



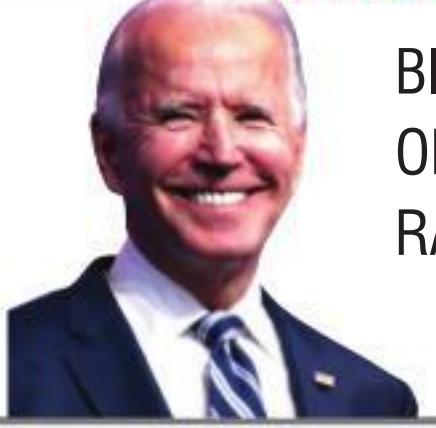
'RED FORT  
VIOLENCE  
INSULT TO NATION'

P3



IMF FOR EXTENSION  
OF PANDEMIC  
SUPPORT MEASURES

P8



BIDEN SIGNS  
ORDER TO ENSURE  
RACIAL EQUALITY

P10



MAN CITY  
ON TOP  
OF EPL

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 21 and 03 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 40%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 21.5°C (-1) Min: 05.4°C (-3)

SUN RISES

07:11 hrs SUN SETS

17:57 hrs MOON RISES

17:31 hrs MOON SETS

07:41 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



Beating Retreat full dress rehearsal at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUBRATA DUTTA

**Tandav web series:** The Supreme Court Wednesday declined to grant interim protection from any coercive action to Ali Abbas Zafar, director of web series *Tandav*, and others seeking quashing of FIRs against them for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Hindus and issued notices to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other states on their pleas. Observing that freedom of speech and expression is not absolute, the court said Zafar and the others may seek bail from courts concerned in the FIRs lodged against the web series.

**'Covaxin effective against UK variant':** Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech, has the ability to neutralise the UK variant of the coronavirus, according to a preprint review by bioRxiv, an online archive and distribution service for unpublished preprints in the life sciences. "A comparable neutralisation activity of sera of the vaccinated individuals showed against UK-variant and the heterologous strain with similar efficiency", in tests, the review said.

## Tiktok shuts down India business

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

China's ByteDance will shut its India business and cut the 2,000-plus employees to a bare minimum over the uncertainty in making a comeback following a ban on its hugely popular TikTok video app in the country, the company told employees in an internal memo on Wednesday.

Tiktok's global interim head Vanessa Pappas and vice president for global business solutions Blake Chandee in a joint email to employees have communicated the decision of the company to reduce its team size and the decision will impact all employees in India. According to sources at ByteDance, the company is retrenching its workforce in India and will continue to operate with skeletal staff in select department such as legal, administrative, human resource, accounts etc, to facilitate the settlements and engagement with the government.

Pappas and Tiktok's global general counsel Erich Andersen briefed employees in a town hall on Wednesday morning about the lay-off plan and offered them three-month salary as well as additional month remuneration in proportion to the number of years they have worked for the company.

"While we don't know when we will make a comeback in India, we are confident in our resilience, and desire to do so in times to come," Pappa and Chandee said in the joint email.

A Tiktok spokesperson said the company has worked to comply with the government order issued on June 29, 2020 but that in the ensuing seven months, it has not been given a clear direction on how and when its apps could be reinstated.

PTI

## Collegium's recommendations: SC upset at delay by Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

The apex court said that as on date 189 proposals on appointment of judges are pending and sought an update on the latest position from the government.

recommendations for appointment of judges in high courts. "If you do not give comments for five months on collegium recommendations then it is matter of great concern," said the bench, which also comprised justices S K Kaul and Surya Kant.

We need the update on pending names as on January 29 and suppose you have reservation and you send back names and then we

can reiterate. But if you do not give comments for five months on collegium recommendations then it is matter of great concern, the bench remarked.

It said in some cases, the Centre has taken more than a year in responding to the recommendations and usually refer to their pendency with the intelligence bureau or with state governments. We need to put the house in order, the bench said and posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. The observations came on a transfer plea of PLR Projects Pvt Ltd originating in 2019 from Odisha, where lawyers were then observing strike in several districts demanding circuit benches of high court in other parts of the state.

According to hospital sources, prison officials sporting PPE kits completed the formalities inside the Covid-19 ward at the hospital.

However, she would remain at the Victoria hospital for another three days as man-

## MHA issues Covid-19 guidelines for Feb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today issued Covid-19 guidelines for the month of February, which focus on Surveillance, Containment and Caution, and seek to consolidate the gains made against the pandemic.

An MHA order said there was a steady decline in the number of active and new cases in the country over the last four months.

"It is, therefore, emphasised that to fully overcome the pandemic, there is need to maintain caution and to strictly follow the prescribed containment strategy," the MHA said.

Cinema halls and theatres have already been permitted up to 50 per cent of

seating capacity. Now they will be permitted to operate at higher seating capacity, for which a revised SOP will be issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in consultation with MHA.

Now gatherings for different purposes outside the containment zones will be allowed subject to standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the State/UT concerned.

At present, social/religious/ sports/ entertainment/ educational/ cultural/ religious gatherings are permitted up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 persons in closed spaces. In the open spaces, this is in keeping with the size of the ground.

For further opening up of international air travel of

passengers, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) may take a decision in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs based on the assessment of the situation, the order said.

Containment Zones, if required, shall be carefully demarcated by the district authorities at the micro level, taking into consideration guidelines prescribed.

Local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed Containment measures are strictly followed and State/ UT Governments shall ensure the accountability of the officers concerned in this regard, the MHA order said.

State/ UT Governments shall take all necessary mea-

sures to promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and ensure wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

Business to Business (B2B) exhibition halls have already been permitted. Now all types of exhibition halls will be permitted, for which a revised SOP will be issued by the Department of Commerce in consultation with MHA.

SOPs, as updated from time to time, have been prescribed for various activities. These include: movement by passenger trains; air travel; metro trains; schools; higher educational institutions; hotels and restaurants; shopping malls, multiplexes and entertainment parks; yoga centres and gyms.

gymnasiums, etc.

## Ex-Jayalalithaa aide Sasikala released after 4 years in prison

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, 27 JANUARY

alithaa lined up outside the Victoria Hospital, raised slogans in her favour and distributed sweets in celebration.

Sasikala was in prison since February 2017 along with Ilavarasi and late Jayalalithaa's foster son VN Sudhakaran in connection with the Rs 66 crore disproportionate assets case.

Sasikala was charged with hatching a criminal conspiracy with Jayalalithaa, with whom she was closely associated, and amassing wealth disproportionate to the known source of her income.

The September 27, 2014, order of the Special Court awarding imprisonment and fine of Rs 10 crore each, was upheld by the Supreme Court on February 14, 2017.

## Over 23 lakh immunized so far

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

Over 23 lakh healthcare workers have received Covid-19 vaccine jabs in the country so far, the Union health ministry said, while asserting that no case of severe adverse event or death is attributable to the vaccination till date.

A total of 23,28,779 beneficiaries have been vaccinated for Covid-19 through 41,599 sessions till 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the twelfth day of the nationwide immunisation drive in the country, it said.

The ministry said 2,99,299 beneficiaries were vaccinated today (Wednesday) till 6 p.m. across 28 states and UTs.

Till date, there have been a total of 16 hospitalisations, additional secretary in the Union Health Ministry Dr

Manohar Agnani said. "Total nine deaths have been reported so far. None of these deaths have been causally linked with Covid-19 vaccination," the ministry said.

India's total Covid-19 cases mounted to 1,06,89,527 on Wednesday with 12,689 new cases in the previous 24 hours, while 1,03,59,305 people have recovered from the infection, health ministry sources said today. With 137 more fatalities, the death count has reached 1,53,724. There are 1,76,498 active cases of Covid-19 infection in the country, it said.

Delhi sees 96 cases, lowest in 9 months: The national capital today reported 96 fresh coronavirus cases ~ its lowest single-day rise in about 9 months ~ which took its Covid tally to 6,34,325, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

(SEE P2)



I've already said that there was a proposal from the Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (to grow cannabis) for research and medicinal purposes, especially for cancer and other diseases. It is being used in a big way (for the treatment of) chronic pain in cancer, neuropathy, epilepsy, and spasticity in children.

PRAMOD SAWANT  
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

# Delhi registers 96 Covid cases, lowest in 9 mths

This was the first time since April last year that the Capital recorded less than 100 coronavirus cases in a day; surgeries, other routine medical services at all Delhi govt-run hospitals to resume now

## SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

The national capital today reported 96 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases – its lowest single-day rise in about 9 months – which took its Covid tally to 634,325, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This was said to be the first time since April last year that Delhi recorded less than 100 coronavirus cases in a day.

This was also the sixth time that the number of daily cases stood below the 200-mark in January.

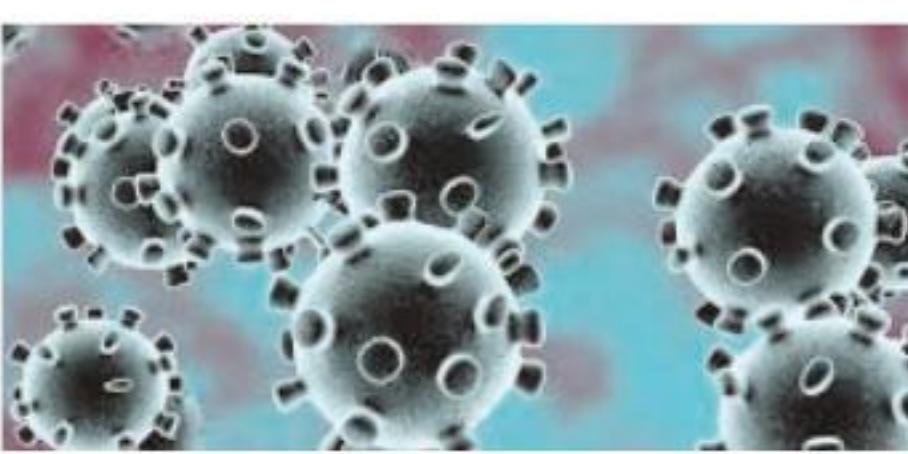
These 96 fresh coronavirus cases were however detected from 29,855 tests – a relatively low number of tests – which included 22,426 RT-PCR ones and 7,529 rapid antigen tests.

This much lower than the current Delhi's average of 70,000-80,000 Covid tests a day might be attributed to 26 January being the Republic Day.

The city's Covid positivity rate stood at 0.32 per cent, the health bulletin said. The national capital's Covid death toll rose to 10,829 with 9 more people succumbing to the contagious, deadly infection, the bulletin stated.

The count of coronavirus positive cases in Delhi yesterday was 157 with 64,973 tests conducted. The city had then reported 7 Covid-linked fatalities.

Today, the city's Covid recovery rate improved to 98.05 per cent with 212 patients having been cured and discharged



from different healthcare facilities during the past 24 hours. Its cumulative number of recovered cases mounted to 6,21,995.

Delhi had just 1,501 active Covid cases now, with 670 patients getting treatment under home isolation and 735 remaining hospitalised.

The number of containment zones in the city stood at 1,639, the bulletin added. There were now 8,744 hospital beds meant for Covid patients, but 8,023 beds remained vacant. On 25 January, Delhi had recorded 148 Covid cases, even as its positivity rate had stood at

0.31 per cent. On 18 January, the national capital had recorded 161 cases, with a positivity rate of 0.32 per cent.

Meanwhile, in view of the falling number of Covid cases in the national capital, the Delhi health department has decided to resume surgeries, OPDs and other medical services at all city government-run hospitals, according to an official order issued today.

The Delhi government health department's order stat-

ed: "In supersession of all previous orders in this regard and in view of the decrease in number of COVID-19 cases in Delhi, it is hereby directed that all kinds of surgeries/ invasive procedures/ IPD/OPDs and other medical services shall be started in all hospitals under the government of Delhi, including the society hospitals".

OPD services at LNJP Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital had already started earlier this month.

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE COURT OF SH. HARGUARINDEER SINGH**  
Addl. District Judge-02  
Room No. 605, 6th Floor,  
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.  
PC No. 01/2021

Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur  
Versus

The State  
**CITATION UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925**

Whereas an application under Section 278 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for Grant or Probate/Letters of Administration to the estate of Ram Ratan Singh, Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur who died on 09-03-2020 has been made by Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur, w/o Late Sh. Raman Sain, c/o Pratip Singh, House No. 1249, Street No. 8, Pratap Chowk, Vishvakarma Colony, Millergarh, Ludhiana, Punjab-141003 in respect of the immoveable and moveable properties bearing No. as under.

1. Flat No. 80, First Floor, Mahabhadraakal Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Plot No. 6, Sector 13, Dwarka, Phase-1, New Delhi-110075.

2. Money lying in the Joint Saving Bank Account No. 099300100186648 in Punjab National Bank, Sector 12, Dwarka, Phase-1, New Delhi-110075.

Whereas the 15-03-2021 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest may appear before the Court of Administration of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 15-03-2021 and see the proceedings before the Grant of Probate (or for Letter of Administration).

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 22-01-2021.

Addl. District Judge-02  
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

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

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 4

**Patiala House Courts, New Delhi**

**Case No. CS (Comm): 207/2019**

State Bank of India

Versus

Syeda Tahseen Kulsum To,

Syeda Tahseen Kulsum, House No. 439/12, Near 1 Minar Masjid, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 04-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of January, 2021.

District Judge-03  
Commercial Court-03  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 24

**Patiala House Courts, New Delhi**

**Case No. CS (Comm): 209/2019**

State Bank of India

Versus

Nidhi To,

Mrs. Nidhi, House No. 18, First Floor, Road No. 5, Andrews Ganj, Near Mother Diary, New Delhi-110049.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 19-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of January, 2021.

District Judge-03  
Commercial Court-03  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

**IN THE COURT OF SH. UMED SINGH GREWAL**

Addl. District Judge-02  
(West)

Room No. 127, 1st Floor

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PC No. 41/2020

Indu Datta Versus

State & Ours

**CITATION UNDER SECTION 283(2) OF SUCCESSION ACT, 1925**

Whereas an application under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of Probate of the Will or for Letters of Administration to the estate of Late Sh. Chan Swaroop Datta, & Sh. J.N. Datta in respect of property situated in Mohali, Haryana A-4/550, Pachim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, died on 1st January, 2017 at Delhi has been made by Smt. Indu Datta, w/o Late Sh. Chan Swaroop Datta, r/o A-4/560, Pachim Vihar, New Delhi-110063.

Whereas the 22nd day of March, 2021 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said deceased if he/she desires to appear in this court on the above said date and see the proceedings of the Grant of Probate (or for Letters of Administration).

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 16th day of January, 2021.

