



'TRACTOR RALLY  
CELEBRATES  
INDIAN REPUBLIC'

P3



ISSUES FOR THE  
FM TO ADDRESS

P7



INCUMBENT WINS  
PORTUGAL'S PREZ  
ELECTION

P10



MAN UNITED  
COMPOUNDS  
LIVERPOOL'S WOES

P11

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 18 and 07 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 59%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 18.4°C (-4) Min: 07.4°C (0)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

07:12 hrs 17:56 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

15:35 hrs 06:02 hrs

# India to exhibit military might at R-Day parade

32 tableaus to depict nation's cultural heritage; Delhi under heavy security for farmers' rally



SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

**I**ndia will show its military might on Tuesday with Rafale fighter jets taking part in the Republic Day flypast for the first time and the armed forces showcasing T-90 tanks, the Samyam electronic warfare system, Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets, among others, said the Defence ministry on Monday.

Total 32 tableaus - 17 from states and union territories, six from the Defence ministry and nine from other Union ministries and paramilitary forces -- depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage, economic progress and defence prowess will roll down the Rajpath at the Republic Day parade, the ministry said in a statement.

"School children will perform folk arts and crafts displaying skills and dexterity handed down from

generations~ Bajras, one of the most beautiful folk dances of Kalahandi in Odisha, Fit India Movement and Atmanirbhar Bharat," the ministry noted.

A 122-member proud contingent of the Bangladesh armed forces will also march on Rajpath on Tuesday, the ministry said. "The Bangladesh contingent will carry the legacy of legendary Mukti Joddhas of Bangladesh, who fought against oppression and mass atrocities and liberated Bangladesh in 1971," it added.

India is currently celebrating the Swarnim Vijay Varsh - Golden Jubilee year - commemorating the country's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

The Indian Army will showcase the main battle tank T-90 Bhishma, infantry combat vehicle BMP-II-Sarath, mobile autonomous launcher of the Brahmos missile system, multi-launcher rocket system Pinaka, electronic warfare system Samvijay among others during the parade on Tuesday, the Defence ministry noted.

A total of 38 IAF aircraft, include Rafale, and four planes of the Indian Army will participate in the flypast on Tuesday.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will have two tableaus at this year's parade, one showcasing light combat aircraft Tejas successful take off from aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in 2020, and another displaying full complement of the anti-tank guided missile systems, the Defence ministry said.

The Republic Day parade ceremony will commence with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the National War Memorial.

**Helicopter crashes in J&K, army pilot killed:** A pilot of the Indian Army was killed and another critically injured when the helicopter they were flying on Monday crashed in Kathua district's Lakhnur along Jammu and Kashmir-Punjab border. As per preliminary information, two pilots were onboard the chopper. Both pilots were rushed to the Army hospital where one of them succumbed and the other was critical.

## 131 more Covid deaths, 13,203 cases

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI / KOLKATA,  
25 JANUARY

With 13,203 new Coronavirus infections reported in the last 24 hours, India on Monday continued its streak of low-single-day cases, recording the overall tally to 1,06,67,736, said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

For the past 18 days, the country has been recording less than 20,000 daily new infections. Also, the death toll remained below 300-mark for the past 28 days.

**MHA vaccine advisory to states:** Faced with the problem of circulation of rumours about the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines, the Centre has asked the states to check the spread of such misinformation and advised them to take penal action against those who are found to be involved in dissemination of

wrong and ill-informed news. Delhi could be heading towards herd immunity. The outcome of the fifth round of sero-prevalence survey in the national capital has indicated that Delhi population could be heading towards attaining herd immunity against coronavirus infection, sources said on Monday.

The survey has found that in one district, 50-60 per cent of the sampled population has developed antibodies to Covid-19, they said.

**Capital logs 148 cases, lowest in 9 months:** The national capital today recorded 148 fresh Covid cases - the lowest in nine months - even as its positivity rate stood at 0.31 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. This is also the fourth instance of the daily coronavirus count remaining below the 200-mark in the city in January. (SEE P2)



## Pulwama hero gets Prez gallantry medal posthumously

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

CRPF Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mohan Lal who "chased and fired" at an explosives-laden car that rammed into a force bus in Pulwama killing him and 39 troops onboard in 2019 has been decorated with the highest police medal for gallantry on the eve of the Republic Day on Monday.

A total of 207 police bravery medals were declared by the Union government apart from 89 President's police medals for distinguished service and 650 police medals for meritorious service, as per a list published by the Union Home Ministry.

Only two police personnel have been decorated with the top category President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) this

time, CRPF's Lal and late Jharkhand Police ASI Banua Oraon. As many as 205 personnel have been decorated with the second-highest police medal for gallantry or the PGM.

50-year-old ASI Lal was the picket commander of the CRPF road opening party deployed on 14 February, 2019

at milestone number 272 near the BSNL Tower in Lethpora, Pulwama on the Jammu-Srinagar highway when the dastardly terror attack was carried out by the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist outfit.

The attack car was being driven by suicide bomber Adil Ahmed Dar with about 200 kgs

of explosives inside.

The CRPF said Lal, after passing off few vehicles of the cavalcade, noticed this car "running alongside the convoy and trying to enter between the convoy vehicles."

The brave official "signalled and chased the car to stop but could not match its speed." "Ultimately, finding no other option, he fired towards the suspicious car to stop but the car rammed into a nearby running CRPF bus and a huge blast took place," the force said.

The sub-officer who belonged to the 110th battalion of the force has been decorated with the PPMG for displaying gallantry during this incident, the force said.

The Central Reserve Police Force, the lead force for anti-Naxal operations and counter-

terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, also led the gallantry medals tally with a total of 69 medals (1 PPMG and 68 PMG) followed by 52 earned by the JK Police, 20 by the Border Security Force, 17 by the Delhi Police and 13 by Maharashtra Police and others.

Two personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, tasked to guard the Line of Actual Control with China, have also been given the police medal for gallantry.

Deputy Commandant Rajesh Kumar Luthra has been decorated for displaying courage to defuse a faceoff with Chinese troops at Ladakh in July, 2019 while another officer of the border guarding force, Assistant Commandant Anurag Kumar Singh, has been awarded for counter-terrorist operation in J&K in 2017.

## Andhra parents kill daughters with trident, dumbbells

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 25 JANUARY

In a shocking incident, well-educated parents killed their grown up daughters at Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, bludgeoning them with dumbbells and trident as a part of occult practices and even claimed they can be brought back to life.

After complaints from neighbours, the police entered the three storeyed newly-built house of Dr V Purushotham Naidu, an associate Professor of Chemistry at Government Degree College in Chennai and his wife V Padmaja, a gold medallist in Mathematics and working in an IIT coaching centre. They found the two young women, both in their 20s dead with their heads par-

tially tonsured and wrapped in red sarees. One of the bodies were found in the Puja room while the other in another room as the family had observed some rituals on Sunday evening.

The police said the parents spoke incoherently and even claimed given a day's time their daughters can be brought back to life.

Sunday marked the end of Kali Yug, claimed the parents and believed the daughters will be resurrected for a better life. The mother had killed the daughters and the father had been an accomplice and parents were arrested by police. The police also said the parents were contemplating suicide but might have been prevented by the arrival of police.

## EC rolls out e-voter cards

NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

The Election Commission on Monday rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card which can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers.

The e-voter card, available in the PDF format which cannot be edited, can be self-printed and laminated by the voter when required.

With its formal launch on Monday, electors in poll-bound Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry can use e-voter card in April-May polls. The 'PV' physical voter card would continue to be in use. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora has said that mock trials for remote voting facility for electors would begin soon. PTI

Our valiant soldiers foiled expansionist move: President



An effective response to the pandemic would not have been possible without the Constitutional value of 'Fraternity'

**RAM NATH KOVIND**  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA

in the fact that India was called as "pharmacy of the world" for supplying medicine to several countries to contain suffering across the globe. He felt that after about a year of this "unforeseen ordeal", India today stands "not despondent but confident".

Paying tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives at Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh last June during clashes with the Chinese troops, the President said the past year "was a time of adversity, and it came from many fronts."

"We faced an expansionist move on our borders, but our valiant soldiers foiled it. To achieve this objective, 20 of them had to lay down their lives."

Kovind said the nation shall remain grateful to those brave soldiers.

"Though we reiterate our commitment to peace, our defence forces Army, Air Force and Navy are adequately mobilised in a well-coordinated move to thwart any attempt to undermine national security as he referred to the "expansionist" move by China in Ladakh last year."

"Our national interest will be protected at all costs," the President declared in his address to the nation on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day during which he also sought to allay fears of farmers over the three contentious farm laws.

Addressing a press conference at Srinagar border here, senior union leader Darshan Pal announced the farmers will also organise a foot march to Parliament from different locations on the Budget day, a move being seen as a pressure tactic.

Pal, who is a member of Krantikari Kisan Union, said the farmers remain firm in their demand their agitation will continue till their demands are met.

new Central farm laws said on Monday their tractor parade will start only after the official Republic Day parade on Rajpath concludes. They claimed around two lakh tractors are expected to participate in the parade.

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Heavy security has been deployed in view of the unprecedented 'Kisan Gantantra Parade' that will move into Delhi from three border points - Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur (UP Gate).

The path of reform at the initial stages may cause misapprehensions but the government is singularly devoted to the farmers' welfare," he said, as the protests by the farmer unions demanding repeal of the three laws continues at border points in Delhi.

On the country's efforts to fight Covid-19, the President said an effective response to the pandemic would not have been possible without the Constitutional value of 'Fraternity' among the people of the country. He also took pride

last dialogue. It started at 10.30 am on Sunday and ended at 2.30 a.m. on Monday.

Lieutenant General P.G.K. Menon, the Corps Commander of Leh-based HQ 14 Corps, led the Indian delegation.

The ninth Corps Commander level talks between both the countries took place at the Moldo Meeting point almost two months after the

point out that the face-off in the North East comes despite the many rounds of ongoing talks between the two countries to resolve the border dis-

pute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Eight months ago, the army of both the countries had clashed at Galwan valley which left several Indian soldiers dead.

The recent skirmish in Sikkim is said to have taken place when a PLA patrol

team allegedly attempted to intrude into the Indian territory and were resisted by the Indian Army. It led to a brawl between the two armed forces.

It is learnt that soldiers from both sides received grievous injuries while no firearms were used in the conflict, as learnt from defence sources.

At present, the area is under control of the Indian Army while a palpable tension is apparent.

It is useful to remember that the Army commander of the Eastern Command, Lt Gen. Anil Chauhan had last month told the Press that the Chinese PLA is setting up defences near the border opposite Sikkim and Kameng sector while the Indian Army is also taking reciprocal action.



People have been fooled by the story of Hawaiian slippers but they are unwilling to be taken for a ride again. They want to wear shoes which the BJP will arrange for them

DILIP GHOSH  
WEST BENGAL BJP CHIEF

## US Embassy, Delhi govt launch English teaching programme for teachers from city women colleges

PTI

NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy David H Kennedy jointly launched a 10-week-long online English teaching programme for 700 pre-service teachers from all women colleges of the city.

During the event, Sisodia also invited US First Lady Jill Biden to visit Delhi government schools and interact with students.

Besides Kennedy, other senior embassy officials were also present for the launch of the programme conducted by the US Embassy's Regional English Language Office.

"We are training future teachers, they are getting qual-

ity training in advance so that they work for the best of our children. English is a key language in developing global perspectives and it's important that our teachers and students are well-equipped with it," Sisodia, who holds the education portfolio, said.

Kennedy said that English is an important language for economic development and student mobility. "Great to see Delhi government and US Embassy jointly working actively on it," he said.

Kennedy acknowledged the long association of the US Embassy with the Delhi government and appreciated the efforts taken by the deputy chief minister in ensuring that teachers in Delhi learn from the best.

The courses are designed

to address some of the objectives outlined in India's new National Education Policy (NEP) and will help teachers teach English, the Delhi government said in a statement.

"The courses will promote reflective and learner-centered pedagogy as mandated in the NEP, and will enhance teachers' abilities to support the development of students' English language proficiency in all subject areas, as well as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and other 21st Century skills," it said.

This new initiative will also incorporate hands-on experience with new classroom technologies, supporting teachers in addressing some of the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges they currently face, the statement said.

# 7,408 get Covid vaccine in Capital on day six

Delhi logs 91 pc vaccination turnout and 14 'adverse events', city adds 148 new corona cases

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

**O**ver 7,400 healthcare workers received the Covid-19 vaccine in Delhi today as the inoculation drive picked up pace in the national capital recording 91 per cent turnout for the day, officials said.

The targeted number for the Covid vaccination in Delhi today — the sixth scheduled day of the vaccination drive

in the city — remained 8,100. "On January 25, 7,408 people were administered coronavirus vaccine, with a coverage span of 91.5 per cent. AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) was reported in 14 persons," a senior official of the Delhi health department said.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive launched on 16 January, a total of 4,319 (53 per cent) health workers against a target of 8,117 were administered the shots at 81 centres across Delhi on day one.

On the second scheduled day, this tally had stood at 3,598 (over 44 per cent of the target). The sharp fall had come after one severe and 50 minor "adverse events" were reported on the opening day of the vaccination exercise on 16 January.

The vaccination count on the third scheduled day in Delhi was much higher, at 4,936.

Last Saturday, the 5th scheduled day of the inoculation drive in the city, 6,967 or 86 per cent of the targeted 8,100 health workers received the shots in Delhi.

Various reasons were being attributed to the low turnout in the initial days, including some technical issues and apprehensions related to adverse events. However, the government has maintained that no case of serious/severe AEFI is attributable to vaccination till date.



During the Covid vaccination at Max Hospital, Patparganj, in the Capital on Monday.

SNS

The counselling sessions conducted over the past few days seem to have helped in ramping up the vaccination number.

Today, the vaccination count was 110 at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, and 100 at the Delhi State Cancer Institute, a senior doctor at RGSSH said. Figures from other hospitals were awaited.

Meanwhile, the national capital today recorded 148 fresh Covid cases — the lowest in nine months — even as its positivity rate stood at 0.31

per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This is also the fourth instance of the daily coronavirus count remaining below the 200-mark in the city in January.

