

Question Hour to return for Budget session of Parliament
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India asks WhatsApp to revoke changes in its privacy policy
page 10



15 labourers sleeping on pavement crushed to death by truck
page 10

U.S. prepares to restore frayed alliances after Biden inauguration
page 11

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NEARBY

Sajad Lone pulls out of Gupkar alliance

SRINAGAR
Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference on Tuesday pulled out of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a grouping of six Jammu and Kashmir regional parties fighting for the pre-August 5, 2019 position, saying "no party was willing to sacrifice".

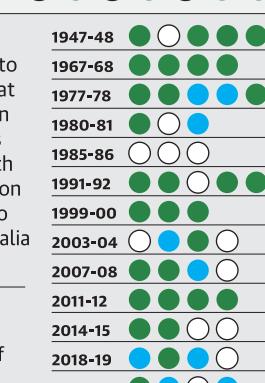
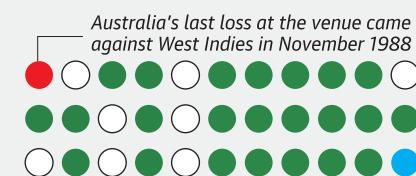
NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

India breaches fortress Gabba, wins series

The historic win over Australia on Tuesday broke the second longest undefeated Test streak held by any team at a venue



2 India's 2-1 series triumph on Tuesday came under Ajinkya Rahane (Kohli) captained the team in the first Test

Pantastic: Rishabh Pant and Mohammed Siraj celebrating the memorable win at the Gabba on Tuesday. ■ GETTY IMAGES



FULL REPORT ON PAGE 13

Cancer care pioneer no more

93-year-old Dr. V. Shanta made treatment affordable



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI
A pioneer in cancer care in the country, and the chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute, V. Shanta breathed her last in Chennai early on Tuesday morning. She was admitted to Apollo Hospitals after she complained of chest pain on Monday night. She was 93.

A crusader for cancer research and making cancer care affordable for all, Dr. Shanta and her mentor S. Krishnamurthi built the Cancer Institute from a cottage hospital into a 500-plus bedded institution, offering state-of-the-art care to people across the income spectrum. Only 40% are paying beds and the remaining are general beds where patients are boarded and lodged free of cost.

OBITUARY ▶ PAGE 8

+

Punjab, T.N. register poor vaccination coverage

Vaccine hesitancy not new, says official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Punjab, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu have registered low coverage of COVID-19 vaccination so far, with India reporting 0.18% adverse events following immunisation and 0.002% hospitalisation, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

She was laid to rest with State-accorded police honours in the evening, with thousands participating in the funeral procession.

At the other end of the

spectrum are Lakshadweep (89.3%), Sikkim (85.7%), Odisha (82.6%), Telangana (81.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (75.4%), Uttar Pradesh (71.4%) and Rajasthan (71.3%).

"We have seen vaccine hesitancy during polio and measles, and this isn't a new phenomenon. We will address this through dialogue and ensuring that the concerns are cleared," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a briefing.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC panel lays out road map on farmers' issue

It will meet State officials, farmer unions over two months

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court-appointed committee on farmers' issues has decided to meet the State governments and the State Agricultural Marketing Boards along with the farm unions and cooperatives to seek their views on the farm reform laws, starting January 21.

The panel has laid out a two-month road map for consultations after their first meeting on Tuesday.

At the Singhu border, leaders of the protesting unions again met senior Delhi Police officials, who suggested that it might be better to hold the Republic Day tractor parade on the peripheral expressways outside Delhi rather than entering the city.

The Supreme Court will hear the issue again on Wednesday, just hours before union leaders and Central Ministers meet for the 10th round of talks. The talks were supposed to be held on Tuesday, but were postponed.

Portal for feedback
The SC-appointed panel began work on Tuesday, chalking out a plan to hold wide-ranging consultations on the contentious farm laws, including a proposal to set up a portal to accept online



Winter care: Farmers taking rest in tents erected at the Singhu border in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Expression of views not bias'

Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde on Tuesday orally observed during a hearing that there was a "peculiar lack of comprehension" on the constitution of committees.

He said a person's views earlier about a subject did not disqualify him from being a part of a committee formed to examine a particular issue. An expression of views by a person on a subject did not mean bias. The remarks came as the social media was rife with criticism about the court's choice of members of the panel on the farm laws. ▶ PAGE 21

part. The Supreme Court has very clearly written that we need not enter into the legislature's part. So we will not comment on that, whether consultation was to be done or not done. That is not our view," Mr. Joshi said.

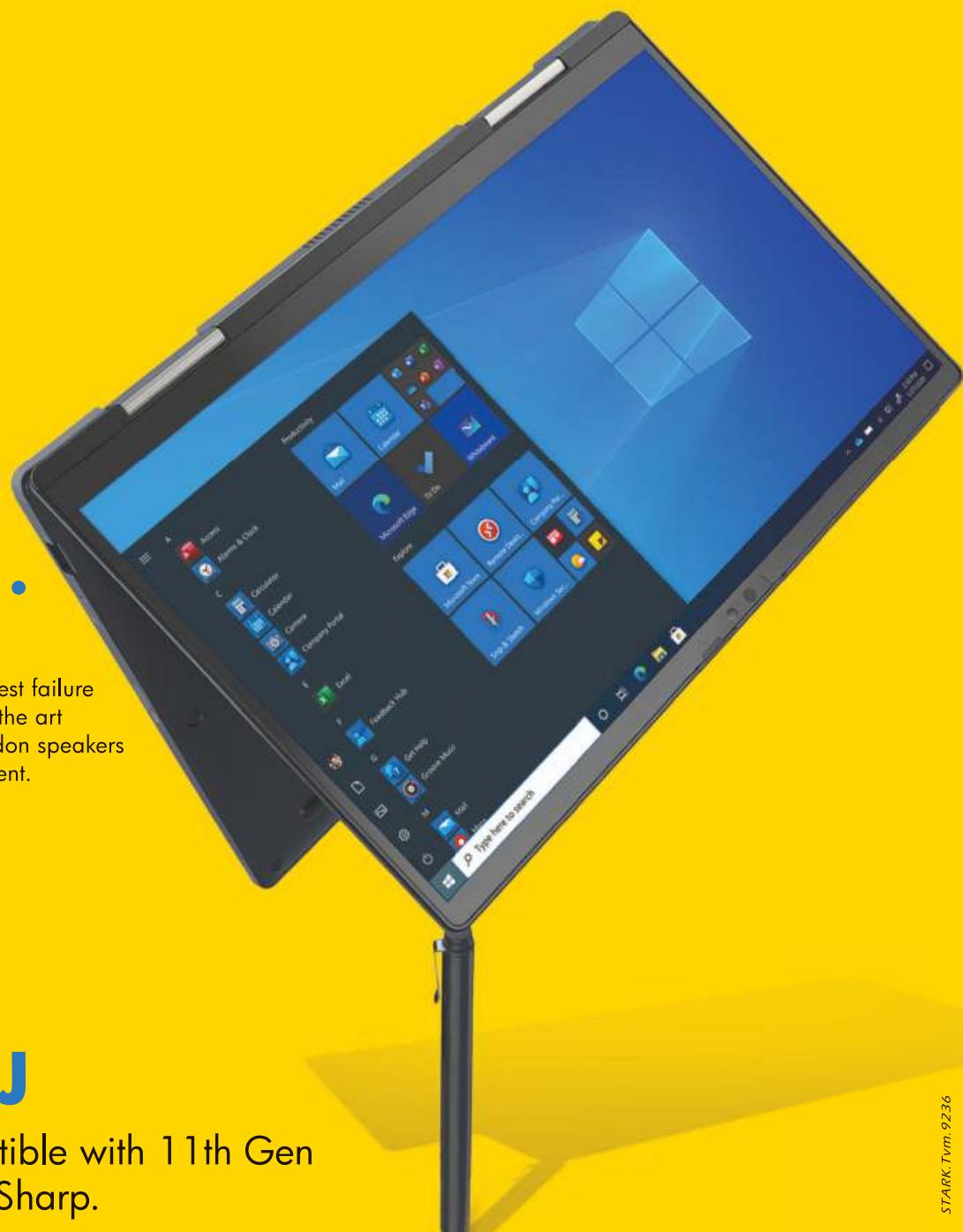
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8
MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 2 & 9

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IN BRIEF

DJB officials directed to monitor water quality

NEW DELHI
Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Raghav Chadha on Tuesday directed officials to do round-the-clock real-time monitoring of levels of ammonia, chloride, and turbidity of raw water and water production via Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Centre. "As per the vision of CM Arvind Kejriwal, every home in Delhi must have 24X7 access to water," said Mr. Chadha.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	404	Gurugram	366
Ghaziabad	436	Faridabad	416
Noida	432	Greater Noida	434
Good 0-50	51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	301-400	Very Poor >400	
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) [Source: CPCB]			

AQI deteriorates to 'severe' category

NEW DELHI
The air quality of Delhi and Noida deteriorated to the "severe" category and that of Gurugram's to "very poor" category on Tuesday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board data. The Capital's air quality is expected to improve in the coming days. The effect of stubble burning on the city's AQI remained low on Tuesday.

Volunteers set up ironing service at Singhu border

'Due to the weather, it was becoming difficult to dry clothes'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
With cold weather conditions continuing to prevail in the national capital, a group of protesting farmers has started providing ironing services at the Singhu border. The group takes turns and irons laundry for four hours each to ensure the protesting farmers are able to dry their clothes.

Farmers from the Capital's neighbouring States have been protesting at the city's borders for over 55 days now, against the three controversial farm laws and have demanded repeal of the laws.

Apart from the various resources and reinforcements that have been brought to the Singhu border, a group of farmers has started providing ironing services as a part of their "sewa."

Sarwan Singh, a farmer from Amritsar, who is one of the volunteers, said: "Due to the weather, it was becoming difficult for clothes to dry. So we thought of starting this facility around six



Volunteers ironing laundry at the Singhu border in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

After using the washing machines, the farmers come to us with their laundry and we iron it for them immediately

SEWA SINGH
A volunteer

days ago. We are a group of around five, who are involved in taking care of the laundry. We brought two iron boxes and two ironing tables so that we can provide the services."

Stating that there are an unaccountable number of clothes that the group has ironed over the last few days, Sewa Singh, a farmer from Ludhiana, who is also a volunteer at the facility, said: "We take turns to iron the clothes and each of us stay for around four hours each. We do not have a count of the number of clothes we iron each day. After using the washing machines, the farmers come to us with their laundry and we give it to them immediately."

DU to team up with universities in far-flung regions on research

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

NEW DELHI
Officiating Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University P.C. Joshi on Tuesday said that the university has launched a Vidyavistar Scheme to develop cooperative academic bonding between its colleges and departments with other universities situated in remote areas in the country.

The aim of the scheme is to maximise contribution of

higher educational institutions to nation-building through optimum utilisation of resources, he said.

The programme will not be one of mentorship by DU but will be a relationship of equality to conduct multidisciplinary research with the expertise, infrastructure and facilities of the university with field experience from the other universities for mutual benefit," Prof. Joshi said.

Admitting that research at the university had suffered over the past few years, Mr. Joshi who took charge six months ago said, "We will not look back at it as a 'black period' but will look at it positively."

The officiating V-C added that the university was ready with its plans to implement the National Education Policy 2020, and a 42-member committee was taking the

opinion of various stakeholders into account.

Phased reopening

He also announced that DU would be holding its convocation on February 27 and that it was in the process of developing a standard operating procedure for a phased reopening of the university by February 1.

Preparations are also being made for the centenary

celebrations of DU next year.

He said that apart from releasing books on the history of the university, the university will make attempts to reach out to its distinguished alumni that includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build university corpus of ₹300 crore. He said that his entire team was working towards breaking into the top 500 in the QS World University Rankings.

Riding high



March with masks: A contingent of the President's Bodyguard rehearsing for the Republic Day parade on a cold Tuesday morning at Rajpath in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Red Fort closed till Republic Day after bird flu found in dead crow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) closed the Red Fort to visitors on Tuesday after a sample taken from dead crows found on the premises tested positive for bird flu. The sample was sent for testing to the Animal Husbandry Unit of the Delhi government's Development Department.

According to an official,

the ASI ordered the closure of the monument till January 26, Republic Day.

"Fifteen crows had died there and we sent one sample for testing. On January 17, the result of the sample came back positive for bird flu. We then informed authorities to declare it a surveillance zone," an official of the Animal Husbandry Department said.

A total of 24 samples

from nine locations in the city have tested positive for bird flu till now, the official added. The site remains closed every year from January 22 till January 26, the ASI official added.

Apart from the Red Fort, officials in charge of all centrally-protected monuments were asked to remain vigilant, especially at sites with waterbodies, the ASI official said.

Remove illegal constructions from green zone: petition

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A petition before the Delhi High Court has asked for removal of allegedly unauthorised constructions in the green zone area at Sainik Farms, Nehru Sarai and Indra Enclave colonies in south Delhi.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh adjourned the hearing of the case for January 27 as the lawyer for the petitioner could not join the virtual hearing due to connectivity issues.

The petition by Arvind Kumar, who claims to be a social activist, has alleged that the authorities have taken no action against the unauthorised constructions despite several representations to them. The petition has claimed that illegal construction was going on despite the court orders prohibiting it. It sought directions to the Delhi government, police and South body to remove all unauthorised constructions from the green zone.

Stalemate not ending any time soon, say farmers ahead of talks

Regular meetings on to chalk out road map for tractor rally on Jan. 26: protesters



Farmers during the ongoing protest against the Centre's new farm laws at Ghazipur on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

the decision to conduct the rally was taken."

Large numbers
Emphasising that the protesting farmers were united, Mr. Singh added: "We are all united and will follow whatever road map is provided to us by the leaders. Ideally, the government should give us the space to carry out the parade but when that is not the case, we will have to follow whatever plan gets devised by the leaders. There are a large number of people who are expected to join us for the parade."

While stating that there was no "hope" from the scheduled talks with the government, Rachpal Singh, a farmer from Punjab's Kapurthala said, "After Wednesday's meeting with the government a road map will be issued. We will of course not be going to the main Republic Day parade route but instead have our own route. Those from the villages will also be joining in large numbers."

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION,DEOGHAR.
Phone:7759825944, E-mail:enhddeoghar@gmail.com**

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid/ Package no.- NH/DEOGHAR /EPC/03/2020-21

Dated- 30.01.2021

RFP for Widening and Strengthening to 2-Lane with Paved Shoulder and geometric improvement of NH-114A from km 65.500(Tower Chowk Dumka) to km 87.530 (Basukinath) on EPC mode in the state of Jharkhand.(JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21/291).

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake Widening and Strengthening to 2-Lane with Paved Shoulder and geometric improvement of NH-114A from km 65.500(Tower Chowk Dumka) to km 87.530 (Basukinath) on EPC mode in the state of Jharkhand.(JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21/291).

[The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways/ National Highways Authority of India/ State Public Works Department/Border Road Organisation represented by its DG(RD)&SS

/ Chairman / CE (NH) PWD State /BGBR] now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Completion Period	Maintenance period
Jharkhand	NH-114A		Widening and Strengthening to 2-Lane with Paved Shoulder and geometric improvement of NH-114A from km 65.500 (Tower Chowk Dumka) to km 87.530 (Basukinath) on EPC mode in the state of Jharkhand.(JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21/291)	1,14,41,26,562.00 (including GST & LC)	24 (Twenty Four Months) after Completion	5(Five years)

The complete BID document can be viewed/ downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app from 07.01.01.2021 to 16.03.2021 (upto 11.00 hrs. IST). Bids must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app on or before 16.03.2021 (upto 11.00 hrs. IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 17.03.2021 (at 11.00 hours IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Securing Declaration, (Appendix – II) receipt of document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 16.03.2021(at 11:00 hours IST). Please note that the Ministry/Authority/ Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Deoghar
Phone: 7759825944
e-mail : enhddeoghar@gmail.com

PR.NO.239600 Road(20-21):D

Government of Jharkhand
Transport Department
(Lead Agency, Road Safety)

VERY SHORT TERM NOTICE TENDER

On behalf of the Department of Transport, Government of Jharkhand, (DoT,GoJ) Lead Agency, Road Safety, Jharkhand invites fresh Online Bids for Selection of Manpower Agency for providing various category of Manpower for various offices of the Department of Transport, Jharkhand.

A complete set of short term tender documents can be downloaded from https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

The details are given below:

1	Tender No.	Pari.vi.(R.S.)/28/2018-27 Dated:-15.01.2021
2	Name of the Work	Selection of Manpower Agency for providing various category of Manpower for various Agencies/ Offices of the Department of Transport, Jharkhand
3	Name of the issuer of this short term tender	Joint Transport Commissioner (Road Safety), Lead Agency, Road Safety, Ground Floor, Engineers hostel-II, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
4	Tender Fee	Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only)
5	Bid Security (EMD)	Rs. 30,00,000/- (Thirty Lakhs Only)
6	Starting date of downloading of tender document	15.01.2021
7	Last Date for sending Pre Bid Query	19.01.2021 at 03.30 pm
8	Date and Time of Pre-Bid meeting	20.01.2021 at 03.30 pm
9	Last Date/Time for Submission of Bids	28.01.2021 at 03.30 pm
10	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	01.02.2021 at 03.30 pm
11	Date of Financial Bid opening	To be intimated online after technical evaluation.
12	Place of Communication/ Bid Submission.	Lead Agency, Road Safety, Ground Floor, Engineers hostel, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
13	Place of Pre-Bid Meeting/ Bid Opening	Department of Transport, FFP Building, Ground Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
14	Contact/ Pre-Bid query e-mail Id.:	roadsafety.jhr@gmail.com
15	Required Manpower	300(Aprox)

Department of Transport (DoT,GoJ) reserves the right to cancel the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Note: Bidders are advised to familiarize themselves adequately with the Jharkhand Government e-procurement systems, well in advance, to avoid last minute technical glitches/ errors preventing successful uploading of bid within specified time frame.

Sd/
Joint Transport Commissioner (Road Safety), Lead Agency,

PR.239605 (Transport)20-21#D

GOVT OF JHARKHAND
TRANSPORT (CIVIL AVIATION) DEPARTMENT
STATE HANGAR, AIRPORT ROAD, HINOO, RANCHI-834002.
email- govtflyops@gmail.com/civilaviation.jhr@gmail.com.

Corrigendum

Ref. No.: 30/Ranchi, Date:- 19/01/2021

Please refer to PR no. 238408 and Tender ref. no. CADsec1/01-PLAN-4/2020/Trans/708 regarding Global tender for purchase of Gliding equipment from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or their authorized representatives. The EMD and tender fee should be in favour of Transport (Civil Aviation) Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. The last date of submission of hard copy of EMD and Tender fee is 25/01/2021 at 11:00 AM. Rest terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

For further details and online application please visit jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
(Rakesh Kumar Sah)
Under Secretary

PR.239677 (Civil Aviation)20-21#D

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE 1)

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
RISE 07:15 SET 17:51
RISE 11:46 SET 00:00
THURSDAY, JAN. 21
RISE 07:14 SET 17:52
RISE 12:15 SET 00:34
FRIDAY, JAN. 22
RISE 07:14 SET 17:53
RISE 12:47 SET 01:27

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 20 07
Safdarjung 20 07
Palam 17 09

Delhi Palam Today
20°C Moderate cool surface winds expected. A cold morning and pleasant day with sunny sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C Shallow to moderate fog during morning. Cool light to moderate winds likely over the area. A bright sunny day.

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Physical hearings: SC tells lawyers to approach HC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it understood the gravity of the problem lawyers and others, including litigants and employees, may have to face following the Delhi High Court's recent decision to resume physical hearings.

The High Court had issued a notification on January 14 on increasing the number of Benches for physical hearings.

It also allowed lower courts in Delhi to conduct them on alternate days from January 18.

Four lawyers had challenged the notification in the apex court.

On Tuesday, a Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said the apex court usually did not intervene in administrative decisions taken by High Courts.

It asked the petitioners to approach the High Court itself.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the lawyers, said the resumption of physical hearings and the discontinuation of a hybrid system of both physical and virtual court hearings would expose people to the dangers of the pandemic. He said lawyers need to be given a choice of how they want their case to be heard.

The court adjourned the case for hearing on Wednesday.

The petition said the notification was issued in "utter and complete disregard of the life, health".

BJP plans donation drive for Ram temple

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP is planning a city-wide drive in which it will use its organisational strength to seek donations for the Ram temple in Ayodhya from citizens beginning February 1, said party sources.

The first meeting in this regard was convened at the party's State headquarters over the weekend where senior members of the BJP Delhi leadership and functionaries of the Vishva Hindu Parishad as well as Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh were also present, they said.

The would hit the streets requesting donations ranging from ₹10 upwards.

BJP alleges 'injustice' against Valmikis

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday lambasted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the government's alleged "injustice" perpetrated against the Valmiki community, many of whom were employed by the civic bodies and yet to get their salaries.

North-West Delhi MP Hansraj Hans alleged that the cleanliness workers in the civic bodies here on their toes during the peak of the pandemic while Mr. Kejriwal had "completely disappeared". The alleged withholding of funds by the Delhi government to the civic bodies was to blame for their plight, the MP said.

Healthcare workers not on daily list can now get COVID-19 shot

New rule by Central govt. will increase immunisation numbers, say doctors

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

A total of 4,936 healthcare workers were vaccinated in the national capital on Tuesday – the highest till now, and there were 16 'minor' Adverse Event Following Immunisation, said the Delhi government spokesperson.

This is 48.75% of the target of 10,125 healthcare workers who were to be immunised on Tuesday. Of the 16 AEFI, 15 were people who were vaccinated with Covishield and one with Covaxin.

On Saturday, 4,319 healthcare workers were vaccinated and on Monday the figure was 3,598. A change in rule has helped hospitals get a greater number of healthcare workers vaccinated.

Walk-in vaccination

Though each of the 81 vaccination sites in the city has a list of about 100 beneficiaries to be vaccinated every day, healthcare workers whose names are not on the list, but were registered in the CoWIN platform earlier, are now being vaccinated.