Addl. District Judge-02  
(West)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 24

**Patiala House Courts, New Delhi**

**Case No. CS (Comm): 205/2019**

State Bank of India

Versus

Kishore Kumar To,

Kishore Kumar, House No. 100, Sector 13, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 04-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of January, 2021.

District Judge-03  
Commercial Court-03  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 24

**Patiala House Courts, New Delhi**

**Case No. CS (Comm): 205/2019**

State Bank of India

Versus

Ramkrishna To,

Ramkrishna, House No. 100, Sector 13, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 04-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of January, 2021.

District Judge-03  
Commercial Court-03  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 24

**Patiala House Courts, New Delhi**

**Case No. CS (Comm): 205/2019**

State Bank of India

Versus

Sh. Sanjiv Jain To,

Sh. Sanjiv Jain, House No. 100, Sector 13, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 04-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of January, 2021.

District Judge-03  
Commercial Court-03  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT**

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanjiv Jain  
District Judge

**Commercial Court-03**

Room No. 24



*Though the matter is pending before the Supreme Court, the manner in which the Karnataka government is behaving amounts to contempt of court. They have changed the name of Belgaum (to 'Belagavi'), have declared it the second capital, constructed a Vidhana Soudha there and held a legislature session.*

UDDHAV THACKERAY  
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021

03

# Red Fort violence an insult to nation: Capt Amarinder Singh

While demanding action against the perpetrators of the Republic Day violence in Delhi, Punjab CM also maintains that the Centre's controversial agriculture laws are against farmers and federalism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 27 JANUARY

Deplored the Republic Day violence in Delhi, especially at the Red Fort, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday described it as "an insult to the nation" and said it had brought "shame" to the country and weakened farmers' agitation.

Stressing that the Red Fort is a symbol of Independent India and thousands of Indians had given up their lives for India's Independence and to see the national flag flying atop the fort, the Punjab CM said Mahatma Gandhi had fought the entire war of Independence through non-violence. "My head hangs in shame at what happened yesterday in the national capital," he said.

"Whoever has done it



(indulged in violence at Red Fort) has brought shame to the country and Delhi Police should investigate and take action," Capt Amarinder said, adding that the Centre should also probe into the involvement, if any, of any political party or nation while making sure that no farm leaders are unnecessarily targeted or harassed by the police.

The CM declared that the future of Punjab's youth lay in peace and recent developments had slowed down investment in the state.

Even as he demanded action against the perpetrators of such violence, who he said were not farmers but misguided youth indulging in

symbolism, Capt Amarinder said that such problems will continue to erupt if the Narendra Modi-led central government fails to listen to the voice of the people.

A government for the people and by the people cannot ignore the will of the people, the CM said, adding that the performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre will not be acceptable in the next elections to the majority in a country where 70 per cent of the population is of farmers.

The BJP should realise that stability and secularism, encompassing all minorities, is the key to inclusive growth of the nation and playing the Hindutva card will not lead to progress, Capt Amarinder remarked.

"The (Centre's) farm laws are wrong, which is why we passed our own laws," the CM said, pointing out that Agriculture is a state subject, yet "we were not asked" before the Centre brought such controversial legislations.

Maintaining that these farm laws will sound the "death knell" for the economic empowerment of the future generations of the farmers - who have been agitating against these central agri legislations for months - the CM said private corporates were even now functioning in Punjab and could continue coming into the state without destroying the established system of the minimum support price (MSP), "arthyas" (grain commission agents) and the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Farmers' stir has gone out of control, deviated from its direction: Khattar

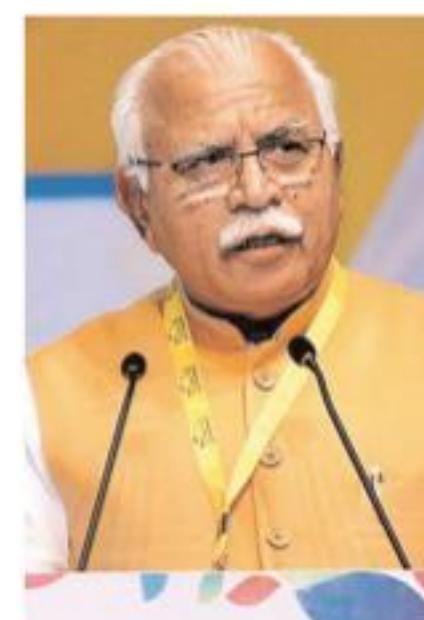
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 27 JANUARY

Condemning the Republic Day violence in Delhi, especially at the Red Fort, Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Wednesday said the farmers' agitation against the Centre's controversial farm laws has now gone out of control of its leaders and has deviated from its direction.

He has also appealed the farmers to return to their homes after yesterday's sad incident. The CM said this after a special meeting of Haryana Cabinet convened late evening yesterday after the incidents occurred on the occasion of Republic Day.

He said that the whole Cabinet is unanimous that people of the state together fail the nefarious intentions of anti-social elements and cooperate in maintaining peace and harmony in the country and the state.

Khattar said no Indian can tolerate hoisting of flag other than national flag at the Red Fort. Doing so is an insult to those great freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed



their lives so that the tricolor could fly high on the ramparts of the Red Fort. Our freedom fighters did not earn freedom for us to spread such anarchy, he added.

The CM said farmers' organizations had given firm assurances for a peaceful protest in Delhi but this incident has proved that the leadership of this protest has gone into the hands of those who have a difference between their words and deeds.

Therefore, now the farmers should think deeply about which direction this protest

is going, he said adding that in democracy there is enough scope to resolve differences. He said that all kinds of differences can be resolved through mutual dialogue.

Meanwhile, the CM said the present state government is committed to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of doubling the income of farmers by 2022.

Addressing the gathering after unfurling the national flag on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day at Panchkula on 26 January, the CM said Haryana is the only State in the Country where nine crops are being procured on Minimum Support Price (MSP).

He said that apart from wheat and rice, the state government is also procuring other crops like bajra, cotton, maize, groundnuts, moong etc on MSP.

The CM said that the present state government has evolved a system under which farmers are being paid directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system and added that farmers in the State are satisfied with this new system.

## India needs clear policy, improved military might to counter China: Punjab CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 27 JANUARY

Given China's long-standing expansionist agenda, the Indian government should have a clear and well-defined policy on its hostile neighbour, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh said on Wednesday, warning that talks with Beijing alone would not lead anywhere.

While he hoped India got the better of China in the latest skirmish at Naku La on January 20, Amarinder, himself an ex-Army man and a military historian, who has authored several books on the Indian military, said

India needs to improve and strengthen its military might. This incident, after Galwan Valley, shows that China has not backed off, and has no intention of backing off, from its expansionist policy. He pointed out that India had always pursued an expansionist agenda, the CM said the neighbouring country had been concentrating on expansionism through development of their defence infrastructure.

"They have already built capacities in cyber and rocket warfare to dominate the world and they claim that they will exceed America's defence production in the next 7 years," he noted, underlining the need for a cohesive and clear-cut strategy by New Delhi.

Urging the Centre to think seriously on the joint threat from Pakistan and China, the Punjab Chief Minister said, "Pakistan cannot move without China, they both support each

## HP govt committed to provide speedy justice to people: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 27 JANUARY

Providing speedy justice to the people nearer to their homes in a cost-effective manner is essential for making a better and vibrant society.

This was asserted by HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while addressing a public meeting at Thunag in his Assembly constituency Seraj in Mandi district on Wednesday after inaugurating a Court of Civil Judge cum-JMC Thunag in the presence of Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Justice L Narayana Swamy.

The chief minister said that this was a historic day for the people of Thunag in particu-

lar and Seraj Assembly constituency in general that they have got a Civil court in their area.

He said that till now the people of the area had to travel all the way to Mandi to seek justice.

This was not only time consuming but the people had to spend a lot of money.

He said that the Court would cover a population of about 50,000 persons and help them in seeking justice. He said that the state government would ensure that the Judicial Complex and Court comes up at Thunag soon to ensure better facilities to the judicial officers and people.

Thakur said that all this

was possible due to the active cooperation and assistance provided by the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

He said that the social structure and composition of the state in the earlier days was in such a way that the people would sort out their differences amicably and through mutual dialogue.

He said that but with the progress and urbanization, this system got eroded and people started knocking doors of courts at times even for petty issues. He said that the people of the state have deep faith in Courts and Courts have also upheld this faith of the people. The chief minister said that the state of Himachal Pradesh has recently completed fifty

years of the Statehood on 25 January, 2021. He said that the state has achieved several milestones during its glorious journey of 50 years.

He said that the younger generation must be educated about this eventful journey of the state. He said that the state was planning to organize the golden jubilee year in a befitting manner. Later, the chief minister also inaugurated Sub Employment Exchange at Thunag.

Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Justice L Narayana Swamy said that our Constitution has given a mandate for speedy justice to all our citizens. He said that if people are forced to travel a long distance to seek justice it hinders justice, which was against the spirit of our Constitution. He said that Mobile Courts, Lok Adalats and Gram Adalats were functioning today to ensure speedy and cost-effective justice to the people. He said that the Court at Thunag would go a long way in achieving the desired results.

Judge of HP High Court Justice Sureshwar Thakur also urged the people to uphold their rich cultural and tradition and feel proud of the same. He said that this would also help in maintaining cordial relations between each other. He said that this court would also motivate the younger generations to pursue law and legal professions.

**GROOMING FUTURE LEADERS**  
**NATIONAL CADET CORPS**  
**PRIME MINISTER'S RALLY**  
28th January 2021  
CARIAPPA PARADE GROUND,  
DELHI CANTONMENT

**LIVE TELECAST | LIVE BROADCAST**

11.50 hrs onwards on DD National	11:55 hrs onwards on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajdhani Channel</li> <li>MW 450.5 mtrs ie 666khz</li> <li>• FM Rainbow 102.6 Mhz</li> </ul>
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**ACHIEVEMENTS: 2020**

- NCC Training App: Launch of App to enable cadets' training during Covid-19
- Exercise Yodhan: Over 1,39,961 cadets & 21,380 staff participated in the exercise countrywide during Covid-19
- National Education Policy Awareness: Over 50,411 NCC cadets participated in online campaign and impacted over 1.74 lakh people
- Tree Plantation: NCC planted 3.5 lakh saplings during Tree Plantation Drives
- International Yoga Day: Celebrated online pan India with a participation of over 10.5 lakh NCC cadets
- Constitution Day: Over 9.63 lakh NCC cadets participated in activities, impacting a population of over 35 lakh
- NCC Expansion: One lakh cadets in Border/Coastal Taluks and Taluks Housing Air Force Stations
- Incentives: NCC Certificate Holders in recruitment in CAPFs
- Associate Member: NCC now an associate member of Hockey India

DAVP 101/013/0001/2021



The relationship with Amethi is not political,  
it is that of home and family

**CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA**

ADDRESSING PARTY WORKERS IN JAMO BLOCK IN AMETHI

i  
ndia

# Uddhav seeks UT status for disputed areas

Lashes out at K'taka govt over alleged atrocities on Marathi-speaking population in those areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 27 JANUARY

**M**aharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said areas dominated by Marathi-speaking people on the state's border with Karnataka should be declared as Union Territory till the Supreme Court gives its final verdict on the issue.

Speaking at the launch of a book on the boundary dispute between the two states,

Thackeray lashed out at the Karnataka government over alleged atrocities on Marathi-speaking population in those areas, and said there is a need to fight to win the case for their inclusion in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra claims certain areas, including Belgaum, Karwar and Nippatti which are part of Karnataka, contending the majority of population in these areas is Marathi-speaking.

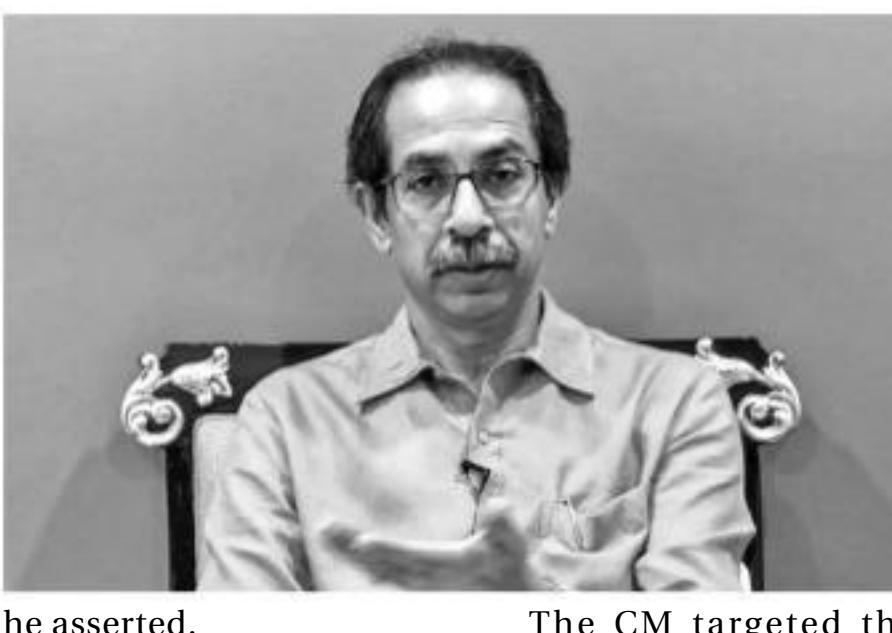
The case over the dispute between the two states is

pending before the Supreme Court for many years.

Thackeray said: "When the case is being heard in the SC, the Karnataka government renames Belgaum (as Belagavi) declares it its second capital, constructs a Legislature building and holds one legislature session there. Isn't this contempt of court?"

"We have to learn from past experiences and fight to win."

The Karnataka-occupied Marathi-speaking areas will be included in Maharashtra," he asserted.



The CM targeted the

Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) for allegedly weakening the Marathi cause for selfish political interests. The MES is an organisation fighting for the merger of 800-odd villages, where the Marathi-speaking population is dominant, with Maharashtra. "Earlier, the MES had half-a-dozen MLAs, Belgaum mayor used to be a Marathi-speaking person. The Shiv Sena never entered the political fray in Belgaum because it did not want to weaken the MES," he said.

Thackeray said a time-bound action plan is needed to win the legal battle and ensure the Marathi-speaking leadership and people in those areas of Karnataka remained united.

"Let's take a pledge that we will not rest till we win. If the long-pending issue is not resolved during this Mahatma Vargas Aghadi (formed with the NCP and the Congress in 2019) government's tenure, it will never be," he said.