Delhi's coronavirus infection caseload rose to 6,34,072 and its Covid toll mounted to 10,813 with 5 new fatalities, the health bulletin stated.

The total number of containment zones in the city was 1,662 now, the bulletin added.

According to the bulletin, of the total 9,054 hospital beds reserved for Covid-19 patients in Delhi, 8,257 were vacant.

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

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF  
SH. UMED SINGH GREWAL  
Addl. District Judge-02  
(West)  
Room No. 1, 1st Floor  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
PC No. 43/2020  
Jagdish Chander  
Versus

State & Anr.  
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 Letters of Administration to the estate of Sh. Sanjay Keshav Bhatti & C/o. Late Sh. Nand Lal in respect of property with regard to Plot No. 55, Kalyan Cooperative House Building Society, Kalyan Vihar, Delhi died on 27th January, 1976 at Delhi has been made by Sh. Jagdish Chander, s/o Late Sh. Kundan Lal, r/o B-125, Ware House Godam, Ambedkar Nagar, Alwar, Rajasthan.

Whereas the 26th 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 19th day of January, 2021.

Addl. District Judge-02  
(West)  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 19-03-2021 and see the proceedings before the Grant of Probate (or for Letters 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 Cause of  
Sh. Sanjay Sharma-I  
District Judge  
(Commercial Court)  
Room No. 12  
Karkardooma, Delhi  
Through Lt. District and Sessions Judge, Ghazababad,  
Uttar Pradesh  
Case No. 1/Comm:  
30/2020

State Bank of India  
Versus

Prabhat Kumar  
To,

M. Prabhat Kumar, r/o Flat No. 522A, Regent Shira Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, 201302.

Whereas abovenamed Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 06-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the same.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day, a decree will be pronounced in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 5th day of January, 2021.

District Judge  
(Commercial Court)-01  
Karkardooma, Delhi

Seal of the Court

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

In the Cause of  
Prashant Kumar  
Addl. District Judge-01  
(Central)

Room No. 123,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Case No. - 135/2017  
ICICI Bank Ltd.

Versus

Raj Kumar  
To,

Raj Kumar, s/o Kali Yadav, Employed at Ministry of Labour & Employment (Emp. ID-N653) (Data Entry Operator), Directorate General of Employment, behind RBI Bank, S.S. Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Also a t.o. A.M. Mohammad Patel, Arambam Clinic, New Delhi-110022.

The Defendant above-named.

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 1st day of February, 2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 19th day of October, 2020.

Addl. District Judge-02  
District Shahdara,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE  
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
MS. HARJOT KAUR  
Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram

Prabhu Dayal  
Versus

General Public,  
CNR No. HRG02-003739-  
2020

Case No: CS/3002/2020

Next Date: 26-02-2021  
10.00 A.M.

Notice to Defendant No. 1  
General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 26-02-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to  
[https://highcourtcd.gov.in/?rs=district\\_notice&district=gurugram](https://highcourtcd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=gurugram).

Dated, this day of 21-01-  
2021.

Civil Judge  
(Junior Division),  
Gurugram

Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE  
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF  
MS. JUCI ATUL SINGH  
Additional Principal Judge  
Additional Family Court  
Gurugram

Bimlesh  
Versus

Satish Kumar  
CNR No. HRG01-006472-  
2020

Next Date: 10-03-2021

Publication Issued to:  
General Public

Gurugram

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 10-03-2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to  
[https://highcourtcd.gov.in/?rs=district\\_notice&district=gurugram](https://highcourtcd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=gurugram).

Dated, this day of 22-01-  
2021.

Additional Principal Judge  
Additional Family Court  
Gurugram

Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sushil Kumar Sehgal, s/o Late Shri K.L. Sehgal, r/o 12/69A, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110118, hereby declare that my client have disowned and disinherited his son namely Sh. Amit Sehgal and his wife Priya @ Monika anybody dealing with him shall do so entirely at his own risk and consequences.

Gurmeet Singh Ahuja  
Advocate  
Ch. No. 788, Western Wing,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

110054.

Seal of the Court

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Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE



*The voice of the farmers, and in fact every section of our populace, is being subjugated, and we have to ensure that their voice is not only heard but also heeded*

CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH  
PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021

03

# HP marks golden jubilee of statehood with fervour

BJP president J P Nadda, CM Jai Ram Thakur highlight the remarkable development journey of Himachal Pradesh over the last 50 years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 25 JANUARY

The 50th anniversary of Himachal Pradesh's statehood was today commemorated with great enthusiasm and fervour across the state.

The main state-level event celebrating the golden jubilee of HP's statehood was held at the historic Ridge here while such functions marking the special occasion were also organised at all district headquarters in the state.

Addressing the golden jubilee function at the Ridge here, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J P Nadda said that the Narendra Modi-led central government's schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala have far-reaching effects, which have benefited women and the poor.

Nadda said the Ujjwala scheme had led to women empowerment as earlier rural women had to work hard to fetch fuel wood for cooking, which also used to have adverse impact on their health.

Similarly, the beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, under which over 10 crore poor families were getting benefits upto Rs 5 lakh for medical treatment, can avail free treatment in any hospital in the country.



(From left) Union minister Anurag Thakur, CM Jai Ram Thakur, BJP president J P Nadda, Governor Bandaru Dattatreya greet people during the HP's statehood golden jubilee function at the Ridge in Shimla on Monday.

LALIT KUMAR

try, he said.

Nadda also lauded the efforts of HP chief minister Jai Ram Thakur for launching the Grihi-Sividha scheme to provide benefits to women, who were left out of the ambit of the Ujjwala scheme, and also the Himcare scheme launched to provide medical cover to poor people.

The BJP chief said the people of the state were fortunate to witness the golden jubilee celebrations of HP's statehood.

The development journey of Himachal Pradesh was "quiet difficult and arduous" but successive dispensations and hard-working people of the state

Dhumal were significant in providing road connectivity, he said.

"Today, the state could boast of six medical colleges, an AIIMS, PGI satellite centre and superspecialty hospital. The special category state status had again been given to the state by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and the work of Atal Tunnel was completed due to his special interest and assistance," Nadda added. He also appreciated the welfare schemes launched by the BJP-led state government and said that HP was poised to become the most developed state of the country.

Addressing the function,

the CM lauded the efforts of the ex-CMs who, despite the hill state's geographical and other constraints, steered it and enabled it to emerge as a front runner on many development parameters in the country.

Jai Ram said whatever the state has achieved today was due to efforts and cooperation of its

hardworking and honest people. "Himachal started its development journey from scratch and the development achieved during the last 50 years was inspiring for not only hilly states but also for other big states as well," he said.

HP was fortunate to have blessings of former PM late

Atal Bihari Vajpayee as well as PM Modi, the CM said.

HP Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Union minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur, Leader of the Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri, cabinet ministers, MLAs and people from various walks of life were also present at the function.

## Farmers' tractor rally a testimony to celebration of Indian Republic: Capt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 25 JANUARY

Even as he described farmers' Republic Day tractor rally as a testimony to the celebration of the Indian Republic and its Constitutional ethos, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Monday appealed to the farmers to ensure that the rally remains peaceful, just as their anti-farm laws protests have been so far.

Capt Amarinder also urged the Centre once again to heed the "troubled voice" of the farming community in the true spirit of the Indian Republic.

"Peace has been the hallmark of your (farmers') democratic protests all these months, and should remain integral to your agitation in the days ahead, including the R-Day Tractor Rally into the national capital," said the CM, in his Republic Day eve message.

"The sight of your (farmers') tractors on Delhi roads tomorrow will underline the fact that the ethos of the Indian Constitution and the essence of our Republic is inalienable and uncompromisable," he said. The CM said farmers' arduous battle for survival "will always remind us of this truth, and it will always help us remember (lest we forget), that the principles on which stands the edifice of the India we know, and our forefathers strove to build, cannot be destroyed or demolished on the whims of a few".

Lamenting that the feder-

al structure on which India's polity is founded is facing one of its biggest threats under the present Indian regime, the CM said the brazen manner in which the three farm laws were pushed through, without debate or discussion, cannot, and should not be accepted in the world's largest democracy.

The Centre had absolutely no power to legislate on a state subject, which Agriculture is, and the implementation of the farm legislations violate every principle of our Constitution and the federal structure it stands for, he added.

The CM said their collective fight, in which his government was standing shoulder to shoulder with the farmers, was aimed at protecting the federal core of the Indian Constitution.

Recalling the contribution of Punjab's farmers to India's self-reliance and progress, the CM said they did not toil with their sweat and blood to see a nation whose Constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and dignity, were being systematically trampled over the past six years, most notably over the past two months of their struggle.

"The voice of the farmers, and in fact every section of our populace, is being subjugated, and we have to ensure that their voice is not only heard but also heeded," he asserted, adding that the celebration of the Indian Republic would not be complete without the acknowledgement of this contribution of Punjab and its farmers to India's progress.

## Today's peaceful tractor march'll be harbinger of farmers' victory: Sukhbir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 25 JANUARY

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday said peaceful and disciplined conduct of the tractor march tomorrow will be the harbinger of huge victory for our farmers.

He said he was fully confident that the tractor march on Tuesday will be a totally peaceful event.

"Peace is the top priority for everyone and the participants in the farmers' struggle so far have demonstrated an unprecedented and commendable discipline. This has made this movement one of the most unique democratic events in recent history. It is remarkable that hundreds of thousands of people have been protesting for over two months now in a most peaceful manner, despite provocations and conspiracies against them. Everyone par-



ticipating in this movement and all Punjabis deserve full credit for this," he said.

Badal urged the Centre government "to ensure that the police and other law enforcing agencies deal with the March tomorrow with utmost sensitivity and patience."

He has directed his party workers taking part in the March tomorrow to act as "vigilantes for peace." "The Shiromani Akali Dal has always been the guarantor of peace and communal harmony, especially in Punjab. Every worker of the party is fully alive to his responsibility as a soldier of peace," the Member of Parliament said.

हम विश्व के सर्वश्रेष्ठ गणतंत्र बनें, माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के इसी सपने को साकार करने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार राष्ट्र गौरव के प्रति हर क्षण समर्पित है। अंत्योदय और समानता के आदर्शों को सर्वोपरि रखते हुये प्रदेश के हर वर्ग का विकास हो। हर नागरिक आत्मनिर्भर बने एवं प्रदेश के विकास में भागीदार हो। इसी कामना के साथ अपने गणतंत्र को सशक्त बनाने के लिए आइये, हम सब मिलकर तिरंगे की शान बढ़ाएं।

**गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**

**-योगी आदित्यनाथ**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के तहत 40 लाख से अधिक घरों की स्वीकृति/निर्माण 27 हजार 101 करोड़ रु. किसानों को हस्तांतरित
- सच्च भारत अभियान के अंतर्गत 2.61 करोड़ शौचालयों का निर्माण
- 1.28 करोड़ घरों को निःशुल्क विद्युत कनेक्शन
- 4 लाख सरकारी नौकरी १.२८ करोड़ रोजगार
- किसानों को विभिन्न योजनाओं में 2.53 लाख करोड़ रु. का भुगतान
- गेहूँ गन्ना, चीनी, आलू, दुध, आम एवं अंवला उत्पादन में प्रथम स्थान
- 5 एक्सप्रेस-वे का निर्माण
- 1.35 लाख विद्यालयों में ऑपरेशन कार्यालय के अंतर्गत बुनियादी सुविधाओं का विकास
- 29 एयरपोर्ट का विकास



Telangana's police officer awarded President's Police Medal. IANS

**BJP aspirants asked to reveal donation for Ram Temple:** BJP ticket aspirants will have to declare donations for construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya among other details for next month's elections for local self-governments. Moreover their presence in social media is also to be declared.

SNS

# Stalin to give first 100 days for people's issues

Says TN people want the state to be secular and will not allow BJP to grow clout

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 25 JANUARY

**W**hile announcing the formal kick start of Assembly election campaign of DMK, party chief M K Stalin said the people of Tamil Nadu want the state to be secular and will not allow BJP to grow clout. He also declared that if voted to power, the first 100 days of his government will be dedicated to resolve issues faced by people.

Stalin announced on Monday that he would kick start a new initiative "Ungal Thogudiyil Stalin" (Stalin in your constituency) touring all 234 constituencies to interact with people.

"I promise you one thing: solving your problems is my first duty. The first 100 days of my government will be dedicated to resolve your issues on a war-footing manner. That's my responsibility," Stalin said



while addressing the media at the residence of his late father and DMK doyen M Karunanidhi in Gopalapuram. If voted to power, a separate department under him will be created to process petitions at a district-wise level and ensure all issues are addressed, Stalin said.

Hitting out at the ruling AIADMK, Stalin alleged the party's rule has slipped to abyssmal depths in all sectors, including investment and employment generation, while the state's debt burden stood at Rs 5 lakh crore.

Meanwhile announcing his Assembly tour plan, Stalin said that the initiative will start on 29 January from Thiruvanna-

malai. During the event, people from the respective constituencies can submit their complaints in the complaint box arranged. This will be sealed after every session. The constituency tour will be held for 30 days.

He announced that people can also place their complaints and requests online at the "Stalin Ani" official website of the DMK chief, or by contacting the phone number announced.

A recent survey result, the IANS C-Voter Battle for states survey, which came out recently predicted that DMK will make a strong comeback in Tamil Nadu, winning a 'comfortable' majority.

Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu is expected in April or early May this year and it is likely to be more stormy than before with main opposition DMK stepping up its attack on the AIADMK government in its poll campaign over a range of issues including corruption allegations.

**Sasikala's release:** Expelled AIADMK leader V K Sasikala, serving a jail term in Bengaluru in a corruption case and presently under treatment for coronavirus, will be released from prison on Wednesday "according to all our expectations," her nephew T TV Dinakaran said on Monday.

With the former aide of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa recuperating in a Bengaluru hospital, her discharge from the medical facility will be made known later, he said in a tweet.

Independent legislator Dhinakaran, Sasikala's nephew said his aunt was recuperating from coronavirus and that her discharge from the hospital will be made known later after consulting doctors. Sasikala, under treatment at Victoria Hospital, had been earlier moved out of the ICU there after her virus symptoms reduced. She had contracted coronavirus on 20 January.

