The peace deal was celebrated in Azerbaijan as a major triumph, but sparked outrage and mass protests in Armenia, where thousands repeatedly took to the streets demanding Pashinyan's resignation.

The Armenian prime minister has defended the deal as a painful but necessary move that prevented Azerbaijan from overrunning the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region.

## Pope: Women can read at Mass, but still can't be priests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ROME, 11 JANUARY

Pope Francis changed church law on Monday to explicitly allow women to do more things during Mass, while continuing to affirm that they cannot be priests.

Francis amended the law to formalise and institutionalise what is common practice in many parts of the world: that women can read the Gospel and serve on the altar as eucharistic ministers. Previously, such roles were officially reserved to men even though exceptions were made.

Francis said he was making the change to increase recognition of the precious contribution women make in the church, while emphasising that all baptised Catholics have a role to play in the church's mission.

priests, such as presiding at weddings, baptisms and funerals. Currently, the ministry is reserved for men even though historians say the ministry was performed by women in the early church.

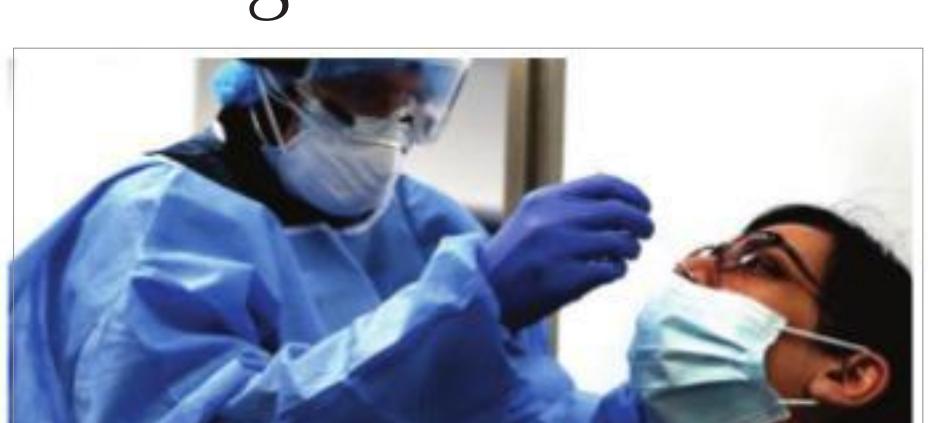
Francis has created a second commission of experts to study whether women could be deacons, after a first one failed to reach a consensus. Advocates for expanding the diaconate to include women say doing so would give women greater say in the ministry and governance of the church, while also helping to address priest shortages in several parts of the world.

## PERILOUS WINTER



Numerous cars are parked in a parking lot of a winter sports area near Gutenberg.

## Lebanon considers tighter lockdown amid Covid surge



A nurse in protective clothing takes a swab from American Josephine Sandoval at a coronavirus testing center at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon on Monday. AP

Some 80,000 Lebanese expats had returned to the country during the holidays, but doctors say the transmission remains mainly among non-expats.

Ahead of a ministerial meeting to consider new measures, Caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab blamed careless behavior for the spread, saying many Lebanese still consider the virus a hoax and are not taking it seriously.

We have entered a very critical zone in terms of the coronavirus spread or at a minimum, we are at the gates of that zone, Diab said.

Last Friday, the World Health Organization said 76 percent of hospital beds were occupied while the ICU beds occupancy had reached 88 per cent, with the highest in Beirut. Some 2,291 health care workers had been infected by Jan. 8, up from 2,015 three days earlier. Lebanon has recorded more than 219,000 infections and 1,606 deaths.

## Kazakhstan's ruling party cements its grip on Parl

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOSCOW, 11 JANUARY

The country's only registered opposition party declined to field candidates.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in a statement that an uncompetitive campaign and systemic de-facto limitations on constitutionally guaranteed fundamental freedoms left voters without genuine choice."

The OSCE's observers noted in their statement that the nation's political landscape is heavily dominated by the ruling party, and the distinction between party and government is often blurred.

As all political parties contesting the elections supported the policies of the ruling party, the campaign was not competitive, and voters had no genuine political alternatives to choose from, the OSCE said.

## Winter storm coats Southern states with blanket of snow

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
AUSTIN (US), 11 JANUARY



As many as 6 inches of snow fell across parts of southern Texas, the National Weather Service in Houston reported Sunday night. The snow contributed to slick roads and power outages, but some families took time to enjoy the weather in areas like Austin and College Sta-



tion. The system moved into Louisiana and Mississippi during the nighttime hours, with Louisiana State Police warning people in an online video to stay off the roads if possible.