"In Karnataka, whichever political party's govern-

ment or chief minister take charge, they have one thing in common - atrocities against Marathi people and language," he charged.

During the book release function, invitees from Belgaum raised slogans supporting inclusion of Marathi speaking areas into Maharashtra.

NCP president Sharad Pawar said the top court is the "last weapon for the state" and Maharashtra should use all its legal acumen to win the case.

## Centre unleashed terror on farmers in Delhi: Left Front

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 27 JANUARY

The Left Front has lashed out at the BJP-led central government for "unleashing terror" during farmers' protest in New Delhi yesterday which turned into a battle from a peaceful protest as police used tear gas and baton charged the agitated farmers who broke barricades and stormed into the Red Fort on the Republic Day.

The CPI(M) Politburo member Md Selim, condemned the decision of the Centre to use "brutal police force" against the farmers who he said had every right to protest and rally for their demands. The Left leader told the Press, "For the last few months the farmers have been protesting against the three farm laws devised by the Centre. In a democratic country everyone has the right to express their opinion

or the right to protest. What led the BJP government to unleash police force on the farmers who were only leading a peaceful tractor rally with photographs of our leaders of freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh? It was a brutal act by the Centre."

The CPI(M) leader alleged that it was unfortunate to see how desperate the BJP-ruled Central government has become in the course of helping Ambanis and Adanis since it is now resorting to tear gas and baton charging to assault and stop farmers who help produce food for us throughout the year. He questioned "How dare the Centre threatens cut off diesel supply for tractors used by farmers? What if farmers today threaten to stop farming? What will the country eat then? Government is waging war against farmers."

Condemning the violence

that engulfed the national capital on Republic Day, Selim said, "It is sheer helplessness of the farmers that led them to hit the roads and camp on the borders, demanding repeal of the three farm laws. Why else would farmers leave their agricultural field and hit the roads? They want to visit the Parliament and raise their demands but are subdued by Amit Shah's police administration. Why can't the farmers hold rally and march in New Delhi which is also visited by foreign delegates and armed forces?"

The CPI(M) leader also pointed out that TMC has not launched widespread protests in Bengal against the Centre unlike the Left and the Congress.

"Both Modi and Mamata are close to the Ambanis and hence neither of them wants to irk these tycoons" alleged Selim.

## Para teachers demand pay parity, scale WB Assembly gate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA, 27 JANUARY

Women members of an organisation of para teachers Wednesday staged a demonstration outside West Bengal Assembly demanding parity in pay with regular teachers in schools, police said.

A team of women police personnel reached the Assembly and removed the demonstrators.

A two-day session of the Assembly is scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

A senior official said over 50 members of Sikshak Oikyo Mukto Manch demonstrated outside the Assembly where prohibitory orders were clamped, a senior officer said.

"Over 50 para teachers have been removed from the Assembly premises. One of them fell sick during the operation.

We will find out how they managed to climb a gate of the assembly though police personnel were posted on the premises.

"We will find out whether

there was any lapse in security," the officer said adding a team of Rapid Action Force of the city police has been deployed at the spot.

"We want equal pay for equal work at par with regular teachers and retirement benefits."

We want to meet Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. This is a fight for our self-respect," Gita Biswas, one of the agitating teachers, told reporters.

The state education department had increased the salary of para teachers at the primary level from Rs 5,954 to Rs 10,000 a month and for those at the higher secondary level from Rs 8,500 to Rs 13,000.

Asked about the incident, state minister Subrata Mukherjee said, "The assembly doesn't belong to any particular party.

Besides, there are places to hold such agitations to air grievances. In a parliamentary democracy, one can always demonstrate but not in the assembly premises."

Minister Firhad Hakim

## Congress student wing's march to Assembly stopped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA, 27 JANUARY

Activists of Chhatra Parishad, the student wing of the Congress, on Wednesday forced their way past two barriers and scuffled with police in the central part of the city during the 'Vidhan Sabha Abhijan' called by the opposition party.

Around 150 members of the Chhatra Parishad broke the two cordon near Subodh Mallick Square before being prevented by the police at Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road-S Banerjee Road crossing, from marching to the assembly.

blamed the opposition for using the para teachers as "guinea pigs" to create issues before the state poll. "Any stir at this point will not be of any help as restrictions due to

bly, police said.

Some of them were taken into preventive custody, police said.

The march to the assembly was called to press for demands like opening of educational institutions which are closed due to the pandemic, appointment of unemployed educated youth in vacant posts, ending the practice of running state-run educational institutions in an autocratic and partisan manner".

Congress sources said that Chhatra Parishad state unit president Sourav Prasad fell sick in the melee. The coming election will be imposed before the government can take a planned action," he added.

State BJP spokesman Samik Bhattacharya said the issue of

para teachers should have been addressed with a humane approach by the government.

He also accused Mamata Banerjee of promising para teachers before coming to power but failing to implement them after becoming the chief minister, he said.

"Minister Subrata Mukherjee has suggested that the demonstrators should have agitated at a proper place and not outside the assembly gate.

The teachers have already held prolonged sit-ins outside education headquarters Bikash Bhavan, went to the secretariat, held protests in public thoroughfares of the city but did not get any response from the government," Bhattacharya said. CPI-M leader Sujan Chakrabarty and Congress leader Abdul Mannan said the state government is acting with the same insensitivity towards para teachers as the Centre is towards farmers.

The para teachers' salary should be revised and they should be given salaries promised by Banerjee, he added.

## TENDER

<b>NORTHERN RAILWAY</b>	
<b>TENDER NOTICE</b>	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the undertaken works on Contract Basis under Jal Shakti Vibhag. The Category wise breakup for the post and Education qualification for the post are as under:	
1. Name of work and location	Supply and fixing of various types of electrical works during IOH/POH & Major repair at TMMD/TKD, LKO, KKDE & BTI and calibration & fault rectification of track machines at TMMD & worksites all over Northern Railway under the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMC/L/NLDS for a period of two years.
2. Completion period of the work	Two Years
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,22,45,371/- (Rs. One Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousands Three Hundred and Seventy One only)
4. Cost of Tender Document	Nil
5. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Nil. However, the tenderer has to mandatorily submit Bid Security Declaration Performa to get this exemption of submission of EMD (i.e. ANNEXURE-XXVII of tender document)
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15:00 hrs on 26.02.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 26.02.2021.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Document is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.02.2021 to 26.02.2021. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG</b>	
<b>ADVERTISEMENT</b>	
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Drivers on Contract Basis under Jal Shakti Vibhag. The Category wise breakup for the post and Education qualification for the post are as under:	
Name of the Post	Driver
Total posts	UR 20 SC 09 OBC 07 EWS 04 WFF 01 BPL 02 ST 01 Total 44
Class of Post	Class III (Non Gazzeted)
Scale of Pay	(I) Pay band for regular incumbents: Rs. 5910-20200+2000 Grade pay (II) Emoluments for Contractual Employees: Rs. 7910/-
Minimum Educational and other qualification for the post of Driver	a) ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION: I. Should have a minimum qualification of matriculation (10th) and 10+2 from recognized Board of School Education/Institution. II. Must possess valid driving license for the plying of heavy/ light vehicles in Hilly terrain. b) DESIRABLE QUALIFICATION (S): Knowledge of customs, manner and dialects of Himachal Pradesh and suitability for appointment in the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Pradesh.
Age for Direct Recruitment as per R&P rules of Drivers	Between 18 and 45 years
Eligible and interested candidates can submit their applications on plain paper along with passport size photograph in the Office of the Executive Engineer, JIV Division Baggi on any working day from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. w.e.f 01/02/2021 to 15/02/2021 along with relevant supporting documents i.e. (i) Legitimate proof of age, (ii) Proof of education, (iii) Certificate regarding SC/ST/OBC & other category, (iv) Certificate of Bonafide Himachali, (v) Driving License (vi) Income and Asset certificate to be produced by Economically Weaker Sections, (vii) Non-SC/ST/OBC Certificate to be produced by the candidate belonging to BPL Category. Viva Voice & practical test for Driving and maintenance skill may be conducted for which venue and time shall be intimated to the candidates by the way of publication. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Baggi or Officer above than resents the right to fill up the post or withdraw the advertisement at any point of time.	
Chairman-cum- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Baggi 5362/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK Distt. Mandi H.P.	

## Arrest warrant issued against youth TMC leader

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

ASANSOL, 27 JANUARY

The Asansol special CBI court judge, Jayashree Banerjee has issued an arrest warrant against absconding Trimamool Youth Congress leader Binay Mishra today in connection with the catel-smuggling case.

The CBI has already arrested Enamul Haq and BSF commandant Satish Kumar in this case. Already, CBI has grilled brother Bikash Mishra three times at their Nizam Palace office, but so far nothing has been unravelled.

So far, CBI team has raided his houses but failed to trace him and sent notices to appear before the CBI but he remains elusive. Meanwhile, senior criminal advocate of Asansol CBI court, Sekhar Kundu has alleged CBI has been coercing his client Haq to take names of senior TMC leaders. Haq, himself has also claimed of being falsely incriminated. He already has paid taxes to the central government by selling the seized cattle and claims to have supporting documents.

## AIADMK puts up show of strength at Jaya's memorial

SNS

CHENNAI, 27 JANUARY

Ahead of VK Sasikala's release from Bengaluru Jail and subsequent rejuvenation of AMMK cadres, as a show of strength by the current official leadership, chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam today unveiled the memorial of late AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa on the Marina Beach. Later, both leaders paid their respects at the memorial.

All MPs, MLAs and party functionaries attended the event. The unveiling of the memorial coincided with the release of Jayalalithaa's closest aide VK Sasikala from Bengaluru prison after serving a four-year jail term following her conviction in the disproportionate assets case in February 2017. Recuperating from coronavirus infection at Bengaluru medical college hospital, Sasikala is expected to be in Chennai next week. Jayalalithaa's memorial, modelled on a phoenix, with two lion statues at the entrance, was built at about Rs 80 crore and is situated near the memorial of her political mentor, former chief minister and AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran aka MGR. Built over more than 50,000 sqft area, the memorial houses a state-of-the-art museum and a knowledge park. While the museum would have a chronicle of the events in Jayalalithaa's life through audio-visual presentations, photographs and virtual reality, the knowledge park would have digital shows on her achievements and speeches. A life-size statue of Jayalalithaa was also installed at the memorial, besides an artificial waterfall at the entrance for the visitors.

AIADMK cadres thronged Marina Beach to witness the unveiling event, making it show of strength ahead of Sasikala's release from jail. All roads leading to Chennai were choked with traffic since morning, as AIADMK cadres carrying party flags from all parts of the state, started arriving for the function.

## JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

### NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharmpur Bharati District Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate/ lump sum contract bids from the eligible contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central Govt. or State Government under takings. The bidders who have experience in construction of similar work and have established organization for taking up such work and who satisfy the qualification criteria of bid document need only apply. The scope of the work will be as under:

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit	Cost of form
1	Providing CAD works to Lift Irrigation Scheme to Baroti, Mandap, Jodhan area & their adjoining villages in Tehsil Dharmpur District Mandi HP	29,14,83,067/-	29,14,831/-	One year	2500/-

1. KEY DATES WILL BE AS



I think no one should do politics and it is not right to do politics on this kind of violence.

FORMER MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS  
ON FARMERS' PROTEST ON REPUBLIC DAY

# Left hails farmers' mammoth tractor parade on R-Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

**L**eft parties today hailed the "mammoth tractor parade" organized by farmers' unions on the Republic Day and described the untoward incidents that occurred on the day as handiwork of "agent provocateurs." The CPI (M) politburo said over a lakh of tractors participated with many lakhs of farmers peacefully moving on the agreed routes for the parade.

In States, similar parades and other actions of solidarity took place in a big manner. This struggle emphatically reiterated that the three contentious farm laws must be repealed and the MSP be legislated as the legal right of all farmers in the country. The CPI (M) extended its full solidarity and support to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's decision to continue the peaceful struggle till these retrograde farm laws are repealed.

"The untoward incidents that occurred cannot detract the focus from the main demand. These incidents, handiwork of agent provocateurs, some with links to the ruling party, have been denounced by the entire farmers' movement," the party said. At the same time, even on the agreed routes for the tractor parade, the police obstructed by resorting to lathicharges and teargassing at various places, provoking naturally an angry reaction. Such police actions cannot be condoned, the party said.

The CPI (M) called upon the Central government to imme-



Heavy police force deployed at Singhu border in Delhi during farmers' protest on Wednesday. ■ IANS

dately announce the repeal of these laws and move towards this end in the forthcoming budget session of the Parliament.

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India too congratulated the farmers and their unions for the successful tractor rally yesterday. The ongoing farmers' agitation has already acquired a pan-India dimension, the CPI said. The country has been witnessing protests and solidarity actions in all the states. The CPI reiterated its support and solidarity to the agitating farmers.

The party extends its support to the decision of the farmers' unions to continue the struggle. The CPI urged the government not to be rigid but to be realistic and reasonable to accept the demands of the farmers for repealing the three anti-farmer farm laws.

The untoward incidents in the Capital during the tractor rally should not detract the focus from the primary issue of repeal of the laws, the party said.

The party appreciates the peaceful and non-violent conduct of the farmers in the midst of agent provocateurs and repressive measures of police such as lathi-charge, tear gas, the CPI said.

**Shah reviews law and order in Delhi:** A day after farmers' tractor rally turned violent in Delhi, Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday took stock of the security situation and measures taken to ensure peace in the city, officials said.

Union Home secretary Ajay Bhalla and senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Delhi Police attended the meeting. The home minister reviewed the law and order situation in Delhi, which witnessed violence during the farmers' tractor rally on Tuesday, a Home Ministry official said. Shah was also briefed by the officials about the steps taken to ensure peace in the national capital, the official said. There is a possibility of police

taking action against farmers leaders, who signed an agreement with the police on carrying out peaceful tractor rally through designated routes but failed to keep the promise, another official said.

The Central government has already deployed around 4,500 paramilitary troops to assist the Delhi Police in maintaining law and order. After the violence, the MHA on Tuesday had ordered temporary suspension of Internet for 12 hours in parts of Delhi.