# SC refuses to transfer to itself 'Love Jihad' law pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to transfer to itself petitions filed in Allahabad High Court challenging new law of Uttar Pradesh regulating religious conversions for the inter-faith marriages.

A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and VRamasubramanian said that it would like to have the

advantage of the HC order.

Taking note of the observation of the bench, the UP government preferred to withdraw the transfer petition.

Senior advocate P S Narasimha, appearing for UP government, said to avoid multiplicity of proceedings before HC and top court, the transfer petition may be allowed. The bench said, We have issued notice does not mean that HC cannot decide the issue. It said, Why should we

stop the HC from hearing the matter. Let us have the advantage of the HC verdict.

The SC had on 6 January, agreed to examine controversial new laws of UP and Uttarakhand regulating religious conversions for inter-faith marriages. It had, however, refused to stay the controversial provisions of laws and issued notices to both governments on two different petitions. The SC had sought their response within four weeks.

## Andhra 'ready' for panchayat polls after SC rap

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 25 JANUARY

Andhra Pradesh government said it was ready to conduct gram panchayat elections after the Supreme Court today dismissed its petition and pulled it up for 'ego battle' with the state election commissioner who issued new dates for the local bodies polls.

The state government and

the SEC have been in loggerheads over conducting the four-phase GP polls in the state in February sparking off a Constitutional crisis as officials refused to attend meeting with the commissioner and even employees unions passed resolutions against the commissioner for holding polls while vaccination drive of front line workers was being conducted. Undeterred, the

SEC sought central government employees for panchayat polls since state employees union have declared they will not cooperate. The state government was pulled up in the SC with the two member Division Bench chiding the staff association for atrocious and undesirable behaviour. The court clearly stated, "We cannot be part of this ego battle."

## SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL seeking setting up of media tribunal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the

Centre, Press Council of India (PCI) and News Broadcasters Association (NBA) on a PIL seeking setting up of a media tribunal to adjudicate on com-

plaints against media, channels and networks.

The plea said media, particularly the electronic, has become like an unruly horse

which needs to be tamed.

A bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and VRamasubramanian took note of the

plea which also sought setting up of an independent committee headed by either by a former Chief Justice of India or an apex court judge to review

the entire legal framework related to media business regulations and suggest guidelines.

Besides the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,

PCI and NBA, the bench also issued notices to News Broadcasters Federation (NBF) and News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) on the PIL filed

jointly by film maker, Niles Navalakha and civil engineer Nitin Memane in the proceedings conducted through video conferencing.

## TENDER

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Tender for the under noted work.	
<b>Tender No.</b>	
258661DSLSSBR2	
<b>Name of work</b>	
Provision for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of SLI (Safe Load Indicator) system of 140T BD Crane No. 142271 at DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti working over DL1 division for a period of three years.	
<b>Approximate Cost</b>	
Rs. 9,55,800/- including GST @18%	
<b>Earnest money</b>	
Rs. 19,200/- (Note:- It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note:- FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)	
<b>Completion period of the work</b>	
03 years	
<b>Cost of tender document</b>	
Rs. 2,360/- with GST @18% (Note:- It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note:- FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)	
<b>Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender</b>	
Upto 15:00 hrs. on 15.02.2021. Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.	
<b>Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen</b>	
Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
No.: 258661DSLSSBR2 Date: 21.01.2021	19/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile	

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems)	
116-S/AMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020(Ret-II)	
Name of work and its location	"CAMS for Integrated Terminal Support System Equipments (Hardware) for Computerized Crew Management System application over Delhi division at Jakhali, Jind, Rohtak, Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Main and Meenut City Stations on various Diesel Lobbies and DRM's office for the period of Two years from the Date of Execution from OEM (M/s acer only) or Authorised Dealer of M/s acer only per scope of work.
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 14,53,200/- (Fourteen lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred only) plus GST as applicable
Earnest Money	Rs. 29,100/-
Completion period of work	Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/by post	Rs. 2360/- with GST @18%
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 12:00 hrs on 22.02.2020 Opening of Tender at 12:15 hrs
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
No.: 116-S/AMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020 (Ret-II) Dated: 25.01.2021	19/2021
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJOURI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
NT No: 50 of 2020-21 Dated: 19-01-2021 (E-tendering)	
For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tender is invited on item rates from factory Registration license holder registered with J&K Govt. CPWD Railways and other State/ Central Government for the following work:	
S.No. 1 Name of Work :- Supply, Fixing and installation of furniture and furnishing items alongwith other interior works in Administrative/Academic block, Hostels and residential Quarters in Govt. Medical college at Rajouri. (3rd call)	
Est. Cost (Rs. In lacs):- 1350.60, Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.) :- 1000/-	
Earnest Money / Bid Security (In Rs.):- 27,01,200.00/- , Time of completion :- 04 months, Time & Date of opening of tender (Technical Bid) :- On or after 28-01-2021 (11.00 A.M) in the office of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail head complex Jammu	
Class of Contractor :- Factory Registration license holder	
Note: *Cost of Bidding Document to be fixed by the tender inviting authority.	
1/ Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 19-01-2021	
2/ Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 19-01-2021, 11.00 A.M to 27-01-2021 upto 4.00 P.M.	
3/ Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting :- 25-01-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail head complex Jammu.	
4/ Bid submission Start Date :- 19-01-2021 From 11.00 A.M	
5/ Bid Submission End Date :- 27-01-2021 upto 4.00 P.M	
6/ Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) :- 28-01-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail head complex Jammu.	
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> as per below schedule:	
No. DIP/J-10427/20 Dated: 23.01.2021	Sd/- (Er. Mohd Zubair) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Rajouri

### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Opened E-tender based on Single Packet system (Tender notice No. M/C&W/16/2020-21 dt. 22.01.2021) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager / Mech. / C&W / Varanasi / N E Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:-	
Description of work:- HAWH detection system - Rolling in Model (For detection at speed up to 50 KMPH) at different location of DEMU links per RDSO Spec. no. - RDSO-SPN-RE-HAWH-2019.	
Approx. Value (Rs.) :- 1.09,14,750.00, Installation & Commissioning - 180 days from the date of issue of LOA. Warranty - 02 year from the dt. of commissioning.	
Validity of offer :- 45 days. Date and time of closing of E-Tender :- 18.02.2021 at 14:30 Hrs. Date and time of opening of E-Tender :- 18.02.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 18.02.2021 at 14:30 Hrs. Pl. go to the website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> to see the complete details and upload the tender.	
Sr. DME/C&W/BSB CPO/Mech.-87 Varanasi About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955 Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train	

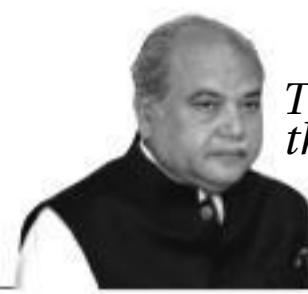
### GOPAL SINGH BHANDARI

BORN 09 MAY 1931  
DIED 14 JANUARY 2021

BAL KRISHNA  
DARJEELING, 25 JANUARY

Shri Gopal Singh Bhandari

was a rare star in the Gorkha sky, for he was celebrated for his Hindi and Urdu writings as much as for his Nepali writings.



*The government has given the best offer to farmers' unions. I am hopeful they will convey their decision to us after discussing it among themselves*

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR  
ON A PROPOSAL TO KEEP THE NEW LAWS IN ABEYANCE FOR 1-1.5 YEARS

## THUMBNAILS



Malaika Arora spotted in Bandra on Monday. IANS

Jallianwala Bagh Centenary Memorial park: Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Monday laid the foundation of the Jallianwala Bagh Centenary Memorial park at Amritsar, dedicated to unsung heroes of the massacre. PTI

Two pilots injured as Army 'copter crashes: Two pilots of the Indian Army were injured when helicopter Dhruv they were flying on Monday crashed due to some technical snag in Kathua district's Lakhnur along Jammu and Kashmir-Punjab border. It was on a routine sortie. SNS

Cyclothon concludes: Carrera, the flagship brand from the house of Safilo, concludes its first cyclothon in New Delhi. About 82 cyclists participated in the 26-km cyclothon organised in association with Dayal Opticals. The cyclothon was organised to create awareness among the masses to stay fit and healthy, said the Press release. SNS

Railways' claim: Even as normal train operations remain suspended owing to Covid and only special trains plying, Railways has claimed that 1,138 Mail and Express trains are being run everyday in different zones of Railways which is around 65 per cent. SNS

# BJP insulted Netaji by 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans: Mamata

Brands BJP as group of 'outsiders' and 'Bharat Jalao Party'

HEMANT JACOB  
HOOGHLY, 25 JANUARY

**A**t a mammoth rally in Pursurah, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee warned of BJP's spurious campaigns to vilify her and TMC by injecting fake video clips and information on social media to mislead citizens.

Miss Banerjee today urged people to uproot BJP from Bengal and pulp any chances of their making a comeback.

In her address, she lashed out at the defectors who switched camps to BJP and said, ones who joined BJP have only done it to convert their accumulated black money to white. The Trinamul supremo clarified that anyone else who is willing

to join the saffron brigade may quit now.

"The ones who left knew they would not be getting tickets in the coming elections. It is good they exited, or else we would have thrown them out... Those who want to leave the party should do that as early as possible," Banerjee added.

Raking the recent incident at Victoria Memorial where an incensed Miss Banerjee refused to make her speech after a group from the audience chanted, 'Jai Shri Ram', she said, "It was a well-planned dirty game to dishonour Netaji, Bengal and its people. BJP is a party which takes much interest in violence, blood-shed and communal violence."

Branding the BJP as a group of "outsiders" and "Bharat Jalao

Party", she said it has been continuously insulting the icons of Bengal, Netaji being the "latest addition to the list".

"Would you invite anyone to your house and then insult the person? Is this the culture of Bengal or our country? I would have had no problem if slogans hailing Netaji were raised. But they didn't do that. To taunt me, they shouted slogans which had no relation to the programme. I was insulted in front of the prime minister of the country. This is their (BJP) culture," the TMC boss told a rally here.

The TMC supremo further encouraged her party's booth workers to keep the foundation of the party strong and promised to continue with more beneficiary schemes and projects. She

added that she feels proud and honoured to be called a booth worker rather than be known as a party leader.

Miss Banerjee highlighted that the recrudescence of the flood situation in Pursurah-Khanakul-Arambagh have been brought under control with more than two lakhs big deep reservoirs, constructed to prevent the flow of flood waters into the villages. This has prevented loss of lives and property to a great extent.

With many not having received the Swastha Saathi card yet, Miss Banerjee explained: though the cashless Swastha Sathi card is being issued at a much faster pace, the biotech machine used for the final issue of the medical card, has its daily output limitations.

**Rahul: Centre's new farm laws 'criminal,' will fight them**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARUR (TN), 25 JANUARY



Keeping up the attack on the NDA government at the Centre over the new farm laws, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said they were "criminal" and vowed to oppose them in the interest of the farmers.

The laws were aimed at benefiting "5-6 people closest" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and they are hurting the interest of millions and millions of farmers, Gandhi said at a farmers' convention at Vangal, as part of his three-day election campaign in poll-bound Tamil Nadu which began on Saturday.

He alleged that Modi wanted the farmers to negotiate with "huge corporates" rather than the ryots going to mandis or negotiating with small traders.

"The result is going to be that millions of people who are employed by this agriculture system - farmers, labourers, loaders, small traders - all these people are going to be unemployed," he claimed.

**Farmers will 'destroy' new agri laws, Pawar warns govt**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 25 JANUARY

The Centre may pass any law undermining the Constitution and on the back of its majority, but once the common man and farmers rise, they will not keep quiet until the new farm acts and the ruling party are destroyed, NCP president Sharad Pawar said on Monday.

The former Union agriculture minister accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not enquiring about the condition of farmers agitating near Delhi borders against the Centre's farm laws for two months now in cold weather.

Addressing a rally organised here to express solidarity with the farmers agitating near Delhi, Pawar hit out at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for heading to Goa at a time when peasants from the state were

to submit a memorandum to the latter against the farm laws.

Pawar said Koshyari, who holds the additional charge of Goa, had time to meet actress Kangana Ranaut after the BMC last year demolished parts of her office here, but has no time for farmers.

Maharashtra revenue minister and state Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat, All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah and others also addressed the rally at Azad Maidan. You may pass any law undermining the Constitution, not keeping in with the reputation of Parliament and destroying the parliamentary system on the back of your majority.

Remember one thing, once the common man and farmers rise, whether you withdraw the laws or not, they will not keep quiet until they destroy you and the laws, Pawar said during the rally.

## UNITED WE STAND



NCP president Sharad Pawar during an address expressing solidarity with the agitating farmers, in Mumbai on Monday. IANS

## India, UK call for global cooperation to counter cross border terror

NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

tor General, Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism, Government of the UK, led their respective delegations, an official release today.

The two sides reviewed the threats posed by UN-proscribed terrorists and terrorist entities and exchanged views on proscription of terrorist individuals and entities as a tool to combat terrorism. It was stressed that all countries should take immediate and irreversible action to ensure that no territory under their control is used for terrorist attacks.

The two sides exchanged ideas for further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the sphere of counter-terrorism, including countering radicalisation and violent extremism, combating financing of terrorism, preventing exploitation of the internet for terrorism, law enforcement cooperation, information sharing, aviation and maritime security and capacity building. The challenges to combating terrorism faced during the Covid-19 pandemic were also discussed. The two sides also discussed counter terrorism cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN and the EATF. SNS

# Republic Day in Kolkata without spectators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA, 25 JANUARY

The Republic Day celebrations in Kolkata will be subdued this year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with no spectators being allowed, a senior official said on Monday.

Only few dignitaries, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and select top state government officials, will be present to witness the parade at Red Road in the heart of the city, he said.

Around 200 contingents will take part in the parade on Tuesday, the state government official told. "This year, the Republic Day parade will be shorter in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. No spectators will be allowed at Red Road like the previous years. Only a few VIPs other than the CM, the governor and a few senior bureaucrats have been invited," he said.

The seating arrangements have been made following Covid protocols, he added.