By Monday morning, a light dusting covered grassy

Monday including in Caddo Parish, where Shreveport is located according to *The Advocate*.

More than 100,000 customers in Texas and over 45,000 customers in Louisiana were without power early Monday morning, according to poweroutage.us, a utility tracking website.

Several school districts were closed, delayed or scheduled for only virtual learning in Mississippi and southern Arkansas, news outlets reported. The National Weather Service in Jackson said 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) of snow were expected for areas including Vicksburg and Yazoo City, with locally heavier amounts possible. Communities further south in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama missed the snow, but got rain or sleet.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who succeeded him as the country's president, hailed Sunday's vote as another step in the country's democratic development.



## Tapping into unlimited potentials



**Be it graduates or experienced candidates, the right PGDM degree will help one to climb the corporate ladder in this fast-evolving technology advanced world**

SANJIV MARWAH

**W**ith the markets growing at a spectacular rate, especially the Indian market becoming technologically advanced and skilled-driven rather than just promoting degrees from premier institutes, the two years of PGDM courses are now walking hand-in-hand with just what the industry requires. The bright side to the coronavirus outbreak in the education sector is the smart switch many management institutes have made with business school students and staff coming together to support each other through the crisis. To ensure proper student engagement responding to such disruption, top management colleges offering PGDM courses are shifting to blended learning, tech-savvy modules involving practical and theoretical curriculum so that students can keep up with their stud-

ies without any hitches.

Below mentioned are some of the insights and reasons on why a PGDM degree will help students lead a successful career in the post-Covid era:

#### Strategic and innovative thinking skills

Managing strategy and innovation are one of the skill sets which are in burgeoning demand. It includes skills like analysing data or information, thinking creatively, and developing objectives and strategies. These skills differentiate a PGDM hire from other courses in such a domain.

#### Digital transformation and technological upskilling

We all have witnessed that many early-stage startups and other companies, resorting to digital transformation to cope with the challenges during the pandemic. Upskilling in terms of technology will play a cru-

cial role in the coming years for any organisations to succeed. Recruiters will look for candidates who are well equipped with such skills and can manage the technical processes as well as digital tools in the organisation. Thus, PGDM is one of the best courses, which equips one with the required technological upskilling.

#### Adaptability and flexibility

In the new normal, the trend of remote working will surely go up. Thus, it is very important for students to embrace the new normal and prepare themselves to adapt to such a working environment. This is the reason blended learning is the emerging concept in B-Schools as it equips students with the reality of the virtual world.

#### Industry integrated syllabus

Unlike most other management courses, PGDM programmes are updated every year or so to deal with

the industrial trends. Some of the benefits of pursuing such updated courses are that students learn the new and ongoing concepts and practices of business management and entrepreneurship.

#### Corporate ready

Pursuing a PGDM course doesn't simply allow interpersonal growth but also to imbibe knowledge about business management. The advantages associated are multi-fold and multidimensional and most importantly it prepares one to be corporate ready. Entering the corporate world with management education and the fundamental knowledge about modern business management will propel one's growth towards one's professional life.

#### Young entrepreneurs

The two-year post graduation programme covers a wide range of topics that help individuals develop

business skills such as leadership, communication, critical thinking and decision-making vital for today's competitive environment. Many aspiring individuals assume a great business idea is enough to be a successful businessman. However, an advantage of doing a PGDM as an aspiring entrepreneur is that one emerges with a strong, workable idea for a successful startup, such that investors would be willing to invest in.

Be it a graduate or an experienced person, the right PGDM degree will help one to climb that corporate ladder in this fast-evolving technology advanced world. Challenging strategic roles and becoming a manager or a senior analyst is what one can expect out of these courses. One must figure out a good career objective today!

The writer is director, JK Business School

SUNITA GANDHI

**T**he Covid-19 crisis tested every teacher's ability to adapt and innovate the new ways of teaching. However difficult it was, they were supposed to overcome the challenges with dedication, moving towards the new normal called remote education. Then came the National Education Policy 2020 that gave teachers an opportunity to improvise their teaching skills, add new ways of evaluation, and bring innovation to the classrooms, even if virtual.

One of the key factors of NEP 2020 is transforming the quality of teaching and putting teachers in the front row of modern education. But how can one achieve this?