**Lone INLD MLA Chautala resigns:** Indian National Lok Dal leader Abhay Singh Chautala, who was his party's lone representative in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, Wednesday resigned as an MLA over the three new Central farm laws. "I decided I cannot sit in the Assembly with those who bring resolutions favouring these laws," Chautala said. After Chautala's resignation, the 90-member Haryana Assembly now has 40 MLAs of the BJP

No link with Deep Sidhu, says BJP MP Sunny Deol: BJP MP Sunny Deol has clarified that he or his family members have no links with actor Deep Sidhu who was among protesters at the Red Fort during farmers' tractor parade in Delhi. Deol said he had clarified earlier also that he had no link with Sidhu. I have already made it clear through Twitter on 6 December that I or my family have no links with Deep Sidhu, Deol said in a tweet. ■ PTI

**BJP planted stooge Sidhu to create chaos, says AAP:** The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that the BJP planted its "stooge" actor Deep Sidhu to create "chaos" in farmers' tractor parade in Delhi on Republic Day. Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu has been blamed by the farmer union leaders and politicians for inciting violence during the tractor rally. ■ PTI

**Not involved in violence, says Sidhana:** Gangster-turned-social activist Lakhbir Singh aka Lakha Sidhana on Wednesday distanced himself from the Republic Day violence and said he and some farmer leaders only marched up to the Outer Ring Road in the national capital. Denying his involvement in the incidents at the Red Fort, he said it is a matter of investigation how people reached there despite so much security. ■ PTI

## A VISIT TO A HISTORICAL PAST



Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Treasured Wheels, a museum of vintage cars, motorbikes, bicycles in Sonapur. The museum also preserves a copy of 'The Statesman' dated 15th August 1947 with other prized antiques. ■ SNS

## Soldier killed, 3 injured in J&K grenade attack



A soldier was killed and three injured on Wednesday when terrorists tossed a grenade on Army's Road Opening Party (ROP) in Kargil district.

Army's Srinagar-based spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said that during the sanitisation drill at 10:15 am in general area Shamshirpora, Khanabal, Kargil, terrorists lobbed a grenade at the ROP. Four soldiers sustained splinter injuries. They were provided first aid and evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital. Security forces cordoned the area and launched search for the terrorists. ■ SNS

## Bihar to guide poll-bound states on conducting elections amid Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 27 JANUARY

The Bihar government will guide four poll-bound states and a Union territory on conducting elections amid the pandemic, officials said on Wednesday. The state's Health Department had won accolades for conducting the elections to the 243-member assembly last year, he said. "It was a big challenge before us. We could accomplish the task due to the hard work of all the staffers and support from the ECI and the state government." The Bihar administration had made arrangements for the 7.3 crore voters to exercise their franchise at over 1.06 lakh polling stations. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora had lauded the manner in which the elections were conducted.

Officials from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry, where elections are lined up this year, are dialling the Bihar Health Department for tips to accomplish the gigantic task without causing a surge in coronavirus cases, they accepted.

Accepting the Assam government's request, a Bihar Health Department team will visit the northeastern state soon to give a detailed presentation on how the assembly elections were conducted with adherence to the Covid

guidelines, Principal Secretary Health, Prataya Amrit said. "Bihar has received similar requests from West Bengal and other states and we will share our experiences with them," the official, credited with leading his team to successfully conduct the Bihar elections in October-November last year, said. On conducting the polls, he said, "It was a big challenge before us. We could accomplish the task due to the hard work of all the staffers and support from the ECI and the state government." The Bihar administration had made arrangements for the 7.3 crore voters to exercise their franchise at over 1.06 lakh polling stations. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora had lauded the manner in which the elections were conducted. Around 57.34 per cent (over four crore) of the 7.3 crore voters exercised their franchise, which was higher than the previous assembly election's voting percentage of 56.8 per cent.

## SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following fully reserved Special Trains as per details given below:-

02751/02752 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Jammu Tawi - Hazur Sahib Nanded Superfast Special Express Train (Weekly)

Train No. 02751	STATIONS	Train No. 02752	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
—	11:05	H. Sahib Nanded	15.50 —
10:10	10:25	New Delhi	17:05 17:20
23:05	--	Jammu Tawi	— 05:45

Days of Run: 02751 Ex Hazur Sahib Nanded from 29.01.2021 on (Friday) and 02752 Ex Jammu Tawi from 31.01.2021 on (Sunday) to till further advise.

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier

Stoppages: Purna Jn., Hingoli Deccan, Washim, Akola Jn., Malkapur, Itarsi Jn., Habibganj, Bina Jn., Jhansi Jn., Gwalior, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., New Delhi, Ambala Cantt., Patiala, Dhuri Jn., Malerkotla, Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt. and Pathankot Stations.

02781/02782 Tirupati - Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn. - Tirupati Superfast Special Express Train (Tri-Weekly)

Train No. 02781	STATIONS	Train No. 02782	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
—	05:40	Tirupati	20:35 --
18:35	--	Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn.	— 05:20

Days of Run: 02781 Ex Tirupati from 03.02.2021 on (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) to till further advise and 02782 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn. from 05.02.2021 on (Wednesday, Friday & Sunday) to till further advise.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved 2<sup>nd</sup> seating.

Stoppages: Renigunta Jn., Cuddapah, Yerraguntla, Tadipatri, Dronachellam Jn., Kurnool City, Gadwal, Mahabubnagar, Kacheguda, Kazipet Jn., Ramagundam, Mancherla, Bellampalli, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Balharshah, Nagpur, Bhopal & Jhansi Jn. Stations.

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

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139  
Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
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NORTHERN RAILWAY  
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Serving Customers with a Smile

# Ban on mobile apps will hurt bilateral ties: China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

China today reacted sharply to the Indian government's proposal to continue with the ban on 59 Chinese mobile apps, saying this would cause further damage to bilateral cooperation.

"Since last year, the Indian side has repeatedly used national security as an excuse

to prohibit some Mobile APPs with Chinese background. These moves in violation of WTO non-discriminatory principles and fair competition principles of market economy severely damage the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies. The Chinese side firmly opposes them," Chinese Embassy spokesperson Ji Rong said.

She claimed that the Chinese government always asks Chinese companies to observe international rules and local laws and regulations when doing business overseas. The Indian government has the responsibility to follow WTO rules and market principles and protect the legitimate rights and interests of international investors, including

Chinese companies. Ji said the moves of the Indian government have hindered the improvement of the Indian business environment and the innovative development of related Indian industries.

"China-India economic and trade cooperation is mutually beneficial by nature. We urge the Indian side to immediately correct its discriminatory measures and avoid causing further damage to bilateral cooperation," she added.

New Delhi had banned a total of 59 mobile Chinese apps, including Tik Tok, last year, in three phases, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

# Bengal polls: ISF to field candidates in Malda district

AVIJIT ROY  
MALDA, 27 JANUARY

The head of the Muslim shrine Furfura Sharif and leader of new political outfit, Indian Secular Front (ISF), Abbas Siddiqui, has claimed that his party and the India Majlis-e-Itehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) will jointly field at least six candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Malda district.

Attending a religious programme, which however turned political later, in Bamongram under the Kalighat police station here yesterday evening, Mr Siddiqui slammed both the Trinamul Congress and the BJP and admitted his ties with Asaduddin Owaisi, the chief of the AIMIM.

He also said that he is eager to join hands with other parties to hand down defeat to both the BJP and the TMC.

Very aggressive in his speech before a huge crowd, he further called for causing "double harm" to the BJP if the saffron party harms them.

"If the BJP kills 10 of us, we shall retaliate by killing 20 of them. So I call all of you to join hands with us to damage the



## Outrage in S Dinajpur over scholars' 'insult'

SRIKANTA THAKUR  
BALURGHAT, 27 JANUARY

Photos of Bengali scholars at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's feet on a flex and banner put up for Republic Day and with greetings on the occasion by BJP MP Sukanta Majumder, have triggered a controversy and political debate in the district.

However, Mr Majumder said it was not his doing and strongly objected to the banners and claimed it a conspiracy hatched by the ruling Trinamul Congress to humiliate him and his party.

The TMC termed the banners a humiliation of Bengali scholars and has kick started a movement against the same. The ruling party has also demanded a public apology from Mr Majumder.

On Republic Day yesterday, people of Patiram and Bolla panchayat areas noticed hundreds of banners and festoons with Republic Day greetings purportedly sent by Mr Majumder in the areas.

The Trinamul acted as planned to insult the Prime Minister and the MP of Balurghat," a BJP leader said, even as BJP leaders and activists, including MPs, rushed to the spot after learning of the incident.

"It is a well-planned game

played by the TMC. The TMC-backed IT cell hung the flexes with pictures of the Prime Minister and Bengali scholars to humiliate the BJP and spread a propaganda against the BJP at various areas, including Bolla and Patiram under the Balurghat police station," Mr Majumder said.

scholars. The party held protest rallies and meetings at Ganjamarpur, Buniadpur and Balurghat in the district today.

"This movement will continue until Mr. Sukanta Majumder apologises for this heinous act," said South Dinajpur district TMC president Gautam Das.

Mr Das added that such insult to intellectuals of Bengal and the country is the agenda of the BJP.

"The BJP is now trying to survive by blaming the TMC. BJP never loves or honours Bengali culture and literature, and as such they are always trying to humiliate our heroes. The MP must tender a public apology," he added.

# Tamang statue unveiled in Darjeeling

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DARJEELING, 27 JANUARY

while the statue is now facing the lower Clubside area so as to make it appear that he is addressing a gathering at the same spot he was speaking that fateful day in 2010. "Through the statue, we wanted not only to pay homage to him, but also show that whatever he spoke was backed with evidence. It is not like the political scenario nowadays where anyone can make whatever allegations they feel

like," ABGL leader SP Sharma, who is also the convenor of the Shalik Nirman Samity that built the statue, said.

In the statue, Tam



## 3 ideas for government

V. PATTABHIRAM AND SABYASACHEE DASH

**M**any of us have always felt that there is a lot of hoopla over the annual budget. What we need instead is a vision, a long-term framework. When that happens the yearly budget becomes a progress chart and a review document. In fact, it might make sense to carry out a budget exercise once in two years, as governments can make changes and announcements all through the year. We are unsure if any country other than India makes such a huge fuss over this annual ritual.

This article is not directed at the finance minister; instead, it is a missive to the prime minister, and we do hope someone passes it on to him. This is about sweeping reforms that would give us a new sensible deal.

Policy decisions are made on an ongoing basis instead of relying on the action template articulated in the budget speech. We have three areas on which the government should begin action if it wants to leave positive footprints on the sands of time.

Governments are not elected to run businesses; they are elected to govern us. The government must be only in four spaces: health care, primary education, law and order, and foreign affairs. It must get out of everything else and thus be able to focus on the core issues for which it has been elected.

First up is health care. The rise of private hospitals was due to the failure of the public sector to attract quality doctors and state-of-the-art health care facilities. There was also a sense of lack of ownership. No one is suggesting hospitals should not make profits. But they should charge fair sums because, given the expensive medical bills, it is difficult for the common man to afford it. In our country, the medical profession comes closest to the work of God. It is the profession of trust.

While the government can run hospitals of the AIIMS variety, it must also focus on Ayushman Bharat. Modelled after Obama Care, it is a step in the right direction. But it must be extended to the whole of India. How the government wants to do this is a topic for another day.

One, it could allocate from its budget, insurance premium to insurance companies. Two, it could look at using blockchain in health care, where AI evaluates and processes the claim, ensures that the right person has been treated for the right ailment,



and directly releases payment to the hospitals. Towards that, the government issues health coins worth Rs 5 lac to each family that gets debited when an expense is incurred in a hospital. All of this could reduce the dependence on insurance companies and the attendant cost. A CSR angle can also be brought in this regard. There must be a set of people, namely the elderly, differently-abled, and healthcare workers, for whom health care should be completely free.

Even as India celebrates being a young country and believes that it will benefit from the demographic dividend, it is equally important to realize that the demographic advantage may actually turn out to be a ticking time bomb unless the young population is skilled and thus gainfully employed.

Among other things, the government should improve the ratio of doctors and paramedics to the aggregate population. It must work towards reducing the price of medicines and procedures, and standardise them. One significant aspect is the growing recognition of mental health. It's only minimum to expect that the state has a more substantial role in improving its own people's health.

Second, primary education in our country has been a source of significant disappointment. The quality

of resources deployed is not fit enough to build our future. There is no distinction between urban and rural India on this point. The reports by Pratham underscore the point that upper class students do not know what significantly lower class student ought to know.

A third area to look at is what we call Return-of-Tax. There is very little gain by giving badges for prompt filing of tax returns. We agree that many see it as a feel-good factor, but it doesn't do much beyond that. While the government in the technology space particularly in the Income Tax stream has done a lot of work, what we suggest is different. A citizen pays tax from the time he joins his first job to when his career gets over at 65 or so. While he would have saved a lot, or maybe hasn't, he has paid a large amount of tax for sure. Upon his reaching a certain age, say 65 or 70, the government should cease taxing him, and instead, based on the aggregate amount of tax he has paid in his life, pay at the rate of 5 per cent each year to him and on his demise to his spouse. We are not even suggest-

ing a return on tax but interest on the tax. Of course, one can tweak the programme over time. Given the technology available, it is easy to get this data that we may call a tax passbook. This would actually even enthuse the citizen to pay taxes as some form of retirement corpus.

It's no one's case that the whole tax revenue should be pushed back to the taxpayer's pocket. These are the men and women who have helped you build your roads, ports, airports, and other infrastructure. They need to be taken care of in their old age. If the government does not show the moral sign, how do you expect civil society should do it? Additionally, it would act as an inbuilt incentive for an enhanced level of compliance, which would augment the overall revenue collection.

If there is no precedence for this in the world, create the priority. The first year after the pandemic is the time to start thinking out of the box. The writers are chartered accountants.

## Chasing a timely jab

MAHIR ALI

**A**ccording to an academic study released this week by the International Chamber of Commerce, if the present pattern of vaccine distribution persists, with supplies largely monopolised by rich countries, the global economy should brace for a \$9 trillion hit.

The idea is to appeal to the economic self-interest — rather than the charitable inclinations — of wealthy nations to facilitate a more equitable distribution of the potentially life-saving jabs.

As things stand, some countries expect to inoculate much of their populations by later this year. Others may have to wait for a long time — by some calculations, until 2024 — to aspire to mass immunity.

A Duke University study shows that by mid-January well-resourced states comprising 16 per cent of the world's population had bought up 60 per cent of the global supply of vaccines. That isn't surprising, given we live in a world where ever more stark disparities of wealth and privilege coexist, both at a global level and within nation states. It would be a miracle if the aforementioned chamber's findings made a meaningful difference.

Many countries are relying on vaccines produced by China's Sinovac and Sinopharm to make up for the relative inaccessibility of the Pfizer, Moderna and Oxford-AstraZeneca doses. India and Russia have come up with their own variants, and India is among the countries where the AstraZeneca vaccine is being locally manufactured.