Usually, the entire Maidan

area around the venue is barricaded as thousands of enthusiasts come to the city to witness the parade, a senior Kolkata Police officer said. "However, this year we have decided to put the barricades only around the surrounding areas of the Red Road to stop the entry of the common people to the venue," he said. The work to barricade the venue started on Sunday, the officer said.

At least 1,000 policepersons along with security personnel of the Heavy Radio Flying Squad and Radio Flying Squad will be deployed in and around the Red Road area, he said.

"Senior officers of the rank of assistant commissioners and 12 deputy commissioners will be on duty at the venue for the Republic Day celebrations. Adequate security arrangements are in place. We will not take any chances," he added.

Sniffer dogs and bomb squad personnel will be scrutinising the venue and the surrounding areas from time to time to ensure foolproof security, the officer said.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

On the 11th National Voters Day today, President Ram Nath Kovind asked people to always respect the valuable right to vote for which people around the world had struggled a lot.

Addressing the Day's celebrations organised by the Election Commission of India, virtually, he said since Independence, the Constitution had given equal voting rights to all citizens, without any discrimination on the basis of religion, race or caste.

The President said that the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, considered the right to vote as a parameter.

"Therefore, it is the responsibility of all of us, especially our youth, who get the right to vote for the first time, to exercise their franchise with the utmost sincerity and inspire others too to do so," he said.

**'Right to vote must be respected'**  
**PM hails EC contribution**

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday appreciated the contributions made by the Election Commission towards strengthening democracy in the country.

Modi's comments came through his tweet on the occasion of National Voters Day on Monday. He said the occasion demanded that the role played by the Election Commission was appreciated.

"National Voters Day is an occasion to appreciate the remarkable contribution of the EC to strengthen our

democratic fabric and ensure smooth conduct of elections," PM Modi added.

He said.

During the event, the President conferred the National Awards for 2020-21 and launched the Election Commission of India's Web Radio: 'Hello Voters' – an online digital radio service.

Praising the Election Commission for conducting successful and safe elections in Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh last year during the Covid-19 pandemic, the President said that it was an extraordinary achievement of Indian democracy.

The National Voters' Day has been celebrated on 25 January every year since 2011, all across the country to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India, i.e. 25 January 1950.

The main purpose of the National Voters' Day celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrollment, especially for the new voters. The day is utilised to spread awareness among voters and for promoting informed participation in the electoral process.

(बंदासु दत्तात्रेय)  
राज्यपाल  
हिमाचल प्रदेश



गणतंत्र दिवस पर  
महामहिम राज्यपाल का सन्देश

गणतंत्र दिवस के पावन अवसर पर मैं समस्त प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूं  
और उनके मंगलमय जीवन की कामना करता हूं।

26 जनवरी, भारत के इतिहास में एक स्वर्णिम दिन है। सन् 1950 में, इसी दिन भारत के संविधान को अपनाया गया। यह दिन है संविधान निर्माताओं के प्रति अपनी श्रद्धा व्यक्त करने का, जिन्होंने जात-पात, वर्ण-भेद जैसी संकीर्णताओं को दर-किनार कर देशवासियों को उत्थान के समान अवसर प्रदान किए। अनेकता में एकता ही हमारे राष्ट्र की विशेषता है और भारत का संविधान इसकी शक्ति है। गणतंत्र दिवस भारत की इसी एकता और शक्ति का प्रतीक है। संविधान जहाँ हमें कई अधिकार देता है वहाँ कर्तव्य का बोध भी करता है। यह कर्तव्य ही हमें देश के प्रति दायित्व व जिम्मेदारी का स्मरण करते हैं।

इस अवसर पर मैं भारत माता के उन वीर सपूत्रों एवं स्वतन्त्रता सेनानियों को भी नमन करता हूं जिन्होंने देश को स्वाधीन बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। साथ ही देश के लिए असंख्य कुर्बानियां देने वाले शहीदों को भी प्रशंसन जलि अर्पित करता हूं, जिन्होंने देश के गौरव की रक्षा के लिए अपना सर्वस्व न्यौतावर कर दिया। भारत माता के इन वीर सपूत्रों ने एक सुदृढ़ राष्ट्र की परिकल्पना के साथ जीवन का बलिदान दिया है। इन वीर सेनानायकों की अमिक्त शक्ति के लिए हमें शपथ लेनी चाहिए कि स्वच्छ समाज का निर्माण हो, जहाँ सामाजिक बुराइयों के लिए हमें कोई स्थान न हो। सकारात्मक व उत्तम भावना के साथ सामाजिक समरसता का वातावरण बनें। किसान-मजदूर-गरीब का समान विकास हो। युवा शक्ति को रचनात्मक दिशा मिले और वे कौशल से परिपूर्ण होकर आत्मनिर्भर भारत के लिए अपना बहुमूल्य योगदान दें। सामुहिक प्रयासों से ही इन लक्षणों को हासिल किया जा सकता है।

प्रदेशवासियों ने संविधान के शाश्वत मूल्यों-स्वतंत्रता, समानता और भाईचारे की भावना में अपनी आस्था हमेशा बनाए रखी है। राष्ट्रीय एकता, सामाजिक सौहार्द और आपसी सन्देश की उच्च परम्पराओं को मजबूती प्रदान करने में हिमाचलवासियों की भूमिका सराहनीय ही है, जिसके लिए सभी प्रदेशवासी बधाई के पात्र हैं।

प्रदेशवासी स्वभाव से शान्तिप्रिय और मेहनतकर्षी हैं, जो राष्ट्र निर्माण में पूर्ण समर्पण के साथ तत्पर हैं। यह पहचान हमेशा कायम रहे, इस के लिए हम सब को एकजुट होकर मेहनत और सेवाभाव से कार्य करना होगा।

गणतंत्र दिवस के पावन अवसर पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।  
जय हिन्द! जय हिमाचल!

विजय विजय  
(बंदासु दत्तात्रेय)

## Nepal in crisis

The expulsion of Nepal's Prime Minister, Mr KP Sharma Oli, from general membership of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) has doubtless jolted the government to its foundations, indeed isolating the head of government from the ruling political architecture. In point of fact, the Himalayan country is helmed by a Prime Minister who at this juncture cannot claim allegiance, still less affiliation, to any party. Saturday's somewhat drastic action was announced by two rivals within the splinter faction of the Communist bloc, pre-eminently Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda and Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Ministers both. Short of calling the expulsion a disciplinary move, the NCP leadership has been emphatic on the point that Oli had failed to furnish an explanation for his recent moves, as sought by the ruling entity. Chief among these was what they call the "unconstitutional" dissolution of Parliament, the embodiment of the people's will, albeit theoretically. This, his detractors claim, had stoked serious threats to the country's "hard-earned federal democratic system". The dissolution of Parliament has dealt a critical blow to the Constitution as well as the democratic republic system that Nepal boasts... theoretically once more. This system was put in place after a prolonged struggle against what was once an omnipotent monarchy. It bears recall that the paradigm shift followed the mayhem in the palace in 2001. After the boat was rocked with the dissolution of the House, the crisis has deepened with Oli's expulsion. Specifically, he has been stripped of his political identity by Prachanda and Madhav Nepal. The latter has now underlined a Constitutional certitude, quite plainly that the Prime Minister does not have the right to dissolve Parliament. Oli's action was as unilateral as it was arbitrary.

That action, it will be recalled, was the culmination of the struggle for the post-royalist mastery of Nepal between Oli and Prachanda. As recently as 20 December, Oli who is known for his pro-China leanings, had in a surprise move dissolved Parliament amidst the tussle for power. It was intrinsically an inter-personal conflict of interests. Oli, who is the chairman of a faction of the NCP, had said he was compelled to dissolve the House when he came to know that the Prachanda faction was conspiring to bring a no-confidence against him coupled with an impeachment motion against the country's President, Bidya Devi Bhandari. The CPN-UML, led by Oli, and the Prachanda-led NCP (Maoist centre) had merged in May 2018 following the victory of the alliance in the 2017 general election. As it turns out, the Nepal Communist Party now bears witness to what they call a "vertical split". The crisis is embedded in a clash of personalities, one that has little or nothing to do with Communist ideology. Having jettisoned the monarchy, it has been a shambolic exercise towards democracy. The people, most importantly the voters, are the worst sufferers of the tussle within the Communist hierarchy.

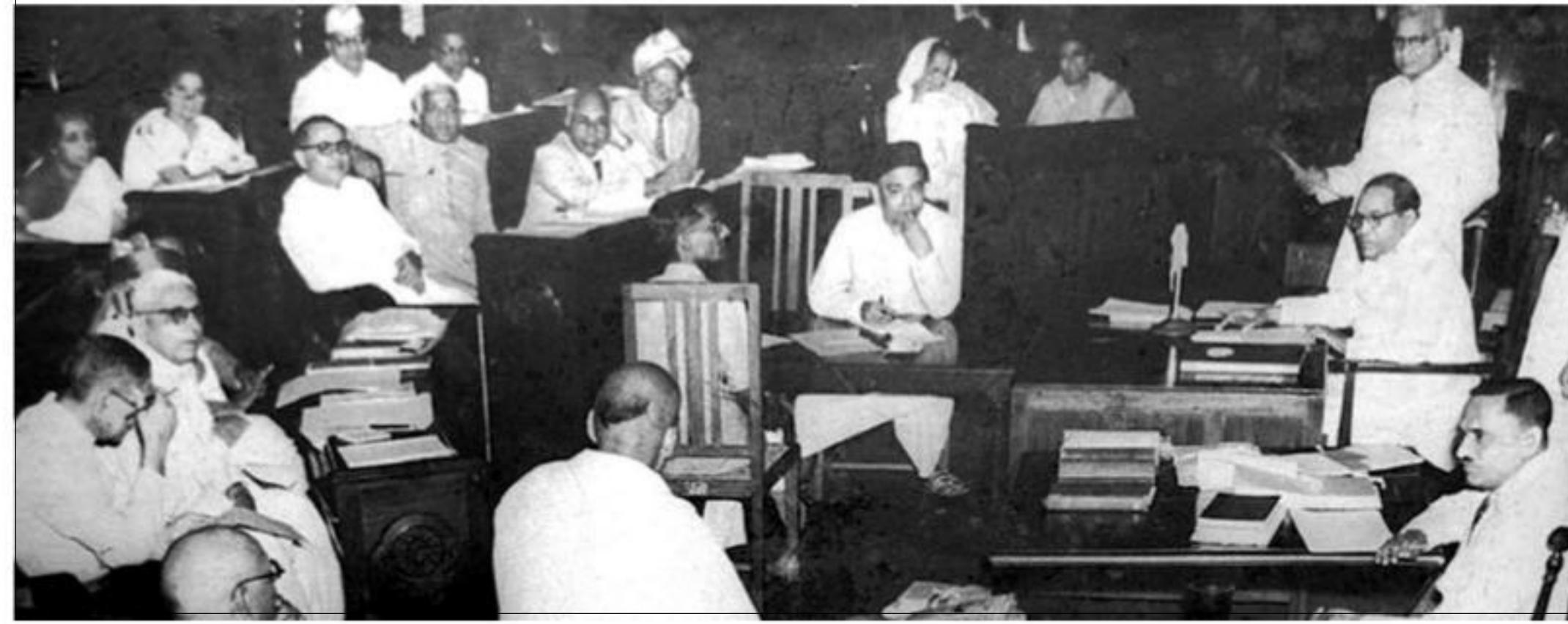
## Tragedy of Darfur

Ethiopia is starving. Sudan, also in the continent of Africa, is bleeding. The suffering is in parallel to the coronavirus pandemic. The raging conflict in the country's Darfur region has killed no fewer than 250 people and displaced more than 100,000 ever since the beleaguered region was convulsed as 2021 unfolded. Indeed, the relentless violence in the provinces of West Darfur and South Darfur comes as a critical challenge to Sudan's transitional government. According to the UNHCR, the displaced include as many as 3,500 people, women and children in the main, who have fled to neighbouring Chad. This fact alone is testament to the enormity of the tragedy of Darfur. Those fleeing Darfur into Chad's Ouaddai province have been overwhelmingly forced to seek shelter, as often as not under nothing more than a tree in remote regions that lack basic services or public infrastructure. The UNHCR said that Chad's Covid-19 control measures will make it mandatory for people to be in quarantine before leaving the refugee camps. Humanity is in crisis; before the latest influx there were more than 350,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad. The conflict in Darfur is intrinsically ethnic, between those who belong to the Arab Rizeigat tribe and the non-Arab Massalit tribe. Matters came to a head with a fistfight on 15 January in a refugee camp for the displaced in Genena, the provincial capital. On 19 January, the violence in South Darfur erupted between Rizeighat and the non-Arab Falata tribe over the killing of a shepherd.

The violence has been a major test of the Sudanese government's ability to protect civilians in the war-torn region following the end of the mandate of the joint UN-African Union peace-keeping forces this month. Sudan has been on a fragile road towards democracy after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow the strongman, Omar al-Bashir, in April 2019. Notably, the upheaval followed nearly three decades of his rule. A huge responsibility thus devolves on the joint military-civilian government that is now in power in Khartoum. Historically, and if the Bangladesh experience is any indication, such an arrangement doesn't always work. The military tends to dominate over the civilian segment, even if the head of government belongs to the latter. This tendency is carried to its supposedly logical conclusion during an election, when voting is conducted under the shadow of the soldier's gun. Should a civilian take over as Head of State or Government, he almost always tends to kowtow to the country's watchdogs in uniform. As in Ethiopia, it is the civilian who is at the receiving end of privation and suffering. In the resultant conflict of interests, it is the people who are suffering, either because of the lack of food (Ethiopia) or tribal warfare and general instability.

# Of the Constitution

In the course of the first 50 years of the life of the Constitution, it was amended 83 times and by January 2020 the total of amendments had reached 104. This indicates that the Constitution was finalised without having sufficient time, thought and homework or was a compromise document, and therefore had to be amended frequently



**O**n 16 November, while celebrating the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla dutifully lauded our national document for providing everyone the right to equality. It was understandably not the occasion to recount what is the reality in practice. With the advent of the Hindu Code Bill in 1955, polygamy was abolished but not for all men. The Sharia continued to be in vogue, which allows some men to have four wives at a time. When the Constitution permits the practice of two laws in one country, how can there be equality? Article 44 did provide for a uniform civil code to be framed but little has been done so far.