This move follows Central government directions, and



A doctor gets a shot during a vaccination drive at Bhagat Chandra Hospital in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

officials expect daily number of healthcare workers taking the vaccine to increase.

In a letter to all States, Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said that the government has allowed an "albeit beneficiary" feature in CoWIN app for this change.

"The feature has been added to facilitate maximum utilisation of staff deployed at the session sites so that they can cater to optimal number of beneficiaries per session," the letter dated Tuesday read.

Only nine people were inoculated on Tuesday at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital. Hospital spokesperson Chhavi Gupta said

they will start walk-in vaccination of registered healthcare workers from Thursday.

Lok Nayak Hospital also stated it would follow the new rules from January 21.

At RML Hospital, the number of healthcare workers inoculated daily decreased from 69 on Monday to 27 on Tuesday. On Monday, the number was high as the hospital allowed people who were not on the list to get vaccinated, but this was not allowed on Tuesday.

"The Medical Superintendent, dean, ex-dean, and many heads of departments are getting vaccinated to motivate the staff," said the public relations officer of RML Hospital.

Sensors ensure social distancing at IGIA

System issues alerts whenever there is any overcrowding

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ceiling-mounted sensors are helping Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport ensure passengers follow social distancing rules at its international terminal, also known as Terminal 3.

Known as XOVIS PTS, the queue management system generates an alert as soon as a given space within the airport premises sees over-

crowding or exceeds the people density index.

The technology has been installed at all entry gates of Terminal 3, all check-in rows, domestic and international security check areas, emigrations as well as immigration area for passengers arriving at the airport.

Once an alert is issued, a terminal manager takes corrective action such as opening more check-in counters

or re-deploying airport personnel. If the situation is not brought under control within a stipulated time, more alerts are issued.

On whether the airport will be scaling up the technology to other terminals, Delhi International Airport Limited's CEO Videh Jaipuria said: "We are evaluating other technologies as well as computer vision technology."

Wife of constable who died of virus gives birth

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Nine months after Delhi Police Constable Amit Kumar died – the first casualty of COVID-19 in the force – his wife on January 15 gave birth to their daughter. The daughter has been nicknamed 'Annie', which the wife said was as per the wishes of the late official.

Amit died of the virus on May 5, after which his wife Pooja and their 3-year-old

son also tested positive for COVID-19. On the 13th day of his death, while she was in the quarantine centre, she found out that she was pregnant. Meanwhile, the family is still waiting for the ex gratia of ₹1 crore announced by CM Arvind Kejriwal at the time of the official's death.

"We have no knowledge where the file is..." she said. However, she was offered a job in the force for which she has a test in March.

IN BRIEF

RTI activist moves HC for details on Aarogya Setu

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any statement made in respect of any publication in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the accuracy of any statement made by an advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In an event call the Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

NEW DELHI

The High Court has asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Central Public Information Officers of its departments to reply to a plea seeking details of Aarogya Setu app. The order came on a petition by RTI activist Saurav Das challenging a November 24, 2020, order of the Central Information Commission dropping penal proceedings against CPIOs for obstructing access to records relating to the app under the RTI Act.

Government of Tamil Nadu Public Works Department

BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, COIMBATORE - 641 001.
LUMP SUM CONTRACT (ITEM RATE TENDER SYSTEM)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NIT:44/BC/C&M/CBE/2020-2021, Dt: 19.01.2021

For and on behalf of The Governor of Tamilnadu, Two cover system sealed Tenders viz., Pre Qualification Bid and Financial Bid in separate covers both inserted in single cover will be received upto 3.00 P.M. on 10.02.2021 from the PWD Registered Contractors by the Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle, Coimbatore – 641 001 for "Construction of Integrated Commercial Tax Office Building at Pudur of Modakurichi Taluk in Erode District" at his office and Pre Qualification Tender will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M.

All other details are available in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. If any changes / corrections etc., to the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Coimbatore.

DIPR / 365 / TENDER / 2021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai - 625 002.

Notice Inviting Tenders Short term Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system)

Short term Tender Notice No.18SE / Buildings (C&M) Circle / Madurai / 2020-2021 Dated: 18.01.2021

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 21.01.2021 to 04.02.2021 Upto 5.45 PM.

Tender Schedule Receiving Date : 05.02.2021 Up to 3.00 PM

Tender Opening at : 05.02.2021 at 3.30 PM

Total No. of Works : 2 (Two)

Tender System : Short term Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system)

Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs.1969.00 Lakhs.

For further details and tender documents visit the website : www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tntenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, (i/c) PWD, Buildings (C & M) Circle, Madurai - 2.

DIPR/361/TENDER/2021

Shah praises police for handling of riots

Force will instal 15,000 more CCTVs'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday visited Delhi Police Headquarters and praised the force for the way they handled communal riots in north-east Delhi and the ongoing farmers' protest at the borders.

"In the challenging year, Delhi Police has passed the test. Be it the riots, COVID-19 lockdown, helping migrant workers or establishing peaceful talks with protesting farmers at borders, they faced every challenge with immense courage," he said.

Under the Safe City project, Delhi Police will install 15,000 CCTV cameras that will then be integrated with the cameras installed at the railway station and the ones put up by the Delhi government, Mr. Shah added.

The feed will be monitored at the police headquarters. This will reduce crimes, he added.

Emphasising on the technological improvements in policing, Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava said two MoUs have been signed with National Forensic Science University in Gujarat and II



Home Minister Amit Shah at the Delhi Police HQ on Tuesday. ■ PTI

IT-Delhi in the direction of making optimum use of technology and AI.

Mr. Shah also paid homage to officials who died of COVID-19. "Around 8,000 personnel got COVID-19, 30 succumbed to it. Still, Delhi Police kept at it. They inspected areas during lockdown via drones, helped the elderly, pregnant women, and COVID patients. The phase will be inscribed in golden words in the history of Delhi Police," he said.

Delhi Police Public Relations Officer Eish Singhpal said the union Government has sanctioned several financial packages for constructing residential colonies and purchasing built up flats for personnel.

Not getting access to chargesheet: riots accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Several accused booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a north-east Delhi riots case, claimed before a court here on Tuesday that they have not been given access to the chargesheet in jail despite its orders.

Some of the other accused, including Umar Khalid, who have got access to the documents sought the court's directions to jail authorities for a uniform time limit, preferably more than an hour a day, for reading the bulky 18,000-page chargesheet on the computers in prison.

"What is the point of uploading it on the computer if the accused cannot access it?... Why are they given different time slots?" Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat remarked while putting up the matter for further hearing on February 2.

In a separate hearing, a Delhi court on Tuesday directed the police to preserve call detail records of 10 accused – from February 20-28 last year – in a north-east Delhi riots case.

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**Corrigendum**

Corrigendum Batch No: 614/20 dated: 18.01.21 E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in, offers are invited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hrs. Sl. No. 01, Tender No. 17176538 Brief Description: Terminal server Date: Existing: 18.01.21 to be read as: 25.01.21 Other conditions: Existing: Additional Conditional To be read as: Final acceptance will be given by consignee only after 15 days of field trial of the item after delivery. Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

For Principal Chief Material Manager
PR/1319/HQ/Store/C/20-21/28

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S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Construction of Rapar - Jeenapani - Majhera Motor Road Under State Sector in Sult. Constituency distt. Almora (Part-I & Part-II) (Chainage 0.000 to 5.425 Km.)	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	Rs. 5.91 Lakh	60 Days	15 Months	Category "A" & above (Road Works)

DIPR/UK/14831

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**DEATH**

C.R.RAM MOHAN (89), Retired Sales Officer , THE HINDU, Chennai passed away on 17-01-2021. Address: 15, Sardar Vallabhai Patel Road, 2nd Street, Karanthur - Chennai - 60312. Mobile : 9940676338

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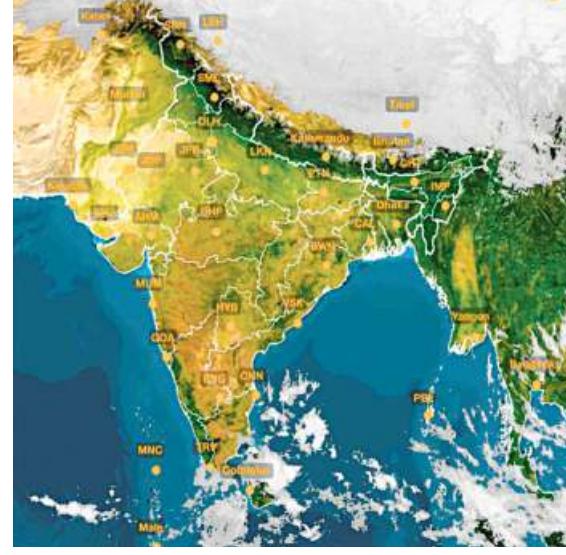
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

SDAH-157/2020-21

SDAH-15

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttarakhand. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Bihar. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Rajasthan and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	..24.0	10.3	..	Kozhikode	...33.0	23.8	..
Ahmedabad	..29.2	12.3	..	Kurnool	...31.0	19.1	..
Aizawl	Lucknow	...23.6	10.6	..
Allahabad	..25.7	9.8	..	Madurai	...31.0	20.4	..
Bangalore	..28.4	16.1	..	Mangaluru	...34.6	22.6	..
Bhopal	..27.7	15.9	..	Mumbai	...32.9	19.0	..
Bhubaneswar	..31.3	15.8	..	Mysuru	...30.2	18.6	..
Chandigarh	..24.6	8.3	..	New Delhi	...20.4	6.9	..
Chennai	..30.9	23.5	..	Patna	...20.6	9.4	..
Coimbatore	..29.4	18.6	..	Pondicherry	...30.0	26.0	..
Dehradun	..24.1	Rajkot	...30.2	20.3	..
Gangtok	..9.2	8.3	..	Pune	...31.6	18.1	..
Goa	..33.1	23.2	..	Raipur	...32.0	13.0	..
Guwahati	..24.5	12.4	..	Ranchi	...26.0	10.2	..
Hubballi	..31.0	19.0	..	Shillong	...13.4	6.7	..
Hyderabad	..30.9	17.4	..	Shimla	...14.5	5.3	..
Imphal	..23.6	8.5	..	Srinagar	...9.1	6.4	..
Jaipur	..24.9	10.4	..	Thiruvananthapuram	...32.5	21.6	..
Kochi	..30.8	23.0	..	Tiruchi	...30.7	20.2	..
Kohima	..16.5	5.0	..	Vijayawada	...30.0	20.6	..
Kolkata	..26.2	13.1	..	Visakhapatnam	...29.0	20.4	..

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 436 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kolar, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 49

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Maharashtra's wellness rate nears 95%; active cases go below 50,000

State adds 2,294 fresh infections, 50 deaths; Mumbai's total tally stands at 3,03,625

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A robust 4,516 recoveries reported on Tuesday saw Maharashtra's active COVID-19 cases decline below the 50,000 mark to reach 48,406. The State recorded 2,294 fresh cases, taking the total case tally to 19,94,977.

As many as 50 fatalities saw the death toll climb to 50,523. Again, the low case surge must be viewed in the context of a comparatively lower number of samples tested - 50,000 - over the past 24 hours.

The cumulative recoveries stand at 18,94,839 while the State's recovery rate has risen to 94.98%.

"Of a total 1,38,95,277 laboratory samples tested thus far, 19,94,977 (with the case positivity rate down to 14.36%) have returned positive with over 50,000 samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said, adding that the case fa-



A health worker injects a COVID-19 vaccine at Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGIN

tality stood at 2.53%.

Pune reported nearly 400 new cases to take its total case tally to 3,82,846. Four deaths pushed the toll to 7,873. As per the district administration figures, the active cases stand at 5,179 while the district's recovery rate is 96.24%.

Mumbai city recorded 473 fresh cases to take its total tally to 3,03,625 of whom just 6,656 are active. Eight fa-

fatality count stands at 1,796. Neighbouring Sangli logged a mere 19 cases and no deaths as the district's reported cases reached 50,639 of whom just 508 are active. Its fatality toll remains at 1,777.

Kolhapur recorded seven cases and a single death as its total case tally touched 48,989 of whom only 163 are active. The death toll went up to 1,670.

In north Maharashtra, Nashik district reported just 62 cases and three deaths as its total tally climbed to 1,19,229 of whom 1,247 are active. Its death count rose to 1,259.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha registered 178 new cases, taking the district's total infections to 1,32,515 of whom 4,352 are active, while its death toll remains at 1,468. Dr. Awate said that currently, 2,18,058 persons across the State were in home quarantine and 1,996 were in institutional quarantine facilities.

Farm laws: 3 detained by Himachal police for 'prohibited activities'

They had come from Singhu border to explain purpose of stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh police on Tuesday detained three persons who had arrived in Shimla from the Singhu border near Delhi to share their reasons for opposing the Centre's agriculture sector laws and the purpose of the ongoing farmers' agitation.

The three were detained from the Ridge under preventive Sections 107 and 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for their alleged involvement in prohibited activities, a charge they dismissed.

"None of us has raised any slogan. We are only three people and Article 19 of the Constitution gives us the right to express our opinion. We are only standing here. What's the violation in that? You [Police] are finishing democracy," he said.

Loan racket busted; 7 held, cars worth ₹6 crore seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Seven people were arrested for allegedly operating a racket in which luxury cars were being sold and mortgaged after buying them through loans using bogus documents, a Mumbai Crime Branch official said on Tuesday.

He said 19 cars totalling ₹6 crore were seized by the Crime Branch's Unit V. "The probe started after a man filed a complaint at Kurla

police station on January 13 that he was cheated of ₹9.85 lakh by three people who sold him two cars that had been bought on loans procured through fake documents," he said.

The Crime Branch found the racket had links to cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore, and Lucknow, besides Mumbai, said DCP (Crime) Prakash Jadhav, adding that a team arrested three people from Wagle Estate in Thane.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde gave Haryana a week's time to file its affidavit.

The Centre has also been asked to place on record its views. The Bench was hearing an urgent petition filed by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), re-

presented by advocate Shadan Farasat, to "immediately stop" Haryana from discharging pollutants into the Yamuna, which is causing an alarming increase in ammonia levels in the wa-

ter. The Board said the increased ammonia level has impaired its water treatment plants and a drinking water and health crisis loom large in Delhi.

The DJB said the national capital's woes were made worse with Haryana not releasing the full quantity of water entitled to Delhi at Wazirabad. Instead of releasing at least 450 cusecs downstream from Wazirabad, only 330 cusecs have been released.

"Due to lesser water being released, the concentration of ammonia in the water reaching Delhi has increased," the DJB said.

Sparring neighbours
Senior advocate Shyam Davan, for Haryana, said the

area where any kind of procession or meeting is not allowed as per the High Court directions - they were taken into preventive custody," Superintendent of Police, Shimla, Mohit Chawla told *The Hindu*.

No permission sought
"They did not apply for any kind of permission from the local administration. Had they submitted a request, we would have examined it. To ensure no untoward incident, we detained them," he said.

One of three persons, while being taken away by the policemen, said their democratic right to free speech was being bulldozed.

"None of us has raised any slogan. We are only three people and Article 19 of the Constitution gives us the right to express our opinion. We are only standing here. What's the violation in that? You [Police] are finishing democracy," he said.

Centre targets Delhi over Yamuna pollution

DJB plea in SC accuses Haryana of releasing untreated effluents into the river

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday accused Delhi of being a "habitual offender" in polluting the waters of the Yamuna.



The Centre has accused Delhi of being a "habitual offender" in polluting the waters of the Yamuna. ■ FILE PHOTO

presented by advocate Shadan Farasat, to "immediately stop" Haryana from discharging pollutants into the Yamuna, which is causing an alarming increase in ammonia levels in the wa-

ter. The DJB petition was not "maintainable at all".

"We are supplying from our share of water far more than what is required. What DJB is saying is completely incorrect," he submitted.

The DJB petition had said the "actions/inactions constitute a violation of the principle of cooperative federalism. It amounts to an upper riparian State taking undue advantage of a shared river for irrigation and industrial purposes while effectively not allowing a lower riparian State to access water for drinking".

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, said Delhi was a "habitual offender".

SC seeks status report on river water quality

Let us know the extent to which States have implemented suggestions, it tells panel

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a status report from the National Green Tribunal-appointed River Yamuna Monitoring Committee led by former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra about its recommendations to improve the quality of water and the extent to which the States have implemented their suggestions.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde accepted the submission by senior advocate and *amicus curiae* Meenakshi Arora that the Committee, which also comprises former NGT expert member B.S. Sajwan, should be roped in for the benefit of its experience and work on the river.

"The committee is overseeing the programme on the Yamuna. It will help us know about the status of sewage treatment plants etc.

A detailed status report should be sought from it on its recommendations and their implementation till date," Ms. Arora submitted.

Suo motu cognisance

The Supreme Court had, on January 13, taken *suo motu* cognisance of the contamination of rivers by sewage effluents through lapses committed by municipalities, saying "open surface water resources including rivers

are the lifeline of human civilisation".

"Deterioration of quality of fresh water has a direct co-relation with the quality of public health... The right to clean environment, and further, pollution-free water, has been protected under the broad rubric of the right to life," a three-judge Bench led by the Chief Justice had said. On Tuesday, it included Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as parties.

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In bad faith

State intimidation of protesting groups cannot serve as a substitute for political dialogue

The NIA's decision to summon people associated with the ongoing farmers agitation as 'witnesses' in a sedition case is definitely out of the ordinary, even if not entirely surprising. Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu and farmers' leader Baldev Singh Sirsa are among 40 people it has summoned in connection with a fresh case registered on December 15, 2020 against Sikhs for Justice, a U.S.-based organisation that is banned by India. Others summoned include functionaries of Khalsa Aid, a Sikh charity that provided material support to agitating farmers, and those who organised a community kitchen for them. The insinuation of the NIA in the very act of summoning them as 'witnesses' follows statements by BJP leaders that linked the agitation to Khalistani separatism. Law officers of the government told the Supreme Court last week that anti-national forces that had infiltrated the protests were misleading the farmers. This portrayal of critics of a government policy as either misled and ignorant or anti-national actors forecloses all possibility of any honest dialogue with them. That may not be an unintended outcome for a government that has never been enthusiastic about consultative processes. In this instance, the government and the Court proffer dialogue with protesters while agencies employ intimidatory measures against them.

Efforts to undermine the legitimacy of political actors opposed to the government have acquired a predictable pattern. Its critics are routinely labelled anti-national by social media trolls and functionaries of the ruling BJP. Investigations follow, often by central agencies, the NIA and the Enforcement Directorate. The state responses to agitators in Kashmir, Bhima Koregaon and during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act have been heavy-handed. That, probably, is the message that the government wants to convey to all dissenters, current and prospective: it will not feel restrained by principles of federalism or democratic norms in putting down protests. The NIA's move cannot be seen delinked from this broader context. Sikhs abroad are a vibrant segment of the diaspora, having links with the motherland, including through donations to religious and charity activities. Other diaspora groups also support activities, including in the fields of education and health. The Narendra Modi government has a policy of harnessing the strength of Indian diaspora everywhere for national progress. There has to be a high threshold to consider any such community activity as anti-national and no consideration of religion must influence that assessment. The NIA's instant move has been condemned as intimidation, among others, by the Akali Dal, until recently a BJP ally. Strong-arm tactics may be unavoidable when there is an immediate threat of violence. But replacing political dialogue with state intimidation is never strategically prudent. The government must talk to the farmers in good faith.

Top of the heap

India's series win in Australia came in difficult circumstances, and will be the stuff of folklore

On a magical Tuesday, India's cricketing history gained a luminous chapter even as the shadows lengthened at Brisbane's Gabba. When Rishabh Pant's winning four aptly concluded a tense pursuit of 328 on a nerve-wracking fifth day of the fourth Test, Ajinkya Rahane's men seized the series at 2-1 to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. As far as role-reversals go, this was stunning in its execution and jaw-dropping in its impact. It was a verdict that seemed improbable after India's 36, its lowest ever Test score, during the debilitating loss in the first game at Adelaide. But India progressed despite losing personnel to injuries or personal reasons. Skipper Virat Kohli took paternity leave while other regulars had to be benched following a spate of injuries. Yet, Rahane's men persevered, right from the established Cheteshwar Pujara and R. Ashwin to the latest rookies in the squad – Shubman Gill and Washington Sundar. At various points, the experienced professional and the fresh debutant joined forces and nourished miraculous dreams. The turn-around at Melbourne was followed by the stone-walling at Sydney. Finally, in a long tour that commenced on November 12, last year, a second-wind was found in the climax. India did not have any of its frontline bowlers at Brisbane but Mohammed Siraj astutely helmed the attack and Tim Paine's men were defeated by three wickets.

Winning a Test series against Australia in its backyard is considered as cricket's highest benchmark for excellence. This yardstick has lasted for two decades ever since the previous dominant outfit, the West Indies, suffered a decline. Seen in that context, what India has achieved over the course of two tours – in 2018-19 and the just concluded 2020-21 face-off – is nothing short of stupendous. Twice, India has defeated Australia by identical margins (2-1). However, the latest act will rank right up in an all-time list of great Test series ever since the sport's longest format commenced at Melbourne in 1877. When India last toured Australia, the host was blighted by the ball-tampering scandal and Steve Smith and David Warner were rightly put to pasture. Cut to the present, the visitor was up against a full-strength home unit. These are fraught times due to the pandemic and resultant bio-bubble angst, and even stepping out for a coffee is deemed an offence. To make it worse, India was never at its optimum potential and with every passing day, its list of the walking-wounded grew. There were even wry jokes about how coach Ravi Shastri may be forced to turn out considering his diminishing resources. But India thrived and just like it did at Eden Gardens in 2001, adversity became its springboard for success against an old adversary.