Teacher training is about introducing technology at all levels of education and the rule is equally applicable to the teachers. An individual can gain proficient experience without settling on the education they have already received and figure out how to educate themselves more in order to teach better. This assists them in executing procedures learnt at work and brings that expansive experience to the classrooms. The idea is to know how to switch between learning and teaching makes a great point in developing practical learning in the new age educators who would make it more relevant by imparting it further in the classrooms. Along these lines, it gives them a chance to constantly learn and redesigns their teaching methods to deliver the necessary competencies in an effective manner. The arrangement augments the extent of upgrading one's capabilities to remain industry-pertinent by directing workshops, courses, online teacher training modules which keep the learning lamp lit.

As we witness an upheaval in teaching and learning approaches, the requirement for valid, sound and educated teachers in the industry has intensified. It lures more young people to pick teaching as a career calling, which offers growth and exposure all the while. The growth milestone for proficient educator means increment in the compensation scale indicator. Teacher training encourages an

## IDEAL MIX OF LEARNING AND REHEARSING

**While schools are moving towards virtual classrooms amidst the world pandemic, it is necessary to support teachers to overcome technological roadblocks**

ideal mix of learning and rehearsing for the teacher's group. It permits the teachers to rehearse more and upgrade their expertise of education.

With AI-based learning devices, educators have the option to tailor education and evaluation system for each student. They have the option to customise task, so students pick up as indicated by their qualities or make learning ways special to every student. By deliberately utilising

innovation, teachers have the chance to develop their impact and successfully advantage each student. It is evident that training should change significantly to invest in the classroom and advance request based, conversation based techniques as conceived under NEP. Educators who have embraced online through the Covid-19 emergency can make the most of hybrid infrastructure including both virtual as well as physical

education.

Many notable organisations are already making training programmes for experienced as well as aspiring teachers for years. Their objective of changing the teacher training format with the help of technology has helped many become better at their jobs. While schools are moving towards virtual classrooms amidst the world pandemic, it is necessary to support teachers to overcome the

technological roadblocks with the help of a platform of designers for schools as well as individual teachers. These organisations have got the best teacher training programmes that help teachers develop their professional thinking as well as techniques of teaching with new age methods and approaches.

The writer is founder, Global Classroom Private Limited (CCPL) and Global Education & Training Institute (GETI)

#### PLUS POINTS

#### Empowering learners



To empower the next generation of learners, the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) partnered with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation recently. As part of this collaboration, a blended learning curriculum will be created for students pursuing the "Computer Operating and Programming Assistant" (COPA) trade. The curriculum will impact 1.2 lakh students across 3000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) in India

Resources from LinkedIn, GitHub and Microsoft Learn will be integrated with the Bharat Skills platform of MSDE to provide access to personalised learning paths for students. DGT will also collaborate with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to conduct faculty development programmes. More than 250 members of the ITI COPA faculty are expected to be trained in the first phase.

#### Remarkable initiative



To promote language learning as a skill in Indian educational ecosystem, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has taken a remarkable initiative to install Digital Language Labs in their schools.

The lab was inaugurated at Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya, president's estate, New Delhi by the first lady of India Savita Kovind recently. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank", the Minister of Education (government of India), chairman of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in the presence of a commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Nidhi Pandey and principal of Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya Charu Sharma. This turn-key project of Digital Language Lab has been successfully implemented by Globus Infocom Limited, which has successfully enabled labs in 100 Kendriya Vidyalaya schools. The primary objective is to enrich language learning in schools by blending traditional pedagogical methods with modern and technologically-equipped resources.

#### Chase your dream



The Shishir Rameshwar National Talent Hunt Scholarship Examination (SRNTH) aims to encourage young and energetic blood of India to join the Indian Armed Forces. The idea behind conducting the programme is to address the budget constraints that most aspirants in India face at present—thus facilitating the selected candidates with monetary aid in the form of scholarships and cash rewards, blended with academic guidance to give a platform to the worthy and a chance to shape their talent.

SRNTH has helped thousands of students to achieve their dreams in their defence career. The exam will be conducted on 16 January 2021 through an online mode on the Centurion Defence Academy, Centurion Defence Academy (CDA) Student app. The last date for registration for the same is 15 January. Applicants can register for the scholarship exam through the CDA student app.

#### Detailed learning

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar is inviting applications for its MSc in cognitive science. The discipline of cognitive science is a steadily growing interdisciplinary field consisting of philosophy, psychology, computer science, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence.