Rather similarly, Article 30 gives a special right to all minorities only for setting up and running educational institution freely whereas the majority community is required to seek the consent of the prescribed authorities. Since the Right to Education Act was passed in 2009, all schools, except the minority ones, must teach 25 per cent children of economically weaker sections without charging fees. Why not also the minority run schools?

If there were no hurry, why was the Government of India Act of 1935 used as a skeleton for framing the Constitution and various other articles added as fat and muscle? The 1935 Act was passed by the British Parliament for governing its Indian empire more effectively and not for developing a free country. If the British laws were satisfactory, someone could ask as why we asked for Independence? In the event the Constitution was a compromise between communities, why should this have been necessary on the morrow of Partition, which gave the Muslims their homeland when no other minority had asked for any special concession?

In any case, Mohammad Ali

Jinnah had insisted that Muslims were not a minority but a nation and he stressed his Two-Nation theory in several speeches. Moreover, as early as 1877 and 1878 at Meerut and Lucknow respectively, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan had declared that the Hindus and Muslims were separate nations.

In the course of the first 50 years of the life of the Constitution, it was amended 83 times and by January 2020 the total of amendments had reached 104 passed; nearly one and a half amendment per year. The U.S.A. over 239 years has amended its Constitution only 26 times; Japan since 1945 only once. This also

indicates that the Indian Constitution was finalized without having sufficient time, thought and homework or was a compromise document, and therefore had to be amended frequently.

Apart from the 140 amendments proposed over the years and 104 of them passed, we have taken the Constitution lightly. Take erstwhile Articles 370 and 35A, abolished a year ago, which were called temporary, passed only by the Cabinet and not even shown to the Parliament. The erstwhile Planning Commission, which was to steer the country's economic development, was established by a Cabinet decision. These are only some examples which make one wonder whether a tame should not be attempted on the constitutional history of Independent India. Frankly, our national document is so often mentioned in media, especially in television debates, more because of those who wish to overlook the Partition's guilt for causing it. Acharya Durga Das Basu, Padma Bhushan, retired judge of the Calcutta High Court in his book on the Constitution

suggested that by the year 2,000, the document be thoroughly revised. It had been amended 83 times on a piecemeal basis over five decades. He felt that a commission should be set up with eminent experts and a comprehensive new draft should be prepared. He exhorted the commission, if and when appointed, to remember that its new draft should be suited to the genius of the Indian people and not be a slavish imitation of the West. Moreover, its 442 Articles (then in 2,000 AD) made it by far the longest such national document in the world.

In 1955, the Congress party resolved to introduce a socialist pattern of society. In 1976, the 42nd amendment was passed when most leading Opposition leaders were in jail due to the Emergency. The Preamble was amended to state that India is also a "socialist republic". This was done to probably justify in 1976 the nationalization of general insurance,

large banks and the coal industry post facto. Without touching this Constitution or overturning socialism, in 1991, the Government of India abandoned socialism, without saying so, and adopted liberalisation, including globalisation as its policy.

It was called 'reforms' which are still continuing. Why treat the Constitution so cavalierly? If the Constitution is found inconvenient, why not rely on conventions, traditions and pass an act of Parliament when necessary as happens in Britain?

The unity of the people of India, professing numerous faiths, has been sought to be achieved by enshrining the ideal of a "secular state", which means that the state protects all religions equally and does not itself uphold any religion as the state

religion. The secular objective of the state has been specifically expressed by inserting the word "secular" in the Preamble by the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976. On the other hand, the liberty of 'belief, faith and worship' promised in the Preamble is implemented by incorporating the fundamental rights of all citizens relating to 'freedom of religion' in Articles 25-29, which guarantee to each individual freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion, assure strict impartiality on the part of the state and its institutions towards all religions. Articles 29 and 30 appear to contradict the promise of secularism in the Preamble as well as what has been written in the above-given paragraph. Furthermore, Article 44 states 'The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. Nothing has been done towards implementing this provision of the Constitution. No one other than a Muslim can have four wives at a time. All Muslim wives have a Damocles' sword hanging over their heads that they can be divorced with a notice of three months whereas, all other wives are protected against any such arbitrary treatment.

This situation not only violates secularism but all provisions of equality such as Articles 15, 16 etc. The authors of the national document, perhaps due to the hurry, made no attempt to relate to the peculiar genius of Indians. For example, both liberty and equality are promised in the Preamble. The majority of citizens have faith in their karmas leading to their fate; logically they should strive to improve their karmas. On the other hand, equality necessitates equalizing their fates but how? By leveling down the karmas of some as well as pushing up the karmas of others so that equality among citizens is achieved? The introduction of socialism in the Preamble by amending Article 42 in 1976 highlights this contradiction more emphatically.

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

**ASIAN VOICES**  
We are not a dumping ground

**A**s the country observes Zero Waste Month, a piece of happy news for a change: A Customs official was honored this week for standing up and pushing back against the dumping of foreign waste ~ a problem that advocates warn will continue to pile up if the government does not heed calls to enact crucial policies, including a comprehensive ban on all waste imports. The environment watchdog EcoWaste Coalition lauded John Simon, Bureau of Customs (BOC) district collector from Northern Mindanao, and gave him the Environmental Justice Award for his "exemplary leadership, unfaltering dedication and focused action to protect public health and the environment from hazardous waste from overseas," which led to the return of 7,408 metric tons of illegal waste shipments to South Korea. Simon will also be receiving an award from the United Nations Environment Programme next month, as well as the 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the World Customs Organization ~ a first in BOC's history.

Simon proves that there are men and women in government who remain committed and principled public servants. As EcoWaste Coalition president Eileen Sison noted in a statement, Simon worked doggedly to "uphold our country's tariff and customs and environmental laws..." He initiated bilateral negotiations with South Korea shortly after the consignee failed to secure an import permit from the Department of Environment and

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
Natural Resources for the trash, which was misdeclared as "plastic synthetic flakes." The waste imports arrived from Pyeongtaek City, South Korea, in two batches at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan in 2018, and were sent back in seven batches packed in 364 containers between Jan. 13, 2019 and Sept. 15, 2020, even amid the Covid-19 pandemic and despite complex diplomatic channels. In his message acknowledging the recognition bestowed on him, Simon said "[e]nvironmental justice demands that we assert our sovereign right not to be treated as dumping ground for wastes from abroad that can put the health of our people and that of our ecosystems in harm's way." South Korea is not the only country to have sent its waste to Philippine shores. One of the most high-profile cases involved Canada, which exported waste to the country between 2013 and 2014 through a private company and without the government's consent. The 2,400-ton trash was mislabeled as plastics for recycling, and was sent back to Canada in May 2019 after a local court declared it illegal. In the report "Waste Trade in the Philippines" released in March last year, Greenpeace Philippines and EcoWaste Coalition warned that "various other waste shipments ~ municipal or toxic waste, from all around the world ~ were regularly entering the country through both legal and illegal means." And the Philippines, the report said, will remain a preferred destination for waste shipments as long as the government continues to refuse calls to enforce a comprehensive ban on all waste imports.

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letter to the editor

editor@thestatesman.com

## Dominant China

**SIR,** Many Chinese policymakers believe they are entitled to dominate others, especially non-Han people on their periphery. The current Chinese leader harbours ambitions of imposing Tianxia or Mandate of Heaven model on others. Tianxia is a top-down, dictatorial model. With its One-Child policy China will no longer be the No.1 or most populous nation. That will go to India which it dislikes. Demographers estimate, once China begins to shrink, it will shrink fast. To compensate for this shift in numbers China is focusing on Eugenics to make Chinese a super race and China is spending vast amounts on AI, gene editing CRISPR technologies and leading in the race as well.

It is no surprise that a Chinese scientist claimed to have created the world's first gene-edited babies. China has become a risk because its leaders are promoting a closed, authoritarian surveillance model as an alternative to democratic governance and free-market economics. On the borders with India, China's long-term plan is to incorporate Arunachal Pradesh as part of



the Tibet Autonomous Region where a Sinicization programme is already in place and is being imposed persistently. Arunachal Pradesh in China's jargon has always been South Tibet. The focus of China is now on Arunachal Pradesh and more so after the recent setback in Ladakh. China has announced plans to build a railway close to Arunachal Pradesh connecting Tibet with Xingjian via the disputed territory of Aksai Chin to

### INDIA AND THE USA

**SIR,** In the leading article 'Next level' (January 22, 2021) you have made an excellent analysis though with apprehension of the relationship that is likely to evolve between India under the Modi Govt and the USA under the new Democratic Presidency of Mr Joe Biden in the post-Donald Trump period.

Despite his unpredictable nature often bordering on irrationality Mr Donald Trump had always extended his hand of friendship to Mr Narendra Modi particularly when the treachery on the part of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping in relation to Mr Modi's India on border issues became visibly real in spite of Mr Modi's sincere effort to forge friendly relations with him and his country. With the emergence of a technologically, militarily and economically strong China over the years India fell a victim for a second time perhaps unwittingly to her efforts of maintenance of mutually friendly relations with China for mutual benefits. It is here in the void of friendly relations with the rising China that the friendly hand of Mr Trump of the powerful USA served as a relief to Modi although the unwarranted internal developments of an illiberal, intolerant and steamrolling administration and governance in India were overlooked by the Trump Govt.

It will indeed be foolhardy now to believe the Democratic Biden Govt in the USA will follow the policies of Mr Trump. In fact, on the first day of his office in the White House Mr Biden has signed more than a dozen executive orders setting aside his predecessor's policies. Mr Biden is reported to have listed the names of those Democratic Party leaders who secretly maintain relations with the RSS and the BJP in India so as to chuck them off from assignment of any responsible post or position in the Govt. If the Modi Govt and the ruling BJP continue with the scheming plans of creating divisions among the people by planting intolerance in society and all other illiberal centralizing actions bulldozing the people's saner opinions, they will tend to lose soon the trust and goodwill of the present Democratic Biden Govt of the USA, that may have a deep repercussion in the mutual relations and may impair the mutual trustworthy friendly relations between the two countries. This may ultimately prove too costly for India to counter the expansionist designs of China single-handedly or even with her other friendly nations (that may prefer not to antagonize the USA).

Yours, etc., Paramananda Pal, Kalikapur, 23 January.

**RTI APPLICATION**

**SIR,** The Delhi High Court's ruling that an applicant who seeks information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act should disclose his or her interest in it is unfortunate and will further weaken the transparency law in its practice.

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru, 23 January.

The court's ruling is not in agreement with the letter and spirit of the RTI Act. Section 6(2) of the act clearly says that an applicant making a request for information is not required to give any reason for doing so. It is surprising that the court has issued this order when the position has been made clear by many past rulings, including the ruling of Supreme Court and other High Court's.

Since the right to information is a fundamental right it cannot be constrained by the conditionalities of disclosure of motive, it is like asking people to give reasons for speaking and publishing.

Yours, etc., Shovonl Chakraborty, Kolkata, 24 January.

HARSHA KAKAR

In a recent move, the PMO tasked the Ministry of Defence with compiling responses from all 62 cantonment boards within the country on their views on closing cantonments and merging civilian areas under them with civic bodies, a demand from civilian residents. Responsibility of running cantonment boards is of the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), established in 1926 as the Military Lands and Cantonment Service (MLCS). Its nomenclature was changed in 1985.

The first cantonment was established by the British in the late 18th century at Barrackpore. Currently, 62 cantonments and over 200 military stations exist across the country. The intent of the British was to locate the army in open areas at a distance from towns, where they could reside and train, away from native influences, especially of the freedom struggle. The British had employed the army in suppressing the freedom movement.

Cantonments were open, green and well protected areas for military personnel to reside. They possessed pockets of civil areas where basic amenities were available. Select Indians were granted land to construct bungalows within cantonments as gratitude for their service to the Raj. These were termed as grant bungalows and still exist in old cantonments, currently termed as 'old grant bungalows.' With passage of time, towns grew around cantonments and instead of being away from towns, cantonments became the centre.

To run cantonments, the British had enacted the Cantonment Act of 1924 which was reviewed, and a fresh act issued in 2006. The initial aim behind creating the MLCS and subsequently the IDES was to employ professionals to manage land and services within cantonment, relieving soldiers from this responsibility. Management of cantonment lands has three aspects. The land is owned by the MoD, utilized by the army and managed by the IDES, a complete state of confusion. Defence lands also include a multitude of ordnance factories and camping grounds used by army convoys on the move as also as training areas.

Over the years the IDES became a law unto itself. Its involvement in land scams was so extensive that in 2010 the Controller General of Defence Accounts, in a report, recommended its disbandment. The report held the IDES responsible for failures in all its four charters - audit, accounting, acquisition of lands and fiscal management. It is blamed for piling up 13,000 land dispute cases, now in courts, which would cost the government Rs 5,000 crore to settle. Salary to its staff alone costs the exchequer Rs 200 crore annually.

## Closures of cantonment boards are necessary

In existing cantonments, the cantonment boards are responsible for provision of facilities for civilian populace akin to municipal authorities in cities. It runs hospitals, schools as also provides facilities including power, water and sanitation. It collects taxes, rentals and charges all commercial vehicles transiting on its roads. However, its income remains well below its expenditure which needs to be offset by grants from the Centre up to the tune of over Rs 450 crore annually. Since they function as separate entities, they are ignored by the state for central grants allocated for development.

Post the Adarsh scam, in June 2011, the MoD issued 'Guidelines for grant of no objection certificates for building construction'. Under these guidelines the local station HQs of the armed forces are to provide sanction for any civilian construction within 100 meters and for four-storey buildings and higher within 500 meters of military establishments. This is to be given after satisfaction that the building does not impinge on security. These rules led to anger within the builders' community, many of whose projects were stalled during construction, and they are currently battling these directives in court. However, for the armed forces, these guidelines added to security.

Military stations, on the contrary, were established post-independence and remain under control of military authorities. There are no civilian pockets within them. The IDES has a minimal role in their functioning, except being responsible for the land. These have become ideal townships, with facilities which few municipalities can provide. Bengaluru is an example of multiple military establishments spread across the city, separated by large civil localities.