A plaintive lament on liberty that rings hollow

As examples show, the judiciary's callous attitude at every level towards human liberty is destructive of the rule of law



GAUTAM BHATIA

In early November 2020, after the overnight listing of a defective petition, the Supreme Court of India granted bail to the television anchor, Arnab Goswami. In a section of the judgment, delivered later on November 27 and titled "Human Liberty and the role of courts", the top court noted that "human liberty is a precious constitutional value"; that "the writ of liberty runs through the fabric of the Constitution"; that it was important for courts across the spectrum to ensure that "criminal law does not become a weapon for the selective harassment of citizens"; that the courts remained "the first line of defence against the deprivation of the liberty of citizens"; that "the remedy of bail is the solemn expression of the humanity of the justice system", and, most poignantly, that "deprivation of liberty even for a single day is one day too many" (<https://bit.ly/3quEFiX>).

The reality for many
Observers of the Indian judiciary would no doubt have been bemused by this eloquent encomium to human liberty. At the time of the Supreme Court's judgment, social activists incarcerated in the Bhima Koregaon case had been in jail for more than two years, with the trial yet to start, and with multiple bail applications having been rejected by the courts (they still remain in jail). In the aftermath of the Delhi riots in February 2020,

students had been jailed for months (again without trial), with bail having been refused on specious grounds such as a court telling an accused who was not even present at the scene of a riot that "if you play with embers you cannot complain when there is a fire" (most of them still remain in jail).

After the effective abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, thousands of Kashmiris had been locked up for months, with their *habeas corpus* petitions going unheard, or dismissed with absurd invocations to the mythical Greek King Menelaus (whose accomplishments included a 10-year war of destruction to retrieve a wife).

The same Supreme Court that on November 27 sung paean to personal liberty had, a year before, in 2019, told the daughter of a detained politician, in a *habeas corpus* petition, "why do you want to go to Srinagar when it is so cold there?"

Indeed, the same Supreme Court had, earlier in the year, in 2020, suspended the Karnataka High Court's decision releasing certain Citizenship (Amendment) Act protesters on bail, and had kept that decision suspended for six months – leading to six months in jail, when, apparently, "a day" was "a day too many".

In this background, the Supreme Court's solicitude about human liberty appeared no more than a cruel joke. But perhaps, one could bring oneself to believe these words were implicit acknowledgement of past mistakes, and a promise to do better. Perhaps, one could bring oneself to believe that a judiciary that had visibly held human liberty in contempt over the previous few months would now turn over a new leaf. Perhaps *habeas corpus* would start to mean



something again, as would bail.

But in the two months that have elapsed since the judgment in Arnab Goswami's case, it has become evident that the judicial hymn to personal liberty was not worth the paper it was written on.

Two glaring examples

After the horrific gangrape in Hathras (September), came the news of Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan along with three others being arrested and incarcerated by the Uttar Pradesh police, in October, while en route to Hathras. When Mr. Kappan's lawyers approached the Supreme Court in a *habeas corpus* petition, it turned out that "deprivation of liberty even for a single day" was no big deal.

The Supreme Court adjourned the case on multiple occasions, harangued Mr. Kappan's lawyers for not going to the High Court (when, it turns out that under the Constitution, moving a *habeas corpus* petition before the Supreme Court is a matter of right, while an appeal from a High Court decision, as in Mr. Goswami's case, is only meant to be admitted in "special" circumstances). On one of the dates when the case was supposed to be heard, the Supreme Court did not take it up because it was hearing *Tata Sons vs Cyrus Mistry* for the third consecutive day. At the time of writing this piece, Mr. Kappan remains in jail.

At the turn of the year, a comedian named Munawar Faruqui, along with other individuals, was arrested and jailed while he was performing at a comedy show in Indore. The arrest took place on the apparent basis that Mr. Faruqui had "insulted Hindu gods" during his show. Leaving aside the larger point of what jailing comedians for cracking jokes about gods says about the present state of Indian democracy, it soon came out that Mr. Faruqui had not, as it turned out, made any jokes at all.

When this was pointed out to the Police, the Police responded by saying that that did not matter, as "he was going to make those jokes", bringing Indian policing firmly into the terrain of the film, "Minority Report". Despite this, the local court rejected Mr. Faruqui's bail application and, subsequently, the bail applications of his colleagues on the spurious basis that releasing him would be detrimental to law and order (who, one wonders, would have been responsible for disrupting law and order if these men had been released?).

The rejection of Mr. Faruqui's bail application was on January 5, 2021. His lawyers immediately moved the High Court. On January 15, the High Court "adjourned" the case because the Police had failed to bring their Police Diary along with them. However, as it has been noted, the police station was two minutes away from the courtroom, and that it would not take much time to bring the diary to the court. It turned out, however, that indeed, "a single day", or rather many days deprived of personal liberty were wholly irrelevant, and the case was "adjourned." At the time of writing, Mr. Faruqui remains in jail.

These two cases present simply the most glaring examples of how every level of the Indian judiciary, from the trial court to the Supreme Court, has treated the issue of human liberty, after the judgment in Arnab Goswami's case. Examples could be multiplied – after all, the social activists in the Bhima Koregaon case and the students in the Delhi riots case still remain in jail despite evidently specious prosecution cases against them, but these suffice.

Blow against rule of law

The rule of law in a society breaks down when the courts appear to be telling the citizenry, "show me the man and I'll show you the law". The rule of law in a society breaks down if the Supreme Court says, one day, that "a single day deprived of liberty is a day too many", while every other court including the Supreme Court itself rejects bail applications of people jailed for years and months without trial, and in Mr. Faruqui's case for something a man did not even do. And the rule of law breaks down when the Court declares that "liberty is not for the few", but by its conduct, extends liberty only to a few, while the unfortunate many count the weeks and months in jail cells. The judiciary's undeniably callous attitude towards human liberty is deeply destructive of the rule of law; and in that context, its plaintive lament in Arnab Goswami's case, that deprivation of liberty for even one day is a day too many, is reminiscent of Macbeth plunging his hands into the basin and asking the world: "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/Clean from my hand?"

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

India-Nepal relations in a new transition

New Delhi is comfortable with some changes as its Nepal policy is heading towards deeper engagement with all sections



ATUL K. THAKUR

As a unique characteristic, Nepal's internal political fundamentals continue to shape its foreign policy choices. In the process, what gets lost is the scope of pursuing 'enlightened self-interest'. In such a scenario, any inbound or outbound delegation is seen from a different prism, and anything discussed or not equally gives ample space to interpretation and misinterpretation. The year 2020 marked China's unprecedented aggression, with an aim to counter India's conventional edge in Nepal and South Asia at large. Accordingly, China's geostrategic, economic and infrastructural drives were made tempting to a precarious Nepal with its fragile democracy and the adulterated ideological standing of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN).

The CPN is a divided house, and publicly, this was known when Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli dissolved the House of Representatives in late December 2020. The move was termed 'unconstitutional' by the experts and the country's Supreme Court is hearing writ petitions against Mr. Oli. In fact, the Court has called for 'serious constitutional interpretation'. This merits to be seen even

as a moral denial of the Oli government's stature as a 'caretaker government'.

Amidst the domestic political chaos, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali (picture), visited New Delhi for the sixth meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission on January 15, 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3bTMniG>), that was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Business as usual

The keenly awaited meeting proved to be more focused on confidence-building measures such as exchanges of courteous remarks on significant and concrete progress made since the last meeting of the Joint Commission in taking forward several bilateral initiatives, and the close cooperation between the two sides in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. An early provision of vaccines to Nepal was positively considered by India. On the development partnership front, the expansion of the Motihari-Amlekhganj petroleum products pipeline to Chitwan and the establishment of a new pipeline on the eastern side connecting Siliguri to Jhapa in Nepal formed a part of the discussions. For the upgraded first passenger railway line between India and Nepal from Jaynagar to Kurtha via Janakpur, the elusive operating procedures for commencement of train services have been discussed. Other "cross-border rail connectivity projects, including a possible Raxaul-Kathmandu broad gauge railway line", were also



discussed.
The Joint Commission laid emphasis on the need for facilitating cross-border movement of people and goods, thus giving the sub-regional cooperation its actual due. The recently inaugurated Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at Birgunj and Biratnagar have helped in the seamless movement of people and trade between the two countries. The construction of a third integrated check post at Nepalganj has already commenced, while the new integrated check post at Bhairahawa would begin shortly. Since Nepal relies on India's seaports in a big way for trading, and goods are transported by road, the integrated check posts are expected to ease trade and transit.

The joint hydropower projects, including the proposed Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, should get positive momentum following this round of meeting. India's support to two more cultural heritage projects in Nepal, namely, the Pashupatinath Riverfront Development and the Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration in Patan Durbar is significant in the times when China is exploring all avenues to disrupt Nepal's natural choice in policy-making. Moving away from the recent hiatus, Nepal expressed sup-

port for India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council (UNSC) to reflect the changed balance of power. The next meeting of the Joint Commission in Nepal should be crucial in giving a new direction to the bilateral ties, keeping a balance between change and continuity.

Stirrings for change

Notwithstanding the Nepali side's demand to include the boundary in the Joint Commission Meeting, India made it clear to find a fresh mechanism to resolve any such crucial long-pending issue. Apparently, this was not something surprising, however, as Kathmandu had seen certain signals about this. The growing disenchantment among the Nepali masses over the increased centralisation of power, failure of the Provincial System in addressing the developmental issues, misuse of Presidential authority by Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari, and unprecedent corruption provide ample room for a re-setting of Nepal's democracy. Worryingly, a large section of the people want the 'cultural Monarchy' back to substitute the Presidential system and a re-establishment of certain traditional ways to governance. While the unusual developments are taking place in Nepal, there are many who still think that India is comfortable with some changes as its Nepal policy is heading very clearly towards deeper engagement with all sections.

The timing of the high-profile visit was strategically important as in the last few months, as Mr. Oli

had categorically placed conditions before engaging with India at the top decision-making level. With a possibility of surviving the self-created political stalemate feeble, Mr. Oli is believed to be receptive towards unexpected changes. This is not something unfounded as one of the key centres of the pro-monarchy agitation is his constituency in eastern Nepal, Jhapa. In the time of transition, his outreach to India is being seen in such contexts. A great survivor so far, he is believed to be open to gaining a new ground of support from different quarters including India. His China connection has been artificial and failed him at times, and he knows this better than anyone else. It is equally true that he has failed China too at times; by breaking even the cosmetic 'Communist unity' in Nepal, he has finally made China's hyper-interventionism a wasted effort.

Democracy in Nepal is achieved, not ascribed, and Nepal and its people deserve a better deal than what has been offered by the Oli-Bhandari duo. Like many other democracies across the world, Nepal's democracy has been affected with an extreme rise in majoritarian sentiments. Nepal cannot afford to enter in another round of political instability, and those who have commanding authority to spearhead India-Nepal bilateral relations must give a humane consideration to it. At the crossroads, Nepal needs action and to come to term with realities.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional and columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Vaccine fine print

The build-up prior to the 'launch' of vaccination has fizzled out after the report, "Covaxin not to be used in cases of allergy, fever, poor immunity" (Page 1, January 19). The central government has been keen to give equal status to Covishield and Covaxin, but people are left unimpressed. The caveats in the use of Covaxin have only increased the apprehensions of the general public.

R. NAGARAJAN,
Chennai

■ Notifying important contraindications after the launch of the product does not seem to augur well. Does this apply to the other vaccine, Covishield? How does a person know that he has 'poor (compromised)

immunity'? It is important to clarify things and avoid confusion among the public which is drifting towards 'vaccine hesitancy'.

Dr. T. RAMA PRASAD,
Perundurai, Tamil Nadu

Doctors in general are in control of their emotions, but the passing of Dr. V. Shanta, breaks this barrier. If the medical fraternity were to idolise the ideal doctor, it would be her. If Chennai were to idolise a health-care professional, it would be her. If selfless service needs a definition in today's world, one cannot look anywhere beyond the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai. I still remember the day when this crusading pioneer dwelt on the 'art of medicine, the actual art behind the

science' to naive medical undergraduates like us. Her words carried weight as she represented grit, elegance, vibrance, and sheer genius. If a term called 'affordable cancer treatment' exists, it is synonymous with her name. A lady of such benevolence and brilliance may be no more, but her eternal being will always exist.

Dr. RAVEENDRANATH P.,
Chennai

■ As the doyen of cancer care in India, her simplicity, motherly care and personal attention will be sorely missed as she infused confidence and courage in patients. The Cancer Institute provided affordable and quality treatment on account of her. Her name will be etched in letters of gold in the history of

medicine in general and oncology in particular.

S.V. VENKATAKRISHNAN,
Bengaluru

■ When I took my late father, in 1976 for admission to her institute, she met us with a smile and said, "You are welcome here for free treatment, but you can also pay whatever little you can afford if you wish. Regardless of all that, me and my team will give you our best." Many good physicians are experts in their streams of specialty, but Dr. V. Shanta was an exceptional humanist.

SIVAMANI VASUDEVAN,
Chennai

■ At a time when cancer was considered a killer disease, she only made the world realise that cancer is not only curable but preventable too.

We never recognise such dedicated souls during their lifetime but attempt to honour them posthumously. On the contrary, we hasten to confer the Bharat Ratna on those with political links. Why forget deserving and service-oriented icons?

THARCUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ At a time when profitability has emerged as a sole driving force for private hospitals, Dr. Shanta and her institute remained an exception. For her, medicine was a god-sent opportunity to provide medical treatment with care

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
The opening paragraph of a report on Left parties' call to repeal farm laws (Jan. 17,

A stress test for American democracy

Donald Trump is out of the White House but Trumpism will be a tougher challenge to deal with



RAKESH SOOD

The oldest democracy has been subjected to its most severe stress test; it came to the brink, stared at the abyss and just managed to clear it. The U.S. may have survived the test but considerable damage has been done. Defining pictures of 20,000 National Guard troops deployed in and around the capital, and of an outgoing President who has been impeached a second time in his term, a week before he relinquishes office, have hurt the country's self-image as also its global standing. It is a grim reminder that democracy, however deeply rooted, can't be taken for granted and needs constant nurturing and protection to prevent its descent into populism and mobocracy.

A polarising election

The stress test began two months earlier when incumbent President Donald Trump refused to accept the election outcome, alleging that his victory had been stolen through fraudulent means. The 2020 election was the most polarising one the U.S. has seen and what happened on January 6 was its reflection. The certification of the results by Congress will get Mr. Trump out of the White House but Trumpism will be a tougher challenge to deal with. In an election that saw the highest turnout (nearly 67%) since 1900, if Joe Biden won over 81 million votes, Mr. Trump managed an impressive tally of 74 million. The county-wise election map of the U.S. reveals that Mr. Biden won in 509 counties that account for over 70% of the GDP, while Mr. Trump won in 2,545 counties that provide the rest.

Even though media channels including *Fox News* had called the results by November 5, Mr. Trump refused to make the traditional concession speech, insisting that the election had been rigged. Legal challenges were mounted by his supporters in many States. By end-November, the recounts had been completed and legal challenges disposed of. The election result remained unchanged. Attorney Gener-



al William Barr, a Trump supporter, announced on December 1 that the Justice Department had not uncovered any significant fraud that could have affected the election result. On December 14, the Electoral College met in each of the State capitals to formalise Mr. Biden's victory by casting 306 votes for Biden/Kamala Harris versus 232 for Trump/Mike Pence.

The results were conveyed to Congress for certification, but Mr. Trump had still not given up. He continued to urge Vice-President Pence, who was to chair the Congress session on January 6, to use his authority to question the returns submitted from the swing States. Mr. Pence demurred, pointing out that he had no "unilateral authority" to overturn the electoral votes submitted.

Mr. Trump had been urging his supporters to protest in Washington, D.C. against the certification, sending out tweets, "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!" On that day, he sent them to Capitol, urging, "If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore". Hours later, the mob had stormed the Capitol, disrupting the proceedings. The dedicated Capitol police force proved inadequate and the National Guard was called in. Five people died. After a day that will be remembered as one of the darkest days in U.S. history, Congress certified Mr. Biden's victory clearing the way for him to be sworn in as the 46th U.S. President on January 20.

Yet, the shock at the events and Mr. Trump's role in inciting his supporters led to growing demands for him to step down. Mr. Pence was reluctant to invoke the 25th Amendment (it was designed to deal with a president suffering incapacitation)

leading to the House passing an impeachment motion on January 13. The charges framed included "threatening the integrity of the democratic system, interfering with peaceful transition of power and imperilling a coequal branch of government". While many Republicans held Mr. Trump responsible, they were reluctant to impeach him. Only 10 of them supported the motion that was carried by 232 votes against 197.

The fate of the impeachment motion is uncertain in the Senate. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, though privately supportive of impeachment, has not indicated how he would vote. Given the requirement of a two-thirds majority for conviction and the Senate at 50-50, it is difficult to gauge if 17 Republican Senators will break ranks with Mr. Trump. In 2019, Mr. Trump was impeached by the House over his dealings with Ukraine but cleared by the Senate. For the Democrats, the impeachment is as much about Mr. Trump as it is about indicting Trumpism. For the Republican Party, however, it is a polarising moment. The question is leaders need to introspect is why they allowed Mr. Trump to take over the GOP. A recent poll suggests that 64% of Republican voters remain convinced that the election was stolen. The GOP's challenge is how to reject Trumpism while retaining the Trump supporters.

The brutal reality is that in 2016, Republicans held the House, the Senate and won the White House but in the last four years, they first lost the House and now have lost both the White House and their Senate majority. This is despite the record turnout. In the process, the country has been badly divided. Purging GOP of

Trumpism will not be easy, especially if Mr. Trump does plan to run again in 2024. That is why there is talk of invoking the 14th Amendment provisions by which a simple majority in Congress can bar Mr. Trump from running for any federal office.

Populism and social media

Somewhat belatedly, Twitter and Facebook removed Mr. Trump's accounts along with a number of other right-leaning platforms linked to QAnon. Apple and Google stopped carrying the right-wing chat group Parler app while Amazon declined to host its data on its servers. This has led to legitimate questions about free speech, the monopoly of social media platforms, the viability of their economic model and who should determine policy in the digital public domain. The European Union is accelerating consideration of new rules to guide content moderation policies of social media networks.

In *How to Lose A Country* (2019), Turkish writer Ece Temelkuran writes about how a democracy descends into populism, majoritarianism and finally authoritarianism. The Opposition is delegitimised; the leader claims to represent the real people, who claim title to victimhood thereby aggressively claiming their dignity; and the elites become either irrelevant or, worse, instruments of oppression. Terms of political discourse shift, secular liberals become "sickular libertarians", facts are questioned, and an alt-reality takes shape firing up the believers. This risk is not new but social media is a tool that aids such manipulation.

The U.S. is not the first democratic society to face this threat. Even as Mr. Biden tackles the challenges of COVID-19 and economic recovery, his real challenge will be rebuilding the traditions of democratic discourse aimed at enlarging the centrist consensus. With Ms. Harris casting the tie-breaker in the Senate, Democrats control Congress though taking recourse to this thin majority will only exacerbate divisions and mutual recriminations. That is the legacy of Trumpism that must be undone if U.S. democracy has to successfully graduate from its stress test.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

The threat of deepfakes

We need AI-backed technological tools to detect the unreal



K. P. SHASHIDHARAN

The protesters who created chaos in Capitol Hill on January 6 believe that the 2020 U.S. election was stolen by the Democrats. This is largely due to misinformation and disinformation of which deepfakes are a part. Deepfakes – synthetic media, meaning media (including images, audio and video) that are either manipulated or wholly generated by Artificial Intelligence – even have the power to threaten the electoral outcome of the world's oldest democracy. Several social media platforms blocked President Donald Trump's accounts after the attack.

Fabricating content

The cyberworld has been facing the challenge of deepfakes for a while now. AI is used for fabricating audios, videos and texts to show real people saying and doing things they never did, or creating new images and videos. These are done so convincingly that it is hard to detect what is fake and what is real. Detection can often be done only by AI-generated tools. Several books caution us against the threats of AI-generated content comprising non-existent personalities, synthetic datasets, unreal activities of real people, and content manipulation. Deepfakes can target anyone, anywhere. They are used to tarnish reputations, create mistrust, question facts, and spread propaganda.

In October 2020, the U.S. Senate summoned Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter's Jack Dorsey and Google's Sundar Pichai to find out what they are doing to tackle online misinformation, disinformation and fabricated content. Senators said they were worried about both censorship and the spread of misinformation. According to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, a law which protects freedom of expression and innovation on the Internet, "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider." This means that the companies are not responsible for the posts on their platforms. The chief executives said they need the law to moderate content, but industry watchers and some politicians feel that the law is outdated and needs to be revisited.

India also faces the same problem. So far, it has not enacted any specific legislation to deal with deepfakes, though there are some provisions in the Indian Penal Code that cri-

minalise certain forms of online/social media content manipulation. The Information Technology Act, 2000 covers certain cybercrimes. But this law and the Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018 are inadequate to deal with content manipulation on digital platforms. (The guidelines stipulate that due diligence must be observed by the intermediate companies for removal of illegal content.) In 2018, the government proposed rules to curtail the misuse of social networks. Social media companies voluntarily agreed to take action to prevent violations during the 2019 general election. The Election Commission issued instructions on social media use during election campaigns. But reports show that social media platforms like WhatsApp were used as "vehicles for misinformation and propaganda" by major political parties during the election.

New tools

This is worrying. Existing laws are clearly inadequate to safeguard individuals and entities against deepfakes. Only AI-generated tools can be effective in detection. As innovation in deepfakes gets better, AI-based automated tools must be invented accordingly. Blockchains are robust against many security threats and can be used to digitally sign and affirm the validity of a video or document. Educating media users about the capabilities of AI algorithms could help.

In July 2020, the University of Washington and Microsoft convened a workshop with experts to discuss how to prevent deepfake technology from adversely affecting the 2020 U.S. presidential election. The workshop identified six themes: a) deepfakes must be contextualised within the broader framework of malicious manipulated media, computational propaganda and disinformation campaigns; b) deepfakes cause multidimensional issues which require a collaborative, multi-stakeholder response that require experts in every sector to find solutions; c) detecting deepfakes is hard; d) journalists need tools to scrutinise images, video and audio recordings for which they need training and resources; e) policymakers must understand how deepfakes can threaten polity, society, economy, culture, individuals and communities; and f) the idea that the mere existence of deepfakes causes enough distrust that any true evidence can be dismissed as fake is a major concern that needs to be addressed. In today's world, disinformation comes in varied forms, so no single technology can resolve the problem. As deepfakes evolve, AI-backed technological tools to detect and prevent them must also evolve.