The course offers students the flexibility to tailor the course according to their interests. The institute is also calling for applications for the Masters in society and culture, a programme that provides students (from any disciplinary background) the breadth and focuses in the key disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. The deadline for application for both the courses is 31 January. For details visit: <https://admissions.iitgn.ac.in/loginindex.php>



## A SNOW JOB

Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois (photo, left) joined coach Zinedine Zidane in criticising organisers La Liga for not postponing his side's game at Osasuna on Saturday due to a snowstorm. The match finished 0-0, denting Real's title bid.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Neymar is back:** Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar returned to training Monday following a one-month absence because of an ankle injury. Neymar has been sidelined since he was taken off on a stretcher in stoppage time on Dec. 13 when PSC lost at home to Lyon 1-0 in the French league.

**Postponed:** Tottenham's Premier League game against Aston Villa on Wednesday has been postponed, with Jose Mourinho's team instead facing Fulham on the same day. Villa requested for its game against Tottenham to be rescheduled.

**Kohli's daughter:** India captain Virat Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma were on Monday blessed with a baby girl. Kohli made the announcement on his official Twitter handle.

**Tokyo polls:** More than 80% of people in Japan who were surveyed in two polls in the last few days say the Tokyo Olympics should be canceled or postponed, or not take place.

## Defiant India stand firm for fighting draw

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY, 11 JANUARY

A courageous and injury-wracked India pulled off a remarkable draw in a tense third Test against Australia on Monday as they survived against the hosts' much-vaunted bowling attack to take the series into a decider.

They resumed day five at 98-2, needing a further 309 runs after being set a huge 407 to win, when Australia declared their second innings at tea on Sunday on 312 for six.

No team had ever bettered 288 to clinch victory in the fourth innings at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with Australia achieving that mark against South Africa in 2006.

But India gave it a massive go, passing 288 in the final session to fray the nerves of Australian team throwing everything they had at them. The visitors abandoned any hope of victory but they bravely clung on for the draw with Hanuma Vihari, nursing a hamstring injury, surviving 161 balls for just 23 runs and Ravi Ashwin, who had treatment on his ribs, making 39. They steered India to 334 for

five at the close, 73 runs adrift. Their resistance was built on the back of an explosive 97 from Rishabh Pant and a typically gritty 77 from Cheteshwar Pujara, who passed 6,000 Test runs, but also helped by wicketkeeper Tim Paine dropping three catches.

It culminated an absorbing Test marked by some high-quality batting, led by Steve Smith's 131 and Pant's 97, and razor-sharp fielding. But it will also be remembered for allegations India were racially abused by sections of the Sydney Cricket Ground crowd, with investigations underway and tough action promised against anyone at fault.

After Australia won the first Test in Adelaide by eight wickets then India bounced back in Melbourne by the same margin, the series now heads to Brisbane later this week for the final chapter. It will be a depleted India again at the Gabba, with fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav and batsmen KL Rahul out injured and question marks over all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who dislocated his thumb in Sydney.

Australia removed open-

ers Shubman Gill for 31 and Rohit Sharma for 52 before stumps on day four, and when Nathan Lyon accounted for captain Ajinkya Rahane without adding to his overnight four in Monday's second over the end appeared nigh.

But Pant, who took a nasty blow to his elbow while batting in the first innings and didn't keep wicket on Sunday, surprisingly came in at number five ahead of Vihari and produced some fireworks.

He came to the wicket with no strapping on his hurt elbow, after settling in and surviving a missed catch by Tim Paine on three, began to hit out, smacking a four and a six off Lyon on consecutive balls. Batting in Twenty20-style, he then clobbered two more sixes in a row off Lyon

before bringing up his third Test 50 off just 64 balls. Paine dropped him again on 56, both times off Lyon.

He kept the scoreboard ticking over after lunch and a third Test century looked imminent only for the 23-year-old to throw his bat one time too many, caught by Pat Cummins off Lyon. His wicket shattered a 148-run partnership with Pujara, who resumed the day on nine and slowly reached a second consecutive 50. In the process he brought up 6,000 career runs, the 11th Indian to achieve the feat, before being bowled by Josh Hazlewood. That left Vihari and Ashwin to weather the storm and pull off an unlikely draw, so exhausted that they gave up running between the wickets at the end.

## SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS 338	H Vihari	not out	23
INDIA 1ST INNINGS 244	R Ashwin	not out	39
AUSTRALIA 2ND INNINGS 312	Extras: (lb 3, w 6, w 2)	11	
INDIA 2ND INNINGS (TARGET: 407 RUNS)	TOTAL: (131 Ov, RR: 2.55)	334/5	
R Sharma c Starc b Cummins —52	BOWLING: M Starc	22,6,66,0	
S Gill c Paine b Hazlewood 31	J Hazlewood	26,12,39,2	P
C Pujara b Hazlewood 77	Cummins	26,6,72,1	N Lyon
A Rahane c Wade b Lyon 4	46,17,114,2	C Green	7,0,31,0
R Pant c Cummins b Lyon 97	M Labuschagne	4,2,9,0	

H Vihari	not out	23
R Ashwin	not out	39
Extras: (lb 3, w 6, w 2)	11	
TOTAL: (131 Ov, RR: 2.55)	334/5	
BOWLING: M Starc	22,6,66,0	
J Hazlewood	26,12,39,2	P
Cummins	26,6,72,1	N Lyon
46,17,114,2	C Green	7,0,31,0
M Labuschagne	4,2,9,0	



## Sydney Test race row to be investigated

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY, 11 JANUARY

Cricket chiefs have launched an investigation into allegations of racism abuse of the India team from sections of the crowd in the third Test, after six people were ejected and play halted for nearly 10 minutes on Sunday.

The International Cricket Council probe followed Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah apparently being targeted while they fielded by the boundary ropes of the Sydney Cricket Ground late on Saturday. In a second incident, play was halted just before the tea break on Sunday when Siraj ran from the fine leg boundary towards the umpires, pointing into the crowd.

It was not immediately clear what had been said, but six men were seen being removed from their seats and Cricket Australia (CA) said a number of spectators had been interviewed by police before they were thrown out.

"While we await the outcome of the investigation by NSW (New South Wales) Police, CA has launched its own inquiry into the matter," said CA's head of integrity and security Sean Carroll, calling the episode "regrettable".

India captain Virat Kohli, who is missing the last three Tests of the four-match series following the birth of his first child, tweeted that such racist behaviour was "pathetic." The ICC in a statement "strongly condemned" the reported abuse.

"There is no place for discrimination in our sport and we are incredibly disappointed that a small minority of fans may think that this abhorrent behaviour is acceptable," wrote ICC chief executive Manu Sawhney.

"We will provide Cricket



Australia and the relevant authorities with our full support in any ensuing investigation as we will not tolerate any racism in our sport," he added.

Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, tweeted that "racism has no place in our great sport or in any walk of society."

"@BCCI and Cricket Australia stand together. These acts of discrimination will not be tolerated," he added.

Cricket Australia earlier issued an apology to India and said anyone found guilty of abuse would face consequences, including bans, other sanctions and referral to police.

"Cricket Australia condemns in the strongest terms possible all discriminatory behaviour," said Carroll. "If you engage in racist abuse, you are not welcome in Australian cricket." As is awaiting the outcome of the International Cricket Council's investigation into the matter reported at the SCG on Saturday.

"As series hosts, we unreservedly apologise to our friends in the Indian cricket team and assure them we will prosecute the matter to its fullest extent."

Media reports said that the fans on Saturday had been drunk.

"Bumrah and Siraj were called monkeys, wanker and mother\*\*\*\*\* by the people almost throughout the time they were fielding," it claimed. "It's upsetting and it's disappointing," he said.

"Anybody who knows me, knows I've said for years one of my greatest pet hates in life is that people think they can come to a sporting event, pay their money and think they can abuse or say whatever they like. I've hated it as a player, I hate it as a coach. We've seen it in different parts of the world and I'm really sad to see it happen in Australia."

Veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said it was not the first time there had been issues for India in Sydney.

"This is my fourth tour to Australia and Sydney, especially, we have had a few experiences here in the past," he said, describing them as "nasty". "But this is the time where they have gone one step ahead and used racial abuses."

"It's definitely not acceptable in this day and age... we must make sure it doesn't happen again."

Only 10,000 fans - a quarter of the capacity - have been allowed into the Sydney Cricket Ground each day due to coronavirus concerns, making their chants and shouts more clearly heard.

"If you drop simple catch-

## 'Paine's days as captain are numbered, won't be surprised if he is sacked'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY, 11 JANUARY

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar on Monday slammed Australia skipper Tim Paine (in photo) for sledging Ravichandran Ashwin during the drawn third Test here, saying his behaviour was "unbefitting" of a leader and could cost him his captaincy.

Australia's famed bowling attack threw everything at India on the fifth day but couldn't break their resolve as the visitors hung on for a memorable draw at the SCG.