Cantonment boards have been unable to cater to the needs of their civilian population. Civilian pockets under cantonment boards are the most neglected, while areas under the military remain clean, green and well maintained. In some cantonments, smaller military stations can be established by delinking civilian pockets.

Cantonments where isolated civilian pockets can be handed over to local municipal authorities, should be the first to be considered for closure.

Examples include Gopinath and Sadar Bazar in Delhi, Sadar Bazar in Lucknow, Deolali market and residential areas. However, this is not the same in every cantonment. A trial of this was done in Yol (Himachal Pradesh) and



civil pockets handed over to civic authorities, with the intention of creating a Yol military station.

If the government is desirous of closing cantonments, then it needs to undertake a few stringent steps. Firstly, the MoD guidelines on construction in the vicinity of cantonments must be converted into a government statute thereby ensuring cantonments are protected from unwarranted constructions which could become a security hazard. Secondly, it must hand over civil townships within cantonments to local municipal corporations. It would save over Rs 450 crore

annually. Thirdly, rules must be passed regarding sale and management of old grant bungalows. Since they are located within cantonments, they cannot be sold to inimical elements or reconstructed as multi-story complexes.

Fourthly, the disbandment of the IDES on similar lines as military farms must commence. Maintaining them would only be a financial drain. Only a core group would need to be maintained. It would save the exchequer Rs 200 crore. Fifthly, all open grounds within cantonments/ under the charge of cantonments, including

parade grounds must become part of military stations. Finally, the MoD should not consider cantonment lands as commercial lands available for sale to builders.

The proposal of closing cantonments does sound logical as managing them including its growing civilian population is becoming prohibitive in costs and eating into the defence budget. Enactment of laws to ensure security and sanctity of military stations emerging from present cantonments must be undertaken.

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

## Issues for the FM to address



AMARJIT CHOPRA

ing cure from the virus. Thankfully a vaccine has been developed and human suffering is likely to recede.

Amidst this crisis, the Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, shall be presenting the budget for the next fiscal year - 2021-22 - on 1 February. Nation is waiting with bated breath to see what she unveils in the budget. One sincerely hopes that she presents a budget which is growth ori-

ented rather than a revenue generating exercise.

It is widely hoped that there will be no increase in taxes at any level to leave sufficient disposable income in the hands of the consumer to boost demand. The other expectations of the Budget are:

• To provide relief to specific sectors like aviation, hospitality, amuse-

ment, tourism, etc. to ensure that there is least closure of operating entities in such sectors.

• To invest heavily in the infrastructure sector through public spending to boost employment which is at an all-time low due to Covid conditions.

• To provide direct and indirect reliefs to the MSME sector which forms the core of productive activity and is a major contributor to exports. The measures may include moratorium in respect of loan dues, lower rates of interest, subsidised power and incentives to employ more labour.

• Incentivise deployment of labour in all industries where due to Covid labour had been laid off.

• Promote CSR through tax reliefs in respect of specific activities particularly in respect of medical relief and setting up of artisan centres to create employment.

• Different tax slab rate for individuals having agricultural income exceeding Rs.10 lakhs.

• Tax educational institutions, hospitals etc., which though run as NGOs operate on commercial lines.

• Higher rate of interest on savings i.e. minimum 7.5 per cent to senior citizens.

• Simplify the procedures under direct and indirect taxes to facilitate Ease Of Doing Business. For example, in case of default for filing Tax Audit reports on due date, penalty on a daily basis rather than on lump sum basis be levied. This would do away with

the demand for extension of date for filing returns.

• Tax relief for companies which take over stressed assets of banks provided no such asset is transferred within a period of seven years from the date of acquisition.

• Tax reliefs for banks and financial institutions funding start-ups above a particular threshold.

• To raise resources by selling unproductive assets in the public sector.

• Audit to be declared as an essential service.

• Restructure National Financial Reporting Authority in a manner that ensures heading of Investigation and Disciplinary wings by Chartered Accountants only.

The expectations of the public are indeed huge. It is time to be practical and take all possible measures to create demand, promote industry, create employment opportunities all over the country rather than being over cautious about fiscal deficit. Also, it is time to undertake measures to eliminate supply bottlenecks. An atmosphere needs to be created to let compliance be for business rather than business for compliance, tap resources from untapped sectors such as agriculture and create an environment for honest, credible and speedier resolution of stressed assets.

The Finance Minister has a difficult but not impossible task on her hands.

The writer is a chartered accountant.

NO 28807

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

The progress which has been made in tropical medicine in recent years has seemed to many people in Australia to justify the hope that Northern Queensland and tropical Australia as a whole may before long be inhabited by a white population. The Australian Medical Congress met at Brisbane recently, and devoted special attention to this question. After mature consideration the Congress declares that it is unable to find anything pointing to the existence of inherent or insuperable obstacles in the way of permanent habitation of tropical Australia by a healthy indigenous white race. It considers that the whole question is fundamentally one of applied public health in the modern sense, such as has been demonstrated and practiced with success amongst civil populations, under far more difficult conditions, by the American authorities in the Philippines prior to the Great War and throughout the military forces of every allied Power during that war. At the same time the Congress asserts in the strongest terms that any considerable extension of population and settlement under the existing loose conditions of sanitary administration which prevail in tropical Australia cannot hope for lasting success, and cannot fail to result in ultimate disaster. The Congress recognises that a large amount of work still requires to be done in working out the practical details of any scheme of settlement, but it considers that it presents no difficulties beyond those of organisation, staff, time and money.

### NEWS ITEMS

### RIOT CAUSED BY KILLING PIGEONS

The excitement among the Bania merchants on Sunday and Monday over the killing of pigeons by two European lads has to a great extent subsided as a result of the police having withdrawn the charges against all the accused, and business is expected to be resumed today. Yesterday a deputation of merchants waited on Mr. Griffiths, Commissioner of Police, and pointed out how their feelings had been hurt by the killing of the pigeons. They also accused the police of high-handedness, alleging that the police indiscriminately entered the shops of respectable merchants of the locality, assaulting or arresting them. A meeting of the merchants was held last evening at which resolutions were passed expressing indignation at the conduct of the police.

### SEA MONSTER IN BOMBAY

Yesterday afternoon news was received in the suburbs of Bombay that a sea monster had been stranded on the Jeju coast, about two hundred yards beyond the Aerodrome on the Vile Parle Flats. The result has been that thousands of people have gathered at the spot to view this extraordinary inhabitant of the sea; in all probability a whale. The stranded sea monster is quite conscious on the sands, and it is not likely to breathe its last for a long time, unless it is spread. The sea meanwhile might claim its own back, and as mysteriously as the monster appeared on the beach a high tide sea wash might revive it sufficiently to return to its ocean home.

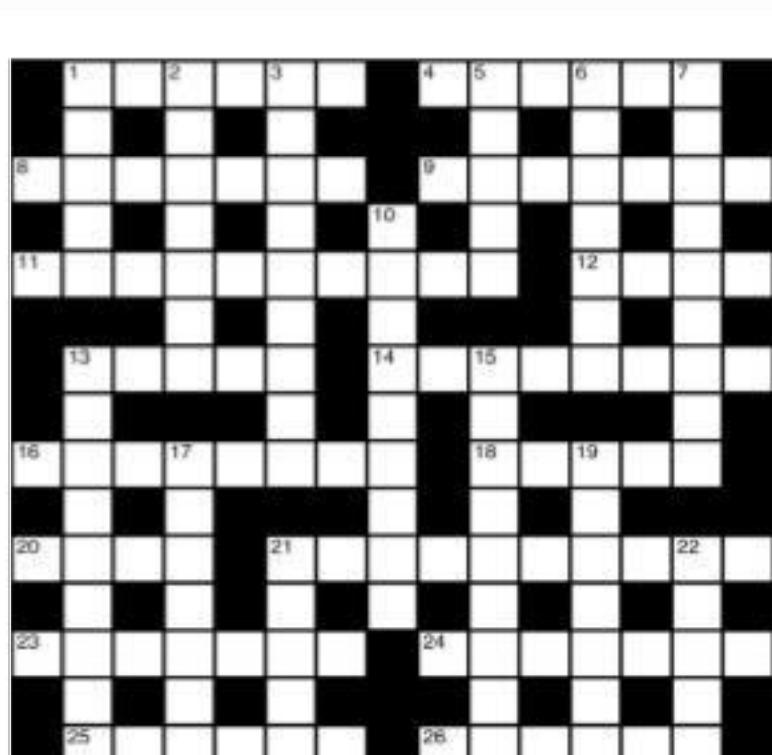
### LOOTING IN FYZABAD DISTRICT

Allahabad, Jan 25  
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru arrived at Akbarpur in the Fyzabad district on January 22, at the request of the local kisan workers and made enquiries about the recent looting in the neighbourhood. The Pandit then proceeded to Bashkar where he addressed a large assembly. Two men stood up and confessed that they had taken part in the looting. They had been misled by the others and were made to believe that it was Mr. Gandhi's desire that they should loot. They realised now that they had committed a sin and were sincerely repentant. After the meeting several others came to Pandit Jawaharlal, and confessed that they had taken part in the looting. The Pandit also addressed a meeting at Fyzabad.

### WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Madras, Jan 25  
A workers' educational association has just been started in Madras. Mr. T.V. Seshgiri Iyer, presiding over its inaugural meeting, observed that the parent association in England had done very good work in awakening the people to the real need of education, and he hoped that they in India would also be able to show good work. One of the objects of the association was to focus attention on the need for education, to guide and advise, and to spread mass education. They would tender their advice to all agencies engaged in this work. Every endeavour should be made to rouse the people to a proper understanding of the value of education, and they should advise young India not to reject help from whatever source it might come.

### CROSSWORD



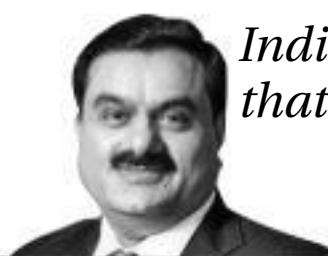
#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1 Naturalist sketch almost having repelled artist (6)
- 4 Small German greeting a female informally (6)
- 8 Bill might be ready for a singalong (7)
- 9 Threw up on street. Blimey! (7)
- 11 Agent has individual book every surfing hotspot (5,5)
- 12 Insects originally exterminated snakes (4)
- 13 Most awful meat reported by some (5)
- 14 Criminal is led out in isolation (8)
- 15 Fitting vocal work after hollow choral bilge (8)
- 18 Couples pop by tax department in USA (5)
- 20 Head left periodically for a swift one? (4)
- 21 10 creatures from lake a boar's ravaged (5,5)
- 23 1000mm<sup>3</sup> found in car? Blow into this (7)
- 24 Animal character from Greece captured by Dame (7)
- 25 City strategy damn easy – all to be evacuated (6)
- 26 Imbecile split on doctor working (6)
- 27 DOWNTOWN
- 1 Guarding ostrich, guarding dog (5)
- 2 Instrument missing middle note? Choose again (7)
- 3 Safe place for eggs on island hill (9)
- 5 Devise mark with intersecting lines (5)

- 6 Not quite right in previous performance (7)
- 7 Southern Climes article with hints about poetry (9)
- 10 One with a pouch to cook pilau under ruins (9)
- 13 Team of leaderless infants lifting barrier (9)
- 15 Pal craned awkwardly to see club worker (3,6)
- 17 Humourless fellow meets expert in School (2-5)
- 19 From Spain maybe tailless goat fled across Italy (7)
- 21 Boy finally stops dancing like Dannil's sister? (5)
- 22 Circular piece of wood Norwegian put up (5)

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

India is on the cusp of a start-up explosion boom  
that will create dozens of unicorns in the next decadeGAUTAM ADANI  
CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

## THUMBNAILS

RBI clarifications on currency notes: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday refuted reports of withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 and Rs 5 currency notes. "With regard to reports in certain sections of media on withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 & Rs 5 banknotes from circulation in near future, it is clarified that such reports are incorrect," the RBI said in a tweet. While announcing the issuance of new Rs 100 denomination banknotes with base colour lavender in July 2018, RBI had said banknotes in the denomination of Rs 100 issued by it in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.

PTI

TCS overtakes RIL: Country's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday surpassed Reliance Industries Ltd to become the country's most valued firm by market capitalisation. In another milestone, TCS also emerged as the most valued IT company in the world as its market valuation went past that of Accenture. During the close of trade, the market valuation of TCS was at Rs 12,34,609.62 crore while that of Reliance Industries stood at Rs 12,29,661.32 crore on the BSE.

PTI

Gadkari on steel prices: Amid rising steel prices in the country, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday highlighted the need to explore alternatives to steel as well as cement, for bringing down their prices. The minister for road transport and highways and MSMEs said he has asked some people from Indian Institutes of Technology to carry out research on alternatives to cement and steel. "Steel prices have increased by 65 per cent in the last six months," Gadkari said.

PTI

Markem-Imaje to invest ₹80 cr in India: Markem-Imaje, a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based Dover Corporation, announced the commencement of work at its first plant at RILCO Industrial Area in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. Markem-Imaje is a manufacturer of product identification and traceability solutions and is one of the leading players in the global coding industry. The company has invested Rs 80 crore in the plant and India operations, said the Press release.

SNS

Inclusive Finance India Summit: With an aim to celebrate & encourage deserving institutions to continue to enhance outreach to the poor by way of motivating management and staff through recognition to their efforts and enhancing credibility of the institution, the Inclusive Finance India Awards were organised by ACCESS Development Services in partnership with HSBC India recently in national capital. The 12th IFI Awards included 11 sub categories. ACCESS Development Services also hosted the 17th Inclusive Finance India Summit virtually, according to a Press release statement.

SNS

# Amazon moves Delhi HC; seeks detention of Biyani

US online retailer Amazon seeks to block Future Group from selling retail assets to Reliance Industries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

**U**S online retailer Amazon has filed a petition in Delhi High Court seeking detention of Future Group founders, including CEO Kishore Biyani, and seizure of their assets as it sought to block Future Group from selling retail assets to Reliance Industries.