K. P. Shashidharan is a former director-general in the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Cooking up a storm

A new film shows that it is individual insurrections that could prove critical in challenging hegemony

VAISHNA ROY

About a month after actor-politician Kamal Haasan's party manifesto said Tamil Nadu should recognise housework as labour and pay homemakers, the Malayalam film, *The Great Indian Kitchen*, has hit our screens. Given the brisk debate the manifesto stirred, the film couldn't have been timed better – by listing in excruciating, exquisite minutiae everything a woman does at home, it seems to prove the case for payment many times over. Yet, that is hardly its intention. Its canvas is much larger, more elemental. It is arguably the most starkly 'feminist' Indian film of recent times, making its point with deadly stillness and accuracy.

Labour of love
The extent to which director Jeo Baby has internalised and mapped the average woman's unending list of tasks is remarkable. He films it with implacable veracity, establishing the repetitive drudgery of housework with a cinematic artistry that rivals the assembly line of Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*. The film begins cheerfully, as the unnamed protagonist (played superbly by Nimisha Sajayan) embarks on married life. The countless dishes emerging from the kitchen are an orchestration of happy labour, the labour of love, set to the sounds of cutting, grinding, stirring, frying. Until slowly, the bride realises that she is trapped in an unacknowledged, unrewarding and unshared cycle of Sisyphean toil. The recurrent filming of the actions of cooking, serving, washing, wiping becomes a relentless, manic beat to which the woman must dance till she drops.

The paterfamilias of this family must be handed his toothbrush each morning. His son has inherited the same privileges. There is no violence – both men reinforce the patriarchy gently, confidently, invoking 'family' values. Harking back to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's description of sanitation work as "an experience in spirituality," the daughter-in-law is told that household work is more valuable than a bureaucrat's. But, as with sanitation work, the privileged don't actually do it. And its value remains uncalculated and unpaid.

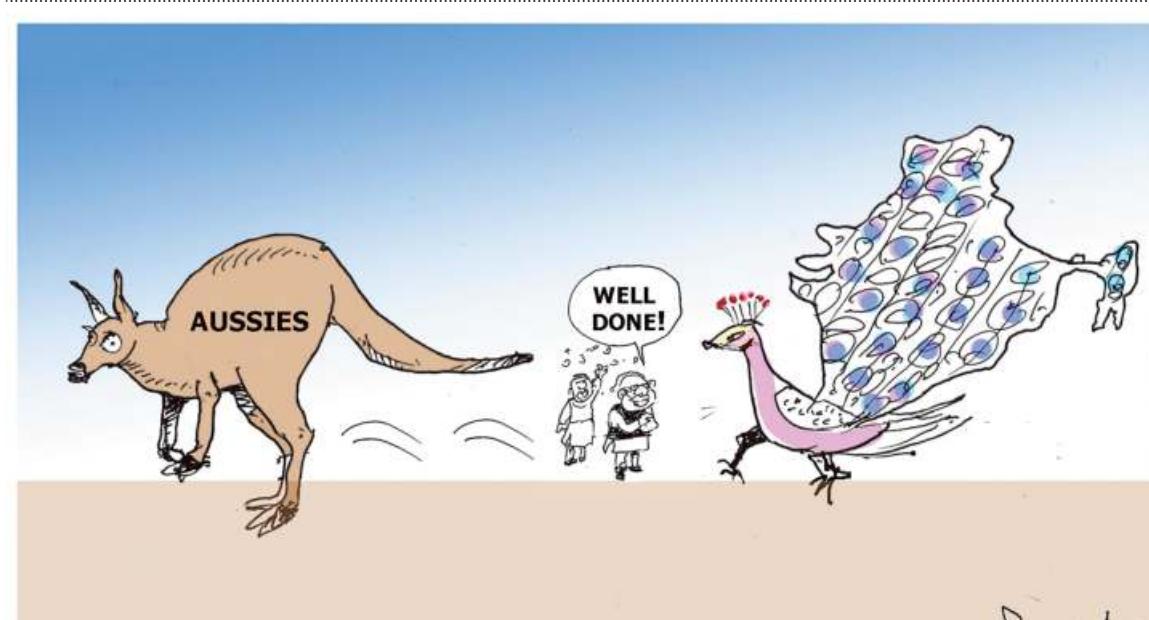
From the kitchen, the film strides into the bedroom, bathroom, manure pit and temple, establishing how the politics of each are closely interlinked and, in turn, linked to the ideas of purity and pollution, the sacred and profane. When the kitchen counter is replaced by the marital bed, the hierarchies of labour are replaced by the hierarchies of desire – the female body must accommodate desire but can't express it.

Thence, to the hierarchy of purity. From the filthy dining table after the men eat to their dirty laundry, rooms and plates, everything is cleaned by the woman. But, as with the Dalit body mandated to clean people's waste, the cleaning female body is the one labelled 'impure' when it bleeds. So impure that it pollutes simply by being of an age when it menstruates. So impure that its touch pollutes temple, tulsi plant, the men preparing for the pilgrimage to Sabarimala. This is the politics of exclusion, the pivot upon which society revolves, which is being extended today in newer, more horrific ways.

Shattering myths
The film's clogged kitchen sink serves as a metaphor for the privileged, Brahminical, patriarchal male, who is cleaned, liberated, and nourished by other's toiling hands but claims an innate purity and actualisation. It's the woman who struggles with the clogged sink, and it's the man who says mockingly, "You seem obsessed with waste". At the end, the woman realises exactly what she must do with waste – throw it back to where it came from. It's an action of controlled violence, anger and contempt, calculated to shatter the myths of purity, virility and male honour that continue to be used to defend many kinds of dehumanisation.

As in the film, we are still far from any universal solution. Mostly because hegemony is seldom ceded away. Of course, diverse movements, like the one for Sabarimala temple entry or the Una march, try to chip away at its foundations, but equally, as the film hints, it's the small, individual insurrections that might provide the tipping point.

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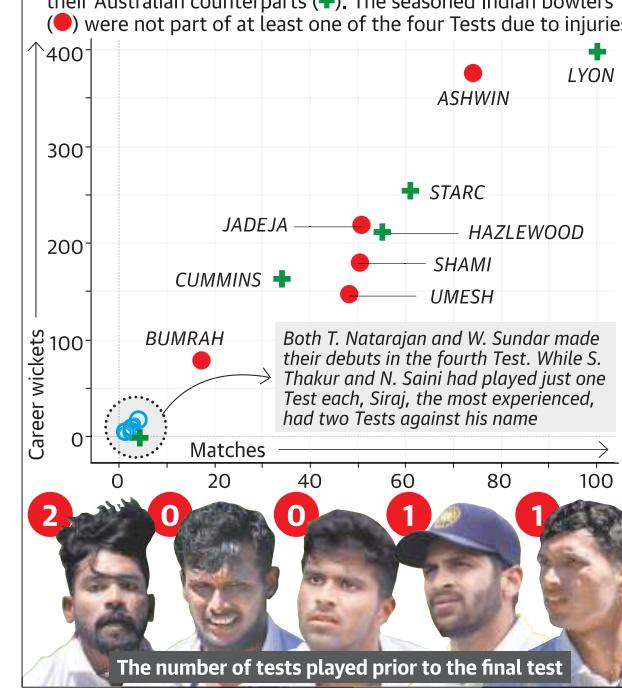
DATA POINT

Bowled over

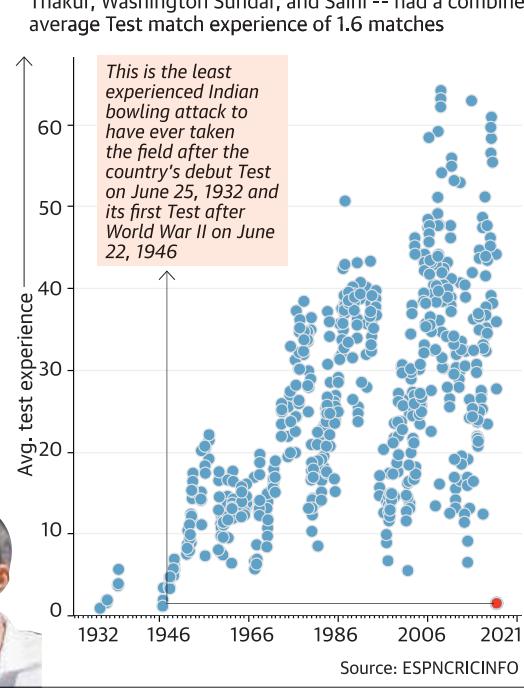
When India entered the field for the final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2020 at the Gabba, its pace spearhead was two-Tests old. The rest of the bowling contingent comprised two debutants and two other pacers who had played one Test match each. In comparison, the current World No 1 bowler in Tests, Pat Cummins, was Australia's least experienced bowler with 34 Tests against his name. Spinner Nathan Lyon had completed a century of Tests and pacemen Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood had played more than 50 Tests each. By winning the David vs. Goliath battle on Tuesday, India has showcased its deep bowling resources.

By *The Hindu Data Team*

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK | The chart plots the number of career Tests played and overall wickets taken by all the bowlers who played in the series. The experience of the Indian bowlers who played in the last Test match (●) paled in comparison with their Australian counterparts (▲). The seasoned Indian bowlers (●) were not part of at least one of the four Tests due to injuries



INEXPERIENCED LINEUP | The chart plots the combined Test match experience of all the Indian bowlers in Tests since 1932. For instance, India's bowlers in the fourth Test -- Siraj, Natarajan, Shardul Thakur, Washington Sundar, and Saini -- had a combined average Test match experience of 1.6 matches



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1971

A tool to achieve united India

Mrs. Indira Gandhi said here [Eluru] to-day [January 19] that her goal was to build a united and strong India and socialism was merely a tool to achieve that aim. Socialism was not an aim by itself. Addressing a public meeting here, Mrs. Gandhi said that she wanted to improve not merely the people's standard of living but also the standards of public life and thinking. Idealism should inspire their lives, she said. Mrs. Gandhi characterised as absolutely false the allegation that her policies were influenced by the ideology of any party. "Neither by words nor in action have we deviated a bit from the accepted policies of the undivided Congress." She described as misleading propaganda the charge that her policies flowed from a desire to stick to power. Mrs. Gandhi said there could be no real democracy without socialism and secularism. The young should take upon themselves the task of building a strong and prosperous India. They should be committed to programmes and not personalities.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1921

Importing gold

A Chinese merchant of Penang appears to have been rather hard hit by the regulations against the importation of gold. Going to China to collect monies due he arranged with his agent in Hong Kong to remit the amount in care of Chinchew of S.S. "Hongmoh" to Amoy where he intended to join the vessel and return to Penang. The amount was, as usual it is said, remitted in gold and amounted to 14,600 British sovereigns and 6,150 United States 20 dollar pieces. The merchant missed the steamer at Amoy; the Chinchew on arrival at Penang could not, in his absence, make any arrangement to handover the gold and kept it hidden in the vessel itself. The Indian customs officers discovered the thing and confiscated it. The merchant appears to have appealed to the Government of Burma and India for restitution in consideration of these peculiar accidents but for which the gold would not have come concealed to the Indian shore. The loss of this large amount, he says, would ruin him and his business; for this circumstance as well as for the absence of proved criminal intention this sufferer's case would seem to be one in which the law might have been tempered with mercy, especially as the object of the law was not confiscation for its own sake.

India loses a crusader who revolutionised cancer treatment

In a lifetime devoted to her patients, Dr. Shanta lived in a single room within the Adyar Cancer Institute premises, so that she would be available round the clock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

It was in the early hours of Tuesday, before much of the city had woken up, that information began to percolate about the passing of a pioneer in cancer care in the country and the chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute, Dr. V. Shanta.

The news broke on social media and as the loss started to sink in, all of Tamil Nadu sank into mourning one of its most prominent and respected personalities. The crowds that gathered at her funeral procession, spoke volumes of the impact that Dr. Shanta has had on various segments of society.

Tributes from PM, V-P
Tributes poured as the day progressed, with patients, colleagues, and political leaders talking of how she had touched their lives and improved the field of oncology. All of them were clear that Dr. Shanta occupied a unique space that will now be void with her passing.

Among those who paid tributes to her were Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, apart from State leaders, and healthcare professionals from across the country.

Dr. Shanta was rushed to hospital after she complained of chest pain on Monday about 9 p.m. She initially insisted on being medically managed on campus, but colleagues at the Cancer Institute took a call to rush her to a private hospital, as the Institute is not a cardiac care centre. They said examinations showed she had a massive block that could not be rectified, and the end came shortly before 4 a.m.

Her body was placed in the old Cancer Institute premises, which she helped build along with her mentor S. Krishnamurthy, and several patients, their relatives, nurses, doctors and members of the public paid their homage.

Dr. Shanta was active until

her hospitalisation, colleagues said, even though she had been feeling under the weather for a couple of days. Arvind Krishnamurthy, professor and head, Surgical Oncology, Cancer Institute, said Dr. Shanta never wanted to leave the Institute for treatment outside and was not for invasive ventilation. "She was quite active till the very last day considering her age and frailty. She preferred medical management. She did not want any final rituals to be performed, and wished that her ashes should be sprinkled all over the Institute... She continued to be in control till the very end," he added.

Right through the pandemic, Dr. Shanta continued to be concerned about the new challenges to health care brought on by the lockdown and expressed them eloquently in communication she sent to *The Hindu*. It deeply troubled her that many sick people could not be treated during the peak of the lockdown, and she was

DR. V. SHANTA (1927-2021)

looking for multiple safe options to open up services again.

Affairs relating to the Institute – funding, infrastructure upgradation, helping more people with cancer, awareness generation activities – occupied her time wholly. She lived in a single room within the Cancer Institute premises, so that she would be available for patients round the clock.

It was in April 1955 that Dr. Shanta joined the Cancer In-

stitute as its resident medical officer. She completed her MBBS in 1949 and M.D. in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1955. While she was selected to the post of assistant surgeon at the Women and Children's Hospital, Madras by the Madras Public Service Commission, she joined the Cancer Institute, which was established in 1954 by the Women's Indian Association Cancer Relief Fund under the leadership of another medical pioneer, Dr. Muthu-

lakshmi Reddy. In her medical career spanning over 60 years, she focussed on organising care of cancer patients, study of the disease, its prevention and control, creation of specialists and scientists in different aspects of oncologic sciences. She played a key role along with Dr. Krishnamurthy in the development of the Institute from a cottage hospital of 12 beds to a comprehensive cancer centre, according to the Institute.

Dr. Shanta came from a family of eminent scientists, including two Nobel laureates in Physics – C.V. Raman and S. Chandrasekhar. She was responsible for the recognition and practice of medical oncology as a speciality and the creation of a separate medical oncology division at the Institute. The first super specialty course in surgical and medical oncology in India was introduced at the institute in 1984.

Dr. Shanta was on the World Health Organisation Advisory Committee on Can-

cer till March 2005. She was also convenor of the State Advisory Board on Cancer, and has been member of many ICMR committees.

Dr. Shanta was the recipient of Padma Shri in 1986, Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. She was conferred the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 2005.

Service on her mind

Doctors of the institute re-

called her journey with Dr.

Muthulakshmi Reddy and Dr.

Krishnamurthy.

She always emphasised on the ethos of

the Institute as providing ser-

vice for all and care for the

needy.

She often stressed on the

need to pursue research

and recalled Dr. Krishnamurthy's passion for research and his driving mantra: "Today's

Research, Tomorrow's

Treatment".

In one of the communica-

tions to *The Hindu*, she said,

"The Cancer Institute has

survived crises and come

through stronger. Through all the difficult times, we never lost sight of our vision of top quality service to all, particularly the economically weaker sections".

Dr. Shanta has also pointed out that the challenge in cancer today was early detection and prevention.

"We have screening centres in Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Gummidi and Pudukkottai because we want to dispel the fear of cancer in people by enabling them to understand that if you come early, cancer can be cured," she said during an interview. Dr. Shanta did not lose any opportunity to reiterate the need for tobacco control and government support to implement the regulations.

On December 28, 2020, she participated in the launch of Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Project Report 2020, a collaborative study by Cancer Institute and Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC panel lays out road map on farmers' issue

Mr. Joshi is the former South Asia director for the International Food Policy Research Institute.

"Our mandate is only to meet with all those who are affected by the three laws... all farmers, aggrieved or non-aggrieved, happy or neutral, central as well as State governments, State marketing boards, farmer producer organisations, cooperatives, self-help groups," he said.

A list of those to be consulted will be finalised on Wednesday morning, with the first invitations being sent out for meetings on Thursday.

"We are planning to meet at least 20 organisations on January 21. We are sending invites to organisations from different States," said another panel member Anil Joshi.

T.N., Punjab report lowest vaccine numbers

"We are in constant touch with all these States that have registered below 50% uptake to address various issues that they may be facing including technology glitches or vaccine hesitancy," Mr. Bhushan said.

While the Ministry noted that Indian regulators are now looking at trial approvals for a possible nasal vaccine for COVID-19, Niti Aayog member V.K. Paul said, "People will not be fulfilling their societal responsibility if a vaccine brought to them is not being taken."

"The concerns about adverse effects and serious problems as of now, because of the vaccine, seem to be insignificant. Data show that we are in a comfortable situation and we would like to reassure you that the two vaccines are safe. The whole world is clamouring for the vaccine. I request the doctors and nurses to accept the vaccine," he said adding that vaccine hesitancy should be extinguished.

The Ministry also noted that each vaccination centre across the country is mapped to record adverse events following immunisation (AEFI).

"The State-level AEFI committees recently met in U.P. and Karnataka, where deaths were reported, following vaccination, but found that the deaths were not related to vaccination," Mr. Bhushan said.

Follow-up of AEFI
The Health Secretary added that there is a system in place to ensure a follow-up for the people in adverse

Police foil TDP leader's hunger strike plan, take him into custody

He was protesting against remarks made by Minister

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Police took former Irrigation Minister and TDP leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao into custody when the latter tried to observe hunger strike protesting against the remarks made by Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani).

A couple of days ago, the Minister had slammed the TDP leader for making allegations against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and dared him to share a platform with



Raising voice: TDP leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao being taken to police station, in Vijayawada on Tuesday. ■ V. RAJU

him to discuss development works.

Alleging that Mr. Nani made derogatory remarks against him, the former Minister announced that he would go on a one-day hun-

ger strike in Gollapudi.

"Mr. Rao violated the prohibitory orders. He and a few of his followers were taken into custody to prevent any untoward incident," a police official said.

17-year-old sexually abused by over 40 men

Kerala police arrest 33 accused, charge them under various Sections of the POCSO Act

STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

A 17-year-old girl from Kerala's Malappuram district was raped by dozens of men over four years, it has been found.

Initial investigations found 44 accused. The police arrested 33 of them, and slapped various charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on them.

A special investigation team headed by DySP of Perinthalmanna has been formed to look into the case that involved alleged lapses and lack of care from those who should have been caring for and protecting the child.

The girl from an "extremely vulnerable family and social background" had been rescued three times and

shifted to the Nirbhaya short stay home since 2016. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) released her and sent her back to her family each time on the basis of reports from the District Child Protection Unit.

29 cases registered

It was found that the authorities neither formulated an individual care plan for the girl nor did they appoint a supporting person to follow up on her rehabilitation after her release from the Nirbhaya home.

The large-scale sexual abuse came to light after the police looking into a missing person case located her and offered her counselling with the help of the CWC. CWC chairperson Shajesh Bhaskar said the girl had not revealed

Bail plea of woman held for abusing son opposed

KOCHI

Opposing the bail plea of a woman from Thiruvananthapuram arrested for allegedly sexually abusing her 13-year-old son, the Kerala government submitted before the High Court that there was sufficient evidence against the woman. In her bail petition, the woman said a case had been foisted on her by her separated husband.

anything about the abuse until the last counselling they offered her. The police registered 29 cases of sexual abuse following her revelation. The police are now investigating different angles, including the possibility that the girl was sold.

The girl was first abused in

Kerala police form SIT to probe Walayar case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police have formed a special team to reinvestigate the death by suspected suicide of two minor Dalit girls, both sisters from an impoverished family, at Walayar in Palakkad in 2017. State police chief Loknath Behera has tapped R. Nishanthini, Superintendent of Police, to head the probe. He has constituted a SIT for the purpose.

2016, when she was 13 years old, by a man from Thiruvananthapuram. Although she was rescued and the accused booked under POCSO Act, she was allowed to rejoin her family within a few days.

She was abused by other men in 2017 and was rescued by the CWC. During her long

stay at Nirbhaya home, she reportedly displayed signs of mental distress and was treated at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHNS), Kozhikode.

Under distress

She was released from the Nirbhaya home after she was found to be stable. However, the authorities have been accused of failing to evaluate the child's social vulnerability before allowing her to go.

Police sources said that the number of persons involved in abusing the girl could be more than four dozen. The girl is reportedly under distress as she was subjected to tests and made to give statements in connection with the 32 FIRs filed so far.

Bail plea of accused in actor rape case rejected

They have been in custody for 4 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The bail applications of three accused in the 2017 actor rape case were turned down by the special court here on Monday.

The applications of Sunil Kumar, Vijeesh, and Manikandan, who are in custody for over four years, were rejected as the court found that nothing had changed to entertain their bail applications, which had been rejected earlier.

The continuation of the accused in custody was required as the examination of the witnesses was not complete.

Only 80 witnesses had been examined so far and

IN BRIEF



Poet-historian Narendra Luther passes away

HYDERABAD
Well-known poet, historian, author and retired bureaucrat Narendra Luther passed away on Tuesday at a private hospital. He was 88 and ailing for some time. He is survived by wife Bindu, daughter Sandhya and son Rahul.