These are obviously positive developments — even though, given the scale of the crisis, one might have wished for a different approach whereby the vaccine with the greatest efficacy could be manufactured worldwide, without any 'intellectual property' considerations. But a world in which human welfare takes precedence over profits remains a distant dream.

No particular country or firm can be singled out for criticism. The Oxford-AstraZeneca dose, for instance, is considerably cheaper than the Pfizer and Moderna variants. Yet it costs a great deal more to South Africa, one of the worst-hit countries, than it does to the European Union.

There's apparently a logic to it — unlike South Africa, the EU contributed to the research that led to the vaccine. But has there, in recent memory, ever been a more appropriate time to ignore such considerations



and to opt, at least temporarily, for the timeless credo of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need"?

It could be argued, of course, that the need is currently the greatest in some of the world's richest nations. For some time now, the daily death toll in the US has exceeded the lives lost to terrorism on 9/11, and the total has gone beyond the American mortality rate in World War II. Britain, in some respects, has done even worse despite its vaunted — but in recent decades perennially underfunded — system of public health. France and even relatively well-governed Germany are reeling from a second wave.

Even Israel, which seems determined to inoculate its population —

excluding (surprise, surprise) the Palestinians in the occupied territories — more rapidly than any other country, shut down international flights this week in order to deny access to new mutations of the virus detected in Britain and South Africa.

Yes, much like capitalism, the Sars-Cov-2 virus mutates in the interests of self-preservation. The variant found in Britain is acknowledged to be more infectious, although many medical scientists disagree with Boris Johnson's conclusion that it is probably also more lethal.

Given the mutations are likely to become the dominant variants, a key question is whether the vaccines remain equally effective. Moderna says yes, but more generally the jury is

still out. The results of vaccination campaigns are yet to become apparent, and the rollout has all too often been haphazard — not least in the US, where the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed initiative to boost vaccine production was followed by a barely planned system for distribution.

Overall, China — like a number of other Asia-Pacific countries — has done much better than the US and the West more generally in curbing the virus and returning to economic growth. But the soft power it intended to extend through its vaccine diplomacy is encountering obstacles, notably in Turkey and Brazil. And the degree of its philanthropy is questionable.

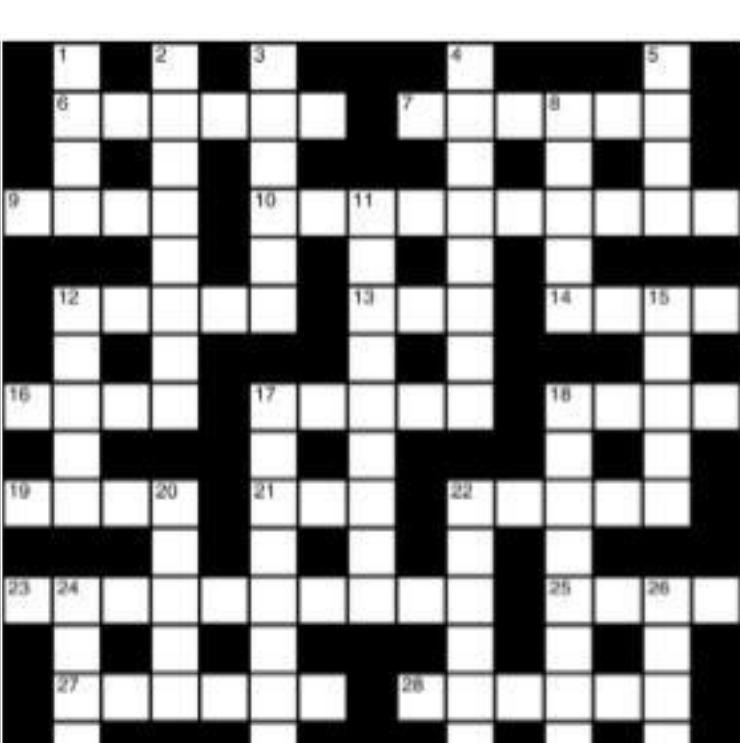
Sure, some nations, including Pakistan, have been lined up to receive limited vaccine donations. At the same time, a senator in the Philippines has alleged that each Chinese dose costs \$61. The government in Manila says that is an exaggeration, but has refused to reveal the actual cost, citing confidentiality clauses. Sinovac and Sinopharm's profiteering impulses are not all that different from Pfizer's, it seems.

A year after the Wuhan lockdown, the world remains on tenterhooks. So far it's far from obvious that 2021 will be the year in which the pandemic decisively recedes into the past.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28808

CROSSWORD



SOLUTION FOR 26 JANUARY

### ACROSS

- 6 Linked online posts with suspect death? That's about right (6)
- 7 IT expert dressed in white chiefly (6)
- 9 Idle? That's fine (4)
- 10 Evil crime involved getting hold of student fare from Italy (10)
- 12 Accidental success bringing leader of felons to book (5)
- 13 Catch new film (3)
- 14 Lawyer material (4)
- 16 Creep from Scottish island? (4)
- 17 Disagreement about
- 18 The German model for an assembly in 17A (4)
- 19/22 Debunked theory after halt for refreshment (4,5)
- 21 It's no good abandoning inexperienced or junior solver (3)
- 22 See 19
- 23 Rung up repeatedly on this, when given run on stage (10)
- 25 Radiate good mood, after finally getting 25% off? (4)
- 27 Fizzy drink for each philosopher (6)
- 28 Boy band searched for

### drugs? (6)

- 1 Teacher eating starter of tasty porridge (4)
- 2 Good symptom doctor has got coy about? That's disgusting! (3,5)
- 3 Second of Variations Ravel composed for 16 17A (6)
- 4 Referees met with a side that's been misbehaving (8)
- 5 Home Alone's takeaway, perhaps (4)
- 8 Lists 17A? (5)
- 11 Get in touch with dispersed group via
- 12 Beef in a lasagne? Its potential selection is beyond dispute (5)
- 15 Sucker about to wear 8 shortly after getting up (5)
- 17 Considerably finer and drier, reported one travelling on foot (8)
- 18 Disparage the German 8 on air after own goal (8)
- 20 Refill with petrol regularly, working pump evenly (3-2)
- 22 Afraid when one female unleashed reprimand (6)
- 24 Record that winning runner might break? (4)
- 26 Chances are he's in 8! (4)

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

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

The appeal written by His Holiness the Pope on behalf of the Austrian nation — "now in an absolutely intolerable condition and unable to procure the means of subsistence which the Creator provided for mankind" — will be received with sympathy on all hands. The letter urges that the Powers should translate into practice the sentiments of humanity and Christian brotherhood felt by all good men in regard to Austria's unhappy fate. It may be claimed that the Powers are already manifesting their desire to act on these principles, and that the general feeling towards Austria could not be better exemplified than by the reception of Austrian children to be cared for in England and Italy. It is but just to remember, at the same time, that Austria's plight is not the fault of the Allies, who were the defenders, not the aggressors, in the war; and that it was not until after the old Austrian Government had wreaked its vengeance on Serbia that Austria's unhappy fate overtook the country. Either as the original aggressor or as the cat's-paw of Germany, Austria brought that fate upon her own head. It is in spite of this fact that the Powers do, in fact, endeavour to translate into practice the sentiments of humanity felt towards her people.

NEWS ITEMS

### LABOUR TROUBLES IN MADRAS

Madras, Jan 27

The Corporation of Madras convened a meeting and discussed the situation created by the strike of the conservancy and other menials, and has authorised the President and Commissioner to take such steps as may be necessary to meet the situation. The scavengers in the employ of the Corporation now on strike waited on the Commissioner yesterday and made certain demands. The Commissioner, told the men that on his own responsibility he would order the sale of rice to them in heaped measure, but urged the resumption of work before he could consider other demands. The men held a meeting today and Mr. Harisarvo Thama Rao, who presided, told them they had committed a great blunder by making a lightning strike, and urged them to join work immediately.

### POPE PLEADS FOR AUSTRIA

The Pope has sent a letter to the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Gasparri, in which he says: "That noble and illustrious nation of Austria, the ancient defender of Christian civilisation, is now in an absolutely intolerable condition and unable to procure the means of subsistence which the Creator provided for mankind." The Pope does not propose a practical solution because he says that is the duty of the Governments, but he has invited Cardinal Gasparri to ask the diplomats accredited to the Holy See to consult their Governments. It is the Pontiff's desire that they should translate into practice the sentiments of humanity and Christian brotherhood felt by all good men towards Austria's unhappy fate.

### HINDU MURDERED IN BERLIN

The Hindu, Shivali Singh, who has been murdered in Berlin, was formerly connected with Indian revolutionaries in San Francisco. He went to Berlin in 1915 to organise secret German conspiracies in India and elsewhere. Latterly he had been suspected of levying blackmail on former supporters of the movements. Singh married a German girl, whose lover, named Arnold, has been arrested and charged with the murder, the motive of which is believed to have been robbery. Singh, it is believed, possessed considerable resources, for carrying out seditious plots, and is known to have been receiving large sums from India during the last two years.

### PROPOSED ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST

Sir Francis Younghusband, addressing a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on the subject of the forthcoming expedition to Mount Everest, said that the Alpine Club and Geographical Society had formed a Mount Everest Committee, which included Mr. A.O.F. Meade, who ascended the Himalayas to a height of 23,000 feet. There had been difficulties in immediately securing the services of Brigadier-General C.G. Bruce, who originated the idea of the ascent, but it was hoped to have that benefit in 1922, when the main attempt would be made. Meanwhile, they had chosen, as chief of the expedition, Colonel Howard Burry, who had travelled extensively in Asia. The preservation of friendly relations with the Tibetans was regarded as of the utmost importance in connection with the expedition.





Indian business persons should dedicate a portion of their wealth, a portion of their value to support Indian startups

PIYUSH GOYAL  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

**Sebi on appointment of MDs:** Seeking to put in place stricter norms, the Securities and Exchange Board of India on Wednesday proposed that a person rejected by a listed company's shareholders as a managing director or whole-time director can be appointed or re-appointed to the posts only after the company fulfils various conditions, including providing detailed justifications. In case, the company's shareholders reject the candidature of the persons again, such persons cannot be considered for appointment as director or continue as a director for two years. The proposals are part of a discussion paper floated by Sebi.

PTI

**Nalco buyback:** National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) has approved buy-back of 13.02 crore shares for about Rs 749.10 crore. "The board of directors of the company in their meeting held on 27 January 2021, has inter-alia approved...buyback of not exceeding 13,02,79,083 fully paid-up equity shares...at a price of Rs 57.50 per equity share...in cash for an aggregate consideration not exceeding Rs 749,10,47,273," Nalco said.

PTI

**RIL rebranding:** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Wednesday announced the rebranding of its sports and lifestyle business to "RISE Worldwide Ltd" as it ventures into the burgeoning industry in the domestic as well as global markets. RISE Worldwide will continue with the full portfolio of owned and operated brand properties formerly under the banner of IMG-Reliance Ltd, the company said in a statement.

PTI

**Mi India Initiative:** Smartphone maker Mi India has announced a new initiative ~ ShikshaharHaath ~ in collaboration with actor Sonu Sood. This partnership is in continuation with the brand's efforts of enabling the student community from underprivileged sections to pursue their education without any roadblocks, said a Press release from the company.

SNS

**Pine Labs app:** Leading merchant commerce platform Pine Labs has launched AllTap, a feature-rich app that can significantly accelerate digital payments adoption in India. Pine Labs AllTap is a revolutionary new app for small merchants to immediately start accepting digital payments on their NFC-enabled smartphone without the need of any additional hardware, said a Press release.

SNS

**Vivo smartphone:** Smart-phone maker Vivo has expanded its youthful Y series with the launch of Vivo Y31 in India. Priced at Rs 16,490 for 6GB RAM + 128GB ROM variant, Vivo Y31 is available on Vivo India e-store, Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm, and across all partner retail stores.

SNS

# IMF foresees extension of pandemic support measures in Budget

International Monetary Fund has projected an impressive 11.5 per cent growth rate for India in 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON DC, 27 JANUARY

**A** head of India's annual Budget presentation next week, IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath has favoured the extension of the pandemic support measures, thrust on investment in infrastructure and expanding health sectors programmes like Ayushman Bharat, and a very credible investment path for commercially viable companies.

The Indian government has provided a lot of schemes for small and medium enterprises, most of which are in the form of liquidity support, Gopinath said.

And you want to revisit it and see how effectively that is working and see whether additional support may need to be provided, she said while responding to a question on her recommendations to the Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, ahead of her presentation of the annual Union Budget on 1 February.

It would be a good time for banks and non-banking financial

**“**The Indian government has provided a lot of schemes for small and medium enterprises, most of which are in the form of liquidity support... And you want to revisit it and see how effectively that is working and see whether additional support may need to be provided

GITA GOPINATH  
IMF'S CHIEF ECONOMIST

cial companies (NBFCs) to raise capital given the attractiveness of financing conditions at this point, she said.

We have to also keep in mind that as these pandemic measures are lifted, there would very likely be an increase in non-performing loans. Even the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has projected that, Gopinath said.

But there might also be a need for the capital support to be provided by the government for public sector enterprises. That has been long on the table which is to improve governance of pub-

lic sector banks, she said.

Observing that there is a need for more public infrastructure spending, she said that the government has expressed an intention to do that. There are needs to make more public investment. That would be another area that would require thrust, she said, adding that health is another sector which needs renewed focus.

In this pandemic, there has been spending but if you look at the health needs of the country, health capacity has to be increased. We can also see an argument for expand-

ing Ayushman Bharat programme for instance and also increasing the number of medical personnel, Gopinath said.

Gopinath said that there has to be progress made on the GST (goods and services tax) collections. There seems to be a gap with compliance which is an important area to fix.

India's finance ministry on Monday released the 13th installment of Rs 6,000 crore to the states to meet GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount of funds released to Rs 78,000 crore.

The government had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of Rs 1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of the implementation of the GST.

In addition to providing funds through the special borrowing window to meet the shortfall in revenue on account of GST implementation, the government has also granted additional borrowing permission equivalent to 0.50 per cent of gross states domestic product (GSDP).

states to help them in mobilising additional financial resources.

Gopinath said that another area which has been longstanding is divestments. That has been in every one of the budgets, but in terms of the actual implementation it has not happened, he said.

To have some sort of a very credible divestment path for commercially viable companies is a very important part. Also, the insolvency procedures would require a lot of work, Gopinath said.

On Tuesday, the IMF projected an impressive 11.5 per cent growth rate for India in 2021. While this is attributable to the stronger than expected recovery, Gopinath said India still has some distance to go.