"I don't know I am not an Australian selector, but his days as captain are numbered. If you allow the Indian team to bat 130-odd overs without getting wickets, this is a very good Australian attack. The bowling changes, the field placements, everything could have made a difference to the result," Gavaskar told India Today.

Paine's dropped catches played a key role in the partnership of Hanuma Vihari (23 not out off 161) and Ravichandran Ashwin (39 not out off 128), who batted for more than 42 overs for a 62-run stand to save the Test.

In frustration, the 36-year-old tried to exchange some words with Ashwin to distract his focus during the last session and ended up dropping Vihari after that.

"Tim Paine was more interested in talking to the batsman rather than his field placing and bowling changes. So I won't be surprised if there is a change in the Australian captaincy after the series is over," Gavaskar said.

Paine dropped three catches during the match.

"If you drop simple catch-

es, Rishabh Pant got two edges, they were not difficult catches, the last one which he missed off Vihari was also which he could have left to the first slip," the former India skipper said.

"He was a little bit disturbed, his concentration was not there after that little episode with R Ashwin."

In the 122nd over, Paine could be heard on stump mic, trying to sledge Ashwin. He even used an abusive word during the chatter.

"First and foremost, it was unbecoming of a captain of a national team to be talking about something other than cricket," Gavaskar said.

"By all means, you want to have a go at the opposition, you talk about their cricket, you can tell the batsmen he doesn't know how to play, you can say he is no good."

"All those kinds of things are completely unacceptable because you're talking cricket. But when you talk about something else, it shows your frustration. It shows you are not able to bear the fact that the opposition is putting up a fight."

India ended up with 334

for five in 131 overs, while chasing a mammoth 407.

Gavaskar said Paine should have focussed on the game rather than indulging in "non-sense".

"But see, this game, I had the former Australian captain sitting next to me and doing commentary. He said this game has a wonderful way of coming back and biting you on the back."

"Your best bet is to concentrate on the game and try not to upset the opposition with this kind of nonsense that has no place in the game," Gavaskar said.

Paine, however, had defended himself after the match saying that it was a part of the game and no harm was done. "There was a bit of by-play going on. They were wasting a bit of time, we were getting a bit frustrated, we let him know, he had a bit of say back and again it's all part of the game. No harm done," he said during the virtual post-match press conference.

Paine was Sunday fined 15 per cent of his match fee for showing dissent in an umpire's decision on day three of the match.

## Brisbane Test unaffected, crowd capacity capped at 50 per cent

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY, 11 JANUARY

The Indian cricket team are all set to leave for Brisbane on Tuesday after Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Jay Shah's (in photo) assurance to Cricket Australia ended the uncertainty over the fourth and final Test at the venue, which has reduced its crowd capacity to 50 per cent for the game. The BCCI had written to CA about a relaxation in hard quarantine rules in Brisbane as complying with them would have confined the Indian players to their hotel rooms after the day's play, something they had strong reservations about. The match starts on 15 January.

"I want to thank the Queensland government for their cooperation and willingness to work closely with CA and the BCCI so we can deliver the fourth Test as planned," CA interim chief executive officer Nick Hockley said in a statement.

"Similar to the process of reducing at crowds at The Gabba to deliver a socially distanced seating plan, the match will now be re-ticketed and current ticket holders will receive a full refund, including all associated costs such as ticket insurance," it added.

Queensland Sports Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the whole state is looking forward to the big game.

"The Gabba's usually fast and bouncy pitch makes it a favourite with fans as Australia's Test cricket fortress," Hinchliffe said.

"The pandemic has made this anything but an ordinary Test to prepare for. I want to thank Cricket Australia and the BCCI for working closely with the Chief Health Officer and the Queensland Government to make this a Covid-safe Test."

Australia have not lost a Test at the Gabba since 1988.

## Spurs see off Marine to avoid FA Cup's biggest shock

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CROSBY, 11 JANUARY

Tottenham ensured they did not fall foul to the biggest FA Cup shock in history as Carlos Vinicius scored a first-half hat-trick in a 5-0 demolition of eighth-tier Marine on Sunday.

The 168 league places between the sides is the biggest gap between opponents the 150 years of the FA Cup and the gulf in class showed as Spurs' fringe players took their chance to shine. Far from the luxury of the £1 billion Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Jose Mourinho's men had to get changed in a function room due to social distancing guidelines.

No fans were allowed into the due to coronavirus restric-

tions, but plenty watched on from gardens in the houses backing onto the 3,185-capacity Rossett Park. Marine did not miss out on their big pay day as 23,000 fans bought virtual tickets to