He played a key role in Save the Rock Society and built his house around a rock in 1977 in the Banjara Hills area.

AAI signs concession pact with Adani Airports

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Despite opposition from Kerala and cases in the Supreme Court, the Airports Authority of India on Tuesday signed concession agreements with Adani Airports Ltd for operations, management and development of the Thiruvananthapuram international airport via PPP mode for 50 years. In New Delhi, the agreements were exchanged between N.V. Subbarayudu, ED (SIU), Airports Authority of India, and Behnad Zandi, CEO, Adani Airports.

Kerala HC admits appeal in Sister Abhaya case

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Tuesday admitted an appeal filed by Fr. Thomas Kottoor, one of the two convicts in the Sister Abhaya murder case, against the verdict of the Thiruvananthapuram CBI special court finding him guilty and sentencing him to life in the case. The court also issued notice to the CBI. In his appeal, Fr. Kottoor contended that the trial in the case was vitiated by grave illegalities and irregularities.

Karnataka to create 20 lakh jobs in 5 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

Karnataka has set a mandate to attract investments to the tune of ₹5 lakh crore and to create 20 lakh new jobs in the next five years. In order to push this ambitious five-year growth, the government has unveiled a new industrial policy.

Large and Medium Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar said, "Keeping the investor-centric approach, our government has launched the New Industrial Policy 2020-25, to build a prosperous Karnataka and create large-scale employment opportunities. We aim to reach the third position in exports in the next five years.

Tusker entangled in fishing nets rescued from reservoir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

A wild tusker stranded in Nugu reservoir, close to Bandipur, with its legs entangled in fishing nets, was rescued by the Forest Department personnel on Tuesday.

Expression of views not bias: CJI

'There is a peculiar lack of comprehension about the constitution of a committee'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde on Tuesday orally observed during a hearing that there was a "peculiar lack of comprehension" on the constitution of committees.

The CJI said a person's views earlier about a subject did not disqualify him from being a part of a committee formed to examine a particular issue. An expression of views by a person on a subject did not mean bias, he added.

"There is some confusion in understanding the law. One person may have an opinion before being a part of the committee, but his opinion can change,"



**Sharad A. Bobde,
Chief Justice of India**

There is some confusion in understanding the law. One person may have an opinion before being a part of the committee, but his opinion can change

no way that such a member cannot be part of a committee," he stated.

The oral remarks came even as social media was rife with criticism about the court's choice of members of the expert committee it set up on January 12 to negotiate between farmers protesting the agri-marketing laws and the government.

There was criticism on social media that these mem-

bers had supported the farm laws. One the four members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, national president, Bhartiya Kisan Union, had recused himself from the committee, which has to commence talks between the agitating farmers and the government, and submit a report to the court within two months.

The CJI, however, did not refer to the controversy sur-

rounding this particular committee during the hearing.

His remarks came when senior advocate Siddarth Luthra, who was tapped by the court to act as *amicus curiae* in a case concerning physical court hearings in the Delhi High Court, notified the court that his earlier opinion in favour of virtual court conferences were already on record.

"Just because a person has expressed a view on the matter, that is not a disqualification to be a member of committee. Generally, there is a peculiar lack of comprehension about the constitution of a committee. They are not judges," Chief Justice Bobde said.

Budget session to have Question Hour

It was suspended in the monsoon session as a COVID-19 precautionary measure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Question Hour, which had been suspended by the government during the monsoon session, will resume when Parliament meets for the Budget session from January 29.

The government had claimed that the suspension of the Question Hour, which gives the Opposition an opportunity to hold the government accountable, was an additional precautionary measure to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

The suspension had been strongly criticised by the Opposition.

As during the monsoon session, the Rajya Sabha and



The suspension of Question Hour had been strongly criticised by the Opposition.

The Lok Sabha will meet at alternate sessions to ensure that all the three chambers – Rajya Sabha hall, Lok Sabha hall and the Central Hall – were available for both

Houses to seat members in keeping with the physical distancing norms.

Between sessions

The Rajya Sabha will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Lok Sabha in the second half from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The two hours between the sessions will be used to sanitise the area.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said, "Question Hour will be allowed during Parliament session for an already fixed time of one hour."

Parliamentarians will sit in all the three chambers when President Ram Nath Kovind addresses the joint

session of Parliament at the start of the session.

Mr. Birla said all MPs will be requested to undergo a COVID-19 test before the start of the Budget session. The Lok Sabha Speaker said all the arrangements had been made for RT-PCR tests to be done near their residences too.

Mr. Birla said food served in Parliament canteens for MPs and visitors will cost more as the subsidy allotted for it has been withdrawn, though he did not clarify the financial implications of the move.

The subsidy on food supplied at the canteen cost nearly ₹8 crore, senior Lok Sabha officials said.

Releasing a booklet on the farm laws – *Kheti ka khoon*

Sajad Lone pulls out of Gupkar alliance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC) on Tuesday pulled out of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a grouping of six Jammu and Kashmir regional parties fighting for the pre-August 5, 2019 position, saying "no party was willing to sacrifice".

"Every party had to sacrifice on the ground in terms of giving space to fellow allies. No party is willing

to cede space, no party is willing to sacrifice. We fought against each other in Kashmir province and not against the perpetrators of August 5. And those who perpetrated August 5 and their minions are now vocally gleeful," he said in a letter addressed to Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the Gupkar alliance chairman and the president of the National Conference (NC). Mr. Lone said there had been a breach of trust between the partners.

Cong. seeks more seats in Bengal tie-up

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The Congress wants a larger share of seats in the alliance in the West Bengal Assembly election. For this, it has quoted the changing political equations and the shrinking presence of the Left parties, which became evident during the Lok Sabha polls when they failed to win a single seat in the State.

According to sources, it is now demanding 130 seats. The first seat-sharing talks between the Congress and the Left front took place on Sunday. The next round is on January 25.

The Left wants the sitting seats retained by the winning party along with the seats where it came second. "Two-thirds of the seats should go to the Left front and one-third to the Congress. There is no confusion in that," a senior Left leader from West Bengal said. The Congress was not keen to follow this. Rajya Sabha member and member of the negotiating team of the Congress Pradeep Bhattacharya said while the formula was acceptable, the Congress should get more.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the decision-making process was left to the party's State unit.

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Following items required for DIOM Complex, Donimalai, Bellary District, Karnataka State, India			
1	HQMM/ 3024/19/ 16ZN12/ 291 Dtd. 19.01.2021 & ET- 768 Design, Manufacture, Supply and Supervision of Erection & Commissioning of 1 no. Apron Feeder.	20.01.2021 to 15.02.2021	₹ 5900/-
Following items required for BIOM Bacheli Complex, Dantewada District, Chhattisgarh State, India			
1	HQMM/ 2016-20/51X065/375 Dtd. 19/1/2021 & ET- 766 Supply of 3150 KVA (3.15MVA), 33 KV/3 KV Outdoor Power Transformer, Copper wound & Oil Cooled.	19.01.2021 to 16.02.2021	NA
Prospective bidders may visit our websites: www.nmdc.co.in ; CPP Portal https://eprocure.gov.in ; https://mstcecommerce.com and may download the tender documents.			
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हर एक काम देश के नाम
इत्याप्ता इत्यादि

Nadda poses series of questions to Rahul on farmers' issue, China

BJP chief's tweets came ahead of Cong. leader's press meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Tuesday took to Twitter to question Rahul Gandhi on the Congress's stance on the farmers' issue, China and its about-turn on the traditional Pongal sport of jallikattu (bull-taming).



J.P. Nadda

again, why does Congress surrender to China?" he stated.

Mr. Nadda referred to an MoU signed between the Congress and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and said, "Does he intend to return the Chinese largesse to trusts controlled by his family?"

He had strong words on Mr. Gandhi's recent visit to poll-bound Tamil Nadu and watching a jallikattu after the UPA government had banned the sport earlier.

"Rahul Gandhi enjoyed jallikattu in Tamil Nadu. Why did his party ban it and insult Tamil culture when they were in power? Is he not proud of India's culture and ethos?" the BJP president tweeted.

Mr. Nadda also pointed to Mr. Gandhi's silence on India's declining curve of COVID-19 cases and the launch of the vaccination drive.

"The Congress does not want the talks to succeed... That is why it has adopted the tactic of obstruction."

Cong. trying to scuttle talks, says Javadekar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday accused the Congress of using "obstructionist tactics" to scuttle the talks between the government and the farmers' unions, in response to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's strong statements against the Modi government's handling of the agitation and national security.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, at a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, said the Congress had resorted to obstructionist tactics. Mr. Javadekar also accused Mr. Gandhi of running away from the questions posed to him by BJP president J.P. Nadda on Twitter, adding that the Congress leader displayed his "familiar indecency" while referring to the party chief.

"The Congress does not want the talks to succeed... That is why it has adopted the tactic of obstruction."

Repeal of farm laws only solution'

Rahul Gandhi releases booklet on the laws to highlight the plight of farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 10th round of talks between the protesting farmers and the Union government, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that the new farm laws were "designed to destroy" agriculture and create monopolies by three-four capitalists.

Hitting back at BJP president J.P. Nadda, who posed a series of questions to him on Twitter before his press conference began, Mr. Gandhi

(murder of farming) – to highlight the plight of farmers, he said "repealing" them was the only solution to break the deadlock.

The farm laws would destroy the mandi system and the farmers won't get the price they deserved.

Releasing a booklet on the farm laws – *Kheti ka khoon*

said he was not scared of anyone, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and "they can't touch me".

"The biggest business in this country is agriculture... Now we are seeing the last bastion which was protected from monopoly being overrun by these new laws. They are designed to destroy Indian agriculture by destroying the mandi, the Essential Commodities Act and by making sure that no farmer can go to court to protect himself," he said.

Referring to Mr. Nadda's tweets, in which the BJP chief accused the Congress of misleading farmers, he alleged that they were an "attempt at distraction". "Who is he? Is he my professor that I have to keep answering him? I will answer the country or the farmers if they pose questions," he said.

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Essential care: A health worker is vaccinated at a community health centre in Ahmedabad. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

1.7 lakh health workers get COVID-19 vaccine

Nine required hospitalisation: Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A total of 6,31,417 healthcare workers have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in 11,660 sessions in the four days since the nationwide vaccination began, a provisional report said.

A total of 3,800 sessions were held and 1,77,368 beneficiaries vaccinated till 6 p.m. on Tuesday, a release issued by the Health Ministry said.

The final report for the day will be completed later, it said.

"A total of nine AEFI [adverse events following im-

munisation] cases required hospitalisation. In Delhi, three cases have been discharged, whereas one is under observation at the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Shahdara. One case from Uttarakhand has been discharged. In Karnataka, one person is discharged and another person is stable and under observation at the District Hospital, Chitradurga. In Chhattisgarh, one person is discharged, while in Rajasthan, one case is of suspected anaphylaxis is fine and under observation at the District Hospital, Bangar," the Ministry said.

The release of the shipments is part of the government's "Neighbourhood First" initiative, and will

India to fly out vaccines to neighbours

First batches are ready to be despatched today

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

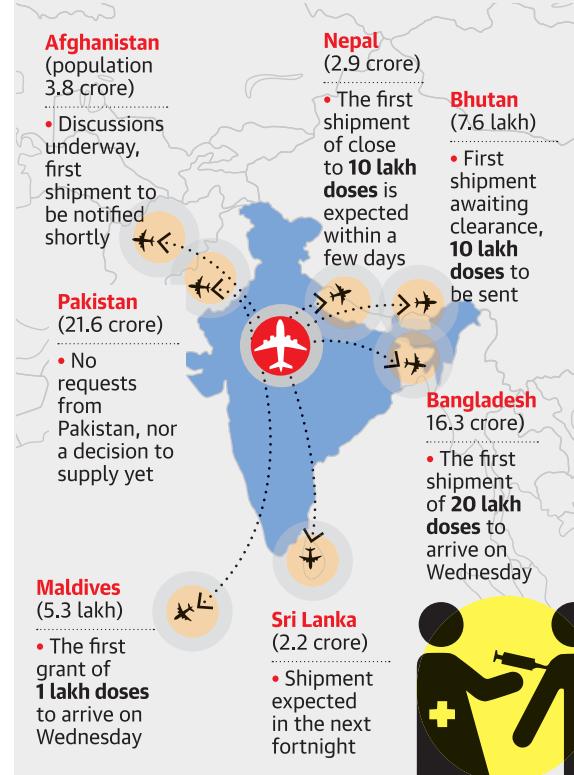
India will begin to ship out lakhs of doses of the novel coronavirus vaccine to neighbouring countries beginning Wednesday, with the first batches expected to reach Bhutan and the Maldives among several countries by special planes as a grant or gift.

"India is deeply honoured to be a long-trusted partner in meeting the healthcare needs of the global community," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, announcing the shipments. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the "pharmacy of the world would deliver to overcome the COVID challenge". The External Affairs Ministry said shipments to Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles would commence this week, while those to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius were awaiting "necessary regulatory clearances".

The release of the shipments is part of the government's "Neighbourhood First" initiative, and will

Calling the shots

India is expected to export the first batches of COVID-19 vaccines to its neighbours on Wednesday



make India the first country to reach COVID-19 vaccines in South Asia, ahead of China, which has promised but not so far delivered, the World Health Organization and GAVI's vaccine alliance

programme. The region's preference for Indian vaccines, including the Covishield from the Serum Institute of India (SII) developed with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, and Bharat Biotech's

Covaxin, are due to cost, easier storage requirements and the geographical proximity, the officials said, adding that Pakistan has neither requested nor is India discussing supplies to it at present.

Bhutan programme

Bhutan will receive the first shipment of 1,50,000 Covishield vaccines on Wednesday morning. Sources told *The Hindu* that the government hopes to ship about 1 million doses to Thimphu, the country it shares the closest ties with in the neighbourhood.

Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering said his government has decided to stockpile the vaccines to roll out a mass vaccination programme for its targeted population of 5,33,000 people.

The Maldives is due to receive its first shipment on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., with about 1,00,000 doses meant to reach Male's Velana international airport by an Air India flight.

NITI Aayog member Vinod Paul, who heads the committee overseeing the distribution, said the details for each country "should happen soon", while stressing that the government will continue to "ensure enough

for India's domestic requirement".

Bangladesh's Health and Family Welfare Ministry announced that Dhaka will also receive the batch of 20 lakh doses of Covishield, as part of a "friendly gesture", which will be delivered on Thursday.

Beximco, one of the largest Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies, will procure about 30 million vaccines from the SII on a commercial basis as well.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali is expected to announce the shipment schedule on Wednesday.

Colombo is expecting the vaccines to arrive in about two weeks, as officials said it has not completed "internal processes to receive them" yet. In addition to signing up for the COVAX facility, through the World Health Organization, Sri Lanka has been in talks with China and Russia for vaccines.

The only exception to India's regional vaccine diplomacy would be Pakistan, which has cleared the AstraZeneca vaccine for use, but has neither requested nor discussed any doses from India yet.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee, Meera Srinivasan and Jacob Koshy)

SII issues fact sheet on Covishield

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

People who are severely allergic to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine 'Covishield' are advised not to take it, the Serum Institute of India said in a fact sheet

on Tuesday.

The ingredients of Covishield are "L-Histidine, L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate, Polysorbate 80, Ethanol, Sucrose, Sodium chloride, Disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA), Water for injection," it said. The recipient should also tell the healthcare provider about any medical conditions.

Health team rushed to Lakshadweep

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lakshadweep has reported its first case of COVID-19 on January 18, said the Health Ministry on Tuesday with the Ministry now rushing a multi-disciplinary team to the island.

IN BRIEF



Sharing official secrets a criminal act, says Rahul

Breaking his silence over the leaked WhatsApp conversations of Republic TV anchor Arnab Goswami, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that sharing of information protected under the Officials Secrets Act is a "criminal act" and "the receiver and giver of such information should go to jail".

Senior TV journalist files complaint with police

The Delhi police's cybercrime cell will investigate a complaint received from senior TV journalist Nidhi Razdan, who said she was a victim of a phishing scam in which she was given a fraudulent offer for the position of an associate professor at Harvard University.

Centre asked to extend GST grant period

The Rajasthan government has urged the Centre to extend the period for grant of Goods and Services Tax compensation to the States by five years, from June 2022 to June 2027, in view of the weak financial condition of the States during COVID-19.

Rijiju gets additional charge of Ayush Ministry

Ministry for Sports and Youth Affairs Kiren Rijiju has been given the additional charge of the Ayush Ministry, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Tuesday. The arrangement would continue during the treatment of Shri Pad Yesso Naik, who recently met with a road accident.

India asks WhatsApp to revoke changes in its privacy policy

'Respect distinct identity of India and its people'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government has asked WhatsApp to withdraw the proposed changes to its privacy policy, stating that it raised "grave concerns" over the implications of the choice and autonomy of Indian citizens.

In a letter to WhatsApp chief executive officer Will Cathcart, the government pointed out that by not giving the option to opt out of data-sharing with Facebook companies, Indian users were being treated differently from those in Europe.

"Whether this [the new policy] will enable better provision of service to users or not is beside the point,

the issue is the impact it has on informational privacy, data security and user choice," the letter said, adding that sovereign independence of India's distinct identity and its people must be properly respected and any unilateral changes to WhatsApp terms of service and privacy would not be fair and acceptable.

The government also asked the Facebook-owned platform to reconsider its ap-

proach to respect the informational privacy, freedom of choice and data security of Indian citizens.

The privacy policy offered by WhatsApp to its European users specifically prohibits the use of any information shared with a Facebook company for that company's own purposes, while this clause is not present in the privacy policy offered to Indian users. This differential and discriminatory treatment of Indian and European users is attracting serious criticism and betrays a lack of respect for the rights and interest of Indian citizens, who form a substantial portion of WhatsApp's user base," it said.



15 migrant workers run over by truck

People from Rajasthan were sleeping on a pavement in Surat when death struck

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

As many as 15 labourers from Rajasthan were killed after a truck ran over them in Surat district late on Monday.

They were sleeping on a pavement when the accident occurred, according to the police.



Road tragedy: The truck, which ran over migrant labourers, near Surat on Tuesday. ■ PTI

truck accident in Surat is tragic. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying that the injured recover at the earliest," he wrote.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter condoled the loss of lives.

"The loss of lives due to a

₹50,000 each to the injured, sources said.

The Rajasthan government on Tuesday announced a financial assistance of ₹2 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the next of kin of the migrant labourers from Ban-

swara district of the State killed in the accident. Those injured will get ₹50,000 each.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed his condolences and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured. "The tragedy in Surat is heart wrenching. [I am] deeply saddened to know that the labourers from Banswara have lost their lives after a truck ran over them as they were sleeping near the road," Mr. Gehlot tweeted.

The victims of the accident hailed from four villages of Kushalgarh block in Banswara district, bordering Gujarat.

Six of the deceased labourers were stated to be members of a single family.

(With inputs from Mohammed Iqbal in Jaipur)

Military specialists to get S-400 training in Moscow

India prepares to receive the first batch of the long-range air defence system by the year-end

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As India prepares to receive the first batch of S-400 long-range air defence system by year-end, the first group of Indian military specialists are scheduled to depart for Moscow soon to undergo training courses on the S-400, the Russian Embassy here said in a statement.

"S-400 supplies initiative is one of the flagship projects in the Russian-Indian military and military-technical cooperation, which historically constitutes the main pillar of the special and privileged strategic partnership between our two friendly countries," said Russian Am-

bassador Nikolay R. Kudashov, hosting the Indian team at an event in the embassy.

He further stated, "Currently Russia and India are deeply involved in joint de-

velopment and production of military equipment, components and spare parts as well as technologies sharing, improving after-sales service system. We have developed

an advanced legal base for this purpose."

In October 2018, India signed a \$5.43-billion deal with Russia for five S-400 Triumf regiments despite objections from the U.S. and the threat of sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

U.S. concern

In the farewell address early this month, outgoing U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Juster declined to comment on whether the U.S. would proceed with CAATSA sanctions against India over the S-400 purchase, but said India should consider the impact

of such purchases that constrain "technology transfers" and other defence cooperation between India and the US.

On defence cooperation, Mr. Kudashov said along with the S-400, the two sides successfully moved towards the implementation of a AK-203 rifle contract and 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters supplies among others.

They are looking forward to an early implementation of the spare parts joint production agreement. "Work also is going on the mutual logistics support agreement, strengthening maritime cooperation, including in the Indian Ocean," he said.

FIR lodged against web series *Mirzapur*



A poster of the web series *Mirzapur*.

Htai and Bhaumik Gondaliya and Amazon Prime Video platform, where the series has been running.

In the FIR, Mr. Chaturvedi alleges that the web series portrays a specific community as linked to crime, shows illicit relationships and caste discord.

The series also projects the judicial system as "false and polluted", he said, demanding that the name *Mirzapur* be changed.

The FIR names executive producers of the series Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Ak-

75% cut-off removed; JEE, NEET syllabus unchanged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

This is in line with the earlier decision to waive the 75% eligibility criterion for JEE-Main 2021, which is used for admission to the elite Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan Nishank said in a tweet on Tuesday.

This means that a simple pass in Class 12 will be sufficient for applicants to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main) this year.

In a statement earlier on Tuesday, the Education Mi-

nistry clarified that the syllabus for the JEE-Main, as well as for medical entrance test NEET, will not be reduced in 2021. As several boards have cut down their syllabi this year, both entrance tests will offer more choices in their question paper patterns.

Students will be allowed to answer 75 questions out of 90, that is 25 out of 30 questions each in physics, chemistry and mathematics in JEE. In 2020, all 75 questions were to be answered.

Netaji's birth anniversary to be celebrated as 'Parakram Divas'

Trinamool, AIFB demand celebration of 'Desh Prem Divas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Union Culture Ministry on Tuesday announced that January 23, birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, would be celebrated as "Parakram Divas", day of courage, every year.