She said that due to Covid-19, India's informal sector, like many parts of the world, has been hit hard along with unemployment in micro small and medium enterprises. Even if the economy is recovering, these distributional effects have also to be paid close attention to, she said.

# Sensex crashes 938 points; Nifty falls below 14,000-level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 27 JANUARY



profits off the table ahead of the Union Budget and futures and options (F&O) expiry.

Foreign investors sold equities worth Rs 765.30 crore on a net basis in the Indian capital market on Monday, exchange data showed.

Indian equity markets were closed on Tuesday for the Republic Day.

Elsewhere in Asia on Wednesday, stocks ended mixed as investors turned cautious after Wall Street slipped from record levels.

Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.41 percent at \$55.87 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee edged higher by 2 paise to settle at 72.92 against the US dollar today, ahead of the outcome of the US central bank's meeting.

## Hindustan Unilever Q3 profit rises by 20% to ₹1,938 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd today reported a 20.3 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,938 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,631 crore in the October-December quarter of the previous fiscal.

Its sales during the quarter increased by 20.26 per cent to Rs 11,969 crore, as against Rs 9,953 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) said in a regulatory filing.

HUL's total expenses too rose by 21.65 per cent to Rs 9,548 crore in Q3 FY2020-21 compared to Rs 7,849 in the year-ago period.

"Our consumer-relevant

innovations, market development and execution excellence have enabled us to drive broad-based growth across our categories in the December quarter.

"I am particularly pleased with the performance of our nutrition business and with the recovery in the discretionary segments of our portfolio; these are structurally attractive and offer immense growth potential," HUL CMD Sanjiv Mehta said.

He further noted that the near-term demand outlook is improving.

"We expect to see a revival in urban while rural should continue to do well. Inflationary pressures are building up in select commodities and we will manage them judiciously. I am confident that we are very well positioned

to capture the growth opportunities and accelerate momentum," he added.

**Emami profit:** Homegrown FMCG firm Emami Ltd on Wednesday reported 44.67 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 208.96 crore for December quarter 2020 helped by sales growth and cost-control measures.

The company had posted a profit after tax of Rs 144.44 crore for the year-ago period, Emami said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations was up by 14.89 per cent to Rs 933.61 crore in the quarter under review as against Rs 812.64 crore in the same period a year ago.

During the quarter, both profits and margins of Emami increased significantly.

## Axis Bank Q3 profit drops 36% to ₹1,117 cr

NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

Axis Bank today reported a 36.4 per cent decline in standalone net profit to Rs 1,116.60 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 1,757 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Total income during the quarter under review slipped to Rs 19,274.39 crore as against Rs 19,494.87 crore in the year-ago period.

"Reported profits after tax for the quarter are adversely impacted to the extent of Rs 1,050 crore on account of prudent expenses and provisioning charges during the quarter," it said.

However, the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) eased to 3.44 per cent of the gross advances, from 5 per cent a year ago. Net NPAs also improved to 0.74 per cent from 2.09 per cent.

## BoB reports ₹1,159 cr profit; Canara net rises to ₹739 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

Bank of Baroda today reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,159.17 crore for the third quarter ended 31 December 2020. The state-owned bank had posted a net loss of Rs 1,218.87 crore for the same quarter a year ago.

Total income of the bank fell to Rs 22,070.52 crore during October-December period of fiscal 2020-21 from Rs 23,134.67 crore in the year-ago quarter. Bank of Baroda said in a regulatory filing.

The lender improved on its asset quality with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) eased to 3.44 per cent of the gross advances, from 5 per cent a year ago. Net NPAs also improved to 0.74 per cent from 2.09 per cent.

period a year ago. In value terms, gross NPAs or bad loans fell to Rs 63,181.55 crore from Rs 73,139.70 crore.

Net NPAs also came down to 2.39 per cent (Rs 16,667.71 crore) from 4.05 per cent (Rs 26,504 crore).

Provisions for bad loans and contingencies for the third quarter fell to Rs 4,618.88 crore from Rs 7,233.62 crore in year-ago period.

On standalone basis, the lender logged a net profit of Rs 1,061.11 crore in December quarter, 2020-21. It had a loss of Rs 1,406.96 crore in the year-ago period.

Standalone income during the period under review was also down at Rs 20,664.23 crore from Rs 21,809.07 crore.

Meanwhile, state-owned Canara Bank today reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 739.20 crore for the third quarter ended December of the current fiscal. It had earned a net profit of Rs 406.43 crore during the same period a year ago.

However, the profit of Q3 FY21 is not comparable year-on-year as the latest figures are of the amalgamated entity after the merger of Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank.

The amalgamation came into effect from 1 April 2020.

The bank's total income (consolidated) during October-December period of 2020-21 rose to Rs 24,490.63 crore from Rs 15,531.80 crore, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing to stock exchanges.

## PNB makes donation for social causes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

try for bringing a ray of hope."

"PNB has successfully completed the CBS integration with e-UBI and e-OBC in record time, managing 18 crore plus customers. The amalgamation is the turnaround for the bank. PNB Parivar takes the pledge to strengthen the bank in the days to come," he added.

During the celebrations, PNB donated through the "PNB Prerna" initiative to four organisations working for the welfare of various sections of the society.

The financial assistance was offered to HelpAge India, Inspiration, Delhi Council of Child Welfare and Earth Saviors Foundation.

The PNB Women Welfare Association, also known as PNB Prerna, constitutes spouses of MD and CEO, EDs, CVO, CGMs and GMs as well as working members of the bank.

## Tiktok to shut down India business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

Chinese social media firm Bytedance, which owns TikTok and Helo apps, has announced the closure of its India business following continued restrictions on its services in the country.

Tiktok's global interim head Vanessa Pappas and vice-president for global business solutions Blake Chandee in a joint email to employees have communicated the decision of the company that it is reducing team size and the decision will impact all employees in India.

The executives expressed uncertainty on the company's comeback to India but expressed hope to do so in times to come.

"While we don't know when we will make a comeback in India, we are confident in our resilience, and desire to do so in times to

come," the email said. According to a source at Bytedance, the company had meeting on Wednesday where it communicated about the closure of India business.

When contacted Tiktok spokesperson said the company has worked steadfastly to comply with the Government order issued

on 29 June 2020 and continually strives to make its apps comply with local laws and regulations. It is, therefore, disappointing that in the ensuing seven months, despite our efforts we have not been given a clear direction on how and when our apps could be reinstated. It is deeply regretful that after supporting over 2,000 employees in India for more than half a year, we have no choice but to scale back the size of our workforce...

TIKTOK SPOKESPERSON

over 2,000 employees in India for more than half a year, we have no choice but to scale back the size of our workforce.

"We look forward to receiving the opportunity to relaunch TikTok and support the hundreds of millions of users, artists, story-tellers, educators and performers in India," the spokesperson said.

The government had blocked Tiktok and Helo along with 59 apps in June and has further communicated to the companies that the order to block them will be continued.

"We've cut expenses, while still paying benefits. However, we simply cannot responsibly stay fully staffed while our apps remain un-operational. We are fully aware of the impact that this decision has for all of our employees in India, and we empathise with our team," the e-mail said.

Explaining further, the ministry said that the grants to RLBS are released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission to create community assets and improve the financial viability of the rural local bodies. "The grants are provided to all the three tiers of panchayati raj - village, block and district - to enable pooling of resources across villages and blocks," reads the Press statement.

The 15th Finance Commission has recommended two types of grants to the RLBS - basic and tied grants. Basic grants are untied and can be used by the local bodies for location specific needs except for salary or other establishment expenditure. The tied grants can be used for the basic services of (a) sanitation and maintenance of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and (b) supply of drinking water, rain water harvesting and water recycling.

The grants are meant to ensure additional funds to RLBS over and above the funds allocated by the Centre and the state for sanitation and drinking water under the centrally sponsored schemes like Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan Mission.





...China is working across the UN system to drive an authoritarian agenda...That will not happen on my watch.

LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, BIDEN'S PICK AS AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PROMISING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL COUNTER CHINA'S AGENDA

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	29	24 R
HONG KONG	21	17 H
TOKYO	12	02 S
LONDON	06	05 R
DUBAI	24	17 S
SAN FRANCISCO	11	09 R
NEW YORK	03	02 R
MOSCOW	03	00 R

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

## THUMBNAILS



A rabbi sits in front of Germany's heraldic Eagle during a special meeting at the German Parliament Bundestag in Berlin on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. ■ AP

68% of S African Indians willing to take vaccine: Sixty-eight per cent of South Africa's Indian-origin population will definitely or probably take a Covid-19 vaccine, with 14 per cent saying they would probably or definitely not take it, while the rest 18 per cent were undecided, according to a study. ■ AP

EU clears Boeing 737 Max: A modified version of the Boeing 737 Max, incorporating multiple safety upgrades, has been approved to resume flights in Europe, following nearly two years of reviews after the aircraft was involved in two crashes that saw the planes grounded worldwide. ■ AP

Biden to reopen 'Obama-care' markets: President Joe Biden plans to reopen the HealthCare.gov insurance markets for a special sign-up opportunity geared to people needing coverage in the coronavirus pandemic. Biden is expected to sign an executive order Thursday, said two people familiar with the plan. ■ AP

US lawmakers named to key congressional committees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 27 JANUARY

Indian-origin US lawmakers Pramila Jayapal and Raja Krishnamoorthi have been named to key congressional committees on budget and the Covid-19 pandemic by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

While Congresswoman Jayapal, 55, was named to the powerful budget committee, Congressman Krishnamoorthi, 47, was appointed to a key congressional committee on the coronavirus crisis on Tuesday.

"I am honoured to join Chairman Clyburn and our colleagues on this panel to provide vital oversight of the federal coronavirus response to protect the health and safety of the American people as we defeat the pandemic and rebuild our economy," said Krishnamoorthi, serving as the US Representative for Illinois' 8th congressional district since 2017. Jayapal, the US Representative for Washington's 7th congressional district since 2017, has been named as a member of the House Budget Committee that plays a key role in passage of the budget. ■ PTI

Kerry aims to talk US back into a lead role in climate fight call

# Joe Biden signs orders to ensure racial equity

Biden termed the killing of George Floyd, 'the knee on the neck of justice'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 27 JANUARY

US President Joe Biden has signed a series of executive orders to ensure racial equity across the country, acting on one of his core campaign promises to dismantle "systemic racism" that has plagued America far too long.

While announcing the four presidential actions on Tuesday at the White House, a week after being sworn in as the 46th US President, Biden cited the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by Minneapolis police officer last May, which touched off demonstrations across the country.

Biden called the killing "the knee on the neck of justice," and said that because of it, "the ground has shifted. It changed minds and mindssets."

"In my campaign for President, I made it very clear that the moment had arrived as a nation where we face deep racial inequities in America and systemic racism that has plagued our nation for far, far too long," Biden said.

Through four executive actions to advance racial equity and take first steps to root out systemic racism in housing and criminal justice, Biden renewed his administration's commitment to making the American Dream real for families across the nation by taking bold and ambitious steps to root out inequity from the



economy and expand opportunities for communities of colour and other underserved Americans.

We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives. And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll be better off for it, Biden said at a White House ceremony to sign the executive order.

For too long, we've allowed a narrow, cramped view of the promise of this nation to fester," he said.

In an executive order, Biden directed federal agencies to combat resurgence of xenophobia, particularly against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, that he said have skyrocketed during the coronavirus pandemic.

This is unacceptable and it's un-American. I've asked the Department of Justice to strengthen its partnership with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to prevent those hate crimes, he said.

He asked the Department of Health and Human Services to put out best practices for combating xenophobia in the national response to Covid-19.

He also announced to rescind the previous Trump administration's harmful ban on diversity and sensitivity training and abolished the 1776 Commission.

Unity and healing must begin with understanding and truth, not ignorance and lies, Biden said.

## US boosting vaccine deliveries

WASHINGTON, 27 JANUARY

Answering growing frustration over vaccine shortages, President Joe Biden announced that the US is ramping up deliveries to hard-pressed states over the next three weeks and expects to provide enough doses to vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of the summer or early fall.

Biden, calling the push a "wartime effort," said Tuesday the administration was working to buy an additional 100 million doses of each of the two approved coronavirus vaccines. He acknowledged that states in recent weeks have been left guessing how much vaccine they will have from one week to the next.

Shortages have been so severe that some vaccination sites around the US had to cancel tens of thousands of appointments with people seeking their first shot.

"This is unacceptable," Biden said. "Lives are at stake."

He promised a roughly 16% boost in deliveries to states over the next three weeks. ■ AP

# Trump likely to be acquitted in impeachment trial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 27 JANUARY

Former US President Donald Trump is likely to be acquitted in his impeachment trial as the Democrats failed to garner enough support required from Republican Senators.

The Democrats who have impeached Trump in the House charging him with "incitement of insurrection," needs two-thirds of the vote for the Senate impeachment. Currently both the Democrats and the Republicans have 50 members each in the 100-seat Senate.

The Democrats need the support of at least 17 Republican Senators to reach the two-thirds majority mark.

Trump is the first US president who facing an impeachment trial after he left the presidency.

This is for the second time in about a year that Trump is likely to be acquitted by the Senate.

I can't see how you get 17. I think that was a test vote, Republican Senator John Boozman said after 45 of the 50 Republican Senators voted for the motion that the impeachment trial of Trump after he left the presidency is unconstitutional.

The article of impeachment was delivered by the House to the Senate Monday night.

The next step, as you all have reported and people watching at home know, is for the Senate to proceed with their trial. He's going to allow them to move forward at the pace and manner that the leaders in the Senate determine.



mine. 8And I can promise you that we will leave the vote counting to leaders in the Senate from now on, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

Republican Senator Kevin Cramer said the Senate should not be wasting its time holding another impeachment trial. We do not have solid constitutional standing to impeach a former president, and even if we did, this is not the time to use it. As I have said repeatedly, President Trump's comments on January 6 were rash and ill-advised but I do not believe they meet the constitutional standard for impeachment.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer argued that Trump can be impeached even after he left the office and this he said is constitutional.

The theory that the impeachment of a former official is unconstitutional is flat-out wrong by every frame of analysis: constitutional

text, historical practice, precedent, and basic common sense. It has been completely debunked by constitutional scholars from all across the political spectrum, he said.

Former President Trump committed, in the view of many, including myself, the gravest offence ever committed by a president of the United States. The Senate will conduct a trial of the former president and Senators will render judgment on his conduct, Schumer said.

Republican Senator Rob Portman who sided with the Democrats said he voted for allowing debate on this issue and against tabling this important discussion.

As the trial moves forward, I will listen to the evidence presented by both sides and then make a judgment based on the Constitution and what I believe is in the best interests of the country, he said.