In the petition, Amazon sought enforcement of the Singapore arbitrator's ruling in October against its partner Future's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance.

## DEAL DEADLOCK

► In the petition, Amazon sought enforcement of the Singapore arbitrator's ruling in October against its partner Future's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance.

► Also, it sought "detention" of Biyani, his daughter Ashni and seven other members of the founder family as well as three other officials, including a company secretary of the group.

zon comes just days after the Future-RIL deal received the nod from market regulator Sebi and bourses.

In the petition, Amazon has said the interim injunctions granted by the Emergency Arbitrator (EA) are enforceable under the Indian laws under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act as the order is deemed to be an order of the Court and is enforceable

deal to sell retail assets to Reliance to be stopped, also asked the court for a direction for "detention of the directors (of Future Group entities) in civil prison".

Biyani had previously stated that he was forced to strike a deal with Reliance after help the group sought from Amazon to wriggle out of pilfering debt burden wasn't forthcoming. The petition by Am-

azon, which wants the



## L&T Q3 profit rises by 3% to ₹2,648 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

quarter ended 31 December 2020.

"The gain of divestment is...accrued against the sale of the electrical & automation business to Schneider Electric SE and ... sale of the UK-based marine control & automation systems subsidiary to Rolls-Royce Power Systems AG," the company said.

Total consolidated income was almost flat at Rs 36,661.08 crore in the October-December quarter, against Rs 36,711.69 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses slipped to Rs 32,980.58 crore from Rs 33,488.46 crore in the corresponding quarter earlier.

"During the quarter the company was awarded the biggest EPC contract in the country and first of its kind - the prestigious high speed rail order," it said.

In a letter to the finance minister, the industry body of

## Electric vehicles body calls for rejig of FAME-II

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

Ahead of the upcoming Union Budget, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) has asked finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to either rejig the FAME II scheme or reintroduce FAME I, saying the programme meant to promote EVs in its second avatar has been able to achieve less than 10 per cent of its target.

The Rs 10,000-crore FAME-II scheme which is to be implemented over a period of three years, came into effect from 1 April 2019. It is the expanded version of FAME India I (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME) which was launched on 1 April 2015, with a total outlay of Rs 895 crore.

In a letter to the finance minister, the industry body of

electric vehicle (EV) makers also called for a notional "green cess" on polluting vehicles and use it to accelerate electric mobility, while also seeking reduction of GST on EVs sold without battery.

"For a nascent and disruptive industry like EV that is heavily dependent on government policies, there needs to be an effective approach that would drive the market of EVs in the country... The industry is still lagging behind the desired target," SMEV director-general Sohinder Gill wrote in a letter to Sitharaman.

He further said: "Our analysis shows that efforts must be made to generate demand and we believe that this can be easily done by the government's intervention relating to streamlining, ironing out policy details and adequate announcements in Budget 2021-22."

Suggesting measures to

help the sector, Gill called for a rejig of the FAME II scheme or reintroduction of FAME I.

"It's been almost 2 years of the FAME II scheme and only less than 10 per cent of its target has been achieved. We should make concerted efforts to remove the kinks that have inadvertently cropped up in FAME II," he wrote.

The policy should be completely redrafted, if needed, so that substantial investments both from within and

## Govt plans to impose green tax on old polluting vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

The government plans to impose green tax on old polluting vehicles soon in a bid to protect environment and curb pollution.

Vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and those running on alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol and LPG will be exempted while the revenue collected through the green tax will be utilised for tackling pollution, the ministry of road transport and highways said today.

"The Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has approved a proposal to levy a "green tax" on old vehicles which are polluting the environment," it said in a statement.

The proposal will now go to the states for consultation before it is formally notified, it added.

Under the scheme, transport vehicles older than eight years could be charged green tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10 to 25 per cent of road tax.

"Personal vehicles to be charged green tax at the time

of renewal of registration certification after 15 years; public transport vehicles, such as city buses, to be charged lower green tax; higher green tax (50 per cent of road tax) for vehicles being registered in highly polluted cities," the statement said.

Differential tax will also be charged depending on fuel (petrol/diesel) and the type of vehicle.

Apart from strong hybrids, electric vehicles and alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol, LPG etc, vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvester and tiller will be exempted from the tax, the statement said.

According to the ministry, the revenue collected from the green tax will be kept in a separate account and will be used for tackling pollution.

The states will be required to set up state-of-art facilities for emission monitoring, it added.

Listing the benefits of the green tax, the ministry said that it will dissuade people from using vehicles which damage the environment and motivate them to switch to newer, less polluting vehicles.

from polluting petrol bikes to electric two-wheelers, mainly because the preconditions and qualification criteria of FAME-II made the bikes unaffordable to the mass market customer despite the subsidy. In his letter, Gill also asked the finance minister to consider "the imposition of a notional green cess on the polluting vehicles and use it to accelerate electric mobility. It would generate massive funds and reduce the burden on the government exchequer."

This fund could be utilised in the frontloading of incentives to customers and bring electric two-wheelers prices down to the level of petrol two-wheelers, he added. Seeking reduction of GST on EV sold without battery, Gill said: "Currently, GST on a lithium battery is taxed at 28 per cent when sold separately, while the vehicle sold with battery is taxed at 5 per cent."

## Aadhar Housing Finance files papers for ₹7,300-cr IPO

NEW DELHI, 25 JANUARY

Blackstone-backed Aadhar Housing Finance has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India to raise Rs 7,300 crore through an initial public offering.

The IPO comprises fresh issuance of shares worth Rs 1,500 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 5,800 crore by the promoter, draft red herring prospectus filed with Sebi showed.

The company proposes to utilise the money raised through fresh issue towards augmenting its capital base to meet future capital requirements.

Besides, the company expects to receive the benefits of listing the equity shares on the stock exchanges, including enhancing its brand name and creating a public market for its equity shares in India.

The firm, which caters to the low-income segment's home financing needs, is backed by a private equity fund managed by Blackstone.

Blackstone had acquired 97.7 per cent stake in Aadhar in June 2019. The buyout included the entire stake held by the then controlling shareholders - Wadhawan Global Capital and Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL).

Aadhar, which has business interest across 20 states and Union territories, has assets under management of over Rs 11,000 crore.

The housing finance company posted a net profit of Rs 189.38 crore in the financial year 2020, up 16.6 per cent from Rs 162.37 crore in the previous fiscal year. Its total income during fiscal 2019-20 grew to Rs 1,388.46 crore from Rs 1,265.63 crore in the financial year 2019.

# Equity benchmarks fall on profit-booking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 25 JANUARY

The benchmark Sensex dived nearly 531 points to close at 48,348 today, extending its losses to the third straight session due to massive selling in energy and IT stocks.

"Domestic equities were quite volatile today and gave up all early hours' gains. Investors continued to prefer booking profits ahead of Union Budget and F&O expiry. Barring pharma and select financials, most of key sectoral indices were in pressure today," Binod Modi, head strategy at Reliance Securities, said.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, stated that Indian markets witnessed a highly volatile trade due to weak global market and

cent to end the session at 14,238.90 points.

Over the last three sessions, the BSE Sensex has lost 1,444.53 points or 2.90 per cent and the NSE Nifty has shed 405.80 points or 2.77 per cent.

The 30-share index opened over 375 points higher and hit the day's high of 49,263.15 points before succumbing to selling pressure that took the index to its session's lowest point at 48,274.92. It finally closed 530.95 points down at 48,347.59 points.

The broader NSE Nifty plunged 133 points or 0.93 per cent to end the session at 14,238.90 points.

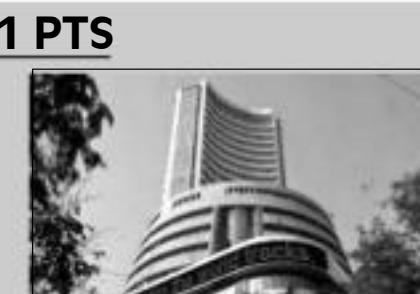
## SENSEX PLUNGES 531 PTS

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► The broader NSE Nifty plunged 133 points or 0.93 per cent to end the session at 14,238.90 points.

reports of Indo-China border tension.

"Policy decisions of the US Fed meeting which will commence tomorrow will drive the global market in



► Over the last three sessions, the BSE Sensex has lost 1,444.53 points or 2.90 per cent and the NSE Nifty has shed 405.80 points or 2.77 per cent.

added.

On the Sensex chart, Reliance Industries fell 5.36 per cent despite posting better-than-estimated earnings. IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and PowerGrid also declined.

Of the Sensex constituents, 21 closed in the red and only nine in the green.

Among the gainers were Axis Bank, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj FinServ, HDFC Bank and Dr Reddy's.

Analysts are of the view that markets may remain volatile in this holiday-shortened week amid monthly derivatives expiry, quarterly earnings and the upcoming Union Budget.

Among the major sectoral

losers were BSE energy (4.44 per cent), oil & gas (2.16 per cent), power (1.41 per cent), industrials (1.32 per cent) and IT (1.31 per cent).

In the broader market, large-cap index performed better than the benchmark Sensex, falling 0.90 per cent.

On the other hand, mid-cap and small-cap indices underperformed the benchmark, dropping by 1.14 per cent and 1.15 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, Grasim was in focus today as it jumped 6.44 per cent after it announced its foray into paints business.

Analysts said that corporate earnings so far have been quite impressive as earnings exceeded analysts' estimates in most of the companies. Fur-

ther, vaccination drive started well in India, which along with continued improvement in recovery rate offers domestic equities an edge over other markets.

In the foreign market, the rupee rose by 3 paise to settle at 72.94 against the US dollar today, extending its gains for the fifth straight session despite heavy selling in the domestic equity market.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 72.95 against the American currency and hit an intra-day high of 72.89 and a low of 72.96 in day trade.

It finally finished at 72.94, higher by 3 paise over its last close. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 72.97 against the American currency.

PTI



I reiterated the US commitment to strengthening democracies, combating climate change, and uplifting women and girl's rights around the world...

US AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL RANDY BERRY  
WHILE DISCUSSING PRIORITIES OF NEW BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021

09

# China's goldmine blast: 10 dead, one still missing

22 miners were trapped due to mine blast on 10 January in Qixia among which 11 were rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING/JINAN, 25 JANUARY

**A**t least 10 people, who were trapped underground following a blast in a gold mine in China's Shandong province, have died, officials said on Monday.

The bodies of the workers were retrieved a day after authorities with its team rescued 11 people from the mine located in Shandong province's Qixia.

One trapped miner is still missing and search efforts for him are underway.

Rescuers have retrieved 10 bodies of miners trapped underground due to the blast in the gold mine, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting officials in Jinan, cap-



ital of Shandong province.

Twenty-two miners were trapped underground due to the mine blast on 10 January in Qixia.

Eleven miners were rescued on Sunday after being trapped for two weeks, and one was still missing, the report said.

After bringing back 11 miners, rescuers went down into the goldmine and saw the bodies of 10 miners.

All have lost signs of life, chief on-site rescue expert Du Bingjian told the state-run Global Times.

Judging by the bodies, some of the miners starved to death, and some died from injuries from the explosion, Du said.

One trapped miner is still missing and search efforts are underway.

Previously, clearance work

had encountered great difficulties, but on Sunday morning, a huge obstacle blocking the well suddenly fell to the bottom of the shaft, allowing rescue work to take a big step forward, after which the rescuers brought up 11 miners.

As the obstacles were cleared, rescuers were allowed to go down into the goldmine to the Sixth Central Section, where it was believed the other miners were located.

The body of one miner was found in the sixth Central Section. Eight miners were found in the third and the fourth central section, which were closer to the ground, the Global Times report said.

The goldmine explosion took place on January 10. A total of 22 miners were trapped

underground, but the accident was only reported to the local authorities 30 hours later.

Top rescue teams and equipment were quickly summoned to the city for all-out rescue efforts, which has been going on for 14 days.

Chen Fei, mayor of Yantai said: "We will not stop searching for the missing miner".

He said that the rescue work is extremely difficult as the underground water is very deep.

According to Chen, the 11 rescued miners are receiving proper medical treatment, and DNA tests are being conducted to confirm the identities of the deceased.

The investigation into the cause of the accident is still in progress, Xinhua report said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, 25 JANUARY

The body of Karima Baloch, a 37-year-old Pakistani dissident from the ethnic Baloch community and a prominent women's rights activist, who died in mysterious circumstances while in exile in Canada, was brought home and buried in her village in the restive Balochistan province amid tight security, officials said on Monday.

Karima, who was highly critical of Pakistan's security agencies and campaigned extensively against disappearances and human rights violations in the troubled Balochistan province, was found dead in Toronto downtown waterfront on December 22.

Officials said that her immediate family was present at the funeral on Sunday in the Tump village of the Keach area of the restive province.

Security was tight due to

the fear of protests by the Baloch nationalists who cherished her as their leader. Her supporters claimed on social media that the village was virtually sealed off so that people from other areas could not attend the funeral.

In some videos, people are seen requesting security forces to allow them to attend the funeral prayers.

Security sources said that the mobile phone services were suspended in the area to avoid any untoward incidents as militants often use it to carry out acts of sabotage.

Toronto police have not treated her death as suspicious though there were allegations by her supporters that she was killed.

Her family members are not sure what happened. According to police in Toronto, her body was found near Lake Ontario, but no further details were given. Police said they did not believe there were any suspicious circumstances.

"The death of activist Karima Baloch in Toronto, Canada is deeply shocking and must be immediately and effectively investigated. The perpetrators must be brought to justice without recourse to the death penalty," Amnesty International South Asia said in a tweet last month.

Karima was highly critical of Pakistan's security institutions like her fellow nationalists who alleged that the federal government was exploiting the mineral resources while keeping the region impoverished. The charge is always rejected by the institutions. Karima, a critic of the Pakistani government and powerful military, had campaigned extensively against disappearances and human rights violations in Balochistan.

"She didn't go abroad because she wanted to, but because...open activism in Pakistan had become impossible," Mahgjan Baloch was quoted as saying by BBC Urdu service.

## Continued strict control measures needed to reduce new Covid strains: Scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, 25 JANUARY

virulent virus strains now, said the experts, including Professors Cock van Oosterhout, Neil Hall, and Hinh Ly.