In a notification, the Ministry said the government had decided to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary year starting from January 23, 2021 in a "befitting manner and international

level". Later, at a press conference, Culture Minister Prahil Singh Patel said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would preside over the inaugurations in Kolkata, where a permanent exhibition on Netaji would be opened at the Victoria Memorial. A programme would be held in Cuttack, birthplace of Netaji.

The Trinamool Congress and the All India Forward Bloc demanded that the day

be observed as 'Desh Prem Divas'. "January 23 should be announced as a national holiday. It is our long-standing demand. As he was a national leader and head of the Azad Hind Fauj, these two aspects are not reflected through 'Parakram Divas', Trinamool leader Saugata Roy said.

All India Forward Bloc State Secretary Naren Chatterjee said the party had been demanding observance of Desh Prem Divas.

Ali Khan, Zeeshan Ayyub, Dimple Kapadia and Sunil Grover. The FIR has been lodged in Uttar Pradesh against the cast and crew of Amazon Prime's *Tandav* for allegedly disturbing communal amity and peace.

Lodged late on Monday night, the FIR has come after the Lucknow police registered an FIR against the cast and crew of *Tandav* for depicting the series in a poor light.

He also alleged that the series had deliberately denigrated Hindu gods and goddesses.



JAGUAR I-PACE

The all-electric Jaguar I-Pace was set to make its India entry in 2020, but will now arrive in 2021. Headline figures for the I-Pace include a 90kWh lithium-ion battery, a dual-motor setup producing a combined 400hp and a claimed range of up to

470km on the WLTP cycle. It will be offered in three trim levels – S, SE and HSE – and the list of equipment will include four-zone climate control, an ionising air purifier with PM2.5 filtration, a digital rear-view mirror and adaptive air suspension. Buyers will get a complimentary five-year service package and roadside assistance, in addition to the standard eight-year/1,60,000km battery warranty.

CLAIMED RANGE: 470km



TESLA MODEL 3

Renowned EV brand Tesla is set to finally begin its India innings in 2021, following years of speculation. The first model to arrive is expected to be the brand's entry level Model 3 – pre-orders for which were opened for Indian buyers back in 2016. Internationally, the Model 3 can be had with either a single or dual motor set-up with a WLTP range of up to 580km on a single charge depending on the selected variant. The Model 3 is expected to arrive as a CBU import with Tesla looking at establishing its direct sales model from international markets in India as well.

CLAIMED RANGE: 430-580km

VOLVO XC40 RECHARGE

The first all-electric model from Volvo, the XC40 Recharge features a 78kWh battery, two 204hp electric motors – one for each axle – producing a combined 408hp and 660Nm of torque. Volvo says the Recharge has a range of over 400km on the WLTP cycle; 0-100kph takes a claimed 4.9sec. Apart from mild styling tweaks on the outside, it also features a new infotainment system powered by Google's

Android operating system, which comes with Volvo On Call connected car tech and can receive over-the-air updates. Volvo has previously revealed that it is keen on assembling the electric XC40 in India, which could result in a relatively competitive price.

CLAIMED RANGE: 400km



Easy on the eye, easy on the planet

These soon-to-arrive EVs are bound to be conversation starters for their looks as well as their performance

AMAAH AHMED

There are a host of electric cars and SUVs expected to launch in India this year. We take a look at the EVs that are set to reach our shores soon.

AUDI E-TRON

First previewed in India back in 2019, the e-tron is set to be the first all-electric Audi in India. The electric SUV uses a 95kWh battery pack and two electric motors, which can produce a combined 408hp, giving it the ability to clock a 0-100kph time of 5.7sec.

CLAIMED RANGE: 440km



MAHINDRA eXUV300

The all-electric version of the XUV300, the eXUV300 was showcased at the Auto Expo 2020 in concept form. The production version will drop the concept's show car wheels and funky headlights, but will retain the sealed grille and bright accents. The eXUV300 is expected to be offered initially with a 350V powertrain, with a more powerful 380V variant expected to arrive at a later stage. Mahindra is also set to offer two battery pack options – a smaller, more affordable battery with a range of 200km and a bigger battery providing range of up to 375km.

CLAIMED RANGE: 200-375km



PORSCHE TAYCAN

Porsche's first crack at an all-electric four-door sportscar, the Taycan, is the first car to use an 800-volt electrical system, enabling charging at 350kW, which can provide 100km of range in a mere five minutes and rapid-charging from 5% to 80% in roughly 20 minutes. Its two electric motors produce a combined 625hp and 850Nm in the Turbo resulting in a 0-100kph time of 3.2sec. In range-topping Turbo S form, the Taycan's motors make a colossal 761hp and 1,050Nm with an overboost function, which helps it go from 0-100kph in just 2.8sec. It is set to be offered in our market in 4S, Turbo and Turbo S forms.

CLAIMED RANGE: 383-463km

A Lamborghini in the paddy field

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



Light change

I am planning to buy a Tata Nexon EV and want to replace the halogen headlights with LED ones. The dealer says they won't carry out the replacement. Will it void the warranty? Also, will it lead to extra burden on the battery?

Dr Sanil Chandrasekharan, Kochi

• The Nexon EV comes with a halogen projector setup for its headlamps. You can replace the halogen bulb with a LED one, but you would not get proper illumination due to a mismatch between the bulb and projector specifications. While it will cause no harm to the drivetrain battery, you do stand to risk your vehicle's warranty.

Retiring old tyres

I have 185/65 R15 Bridgestone tyres on my 2011 Honda City, which I bought pre-owned in 2016. The ride is now very stiff and I plan to change the tyres for a smooth ride. Which are good tyres?

Krupasamrat Chilaka, Pune

• You can check the manufacturing date of the tyres; it should be embossed on the sidewall. Even if you bought the car in 2016, the tyres are already over three years old and hence have gotten hard with age. You might also notice they have cracks in the rubber, and so it would be advisable to change the tyres. You could opt for Michelin or Goodyears as both offer a comfortable ride.

The Italian brand's promotional campaign, made by Vimal Chandran and Sharan Velayudhan, showcases a slice of the State and its culture

ATHIRA M

The green Lamborghini Huracán EVO roams through a rustic landscape as paddy fields, a temple, art forms, untarred roads, traditional households and curious onlookers seamlessly blend into the frames. Putting Kerala and its culture centre stage is *The Meeting Place*, a film made by visual artist Vimal Chandran and cinematographer Sharan Velayudhan for the Italian carmaker's global photography and art project – With Italy, For Italy.

After Italy was hit by COVID-19, Lamborghini had launched the project in which 20 photographers



from diverse fields covered 20 regions in the country capturing its scenery, art, history and more using 20 models from the Lamborghini range. "The project was later extended to the Asia-Pacific region.

We were contacted by Lamborghini India to create an art work inspired by the vehicle's

design or its design philosophy and relate it with the culture of a region. We also had to come up with a connection with Italy as well. We chose Kerala for the project because the Muziris Port in the State has had trade relations with several countries including Italy," says Vimal, who runs an ad agency Ordinary Secrets Films with Sharan.

This film was shot at Vimal's village near Pattambi in Palakkad district, Kerala. "Although the project was meant to have photographs and art work, we made the film because we wanted to tell the story behind the concept," says Vinod.

Where art meets luxury
A still from *The Meeting Place* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is about creating a meeting place for the past and the future. The car, a futuristic object, is in a village, which is untouched by urbanisation, and is set against the culture and folklore of the region. There is Poothan and Thira, a ritualistic art form from the South Malabar region; there is also Darika, a demon, and Kali – characters from 'Mudiyettu', a ritualistic dance form that enacts the battle between the two. The team says that it was a conscious decision to avoid familiar motifs such as Kathakali and Theyyam.

Sharan, who debuted as a cinematographer with the Malayalam film *Ambili*, says that the concept of contrast when the past comes up close with the future came out organically during the making process. "People of the village were in awe of the vehicle when it was brought from Bengaluru. The colour, the sound, the shape, the design... everything made them curious," says Sharan whose next work is Akhil Sathyam's Fahad Faasil-starrer *Pachuvum Athbhuthavilakkum*.

The video has been released on Lamborghini's social media pages.

Tata Altroz iTurbo bookings open

Tata Motors has opened bookings for the Altroz iTurbo ahead of the turbo-petrol hatchback's launch on January 22. The booking amount is set at ₹11,000. The much anticipated model brings with it a new engine and Tata has also added a new variant to the line up.

The most noteworthy change to the Altroz iTurbo over the standard model is the engine. The powertrain in question is a 1.2-litre, three-cylinder, turbocharged petrol unit producing 110hp and 140Nm. The unit is paired with a 5-speed manual gearbox as standard. Tata claims a 0-100kph time of under 12 seconds for the Altroz iTurbo and a fuel efficiency figure of 18.13kpl.



2021 Honda Africa Twin Adventure Sports launched

Honda has launched the 2021 Africa Twin Adventure Sports in India at ₹15.96 lakh for the manual and ₹17.50 lakh (ex-showroom) for the DCT variant. For 2021, the Africa Twin Adventure Sports is available in two new colour schemes – Darkness Black Metallic and Pearl Glare White Tricolor. Everything else remains the same as the model from last year. The Africa Twin had got an updated parallel-twin engine last year, with an 86cc bump in displacement taking it up to 1,084cc. The engine makes 99.2hp and 103Nm of torque, a notable bump from the previous-gen model's 89hp/93.1Nm. It also gets an updated frame and swingarm.

Frigid zone
(Clockwise from right) Stills from the docuseries; (below) Elizabeth White
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

A snake slithers out of the rocks in Galapagos Island. A baby iguana, which has to cross the snake, stands still. "A snake's eyes aren't very good. But they can detect movement," Sir David Attenborough's commentary informs us. The snake is too close. The hatchling does well to remain still. But once the snake comes in contact with its tail, the iguana takes off.

Sensing violent movement, several snakes slither out of the rocks. Three of them manage to catch and try to constrict the iguana. Just when you think it is all over for the iguana, it slips away, sprints, jumps, evades a snake-bite by a few centimetres and gets to safety. Just a few days after birth, it escapes death.

There is a two-minute-eleven-second clip of this on YouTube. Watch it, if you have not already. It puts the most thrilling chases in Hollywood to shame. No wonder it won BBC's *Planet Earth II* a BAFTA Must See Moment of the Year award in 2017.

Elizabeth White was one of the few people who witnessed this adrenaline-pumping wildlife drama live. She was one of the producers of the acclaimed docuseries. Asked if she rewatched the sequence occasionally, she replies in jest, "Yes. I am so glad I am not a baby iguana."

The BBC filmmaker and researcher was also involved in *Frozen Planet*, another BBC Nature docuseries, which won four Emmy awards. She discusses that and more over a call from her home in the UK,

Freeze FRAME

which is in the midst of another lockdown.

Excerpts for the interview:

Are there moments like the iguana-snake chase in *Frozen Planet*?

• Yes. There are. I can, however, recall the opening sequence of the show right now.

It's an incredible story about killer whales. They cooperate together to wash seals from ice flows. So, a family of killer whales travels all the way to Antarctica and there is one particular area in Antarctica where these animals hunt. They join forces as a family, and create these incredible waves to wash the seal into the water and get their prey. That is one of the most amazing behaviours I have witnessed. But there are some fun stories as well. My favourite one is of the Adélie penguins, which steal stones from each other. They have to make their nests using stones. And, when their backs are turned, other penguins steal stones from their nests.

What were the difficulties you faced while filming in frigid conditions?

• Sometimes, the temperature was down to -40 degrees. You get icicles on your eyelashes. Your fingers and toes get cold. It is difficult to manage the equipment, too. Plastic cables can snap, cameras can break. We also used a helicopter, which struggles at low temperatures. We had quite a lot of underwater shoots in this weather. Another big challenge was the remoteness. A lot of the shoots required travelling several days to some of these locations on

BBC filmmaker and researcher Elizabeth White shares her experience of filming the Emmy Award-winning docuseries, *Frozen Planet*

small boats. We encountered very big waves while getting there.

We were also away from home for months at a time. So, these were the challenges. You need resilience for this job. But you always reflect on the fact it's such a privilege to go to these places, and to spend time with such amazing animals.

How long did it take to film the seven-episode series?

• It took about four-and-a-half years in Antarctica and the Arctic. It starts with an introductory film about the polar regions. And then the series follow as a seasonal story. We follow the animals in spring, summer, autumn and finally, winter. We have got a film all about indigenous people of these places. The final film is about the changing climate, and the impact that it has on the wildlife on the people.

The response towards climate change is still lukewarm. Do you make certain choices as a filmmaker to make a particular narrative more impactful?

• We always try to show and tell things as they are. In *Frozen Planet*, the last episode is about climate change. We interviewed people who live there and people who have studied sea ice for over 40 years. So, there is no need to try and sensationalise the factual elements of it. But I think we went for an honest viewpoint to leave the viewers with a clear idea that these things are definitely changing.

We also went back to some of the glaciers that explorer Ernest Shackleton would have seen when he first touched Antarctica 100 years ago. He took an amazing photographer with him called Frank Hurley, who captured the glaciers. And, when you place these old pictures on the modern pieces of video, the changes are dramatic.

How do you react to climate change deniers?

• Oh, it's always difficult and a bit frustrating. The scientific consensus is that these places are definitely changing due to the climate. All you can do is to continue to educate people.

Frozen Planet airs on January 21, 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth

How to sign SRK



SHILPA ANANDRAJ

Like every good digital native, 38-year-old director Jayanth Sege has turned to social media for his next film.

The untitled political thriller needs a star like Shah Rukh Khan. Knowing that King Khan will have a long queue of hopeful directors, Jayanth figured if he put up pictures of himself outside the superstar's house, with a placard tagged to SRK's social media, it might catch his attention.

Meanwhile, Jayanth's film, 96 is ready for release. "96 has Sheetal Shetty playing herself in the lead. The psychological thriller is along the lines of *AK vs AK*, where reality and fiction merge. The story happens over one night when Sheetal is attacked by two men who break into her house."

Learning experience
Jayanth started his career working as an assistant director in Rakshit Shetty's *Ulidavaru Khandante*, which had Sheetal playing a journalist. "Working with that team was a brilliant learning experience. I did not doubt my filmmaking skills, but was not sure about my people skills.

Ulidavaru... gave me ample scope to learn the

Bengaluru-based director Jayanth Sege plans to camp outside the superstar's house with a placard seeking the actor's time to listen to his script

tricks of the trade."

96 features Sidhaarth Maahyamika, Pramod Shetty and Rakesh. "It was screened at BIFFES 2020 and then COVID-19 happened. Now, we are looking at an OTT release. The challenge is small-budget films such as ours do not hold the credibility when it comes to such platforms. That puts us back to square one, and we will try a theatrical release too," he says.

Jayanth is currently working on an untitled Kannada film, being shot on an iPhone. "A romantic thriller, the film is set during the lockdown and has Rakesh in the lead role."

He has written the story and screenplay for both his films and says, "I am self-taught. I am not a great writer, but can put what I want to narrate on paper. That has been my strength. And if I don't know something, I make it a point to learn that. For instance, for the film, we want to use a lot of VFX. So, I worked with a team that excels in that and now my friend and I have our own VFX company and even did VFX for *Arishadvarga*."

Lights, camera, action
(Above) Sege with his team, (Below) A still from 96 • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



House of kolams

A Madurai home features *kolams* on all its walls, thanks to the handiwork of a local street artist



Colours galore Artist Elangovan at work • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SOMA BASU

Aruna Visvessvar's neighbours in Madurai's Sathy Sai Nagar woke up to a feast for their eyes on Pongal last week. The compound walls of her house had transformed into a canvas of colourful *kolams*.

Visitors streamed in appreciating the wall art, even taking photos. "Some said the house looked like an open art gallery while few others likened it to a resort," says her husband, Visheswar. People lauded the couple for making the *kolam* designs permanent on their walls for so many others to appreciate.

Kolams usually decorate temples and the entrance of homes. Aruna says that they wanted to not only promote our art and culture, but also support a local

artist during these tough times.

Street artist K Elangovan worked with the couple to create the *kolams*. His struggles were exacerbated by the pandemic and like many others of his ilk left with no work, the only way to come to terms with the crisis, he says, was to bank on hope. And finally, the lyers reached out to him to check if he would be willing to draw traditional *kolams*.

For a quarter century, Elangovan's canvas had been sign boards and billboards, besides walls of temples. He is also sought after by many Corporation schools in the region for beautifying their walls. He told the lyers that his familiarity with *kolams* was limited to watching his wife draw the patterns outside their modest home in Madakulam village every morning.

But Aruna and Visheswar, the founders of Adhyapana School, insisted that he give it a try and called him over to their freshly whitewashed house. "I showed him samples and he just replicated one of the designs effortlessly," says Aruna.

It took Elangovan less than a week to complete the free hand drawings on 20 panels of 3x3 feet each. On the exterior, he made eight *kolams* in white and on the inside walls, he filled the *kolams* with emulsified water colours of his choice. For the 54-year-old artist, it was like "worship" after nine months of no work.

"I never received any formal training: painting is my childhood passion," he says and adds that he felt blessed when the *kolam* project fell on his lap out of the blue.

Aruna wished to get the patterns up on her walls before Pongal. "I was watching an outdoor yoga session online, set against the backdrop of a house, somewhere in north India.

The brick red wall behind the teacher was filled with Warli paintings," she says. Aruna then came up with the idea to promote the traditional Tamil art in her little way.

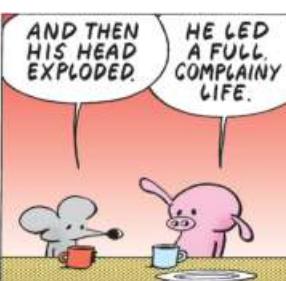
Her introduction to Elangovan followed accidentally as he was referred to her by a paint agent.

After they posted photos of their home's new-look on social media, enquiries poured in from friends in Bengaluru and Chennai. "With the *kolams* silently making a bold statement, there is a possibility of creating new audiences for the art and the artist," says Aruna.

POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



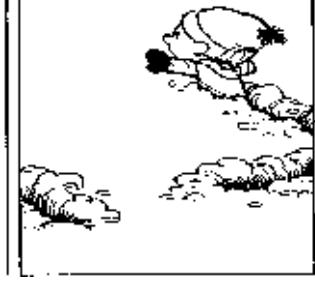
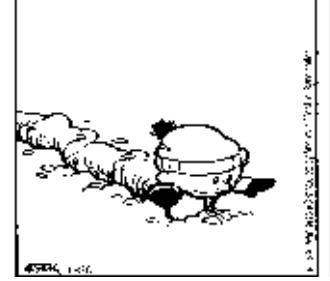
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



'U.S. will restore frayed alliances'

America will seek to remain a global power but renew cooperation, says Blinken

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Antony Blinken, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's choice to be Secretary of State, vowed on Tuesday that the United States will "outcompete" a rising China while reviving frayed alliances, in a sea change from Donald Trump's go-it-alone "America First" approach.

On the eve of Mr. Biden's inauguration, Mr. Blinken is set to say at his confirmation hearing that the United States will seek to remain the pre-eminent global power but renew cooperation on common challenges such as COVID-19 and climate change. "America at its best still has a greater ability than any country on earth to mobilise others for the greater good," Mr. Blinken, a longtime aide to Mr. Biden, was to tell the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, according to his prepared remarks.



Sea change: Antony Blinken's comment marks a sharp shift from Donald Trump's 'America First' policy. • AP

"We can outcompete China and remind the world that a government of the people, by the people, can deliver for its people," Mr. Blinken said, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln's paean to democracy, two weeks after a mob of Mr. Trump's supporters attacked the Capitol.

Mr. Blinken is expected to win Senate confirmation although Republicans have vowed to press him hard on his consulting work since

leaving Barack Obama's administration four years ago.

In a sharp shift in tone from Mr. Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who spoke of "swagger", "American exceptionalism" and global conflict with China, Mr. Blinken said he would show "humility".

Mr. Biden has promised to move swiftly after his inauguration on Wednesday to reverse some of Mr. Trump's most divisive policies. He pledged to rejoin the Paris climate accord, reverse the U.S. exit from the World Health Organization, and end immigration agents' draconian separations of Latin American children from their families.

Mr. Biden is also expected to seek a return to the Iran nuclear accord negotiated under Mr. Obama, believing that Mr. Trump's exit and imposition of sanctions backfired badly with Tehran escalating its contested program.

Kremlin dismisses calls to free Navalny

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Tuesday dismissed Western demands to release Russia's most prominent opposition leader, Alexei Navalny, saying calls for mass protests over his arrest were "troubling".

Legal pressure is ramping up against President Vladimir Putin's best-known domestic critic, who is due in court on defamation charges on Wednesday, as his allies in Russia call for protests in Moscow this weekend.

Mr. Navalny, 44, was arrested on Sunday as he returned to Russia from Germany for the first time since he recovered from a near-fatal poisoning with the Soviet-designed Novichok nerve agent in August. Russia's prison service said it had detained Mr. Navalny for violating the terms of a suspended sentence he was given in 2014 on fraud charges, which he says were politically motivated.

A hastily organised court on Monday ordered that Mr. Navalny be jailed for 30 days, prompting his associates to call on Russians to take to the streets in central Moscow and march towards the Kremlin on Saturday.

'Domestic affair'

The Kremlin said the calls to protest were "troubling". "This is absolutely a domestic affair and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it," said Mr. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

The last time mass protests took place in Moscow was in the summer of 2019 when Mr. Navalny's allies and a host of other opposition politicians were barred from balloting in local elections.

An inauguration modified by security and health threats

25,000 National Guardsmen have been deployed in DC

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN



National Guard troops at Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday. • AP

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trump has, as per reports, asked for an honour guard and is considering a 21-gun salute for the ceremony.

Consequently, the Trumps will not be on hand to receive the Bidens at the White House for tea – the outgoing and incoming President travel together to the swearing in ceremony, as per tradition.

Instead, the Bidens will be received at the White House by Chief Usher of the White House.

Vice-President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence are expected to attend the inauguration, as are former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

So contentious and unprecedented are the times, that Mr. Pence achieved praise for simply discharging his ceremonial duties on January 6 when Congress ratified the state Electoral College votes. With Mr. Trump's absence on Wednesday, he is likely to once again receive more attention than the Vice-President normally does on departure day.