Impeaching President Trump is a mistake, Senator Roger Wicker said.

## First job to clean pipettes in mother's lab: Kamala Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 27 JANUARY



us there with her after school and on weekends".

And I grew up around science in a way that was taught to me by someone who was so profoundly passionate about a gift which is the gift that scientists give to us in that their whole reason for being is to see why can be unburdened by what has been, the 56-year-old first woman vice president said.

Their whole reason for being is to pursue what is possible for the sake of improving human life and condition, Harris said. It is such a noble pursuit. And the importance of NIH is that this is about an essential function of government.

Which is to provide for the public health. The work that happens here has one goal: to improve public health. And the importance of the pursuit of the work that happens at NIH is it's not about profit. It's about the people, she said.

Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris from Chennai, was a breast cancer researcher who died of cancer in 2009. Her father Donald Harris is a Jamaican American professor of economics.

Growing up, our mother would go. We would always know that mommy was going to this place called Bethesda, the US Vice President said. She was a peer reviewer. My mother had two goals in her life: to raise her two daughters and end breast cancer. In fact, a little known fact is that my first job was cleaning pipettes in my mother's lab. She would take

chemical endocrinology section, Harris said on Tuesday during her visit to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) headquarters for the second dose of her Covid-19 vaccine.

Recalling her visit to her mother's laboratory, the US Vice President said: She was a peer reviewer. My mother had two goals in her life: to raise her two daughters and end breast cancer. In fact, a little known fact is that my first job was cleaning pipettes in my mother's lab. She would take

## BACK TO SCHOOL



A staff member checks the body temperature of students at the entrance to a school in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has reopened schools for higher grades in Western Province. ■ IANS

land security agencies should address the security threats posed by worsening droughts, floods and other natural disasters under global warming.

Success for Kerry is hardly assured. At home, he faces pushback from the oil and gas industry and hears concerns that jobs will be lost.

Internationally, there's uncertainty about whether Biden's climate commitments can survive the United States' intensely divided politics, let

alone the next presidential transition.

Meanwhile, environmentalists are pushing him to be aggressive even demonstrating outside his house on his first full day on the job.

Underscoring the urgency, Kerry -- working from his home on Boston's patrician Beacon Hill during the COVID-19 pandemic -- sat before a computer screen and started talking before sunup last Thursday, his first full day in his new job, to a global business forum in Europe.

Since then, he has spoken virtually with US mayors, foreign presidents and premiers, government ministers and others, until the light from the setting sun slides down the gilt spines of the shelves of leather-

## Tensions rise as AstraZeneca, EU hold vaccine delivery talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BRUSSELS, 27 JANUARY

The European Union's dispute with AstraZeneca intensified Wednesday with the Anglo-Swedish drugmaker denying its contract with the EU was targets that couldn't be met because of problems in rapidly expanding production capacity.

AstraZeneca said in a statement that it still planned to meet with EU officials in Brussels later in the day. The comments came after EU officials said the company had pulled out of talks on vaccine supplies.

Soriot made the comments in an interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica following days of criticism from EU leaders furious about the news that initial shipments from AstraZeneca would be lower than anticipated.

The Anglo-Swedish drugmaker said last week that it planned to cut initial deliveries in the EU to 31 million doses from 80 million due to reduced yield in the manufacturing process. Our contract is not a contractual commitment, Soriot said. It's a best effort. Basically we said we're going to try our best, but we can't guarantee we're going to succeed. In fact, getting there, we are a little bit delayed.

AstraZeneca said in a statement that it understands and shares in the frustration that initial supply volumes of our vaccine delivered to the European Union will be lower than forecast.

## Russian parliament OKs New START N-deal extension

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOSCOW, 27 JANUARY



the decision to extend the treaty as a step in the right direction, but warned of rising global rivalries and threats of new conflicts.

The pact's extension doesn't require congressional approval in the US, but Russian lawmakers must ratify the move and Putin has to sign the relevant bill into law.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told lawmakers that the extension will be validated by exchanging diplomatic notes once all the procedures are completed.

New START expires on February 5. After taking office last week, Biden proposed extending the treaty for five years, and the Kremlin quickly welcomed the offer.

The treaty, signed in 2010 by Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden and Russian leader Vladimir Putin held their first conversation as counterparts Tuesday in phone call that underscored troubled relations and the delicate balance between the former Cold War foes.

According to the White

House, Biden raised concerns about the arrest of opposition figure Alexei Navalny, Russia's alleged involvement in a massive cyber-espionage campaign and reports of Russian bounties on American troops in Afghanistan. While the readouts from the two capitals emphasised different elements, they both suggested that US-Russia relations will be guided, at least at the beginning of the Biden administration, by a desire to not harm but also no urgency to repair existing damage.

# Beyond the court's remit?



**If publication of notice violates privacy, the provisions need to be challenged, says SUNIL GARODIA**

The Allahabad High Court has ruled that the 30-day notice period for marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 has to be optional rather than mandatory and has directed that the marriage officer under the Act will have to solemnize the wedding immediately if the couple does not opt for getting their notice published. Although Justice Vivek Chaudhary has based his decision on several arguments, one thinks that it goes against the letter of the law and is likely to be quashed if challenged.

The provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 are very clear. Section 5 of the said Act says that "when a marriage is intended to be solemnized under this Act, the parties to the marriage shall give notice thereof in writing in the form specified in the Second Schedule to the Marriage Officer of the district in which at least one of the parties to the marriage has resided for a period of not less than thirty days immediately preceding the date on which such notice is given."

Thereafter, Section 6 of the Act says that "(1) The Marriage Officer shall keep all notices given under Section 5 with the records of his office and shall also forthwith

enter a true copy of every such notice in a book prescribed for that purpose, to be called the Marriage Notice Book, and such book shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times, without fee, by any person desirous of inspecting the same. (2) The Marriage Officer shall cause every such notice to be published by affixing a copy thereof to some conspicuous place in his office."

There is no ambiguity in these two Sections of the said Act about the procedure of giving notice and its subsequent publication. Neither is it intended to be optional. The couple intending to solemnize a wedding under this Act has to mandatorily give a notice and the registrar has to mandatorily make the required entries and publish the same at a "conspicuous place in his office" and make it available for inspection to anyone willing to see the same. All parties are bound by the existing provisions of law to adhere to this well laid out procedure if their marriage is to be solemnized under this Act.

Now, Justice Chaudhary has ruled that the couple can give in writing that they do not want their notice to be published and the marriage officer has to solemnize their wedding

without publishing their notice. Both these actions would contravene the existing provisions of the said Act. The legislature had incorporated the notice period in the Act to prevent weddings where either of the parties could use untruths and misrepresentations to contravene the conditions for such marriages as laid down in Section 4 of the said Act.

While Justice Chaudhary has now put the onus on the marriage officer to verify that the conditions under Section 4 are not contravened, one feels that it is something that is beyond his remit and not what the legislature intended. It will complicate matters further and the marriage officer will now seek additional documents from the couple which they might not be in a position to provide. This will make the process lengthy and complicated and defeat the purpose of the law.

Justice Chaudhary is spot on when he argues that laws must keep evolving with time and factor in societal changes and must not intrude on the privacy of citizens as guaranteed by the constitution. The publication of notice is something that goes against the spirit of the Act which was designed to let people of different caste, creed and religion

marry without fear if their families objected to their marriage. It definitely needs to be done away with. But making laws is the exclusive domain of the legislature and the judiciary can only interpret the same. Justice Chaudhary has tried to change the meaning of the law and has intended to do what the legislature did not want to. In doing so, he has tried to make law, something he has no right to. If the provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 relating to giving notice of marriage and its publication intrude upon the privacy of individuals, they need to be challenged for that and the competent court needs to examine their constitutional validity and pronounce its judgment on that.

A writ petition challenging the provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in so far as they require the parties to the marriage to establish their identity by disclosing their private details which are open for public scrutiny is pending before the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court finds Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the said Act unconstitutional, it will strike them down. That would be the correct procedure to do away with the stifling provisions that intrude upon the privacy of citizens. But changing the meaning of the existing law is not within the jurisdiction of courts.

The writer is Editor-in-chief of www.indiacommentary.com

# LAWS NEEDED AGAINST DATA BREACHES

**The world needs data protection regimes as much as it needs data, says MD AB MALEK**

A report estimates that Google gets over 3.5 billion searches daily and internet users generate about 2.5 quintillion bytes of data each day. As a result, the total size of digital data will be 175 zettabytes by 2025, which means that information will be more abundant than ever before. Data is now considered an asset class or new currency, sometimes compared to oil since it is harvested and refined in order to "produce" insights. Data is also not new, but a critical resource on the planet growing at an unprecedented pace that is characterised by a high degree of variety, as opposed to being a uniform entity. In the modern world, the advent of machine learning algorithms and the availability of enormous amounts of digital data has given birth to the concept of big data, big data analytics, data ethics, data protection laws, datanomics, data economy, data sovereignty, data surveillance, surveillance capitalism, etc.

Data types vary immensely, ranging from being processed from satellite imagery to environmental data from sensors, mobile devices data, digital pictures and social media content, credit card data, court data, health data, web-generated data etc. With the development of infrastructure and more efficient data transfer technologies, the colossal accessibility of broadband connections at affordable rates has contributed to realising the digital rights of the people. A 2018 report suggests that there are more than 500 million internet users in India, 731 million in China, and 312 million in the US. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's (BTRC) reported in December 2020 that the number of internet subscribers in the country stood at around 111 million.

In such conditions, the rise of the Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, artificial intelligence, automation and predictive analytics, along with growing interactions between data, transformative technology and people, are continuously constructing promising algorithmic-power and opening up new opportunities for tech companies, governments and people at large. As a result, the task of improving existing or inventing new products and services requires a massive amount of data being collected, processed, utilised and shared throughout the world. For example, Uber runs on data sharing between services providers and consumers. So do apps dealing with food delivery, groceries, banking, insurance, etc. Elon Musk's Tesla is also a data-based innovation, which is improving the status of self-driving



cars. Genomics work with sequencing data is looking forward to improving the status of health IT services. Accordingly, the world has already made a turn towards a data-driven decision-making and supporting paradigm. However, there is also a growing concern that wherever power lies, there lies the potential for misuse and abuse. This is also true in the data landscape because data is, though useful, not a panacea; meaning that data can also introduce entirely new classes of risks and harm. Potential risks may come from eCommerce brands, tech companies and also public agencies, such as police and military use of facial recognition or body cameras, surveillance CCTV cameras, etc. Although it has a decisive impact on society, traditional governance frameworks and risk mitigation

strategies are proving deficient in dealing with the pitfalls of too much data being concentrated in a few hands. It is necessary to deploy risk mitigation mechanisms in the collection, aggregation, sharing and analysis of data, as well as in the monetisation, storage and disposal of data.

For these reasons, concerns have already been encountered in the sphere of public debate on the policy choices regarding the legal and ethical frameworks that apply to data. These include unethical or even illegal use of data insights, reinforcing a bias that already exists in society, and using data for purposes other than originally intended and without their consent. The pertinent questions here are - who should have control of the data? How should such systems be man-

aged, or who should govern the data management, and who should have oversight over that governance? And again, under what conditions should data be collected, used, stored and disposed of? These questions revolve around the management of data availability, accessibility, usability, integrity and security, as well as concerns about ownership, impacts on trade and competition, implications for personal privacy and more.

Since most collected and processed data is held by private entities, there is little access to them, even for policymakers and researchers. Moreover, personal data may also be used for surveillance and monitoring purposes, if not effectively regulated. The optimal situation would be a world where data is ethically extracted, refined, distributed and monetised. This requires a robust regulatory framework that set out the rules for mining, owning, sharing and processing data in a responsible way.

The world's landmark law in this regard is the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 2018), which protects personal information from being used for monetary gain without the full understanding or consent of the people concerned. The 2018 Data Protection Act in the United Kingdom also deals with the regulation of personal data used by organisations, businesses or the government. In the US, there are a number of laws regarding data in the different states of the country. The most recent law with regards to data is the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA, 2018), which recognises some rights, including the right to know, right to delete, right to opt-out and right to non-discrimination. Australia also has regulations such as the 1988 (Australian) Privacy Act. However, Bangladesh and India are yet to enact any specific legislation on data protection to date.

As mentioned before, data breaches by private companies is now a profound legal and ethical issue. In October 2018, the UK's data protection watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), fined Facebook 500,000 pounds for its role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal that allowed a serious breach of the data protection law. In July 2019, the Federal Trade Commission in the US fined Facebook around \$5 billion after an investigation into eight separate data privacy related violations, which was certainly record-breaking and historic. Data awareness and protection regimes are now becoming increasingly significant in the modern world, and there are few who can ignore the need for having such regimes. We cannot afford to be complacent for much longer either.

The writer is an independent researcher.

## MORAL MORE THAN RETRIBUTIVE

**The impeachment of President Trump is an indication that there is a need to mark out, through a definitive statement, what no president ought to do, says MICHAEL BLAKE**

A House majority, including 10 Republicans, voted on Jan. 13 to impeach President Trump for "incitement of insurrection." The vote will initiate a trial in the Senate – but that trial will be finished after Trump's term of office has come to an end.

There is an open constitutional question about whether a president can be impeached after he has left office. A more basic question asks about the point of impeaching Trump. Conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, writing in *The Washington Post*, described the entire exercise as "pointless revenge." "It isn't principled, it isn't concerned with justice and it isn't concerned with the future," he stated.

As a scholar who writes about the moral justifications of social and legal institutions, I argue that there may be good moral reason for this impeachment – even if it cannot be completed before Trump leaves office.

Impeachment is not a criminal procedure; it is generally described as "quasi-criminal" in American law.

The philosophical justifications given for the institution of criminal law, however, might help us understand the purposes this impeachment might serve.

### Impeachment and criminal law

Criminal law can serve a variety of functions. It incapacitates the criminal, through incarceration; it serves a retributive function, by forcing the criminal to experience punishment proportionate to the crime; and it expresses a particular view about the limits of moral diversity, by setting a limit to what sorts of action a society will accept.

Incapacitation is likely a bad justification for the impeachment of an outgoing or former president. Incapacitation is intended to stop a criminal from repeating his or her offence. The offence grounding the president's impeachment, though, was an act of speech, one the article of impeachment describes as "incitement of insurrection." A president who is impeached and removed from office is precluded from holding federal office in the future; that, however, does nothing to remove the power of Trump to speak.

Retribution is similarly unpromising as justification for impeachment. The "punishments" here – including the loss of Secret Service protection, office space and public funding – hardly seem adequate, if they are conceived of as punishments for one who has incited an insurrection.