While details of the Trumps' departure are still emerging, the White House has issued invitations for an 8 a.m. event at JBA. Ms. Harris will be sworn in shortly before noon by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Mr. Biden will be sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts at noon on the Capitol's West Front in front of a small (relative to past inaugurations), masked and socially-distanced crowd of about 1,000.

Mr. Biden will then deliver his inaugural address and as Commander-in-Chief review military troops on the East Front of the Capitol. The President inspecting his troops, like the presence of the previous President, is an important ritual signifying the peaceful transfer of power, a concept that is normally taken for granted in the U.S., but has been at risk this year owing to Mr. Trump and some Republican lawmakers urging their voters to question the legitimacy and overturn the results of the election.

Following the swearing in, the Bidens, Obamas and Bushes will pay their respects at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Mr. Biden will have a short trip back to the White House (there will be no in-person parade as per usual); he is expected to get an escort for one block by each branch of the military.

There will be a virtual "Parade Across America" in the afternoon featuring performances to showcase America's diversity – not unlike what the Democrats did at their Convention last summer. In lieu of inaugural balls and galas (the Obamas attended 10 in 2009), traditionally held on the evening of January 20, the inaugural committee is holding virtual balls for the Asian-American, Black and Latino communities.

U.S. won't lift travel ban: Biden team

Trump had announced lifting virus-related travel curbs on parts of Europe, Brazil

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Shortly after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the lifting of COVID-19-related travel restrictions on parts of Europe and Brazil, the incoming Biden administration said it would reverse the move.

Mr. Trump signed an executive order on Monday removing restrictions on air travel for most non-U.S. citizens and permanent residents travelling from the Schengen Area, Ireland, the U.K. and Brazil starting January 26. The restrictions instituted last year were also applied to Iran and China –



Donald Trump's order removed air travel curbs for most non-U.S. citizens.

these were not reversed by the executive order.

Also, starting January 26, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has said that all those travelling by air into the U.S. will need to show a negative COVID-19 test result

before boarding their flights. These tests will have to be done during the 72-hour window before departure. Mr. Trump's order cited this and cooperation from the countries on which restrictions were removed as reasons for easing the travel rules.

"This cooperation stands in stark contrast to the behaviour of the governments and state-owned enterprises of the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which repeatedly failed to cooperate with the U.S. public health authorities and to share timely, accurate information

about the spread of the virus," the order said.

"With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel," incoming Press Secretary Jen Psaki wrote on Twitter. "On the advice of our medical team, the administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26. In fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19," she said.

Tuesday is Mr. Trump's last full day in office. Tuesday is Mr. Trump's last full day in office.

IN BRIEF



Sudan troops deployed in Darfur after clashes

KHARTOUM

A heavy Sudanese troop presence helped restore calm on Tuesday in Darfur after three days of inter-ethnic violence that claimed at least 155 lives and displaced tens of thousands. West Darfur authorities have imposed a statewide curfew. AFP

CALLS ON ISRAEL TO HALT WORK AT WEST BANK

UNITED STATES

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Israel to "halt and reverse" its decision to build 800 homes for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank. He said the decision was "a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution". AFP

Biden to introduce Bill for eight-year citizenship path

It is expected to benefit nearly 11 million people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

United States President-elect Joe Biden plans to unveil a sweeping immigration Bill on the first day of his administration, hoping to provide an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without legal status – a massive reversal from the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies.

The Bill puts Mr. Biden on track to deliver on a major campaign promise important to Latino voters and other immigrant communities after four years of President Donald Trump's restrictive policies and mass



Joe Biden

those living in the U.S. as of Jan. 1, 2021, without legal status would have a five-year path to temporary legal status, or a green card, if they pass background checks, pay taxes and fulfill other basic requirements. From there, it's a three-year path to naturalisation, if they decide to pursue citizenship.

The Bill provides one of the fastest pathways to citizenship for those living without legal status of any measure in recent years, but it fails to include the traditional trade-off of enhanced border security favored by many Republicans, putting its passage in a narrowly divided Congress in doubt.

Under the legislation,

- 13 Consider cost (4)
 - 14 Left paper in briefcase (9)
 - 15 Philosopher follows the first bride's outfit (9)
 - 16 Party presumptuous, laid-back employer (4)
 - 17 Aristocratic party in India holding heads of Urdu channel (5)
 - 18 Risen from bed; hair put into plaits but dressed down (9)
 - 19 I arrive by chance in vacation destination (7)
 - 20 It isn't legal till I return to arrest in-charge (7)
 - 21 Ireland, I go and destroy weed in grain field (6)
 - 22 Suspends proceedings as fuss pots besiege Jack (8)
- DOWN
- 1 News about fashionable key material (8)
 - 2 Knocking sound made by Rex thrice an empty act (7)
 - 3 Broadcasting a primarily Indian band (6)
 - 4 Artist arrived first with old boy's partially accurate imaging device (6,7)
 - 5 It's a case for strikers (8)
 - 6 Kettledrums ain't playing around mischievous fellow (7)
 - 7 U.S. Northerner's tug at middle of the deep (6)
 - 8 Screen Italian unable to see (8,5)
 - 9 Right on target! Sweet! (5-3)
 - 10 Raw vegetable food cursed; it needs to be cooked (8)
 - 11 teG? (7)
 - 12 Regular speedy cure worked out for libertine (7)
 - 13 Loved to fuss over the socialist (6)
 - 14 Goon stops short as everyone comes in with cry-out (6)

ACROSS

- 1 Child, a daughter of my brother, that is chucked out in pre-battle steps (3,5)
- 5 Ridiculous myths about one workplace (6)
- 9 Provisional termini built (7)
- 10 Sort of pill that gives 50 p.c. vigour before half a minute? (7)
- 11 What a batsman might do in a hurry? (3,3)
- 12 Swell sky is not seen fully (5)

Chinese COVID-19 vaccines find takers in Southeast Asia

Beijing has signed deals with as many as 20 countries

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China has signed deals with as many as 20 countries, many of which are in Southeast Asia, to offer its home-developed COVID-19 vaccines. Its officials are also in talks with another Chinese company, Cansino Biologics, for orders.

With five vaccines being developed in China, Beijing is offering them both as donations and on a commercial basis.

Among the countries that are ordering Chinese vaccines are Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Algeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan, Brazil, Ukraine, and Serbia, according to reports in the Chinese state media.

Pakistan on Monday became the first country in South Asia to approve a Chinese vaccine, giving the nod for emergency use for Sinopharm's vaccine. Its officials are also in talks with another Chinese company, Cansino Biologics, for orders.

Many orders for Sinovac

Earlier this month, China offered its vaccines to Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as it held a multilateral dialogue with the four countries and Pakistan on anti-epidemic cooperation.

But so far they have not agreed on orders.

A third Chinese vaccine,

Coronovac, by the firm Sino-

vac, which is already being used fairly widely in China, has so far had the biggest takers overseas among the five Chinese vaccines. While Indonesia has placed orders for 12.5 million doses and its President Joko Widodo received a shot of CoronaVac live on television, Malaysia has ordered 14 million doses, Chinese media reported.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi offered the vaccine during a recent tour of Southeast Asia, and Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar are also expected to announce orders. China has offered 3 lakh doses to Myanmar.

Thai woman sentenced to 43 years in jail

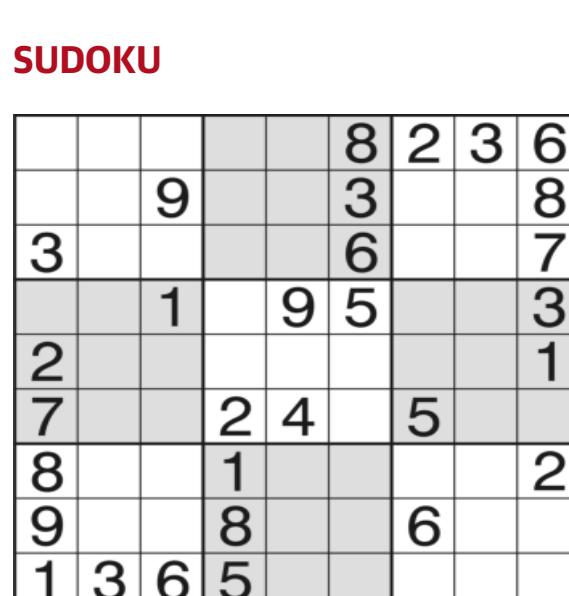
REUTERS

BANGKOK

A Thai court sentenced Anchana Preelert, 65, to over 43 years in jail for sharing posts online criticising the royal family. This is the country's harshest-ever sentence for insulting the monarchy.

Her sentence comes at a time of unprecedented demonstrations, in which leaders have openly criticised the monarchy, risking prosecution under the country's strict law known as 'Lèse-majesté', which has a 15-year penalty for each violation. Ms. Anchana was initially sentenced to 87 years but because she acknowledged her violations, the court halved this, her lawyer said.

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13148

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	3	5	7	4	1	9	6
4	5	9	3	1	6	8	2	7
6	1	7	8	2	9	5	3	4
3	9	5	1	4	7	6	2	8
7	2	4	5	8	6	3	1	9
8	1	6	9	7	3	4	5	2
9	8	6	3	2	1	7	4	5
1	3	6	5	4	9	2	8	7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

FAITH

Wealth of spiritual vision

The Upanishads speak highly of those who intuitively perceive the truth of the Supreme Brahman within themselves. Such people know that all external attainments and worldly goals that many aspire for are not of any worth, especially in comparison with the wealth of spiritual vision they possess.

Ambarisha is one such enlightened soul whose story is narrated in the Bhagavata Purana. Parikshit, who is under the curse of a rishi kumara, is eager to hear about this royal sage Ambarisha who was not affected by Durvasa's curse that is generally not easy to resist, pointed out

MARKET WATCH

	19-01-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	49398	1.72
US Dollar	73.17	0.15
Gold	48480	0.30
Brent oil	55.68	1.23

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	532.80	17.30
Asian Paints	2645.05	56.85
Axius Bank	668.75	11.75
Bajaj Auto	3641.00	77.25
Bajaj Finance	8924.15	569.55
Bharti Airtel	592.30	5.35
BPCL	413.45	3.90
Britannia Ind	3601.25	-6.60
Cipla	822.45	20.70
Divis Lab	3599.45	34.15
D Dr Reddy's Lab	5088.90	36.80
Eicher Motors	2883.50	10.50
GAIL (India)	139.65	1.75
Grasim Ind	1031.90	32.70
HCL Tech.	983.85	2.35
HDFC	2656.95	90.45
HDFC Bank	1503.85	20.75
HDFC Life	698.55	4.60
Hero MotoCorp	3232.90	69.75
Hindalco	251.55	8.40
Hind Unilever	2363.15	30.55
ICICI Bank	546.45	13.30
IndusInd Bank	939.90	7.10
Infosys	1316.65	4.60
Indian Oil Corp	98.55	0.25
ITC	218.85	-0.90
JSW Steel	395.40	12.30
Kotak Bank	1887.00	40.05
L&T	1369.85	33.80
M&M	808.05	-0.95
Maruti Suzuki	7922.60	91.95
Nestle India Ltd.	17754.70	124.00
NTPC	99.65	2.10
ONGC	98.10	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	199.65	3.90
Reliance Ind	2016.40	32.45
SBI Life	904.40	11.50
State Bank	298.60	4.15
Shree Cement	24374.50	527.60
Sun Pharma	596.55	15.10
Tata Motors	258.65	12.70
Tata Steel	681.10	14.40
TCS	3260.70	38.95
Tech Mahindra	992.50	-5.75
Titan	1519.90	16.35
UltraTech Cement	5490.10	104.10
UPL	564.00	2.70
Wipro	430.25	-1.30

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.97	73.29
Euro	88.47	88.86
British Pound	99.36	99.84
Japanese Yen (100)	70.15	70.48
Chinese Yuan	11.26	11.31
Swiss Franc	82.20	82.57
Singapore Dollar	54.91	55.16
Canadian Dollar	57.32	57.57
Malaysian Ringgit	18.00	18.10

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Cognizant to buy U.S. software firm Magenic
BENGALURU
Cognizant entered into an agreement to acquire Magenic Technologies, Inc., a privately-held custom software development services company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The acquisition will expand Cognizant's software product engineering footprint, adding 475 employees in the U.S. across seven locations and more than 350 employees in Manila, Philippines.

SBI Mutual Fund unveils retirement benefit plan
MUMBAI
SBI Mutual Fund has unveiled SBI Retirement Benefit Fund offering four plans across risk profiles. The fund's features include life cover subject to a maximum of ₹50 lakh per investor, option of two investment facilities of auto transfer to optimise retirement corpus and quarterly systematic withdrawal. The objective of the scheme is to provide a comprehensive retirement saving solution, it added.

'Native 5G model must to aid education, agri, healthcare'

India's demand for telecom technology will be huge: Prasad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU
India's appetite for 5G is going to be overpowering and therefore businesses must play a proactive role in creating a 'desi 5G model' that is inclusive and supportive of healthcare, education and farming, urged Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice.

He said India had missed opportunities around 2G and 3G but wouldn't want to miss out on 5G. Therefore, the country has developed an Indian test bed involving the IITs so that all innovative aspects of 5G could be explored.

Sensex jumps 1.7% amid stimulus hopes

Recovering rupee, foreign fund flows help index gain most since Sept. 25; RIL, HDFC twins buoyant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI
Reversing two days of heavy losses, the Sensex posted its biggest jump in almost four months on Tuesday as investors returned to buying mode amid expectations of fresh stimulus in the U.S. and other economies.

A recovering rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows further buoyed sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share S&P BSE Sensex soared 834.02 points, or 1.72%, to close at 49,398.29. It was its biggest single-day gain since September 25, 2020, when it had climbed 835 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rallied 239.85 points, or 1.68%, to finish at 14,521.15.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 6.77%, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, L&T,



Bounce back: The S&P BSE Sensex soared 834.02 points, reversing two days of heavy losses. ■ PAUL NORONHA

ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma and NTPC. HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank accounted for almost half of the benchmark's gains.

Only three Sensex components closed in the red – Tech Mahindra, ITC and

M&M, shedding up to 0.54%.

Global equities were on an upswing after U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for Treasury Secretary, former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen batted for more measures to fight the recession

and avoid an even worse downturn.

Yellen to seek more aid

In testimony prepared for her confirmation hearing on Tuesday before the Senate Finance Committee, Ms. Yellen said more aid is needed to get COVID-19 vaccines distributed and help families struggling with job losses stay fed and housed.

"Bulls took control after two days of massive sell-off, tracking positive cues from Asian markets and in expectation of a bigger U.S. stimulus to keep the liquidity alive. Buying was seen across sectors with realty and PSU banks outshining," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"The current market will get a further boost by foreign inflow if additional U.S. stimulus kicks in. However, re-

cent volatility in the market has increased due to concerns over high valuations and bond yields, and investors should be watchful."

Sectoral indices rally

All sectoral indices ended with gains. BSE realty, metal, power, capital goods, industrials and finance indices rallied up to 4.04%.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices jumped up to 2.31%.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant gains, while Shanghai was in the red.

The rupee gained 11 paise to settle at 73.17 against the U.S. dollar.

Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth a net ₹650.60 crore on Monday, according to provisional exchange data.



single allottee approach the tribunal would be risky, considering that a corporate insolvency resolution may also entail a complete overhaul or replacement of the developer's company management.

Such an initiative by a lone allottee would derail the plans of other allottees, who still had faith in the existing developer or were pursuing other legal remedies.

'Against others' interest'

"There can be hundreds or even thousands of allottees in a project. If a single allottee, as a financial creditor, is allowed to move an application, the interests of all the other allottees may be put in peril... Other allottees may have a different take of the whole scenario. Some of them may approach the Authority under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act of 2016. Others may, instead, resort to the Consumer Protection Act. The remedy of a civil suit is, no doubt, not ruled out," Justice K.M. Joseph, who authored the judgment for the Bench, reasoned.

A third amendment had given a 30-day deadline for existing applicants to find the requisite number of supporters to meet the threshold of 100, else their plea pending in the tribunal even before the commencement of the 2020 Act would be deemed as withdrawn.

Petrol and diesel prices were increased by 25 paise per litre each, according to a price notification from oil marketing companies.

This took the petrol price in Delhi to ₹85.20 per litre and to ₹91.80 in Mumbai.

Diesel rate climbed to ₹75.38 a litre in the national capital and to an all-time high of ₹82.13 in Mumbai, the price data showed.

Petrol crosses ₹85 for first time in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Petrol price on Tuesday breached the ₹85-a-litre mark in the national capital, while diesel neared a record high after fuel rates were raised for the second consecutive day.

India's e-commerce retail market is seen growing to \$200 billion a year by 2026, from \$30 billion in 2019, investment promotion agency Invest India estimates.

Among other changes, the government is considering changes that would prohibit online sales by a seller who purchases goods from the e-commerce entity or its group firm, and then sells them on the entity's websites, two of the sources said.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Reference No.: SDC/40/2018-KSITM

Kerala State IT Mission invites tenders for Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Air-conditioning, UPS and IPDU at Kerala State Data Centres.

Bids shall be accepted only through online and no manual submission of the same will be entertained. Detailed Notification and RFP documents may be downloaded from <http://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgp/app>

Kerala State IT Mission (KSITM)
Department of Electronics & Information Technology,
Government of Kerala

Website: <http://www.itmission.kerala.gov.in/>
Tel: +91471272681, 2314307, 2725646

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019

AIIMS/BBSR/EE(Elect)/O&M 33 KV/094/2020-21 Dated: 19th Jan 2021

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for "Providing Operation and Maintenance Services of 33/0.433 KV Substations with Required Manpower at Housing Complex for the year 2021-22, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar." Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender along with last date of submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender portal of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560 052

No: EE/SJN/TEND/12/2020-21 Dated: 18.01.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover)
The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

SI No.	Name of the Works	Approx. value of work (in ₹. Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Construction of Community Building at Memorial Street in Ward No-91 Bharathinagara	400.00	6,00,000
2.	Improvements of Maternity Home at Thimmiah Road in Ward No-91 Bharathinagara	150.00	2,

Fearless New India storms the Gabba bastion, claims epic series

Retains Border-Gavaskar Trophy as Pant counter-punches in style, Pujara weathers the blows, classy Gill sets the tone and Washington comes to the party with the bat

INDIA IN AUS

AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

India pulled off a record run-chase in a thrilling final session to hand Australia its first defeat at Brisbane's Gabba ground since 1988 and clinch the four-Test series 2-1 on Tuesday.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant started with a swash-buckling 89 not out as the injury-depleted visitors overhauled the 328-run target with three overs to go, winning by three wickets.

India's 329 for seven smashed the 69-year-old record for the biggest run-chase at the ground, set by Australia, which scored 236 for seven to beat the West Indies in 1951.

Stunning turnaround
The Border-Gavaskar series win is a stunning turnaround after India was bowled out for its lowest Test score of 36 to lose the first Test in Adelaide. Man-of-the-match Pant blasted his 89 from 138 balls with nine fours and a six.

His innings followed an equally impressive knock from 21-year-old Shubman Gill, who made 91 at the top



Rising like a phoenix: After the nadir at Adelaide, India bounced back with two fantastic wins at MCG and Brisbane to script one of its greatest series triumphs. ■ AP

of the order earlier in the day. Cheteshwar Pujara's 56 was also vital, the gritty number three hit 10 times by Australia's quicks, taking blows to the fingers, arm, ribs and head as he was subjected to a searching examination by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Despite Australia's fearsome record at the Gabba, the Indian batsmen showed no fear and never looked interested in playing for a draw, even after losing the wickets of Pujara and Mayank Agarwal after tea.

Outrageous shots

Pant took advantage of any loose ball, but also played some outrageous strokes, showing the influence of T20 cricket.

India started the day on four for none after bowling Australia out for 294 late on

the fourth day.

Australia raised hopes of a series-clinching win after Rohit Sharma edged Cummins to wicketkeeper Paine.

After just one wicket in the first session, Australia could only manage two after lunch, with Gill falling for his superb 91 (146b, 8x4, 2x6) and skipper Rahane a quick-fire 24.

Gill was magnificent on a fifth-day wicket, smashing the Australian bowlers to all corners. With Pujara dropping anchor at one end, Rahane raced to 24 from just 22 balls before he edged Cummins to Paine to leave India 167 for three.

India looked in control through the final session and despite losing three wickets in the last hour, it got home with three overs to spare when Pant hit the winning four off Hazlewood.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA – 1ST INNINGS:

369.

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS:

336.

AUSTRALIA – 2ND INNINGS:

294.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS:

(Target: 328)

Rohit Sharma c Paine b Cummins 7 (21b, 1x4), Shubman Gill c Smith b Lyon 91 (146b, 8x4, 2x6), Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Cummins 56 (21lb, 7x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Paine b Cummins 24

(22b, 1x4, 1x6), Rishabh Pant (not out) 89 (138b, 9x4, 1x6), Mayank Agarwal c Wade b Cummins 9 (15b, 1x4), Washington Sundar b Lyon 22 (29b, 2x4, 1x6), Shardul Thakur c Lyon b Hazlewood 2 (3b), Navdeep Saini (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-18, lb-8, nb-3); 29; Total (for seven wkts. in 97 overs): 329.

Final of WICKETS

1-18 (Rohit, 8.2 overs), 2-132 (Gill, 47.6), 3-167 (Rahane, 56.5),

4-228 (Pujara, 80.2), 5-265 (Mayank, 86.4), 6-318 (Washington, 95.5), 7-325 (Shardul, 96.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Starc 16-0-75-0, Hazlewood 22-5-74-1, Cummins 24-10-55-4, Green 3-1-10-0, Lyon 31-7-85-2, Labuschagne 1-0-4-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Rishabh Pant; **Man-of-the-series:** Pat Cummins.

India won by three wickets to clinch the four-match series 2-1.

Rahane praises team's fighting spirit

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Ajinkya Rahane, who took over the captaincy from Virat Kohli after the debacle in Adelaide, has not put a foot wrong as skipper.

But speaking after the 2-1 series triumph, Rahane, who led from the front with a century in Melbourne, chose to highlight the performances of his teammates.

"I still don't know what happened and don't know how to describe this series win. But credit to each and every individual. If you see, especially after the Adelaide Test, everyone contributed," he said.

"Credit to all the newcomers who chipped in. Nattu (Natarajan) played in his first Test and bowled well. Shardul Thakur played his second Test and contributed with bat and ball. Washington Sundar batted really well and bowled well in the first innings. Ashwin bowled well throughout the series," he added.

Really tough

Asked about how the squad dealt with being dismissed for 36 in the first Test, Rahane said, "It was really tough after the Adelaide Test but it was all about showing character and fighting spirit. We were not thinking too much about the result. We just wanted to play good

India triumphant overseas

After winning at The Gabba, India clinched its 21st away Test series win and second consecutive Test series victory in Australia



cricket. Credit to everyone in the squad, including the support staff. "It is an honour to lead the country, but it is about the team and not me. I looked good because everyone contributed. We all should enjoy this win, not just us players but every Indian.

dian should enjoy this because what we did here is historic," he added.

The skipper praised the efforts of youngsters Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant, and Cheteshwar Pujara for chasing down 328 on the final day.

India better in key moments, says Paine

'We didn't take our chances'

SPORTS REPORTER

A deflated Tim Paine conceded that India's plans worked better than his side's and that the visitors won the key moments during the four-match series.

"Whether it was with bat, ball or in the field, every time we had a chance to get ahead of the game, we let it slip. It happened a little bit in Sydney with our fielding, and then probably yesterday with our batting," said Paine, who has been in charge of Australia during both its home series defeats to India.

"I think India just managed to play better than us, they managed to get through our plans for longer than we managed to get through theirs, particularly in the key moments."

Commenting on where his side lost the game after taking the first-innings lead, Paine said, "We lost wickets when we tried to put the foot down and couldn't quite get a partnership together. And I thought every time India needed a wicket, they somehow managed to do it."



He felt that his side had the advantage going into the fifth day in both Sydney and Brisbane, but credited India's batting for denying the home team a chance to win.

"We turned to Sydney on day five and Gabba on day five in as good a position as you want to be and could not get the job done," Paine remarked. "We have been outplayed, we had our chances to win this series, to win this Test match and we didn't take them," he added.

'Unreal! One of the greatest series ever'

'Giving up' is not part of team's vocabulary: Shastri

S. DIPAK RAGAV

A n emotional Ravi Shastri termed India's historic series win in Australia as one of the best series the game has ever seen.

"I am not someone who generally has tears in my eyes, but I had real tears because this is unreal, what these guys have pulled off. It will go down in history as one of the greatest series ever played," said Shastri.

The head coach added, "To show the stomach for a fight after being bowled out for 36 is unimaginable."

Commenting on how the team approached the final-day chase, Shastri said the plan was to take the game deep before making a decision on whether to go for the

target. "Right from the beginning, myself, the support staff and Jinks [Rahane] decided to play normal cricket. Just play your natural game and don't try to manufacture something. Try and set the game up more than anything else by taking it session by session.

Pant was always chasing

"The innings [Shubman] Gill played set the platform and tone. For someone on his first tour to Australia, on a bouncy Gabba track, to take on the attack the way he did, got the momentum going for us. Then there was Rishabh Pant. You can't change his style. In his mind, he was always chasing. When he kept looking at the scoreboard, you knew he had some other

ideas," Shastri added.

Asked about how the team dealt with the constant injury setbacks Shastri said that it was the work done over the last five to six years that has helped build the bench strength to win Tests.

"If you look at the India bowling attack that beat Australia in 2018-19, there was not a single bowler playing [here].

"It is not easy to go out with a bowling attack that is three Test matches old. And then to marshal the resources was an outstanding achievement.

Shastri also did not fail to point out that this was Virat Kohli's side, saying his personality and stamp is there for everyone to see even if he was not on the field.

WTC points table

Rank	Team	PCT (%)	Pts	Series	Mat	Won	Lost	Drawn
1	India	71.7	430	5	13	9	3	1
2	New Zealand	70.0	420	5	11	7	4	0
3	Australia	69.2	332	4	14	8	4	2
4	England	65.2	352	5*	16	9	4	3
5	South Africa	40.0	144	3	9	3	6	0
6	Pakistan	30.7	166	4.5	10	2	5	3
7	Sri Lanka	19.0	80	4*	7	1	5	1
8	West Indies	11.1	40	3	7	1	6	0
9	Bangladesh	0	0	1.5	3	0	3	0

PCT is points earned/points available | * indicates ongoing series

SOURCE: ICC



We are all overjoyed at the success of the Indian team in Australia. Their remarkable energy and passion was visible throughout
NARENDRA MODI, PM

Every session we discovered a new hero. One of the greatest series wins!
SACHIN TENDULKAR

To go to Australia and win a Test series this way... will be remembered in the history of Indian cricket forever. BCCI announces a 5 cr bonus for the team
SOURAV GANGULY, BCCI President

Youngsters delivered when it mattered, with Gill and Pant in the forefront. So proud of this bunch, this is one for the ages
V.V.S. LAXMAN

What a win! Yessssss. To everyone who doubted us after Adelaide, stand up and take notice
VIRAT KOHLI

Finding heroes and summoning miracles, the India way

2018-19 win was a reiteration of its core strengths; 2020-21 emphasised the depth of its talent pool

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

When Wednesday arrives with the sun spreading its incandescent rays across India, cricket fans will miss their pre-dawn routines. The cell-phone alarms, hurriedly quaffed coffees and then the sense of awe while watching India take on Australia Down Under. The four-Test series found its cracker of a finish at Gabba with Rishabh Pant unleashing a slap-drive for four.

Despite being anaemic due to the loss of most of its stars to injuries, 'New India' still found its beating heart and strung together an epochal 2-1 verdict. A lesser team would have wilted following that 36 at Adelaide. And it is credit to this group that even if that number pops up in quizzes, the first things that would spring to mind are the subsequent miracles which were unearthed at Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

If the successful 2018-19 tour was a reiteration of India's core strengths, the latest one emphasised the vast riches within its talent pool. The pandemic-induced restric-

tions, fitness worries and the off-field bitterness triggered by stray racist taunts were all kept aside as Ajinkya Rahane's men focused on what could be done on the turf.

This was a unit that had to make do without its skipper Virat Kohli after the first Test. And with injuries being a constant shadow, its bowling attack was reduced to such greenhorn levels that it was helmed by Mohammed Siraj, playing only his third Test, at the Gabba! Yet, just like Shubman Gill showed, the freshers seemed ready, be it Siraj, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur or T. Natarajan. Add to it the resolve that illuminated Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah and Hanuma Vihari, and you had a unit that always found its heroes.

Australia is never easy and its attack was hostile. Even if Mitchell Starc was off-colour, thanks to the likes of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, Tim Paine had enough venom to dispense. But India had its methods, ranging from Pant's buccaneering ways to the bat-re-



Oozing talent: Pant delivered on the grandest of stages. ■ AFP

Kohli, Ishant and Hardik back for England Tests

Axar comes in for injured Jadeja

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Captain Virat Kohli, speedster Ishant Sharma, middle-order batsman Hardik Pandya and left-arm spinner Axar Patel have been recalled to India's squad for

TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.**Thailand Open badminton:** Star Sports 2 HD & 3, 7.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m. & 1.45 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF

**Lionel Messi banned for two matches**

MADRID
Lionel Messi was handed a two-match ban on Tuesday following his first-ever sending off for Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final against Athletic Bilbao. Messi has twice been sent off playing for Argentina. AFP

Harikrishna beats Grandelius

NEW DELHI
P. Harikrishna ended the winning run of Swedish overnight leader Nils Grandelius and shared the lead at two points after three rounds of Tata Steel Masters chess tournament in Wijk Aan Zee, in the Netherlands. Hari joined top seed Magnus Carlsen, second Fabiano Caruana, Anish Giri and Grandelius at the top. In the day's other decisive game, Iranian Alireza Firouzja defeated Spain's David Anton Guijarro.

Come-from-behind win for Indian women

SANTIAGO
The Indian junior women's hockey team scored thrice inside the last nine minutes to register a come from behind 4-2 victory over Chile here. It was India's second win in as many days.

The result: Chile 2 (Amanda Martinez 4, Dominga Lunders 4) lost to India 4 (Mumtaz Khan 21, Gagandeep Kaur 51, 59, Sangita Kumari 53). PTI

Sanjami beats Srinidhi to enter the last eight

SOPAT
Sanjami Arora beat seventh seed S. Srinidhi 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 in the pre-quarters of the ₹100,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Other results (pre-quarterfinals): Jagmeet Kaur bt Inayat Roy 6-1, 6-1; Ayushi Singh bt Gaurisa Dabral 6-1, 6-1; Niyati Kukreti bt Vishita Jhorar 6-1, 6-1; Prapti Soni bt Aditi Singh 6-3, 6-2; Sara Yadav bt Kiran Kalkal 6-0, 6-3; Mahi Panchal bt Ritu Ohlyan 6-1, 6-0; Kashvi Bhatia bt Anupriya Baudh 6-0, 6-4.

Delhi crushes Pondicherry

MUSHTAQ ALI**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**
MUMBAI

Pondicherry couldn't end its Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign on a high as it suffered a crushing 110-run loss against Delhi in their final Group E tie on Tuesday.

With neither team being

in contention for the quarterfinals, Delhi preferred to rest its regulars, including captain Shikhar Dhawan and speedster Ishant Sharma, and gave virtually everyone on the bench game-time. But even a second-string Delhi outfit proved too hot to handle for Pondicherry.

Despite Ashish Rajiv strik-

ing twice in as many balls in the first over, Himmat Singh's fifty (53, 42b, 4x4, 2x6) helped Delhi resurrect its innings. Kshitiz Sharma (65 n.o., 34b, 6x4, 3x6) and Lalit Yadav (36 n.o., 19b, 5x4, 1x6) then put the game beyond Pondicherry with an unbroken 82-run partnership in the last six overs to

ensure Delhi piled on a stiff 192 for five.

In reply, offspinner Shiva Vashisth (four for 9) led the way as Delhi bundled Pondicherry out for a paltry 82.

Delhi finished with 12 points from five games, while Pondicherry had eight.

TUESDAY'S SCORES

Elite D (Indore): Madhya Pradesh 169/6 in 20 overs (Arpit Gaud 37, Parth Sahani 51 n.o.) bt Services 167/7 in 20 overs (Lakhan Singh 32, Rahul Singh 53, Avesh Khan 3/23).

Goa 156/6 in 20 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 35, Amit Verma 72 n.o., Yash Thakur 3/36) bt Vidarbha 140/8 in 20 overs (Akshay Karnewar 31, Felix Alemao 3/27).

Rajasthan 165/5 in 20 overs (Ankit Lamba 40, Ashok Menaria 67) bt Saurashtra 150/5 in 20 overs (Prerak Mankad 61 n.o.). **Rajasthan qualified.**

Final standings: Rajasthan 5-4-1-16 (+0.493), Madhya Pradesh 5-4-16 (+0.285); Saurashtra 5-3-2-12 (+1.560); Goa 5-3-2-12

(-0.373); Services 5-1-4-4 (-0.145); Vidarbha 5-0-5-0 (-1.907).

Elite E (Mumbai): Haryana 198/6 in 20 overs (Chaitanya Bisht 45, Shivam Chauhan 59, Rahul Tewatia 41 n.o.) bt Kerala 194/6 in 20 overs (Mohammed Azharuddeen 35, Sanju Samson 51, Sachin Baby 68). **Haryana qualified.**

Delhi 192/5 in 20 overs (Himmat Singh 53, Kshitiz Sharma 65 n.o., Lalit Yadav 36 n.o.) bt Pondicherry 82 in 19.3 overs (Shivam Vashisth 4/9).

Andhra 154/8 in 20 overs (Ricky Bhui 78, Prathamesh Dake 3/23) lost to Mumbai 156/5 in

18.5 overs (Shivam Dube 44 n.o., Sarfaraz Khan 53).

Final standings: Haryana 5-5-0-20 (+0.869); Kerala 5-3-2-12 (+0.454); Delhi 5-3-2-12 (+1.913); Pondicherry 5-2-3-8 (-1.192); Mumbai 5-1-4-4 (-1.374); Andhra 5-1-4-4 (-0.593).

Plate (Chennai): Arunachal Pradesh 56/8 in 20 overs (Bipul Sharma 3/5) lost to Chandigarh 62/3 in 7.1 overs (Arslan Khan 37).

Sikkim 111/5 in 20 overs (Varun Sood 60 n.o.) lost to Meghalaya 112/2 in 17.3 overs (Rohit Shah 38, Punit Bisht 41 n.o.).

Mizoram 83/8 in 20 overs (Taruwar Kohli 33, Ashutosh Aman 4/9) lost to Bihar 84/4 in 12.4 overs (Read as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points and NRR).

ers (Babul Kumar 37 n.o.). **Bihar qualified.**

Manipur 129/8 in 20 overs (M. Langlonyamba 50 n.o., Nitesh Sedai 37, Stuart Binny 3/27) lost to Nagaland 131/2 in 17.1 overs (Chetan Bist 60, Shrikant Mundhe 36 n.o.).

Final standings: Bihar 5-5-0-0-20 (+1.161); Chandigarh 5-4-0-1-20 (+5.763); Nagaland 5-4-0-1-18 (+3.047); Meghalaya 5-3-2-0-12 (+1.671); Manipur 5-2-3-0-8 (-1.076); Sikkim 5-1-4-0-4 (-2.939); Arunachal Pradesh 5-0-0-0-2 (-2.393); Mizoram 5-0-5-0-0 (-4.521).

Wednesday's match: Kerala Blasters vs Bengaluru FC, 7.30 p.m.

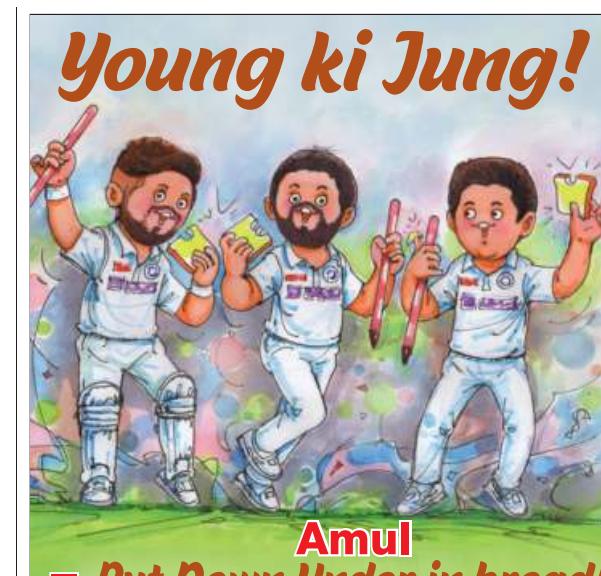
Arsenal eases to victory

REUTERS
LONDON

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck twice as Arsenal defeated Newcastle United 3-0 in the Premier League on Monday.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Aubameyang 50, 77, Saka 60) bt Newcastle 0.

Serie A: Cagliari 0 lost to AC Milan 2 (Ibrahimovic 7-pen, 52).



daCunha/AB/24

Hyderabad salvages draw

SPORTS BUREAU

Hyderabad FC played out a 1-1 draw with Odisha FC in the Indian Super League at the Fatorda Stadium on Tuesday.

The result: Hyderabad FC 1 (Narayani 13) drew with Odisha FC 1 (Alexander 51).

Wednesday's match: Kerala Blasters vs Bengaluru FC, 7.30 p.m.

Sporting holds TRAU FC

KOLKATA: Mohammedan Sporting made a spirited comeback in the second half to hold TRAU FC 2-2 in a I-League match on Tuesday.

The results: Churchill Brothers 1 (Clayvin Bernard 85) bt RoundGlass Punjab FC 0.

TRAU FC 2 (Komron Tursunov 2, Helder Ribeiro 45+2) drew with Mohammedan Sporting 2 (Nikhil Kadam 58, Hira Mondal 68).

Sudeva Delhi FC 1 (Shaibor Lang Khapran 62) drew with Real Kashmir FC (Mason Robertson 75).

DELHI ROUND-UP

Suryansh, Paramjeet deadly with the ball

Impressive bowling figures of Suryansh Choudhry (5/9) and Paramjeet Sharma (4/4) helped Vidya Jain Cricket Academy beat Positive Road Academy by 10 wickets in the 3rd Manik Chand memorial tournament.

In the other game, Rambabu Mahto slammed a 120-ball 152 while Kapil Dev scored 67 and picked up four wickets as Vikas Puri Coaching Centre beat GD Goenka by 188 runs.

The scores: Positive Road 47 in 15 overs (Suryansh Choudhary 5/9, Paramjeet Sharma 4/4) lost to VJCA 48/0 in 12 overs; VPC 325/5 in 40 overs (Rambabu Mahto 152, Kapil Dev 67, Yagya Bhatia 63) bt GD Goenka 137 in 36 overs (Karan Kashyap 63, Kapil Dev 4/7, Arya Kaushik 3/7).

Arvind, Rohit come good

Arvind Verma and Rohit Sharma scored identical unbeaten 42 as Aarush Sports beat Golden Hawks by nine wickets in the Tripathi Premier League.

The scores: Golden Hawks 90 in 25 overs (Vaibhav Sharma 46 n.o., Arvind Verma 3/14, Manan Sharma 3/9) lost to Aarush Sports 94/1 in 14 overs (Rohit Sharma 42 n.o., Arvind Verma 42).

Baljot picks up a five-for

Baljot Singh Gombra picked up five wickets for just 19 runs as Rohtak Road Gymkhana beat Dinesh Raj Academy by seven wickets in the 1st Sunil Jain memorial tournament.

The scores: DRA 68 in 22.4 overs (Baljot Singh Gombra 5/9) lost to LB Shastri 192/7 in 37.4 overs (Shubham Bisht 103 n.o., Sandeep Sood 3/22).

Man of the match Arjun Negi's 45 led Crescent Academy to a six-wicket win against Titiksha Academy in the Marathon Cricket League.

The scores: Titiksha Academy 141 in 29.3 overs (Aarav Vasisht 34) lost to Crescent Academy 142/4 in 24.3 overs (Arjun Negi 45).

Unbeaten, match-winning century by Shubham

An unbeaten 103 by Shubham Bisht and four wickets by Apoorv saw LB Shastri Club beat The Cricket Gurukul by three wickets in the 1st Sunil Jain memorial tournament.

The scores: TCG 188 in 39.4 overs (Chirag Kalaraman 74, Ayush Negi 46, Apoorv 4/51) lost to LB Shastri 192/7 in 37.4 overs (Shubham Bisht 103 n.o., Sandeep Sood 3/22).

AMERICA'S BIGGEST TEST INDIA'S BIGGEST COVERAGE



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JANUARY 20
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**BETWEEN WICKETS****SURESH MENON**

Where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high

up to check if the batsman (mainly Pujara) was fine after hitting him; a gift to 100-Test man Nathan Lyon from the Indian team was an unexpected gesture. It seemed to confuse him, just as the Indian batting did on the final day. Were they playing for a draw or going for a win? Rahane was clear – the plan was to go for a win and put up shutters only as a last resort.

Take up any challenge

It might have been a lesson learnt on an earlier tour when Virat Kohli led for the first time. At Adelaide, he made two centuries, and on the final day inspired his team to chase 364. India didn't make it on that occasion, but the attitude lingered; any challenge would be taken up. In the search for wins, the odd game might be lost but that's a small price for playing attractive, positive cricket that will bring fans back to its greatest format.

Not so long ago, Indian teams landing in Australia and England said, "We have come here to learn." No longer. Now they go to teach.

It has been a gradual process. Teams don't change overnight. In nearly four decades of reporting on the game, I have not seen a more resilient, confident, self-aware Indian team. We've had tough individuals; this was a tough team.

To come back after that 36 in Adelaide and win at Melbourne was merely the appetizer for Sydney – a resolute draw fashioned by two men, Ashwin and Vihari, playing through injury and fire. In Brisbane, a draw would have sufficed. But this team aims high.

India have now won two successive series in Australia. The Sachin Tendulkar generation that had some of the country's (and world's) greatest batsmen and leading bowlers of all time –

it was the golden age – didn't manage to win one. That should put things in perspective.

Ironical situation

Ironically, the successful captain is not guaranteed to lead when the original is available. Nor are the successful performers, especially the fast bowlers, guaranteed a long run. Once the frontline bowlers – Bumrah, Ishant, Shami, Yadav, Ashwin, Jadeja – return, the Sirajis, Sainis, Thakurs, Sundars will have to slip into the seniors' shoes. He is one of the heroes of this series win.

Yet – and this is India's greatest gain – it is a matter of pride that the first eleven were hardly missed. Bowling coach Bharati Arun has ensured that the reserves were at all times fit and honed to slip into the seniors' shoes. He is one of the heroes of this series win.

As is Pujara. He was the load-bearing wall around whom the batting built its attractive structure. Fourth innings chases require one batsman to frustrate by defence while stroke-players advance by offence at the other end.

It has been a gradual process. Teams don't change overnight. In nearly four decades of reporting on the game, I have not seen a more resilient, confident, self-aware Indian team. We've had tough individuals; this was a tough team.

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India have now won two successive series in Australia. The Sachin Tendulkar generation that had some of the country's (and world's) greatest batsmen and leading bowlers of all time –

No praise can be too high for skipper Ajinkya Rahane's calm, measured conduct. There is steel in that mild manner; importantly, there is a cricket brain that is one of the finest to have been put at India's service.

India met aggression with a smile, provocation with a sneer, as if to say, "Is that all you can do?" Australia know how to deal with aggression or defiance – they simply roll opponents over. But this was something new.

Suddenly the bowlers were running

CM YK

A ND-NDE