### Punishment as moral condemnation

The final function of criminal law, though – one emphasized by philosopher Joel Feinberg – is likely better able to justify an attempt to impeach an outgoing president. Criminal law, for Feinberg, is intended to mark out the limits of moral disagreement, through a symbolic statement condemning certain sorts of acts as immoral.

Citizens in a democratic society do not need to agree about political morality. They can recognize their political opponents as entitled to their views – however mistaken each side takes those alternative views to be. Conservatives and liberals have often regarded each other as wrong, but nonetheless members in good standing in their political communities.

There are, however, some points at which a society makes a shared statement that a given sort of practice or act is not politically respectable – and the criminal law is one means by which that statement is made. As Feinberg notes, imprisonment is not simply an unwelcome punishment – it is a symbolic statement that the criminal has done something of which he or she ought to be ashamed.

The criminal – or the impeached – might not actually feel ashamed. The function of the criminal law, however, is to say that he or she ought to feel ashamed, and that those who do that sort of act are outside the realm of normal moral disagreement.

### Politics after violence

We might see this sort of function by examining how legal institutions have responded to much more serious forms of political wrongdoing. The Nuremberg Tribunals, most famously, put the Nazi hierarchy on trial, for aggressive war and for crimes against humanity.

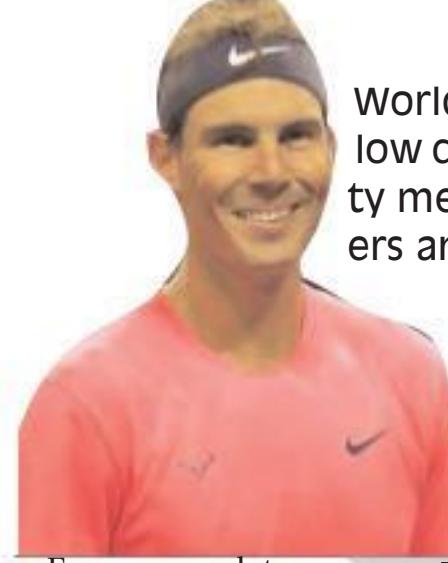
The punishments meted out – ranging from 10 years in prison to a relatively quick death by hanging – would seem grossly inadequate, if they were intended to match the moral gravity of genocide and forced labour.

The best justification of Nuremberg, though, looked not to the Nazis themselves, but to those who might have followed in their footsteps. The trial was intended to identify the line past which political societies could not stray without being regarded as shameful – with an eye not simply on the present, but in the future.

President Trump's wrongdoing is nowhere near as grotesque as that of the Nazis, and no purposes are served by pretending otherwise. The best moral purpose for his impeachment, though, might have some moral similarities to the functions of Nuremberg.

The impeachment of President Trump is an indication that there is a need to mark out, through a definitive statement, what no president ought to do. It will also set the moral limits of the presidency – and, thereby, send a message to future presidents who might be tempted to follow in President Trump's footsteps.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy, Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington. This article was published on [www.conversation.com](http://www.conversation.com)



## 'SUPPORT SAFETY MEASURES'

World number two Rafael Nadal (in photo, left) has urged his fellow competitors to take a "wider perspective" on Covid-19 safety measures put in place ahead of the Australian Open, as players and staff remained quarantined on Wednesday. Nadal said many people had it much worse under the pandemic, and to be able to play in an international tournament should be considered a privilege. "We knew that the measures were going to be strict because we knew that the country is doing great with the pandemic," Nadal said.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**IPL auction:** The IPL players' auction ahead of the 2021 edition will be held in Chennai on February 18, the league organisers announced on Wednesday. The announcement was made via IPL's Twitter handle exactly a week after PTI reported the date. "IPL 2021 Player Auction on 18th February," read part of the post.

**Barca elections:** Barcelona rescheduled its presidential elections to March 7 and members will be allowed to vote by mail amid the coronavirus pandemic, the club said. The elections had been originally scheduled for Jan. 24 but Barcelona was forced to delay the vote because of mobility restrictions imposed by the Catalan government during the pandemic.

**Buffon in blasphemy probe:** Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was reported to an Italian soccer federation court for allegedly using a blasphemous expression. The federation on Tuesday said Buffon uttered the words which they did not specify while shouting at teammate Manolo Portanova in the 80th minute of Juve's 4-0 win at Parma last month.

**Milan loses at Inter:** The best and worst of Zlatan Ibrahimovic was on show as he scored and later was sent off in AC Milan's 2-1 loss at city rival Inter Milan in the quarterfinals of the Italian Cup. Ibrahimovic clashed with former teammate Romelu Lukaku at the end of the first half, and he was ejected for a second booking in the 58th minute on Tuesday.

**Tokyo Olympics to unveil rule book:** Remember the word: Playbook. This is the rule book that the IOC and Tokyo organizers are set to roll out next week to explain how 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes and tens of thousands of others will try to safely enter Japan when the Olympics open in just under six months. Organizers and the International Olympic Committee are finally going public with their planning, hoping to push back against reports the Olympics will be canceled.

**Murray enters challenger event in Italy:** Andy Murray has entered a lower-tier challenger tournament in Italy next month after withdrawing from the Australian Open with the coronavirus. Murray is listed to play an indoor tournament in Biella starting Feb. 15, the Italian Tennis Federation said Wednesday. The tournament has 132,000 euros (\$160,000) in prize money.

**Anushriya Gulati wins:** Ahura Racing's Anushriya Gulati scored a rare double in the JK Tyre FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship, claiming the LGB-4 Rookie crown as well as the Women's Category title over the weekend in Coimbatore. An all-round sportsperson, Anushriya has represented India in shooting and her home state Uttarakhand in basketball while also being an accomplished biker with many firsts to her name.

**FC Goa in AFC:** Indian Super League team FC Goa was on Wednesday clubbed with the last edition's runners-up Persepolis FC of Iran, Qatari heavyweights Al Rayyan SC and one yet-to-qualify side in Group E in the prestigious AFC Champions League (ACL).

**Shai and Kyle Hope test positive:** West Indies opener Shai Hope and his brother Kyle have been ruled out of the Barbados squad ahead of the Regional Super50 Cup after testing positive for COVID-19. "The Hope brothers, Shai and Kyle, have tested positive for Covid-19 and will miss the CG Insurance Super50 Cup in Antigua," the Barbados Cricket Association said.

## AGENCIES

MELBOURNE, 27 JANUARY

Cricket Australia on Wednesday confirmed that India pacer Mohammad Siraj was racially abused during the Sydney Test but cleared the six spectators who were evicted from the ground after the infamous incident that halted play for a while. The investigation into the incident remains ongoing, said Cricket Australia, which has submitted its report to the International Cricket Council.

"CA confirms that members of the Indian cricket team were subjected to racial abuse. CA's own investigation into the matter remains open, with CCTV footage, ticketing data and interviews with spectators still being analysed in an attempt to locate those responsible," said Sean Carroll, CA's Head of Integrity and Security in a statement. "CA's investigation concluded that the spectators filmed and/or photographed by media in the Brewongle Stand concourse at the conclusion of the 86th over on day four of the Test did not engage in racist behaviour."

CA once again apologised to the visiting Indian team for the unpleasant incident. The injury-ravaged tourists won the series 2-1. "As stated at the time of the incident, CA has a zero tolerance policy towards discriminatory behaviour in all forms and, as hosts of the Border-Gavaskar series, apolo-



gises to the Indian men's cricket team. "CA is awaiting confirmation from NSW Police that it has completed its investigation into the matter and will not offer further comment until it is received," Carroll added. Play was halted for a few minutes on the fourth day of the third Test on January 10 after Siraj complained of racial abuse from the crowd. This prompted the security personnel to enter the stands and look for the mischief-makers before six people were asked to leave. The BCCI had lodged a formal complaint and the CA had offered an unreserved apology at that time. In its complaint, the BCCI had alleged that Siraj and his senior pace partner Jasprit Bumrah (837). New Zealand's Ross Taylor (818) and Australia skipper Aaron Finch (791) round up the top five in the batsmen's list.

Ireland all-rounder Paul Stirling gained eight slots to reach 20th place after scoring 285 runs against Afghanistan which included centuries in the second and third matches.

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi (70th to 66th), Rashid Khan (96th to 89th) and Javed Ahmad (103rd to 99th) have also gained in the rankings for batsmen. Among the bowlers, Bumrah remained the best placed Indian, occupying the third spot with 700 points. New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (722) and Afghan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (701) occupy the top two spots. Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who was the most successful bowler in the recently concluded series against the West Indies,

has progressed nine spots to take fourth position after grabbing seven wickets, including a haul of four for 25 in the second ODI that won him

the player of the match award. Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman's six wickets in the series has lifted him from 19th to eighth position.

## Alam century leads Pakistan to 308-8 vs SA

## AGENCIES

KARACHI, 27 JANUARY

Fawad Alam's (in photo) third test century put Pakistan in charge on the second day of the first test against South Africa on Wednesday. The 35-year-old Alam hit nine fours and two sixes in a patient 109 off 245 balls, compiled in just under six hours, to help his team reach 308-8 at stumps. Faheem Ashraf also scored a fluent 64 off 84 balls as Pakistan opened up a first-innings lead of 88 runs on a slow wicket. He and Alam shared a stand of 102 for the seventh-wicket. Debutant Nauman Ali was 6 not out and Hasan Ali, who was bowled by Keshav Maharaj off a no-ball late in the day, was unbeaten on 11. Alam, who bats in an unorthodox style and exposes all three stumps to the bowler, was out in the last session when he flicked a ball from Lungi Ngidi (2-55) straight to mid-wicket.

Pakistan was in trouble overnight on 33-4 after South Africa had been skittled out for 220 on an eventful first-day when 14 wickets fell on an uneven wicket. But Alam showed lots of determination to keep the Proteas at bay. The home team



went close to dismissing him for 35 just before lunch when Dean Elgar failed to hold onto a sharp low catch in the slips.

Alam had long been ignored by Pakistan after scoring a debut test hundred against Sri Lanka in 2009. He finally got his chance against England last year and the left-handed batsman made his second test century, 11 years after his first, against New Zealand last month.

On Wednesday, Alam shared a 94-run, fifth-wicket stand with Azhar Ali (51) before his partner was caught behind off

left-arm spinner Maharaj (2-71). Mohammad Rizwan then made 33 until he was removed by Ngidi. Alam reached his century by lofting Maharaj, who shared the new ball with Kagiso Rabada (2-45), over long on for his second six.

Ashraf, who smashed Rabada for two boundaries in an over with the new ball, was dismissed when he dragged a full delivery from Anrich Nortje (2-84) onto the stumps.

Brief Scores: South Africa: 220, Pakistan 308/8 (107 overs), Pakistan lead by 88 runs.

By the virtue of the result, Kerala Blasters are at the eighth place with 15 points while Jamshedpur FC a spot ahead with similar points.

## Jamshedpur FC hold Kerala Blasters

## AGENCIES

GOA, 27 JANUARY

Kerala Blasters were held to a goalless draw by Jamshedpur FC at the GMC Stadium Bambolim on Wednesday.

Jamshedpur FC began the match with a lot of intent but possession and tempo changed hands as Kerala Blasters looked like the most dominating side throughout the span of the match. Gary Hooper and Jordan Murray combine well in unison to created plenty of chances but both failed to hit the target. The Men of Steel, on the other hand, defended for their lives and will be happy to get one point from the match. Kerala Blasters created ample of opportunities but were held to a goalless draw by Jamshedpur FC.

Another central midfielder in scoring form is Tomas Soucek, who netted twice for West Ham in its 3-2 win at Crystal Palace that lifted the team to fourth place. The Czech Republic international is providing a solid source of goals for West Ham, having scored seven times in his last 13 league matches.

In a tweet, he dedicated his double to his wife.

The most beautiful feeling in football is when you realize you have helped your team, Soucek wrote. But this time I want to dedicate the win and my two goals to my wife. It's really tough time for her as she can't see anyone from the family. Thank you for taking care of me and our daughter!

## Revenge for Arsenal

Arsenal avenged a defeat to Southampton in the FA Cup at the weekend by beating the Saints 3-1 in the league.

## The Statesman Sport

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## England's weak link is the top order, says Hussain

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 27 JANUARY

While India cemented their top-order batting on the recent tour of Australia with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill settling in as opening pair and Cheteshwar Pujara already there at No. 3, England's top-order in comparison looks shaky ahead of the four-Test tour of India.

With both England openers Zak Crawley and Dominic Sibley failing to get big scores - Sibley got just one fifty in four innings and Crawley got none -- in the recent Test series against Sri Lanka, England's problems were compounded when they decided to send back home Jonny Bairstow, who batted at No. 3 and averaged 46.33 in Sri Lanka.

Besides, none of these possible England top three have played in the subcontinental conditions except in Sri Lanka.

Hussain has pointed out at technical issues in Crawley's batting against the spinners saying that he tends to play across the line, and that makes him vulnerable. He made similar observations for Sibley.

Besides, none of these possible England top three have played in the subcontinental conditions except in Sri Lanka.

England are rotating players for the India series. But former England skipper Nasser Hussain has asked the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to rethink the decision and recall Bairstow.

"I think Bairstow, Ben Stokes and Joe Root are the three best players of spin bowling in the England camp.

One has been given the boarding pass to England while the other two are going to Chennai. I'd have to rethink that," said Hussain.

In Bairstow's absence, England may play Crawley at No.3 and open with Sibley and regular opener Rory Burns, who has joined the team in Chennai after missing the Sri Lanka series.

Crawley has batted at No.3 in the two Tests before the Sri Lanka series and even scored a double century at

## England cricket players arrive in Chennai for Test series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, 27 JANUARY

Members of the England cricket team including captain Joe Root arrived in the city on Wednesday for the four-match series against India with the first two Tests to be played here. Some of the Indian players and members of the support staff also landed in this southern city, airport sources said.

Roo

t and Co flew in from Sri Lanka at around 10.30 AM and headed to the hotel where members of the two teams will be put up as part of the bio-bubble, a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association official said. The England team had on Monday completed a 2-0 series sweep of the Tests against Sri Lanka with Root slamming two big centuries.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer had arrived in the city on Sunday and are in quarantine. While a few Indian players including star batsman Rohit Sharma and Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane arrived on Tuesday night, some others like Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant, star of the series clinch-

er.

They will be in quarantine for six days and are set to start practising from February 2," the official added.

The first Test will be played at the M A Chidambaram stadium from February 5 and the second from February 13. Chennai had last hosted a Test match in December 2016 against England.

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