"We, therefore, support public health policies with strict control measures in order to protect our public health system, our individual wellbeing, and our future," they said.

The researchers highlighted that the roll-out of economic stimulus packages and related activities in many countries appear to have fuelled the rate of person-to-person transmission.

They noted that at the start of winter the population number of the virus continued from a much higher base than would otherwise have been the case.

"By not absolutely minimising the R number when we had the chance, we extended the pathogen transmission chains, providing more opportunity for it to mutate and evolve into more virulent variants," the researchers said.

They added that an increased virulence or higher R value can also result from the virus evolving the ability to infect people for longer.

The researchers warn that continued virus evolution in animal hosts, such as cats and mink, followed by transmission into susceptible human hosts, poses a significant long-term risk to public health.

### MASK UP



A cyclist wears a mask as he passes graffiti in London. AP

## Oxfam urges radical economic rejig for post-Covid world

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, 25 JANUARY

Anti-poverty campaigner Oxfam warned Monday that the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic will lead to the biggest increase in global inequality on record unless governments radically rejig their economies.

In a report geared to inform discussions at the World Economic Forum's online panels of political and business leaders this week, Oxfam said the richest 1,000 people have already managed to recoup the losses they recorded in the early days of the pandemic because of the bounce back in stock markets.

By contrast, Oxfam said it could take more than a decade for the world's poorest to recover their losses.

Rigged economies are funneling wealth to a rich elite who are riding out the pandemic in luxury, while those on the frontline of the pandemic shop assistants, healthcare workers, and market vendors are struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table," said Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam International.

Using figures from Forbes' 2020 Billionaire List, Oxfam said the world's 10 richest people, including the likes of Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Warren Buffett, saw their fortunes increase by half a trillion dollars since the crisis began even though the global economy remains smaller than when the pandemic started a year ago.

Meanwhile, using data

specially provided by the World Bank, Oxfam said that in a worst-case scenario global poverty levels would be higher in 2030 than they were before the pandemic struck, with 3.4 billion people still living on less than \$5.50 a day.

Bucher said women and marginalised racial and ethnic groups are bearing the brunt of this crisis and are more likely to be pushed into poverty, more likely to go hungry, and more likely to be excluded from healthcare.

While urging governments to ensure that everyone has access to a coronavirus vaccine and financial support if they lose their job, Bucher said policies in a post-coronavirus world should focus on ending poverty and protecting the planet.

Biden admin appoints Indian-Americans to key posts in Energy Dept

WASHINGTON, 25 JANUARY

The Biden administration has appointed four Indian-Americans to senior positions in the crucial Department of Energy. The administration appointed Tarak Shah as the Chief of Staff, making him first Indian-American to serve in that position.

Tanya Das has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Office of Science, Narayan Subramanian will occupy the position of Legal Adviser in the Office of General Counsel, and Shuchi Talati has been appointed as Chief of Staff in the Office of Fossil Energy. These talented and diverse public servants will deliver on President Biden's goal to tackle the climate crisis and build an equitable clean energy future, said Shah as the Department of Energy announced 19 senior-level appointments.

Guided by their expertise, breadth of experience and following the science, these Department of Energy appointees will contribute to creating a clean energy economy that produces millions of good-paying American jobs and safeguards the planet for future generations, Shah said.

These experienced professionals reflect President Biden's pledge to equip his Administration with a team that represents America's diversity, it said.

## Samsung scion Lee won't appeal prison sentence for bribery

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SEOUL, 25 JANUARY

aren't over. He has been indicted separately on charges of stock price manipulation, breach of trust and auditing violations related to a 2015 merger between two Samsung affiliates. The deal helped strengthen Lee's control over Samsung's corporate empire.

The bribery allegation involving Lee was a key crime in the 2016 corruption scandal that ousted Park Geun-hye from the presidency and sent her to prison.

In a much-anticipated

trial of Samsung's business empire. The deal faced opposition from some shareholders who argued that it unfairly benefited the Lee family and only succeeded with the support of a state-controlled national pension fund, one of Samsung's biggest investors.

Lee had portrayed himself as a victim of presidential power abuse and his lawyers criticised the ruling.

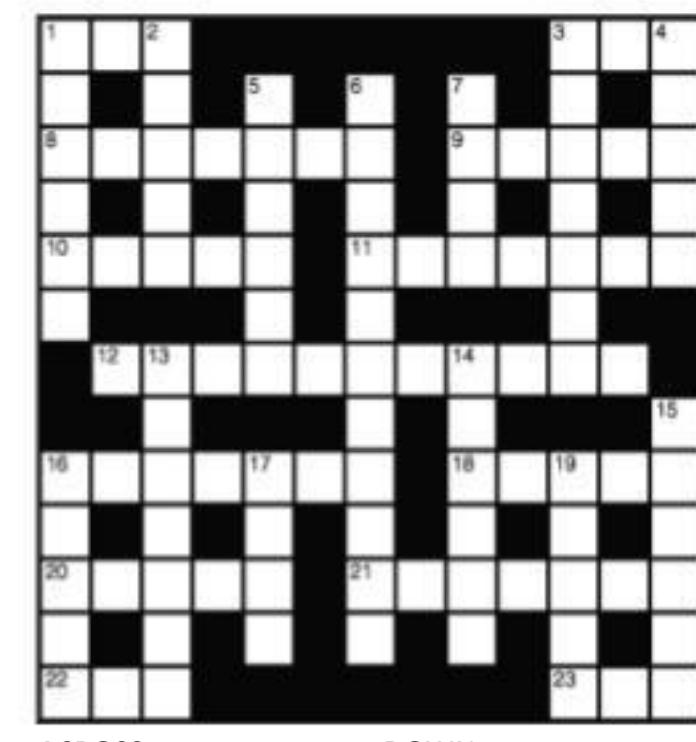
But after mulling his options, Lee decided to humbly accept the High

court's decision, his head attorney Injae Lee said.

Prosecutors had sought a prison term of 9 years for Lee Jae-yong. In a statement released to the domestic media, they said the court was too lenient with Lee considering the severity of his crimes but they will not appeal because their biggest goal was to prove that the payments between Lee and Park were bribes. Samsung did not release a statement over Lee's legal issues.

### LEISURE

#### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS  
1 Regret (3)  
3 Permit (3)  
8 Outline (7)  
9 Liquid (5)  
10 Perhaps (5)  
11 Bratul (7)  
12 Thick soup (6,5)  
16 Firearm (7)  
18 Hidden store (5)  
20 Furnish (5)  
21 Atonne for (7)  
22 Put (3)  
23 Strike (3)

DOWN  
1 Begin anew (6)  
2 Before time (5)  
3 Merciful (7)  
4 Secret rendezvous (5)  
5 Strip (6)  
6 Clumsy (5-6)  
7 Vivacity (4)  
13 Lawn game (7)  
14 Cooking instructions (6)  
15 Deprived (6)  
16 Hinged ladder (5)  
17 Stare in wonder (4)  
19 Conflict (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS  
1 Wifey, 11 Beta,  
2 Air (warfare),  
3 Bend, 12 Rate,  
4 Remedial,  
5 Depreciation,  
6 Mineral water,  
7 Jeer, 13 Strike,  
8 Tag, 14 Caring,  
9 Deprived, 15 Swathe,  
10 Restrict, 16 Swathe,  
11 Force, 17 Idea,  
12 Turntable, 18 Outline,  
13 Tyranny, 19 Tat.

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

#### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



#### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



#### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



#### NEED TO KNOW

##### HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

##### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

##### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

Deen Dayal Upadhyay

25496320, 25494403

Guru Tegh Bahadur

23717473, 23253230

221

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PERIODIC'S SOLUTION BY ADD:

RACK 1 = 70

RACK 2 = 20

RACK 3 = 89

RACK 4 = 42

PAR SCORE 145/165 JUDG'S TOTAL 221

SCRABBLE BRAND

G R A M S I

U O T O A E R

E M B H C R A

R E O V C G L

T E O J C L B

PAR SCORE 75/85 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PERIODIC'S SOLUTION BY ADD:

RACK 1 = 70

RACK 2 = 20

RACK 3 = 89

RACK 4 = 42

PAR SCORE 145/165 JUDG'S TOTAL 221



*With the radical left now in control of Washington,  
your governor is your last line of defence...*

TRUMP'S FORMER CHIEF SPOKESWOMAN SARAH SANDERS  
AFTER ANNOUNCING HER RUN FOR ARKANSAS GOVERNOR

## 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 man walks past an almost empty St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. AP

**Australia okays Pfizer vaccine:** Australia's medical regulator has approved use of its first coronavirus vaccine, paving the way for inoculations to begin next month. The Therapeutic Goods Administration on Monday gave provisional approval for people aged 16 and over to use the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. AP

**Mexico's president Covid positive:** Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Sunday he has tested positive for Covid-19 and that the symptoms are mild. Mexico's president, who has been criticized for his handling of his country's pandemic, said on his official Twitter account that he is under medical treatment. AP

**Bangladesh receives first vaccine consignment:** Bangladesh on Monday received the first consignment of the 5 million doses of Covishield vaccines from India under a procurement agreement, four days after New Delhi gifted 2 million doses of the vaccine to Dhaka. AP

# House sending Trump impeachment to Senate

Growing number of Republican senators say they are opposed to proceeding

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 25 JANUARY

**A**s the House prepares to bring the impeachment charge against Donald Trump to the Senate for trial, a growing number of Republican senators say they are opposed to the proceeding, dimming the chances that former president will be convicted on the charge that he incited a siege of the US Capitol.

House Democrats will carry the sole impeachment charge of incitement of insurrection across the Capitol late Monday evening, a rare and ceremonial walk to the Senate by the prosecutors who will argue their case. They are hoping that strong Republican denunciations of Trump after the Jan. 6 riot will translate into a conviction and a separate vote to bar Trump from holding office again.

But instead, GOP passions appear to have cooled since the insurrection. Now that Trump's presidency is over, Republican senators who will serve as jurors in the trial are rallying to his legal defense, as they did during his first impeachment trial last year.

I think the trial is stupid, I think it's counterproductive, said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. He said that "the first chance I get to vote to end this trial, I'll do it because he believes it would be bad for the country and further inflame partisan divisions.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday that he hopes that evolving clarity on the details of what happened Jan. 6 will make it clearer to my colleagues and the American people that we need some accountability. Coons questioned how his colleagues who were in the Capitol that day could see the insurrection as anything other than a stunning violation of tradition of



Violent rioters, loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol in Washington. (FILE PHOTO)

full sweep of party control of the White House and Congress, to balance their promise to hold the former president accountable while also rushing to deliver on Biden's priorities.

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8. Leaders in both parties agreed to the short delay to give Trump's team and House prosecutors time to prepare and the Senate the chance to confirm some of Biden's Cabinet nominees. Democrats say the extra days will allow for more evidence to come out about the rioting by Trump supporters, while Republicans hope to craft a unified defense for Trump.

When the House impeached Trump on Jan. 13, exactly one week after the siege, Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., said he didn't believe the Senate had the constitutional authority to convict Trump after he had left office. On Sunday, Cotton said the more I talk to other Republican senators, the more they're beginning to line up behind that argument. I think a lot of Americans are going to think it's strange that the Senate is spending its time trying to convict and remove from office a man who left office a week ago, Cotton said.

peaceful transfers of power. It is a critical moment in American history and we have to look at it and look at it hard, Coons said.

An early vote to dismiss the trial probably would not succeed, given that Democrats now control the Senate. Still, the mounting Republican opposition indicates that many GOP senators would eventually vote to acquit Trump. Democrats will support the 17 Republicans a high bar to conviction.

A few GOP senators have agreed with Democrats, though not close to the number that will be needed to convict Trump. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said he believes there is a preponderance of opinion that an impeachment trial is appropriate after someone leaves office. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, said he believes a trial is a moot point after a president's term is over, and I think it's one that they would have a very difficult time in trying to get done within the Senate.

Democrats reject that argument, pointing to a 1876 impeachment of a secretary of war who had already resigned and to opinions by many legal scholars. Democrats also say that a reckoning of the first invasion of the Capitol since the War of 1812, perpetrated by rioters egged on by a president who told them to fight like hell against election results that were being counted at the time, is necessary so the country can move forward and ensure such a sieve never happens again.

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# Center-right incumbent wins Portugal's presidential election

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LISBON, 25 JANUARY

Portugal's president was returned to office for a second term Sunday, in an election held amid a devastating Covid-19 surge that has made the European country the worst in the world for cases and deaths.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa captured 61.5% of the vote, with 98.5% of districts reporting. He had been widely expected to win.

In a stunning development, newly arrived right-wing populist André Ventura was in a close race for second place with Socialist candidate Ana Gomes, with both polling around 12%.

Such a showing for Ventura would have been unthinkable until recently and will send a shudder through Portuguese politics.

Four other candidates ran for head of state. Rebelo de Sousa, a center-right moderate and former leader of Portugal's Social Democratic Party, will serve a second and final 5-year term.

One of the re-elected president's first tasks will be to decide next month whether to approve a new law allowing euthanasia. Parliament has passed the bill, but the head

of state could try to block it or send it to the Constitutional Court for vetting.

The turnout was less than 40% significantly lower than in recent elections and apparently confirming concerns that some people would stay away for fear of becoming infected with Covid-19.

Political leaders said that when the pandemic began to worsen there was no longer enough time to change the Portuguese Constitution to allow the election's postponement.

Portugal has the world's highest rates of new daily infections and deaths per 100,000 population, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, and its public health system is under huge strain. Rebelo de Sousa, 72, was long viewed as the clear frontrunner.

He is an affable law professor and former television personality who as president has consistently had an approval rating of 60% or more.

Rebelo de Sousa has worked closely with the center-left minority Socialist government, supporting its pandemic efforts. He also has endeared himself to the Portuguese with his easygoing style.

Photographs taken by



Incumbent Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa delivers a speech following the results of Portugal's presidential election, in Lisbon, Monday.

26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021



**Heartiest Greetings**  
To  
People of Haryana On  
**REPUBLIC DAY**

**“**The Constitution of India has a special identity across the world. The fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution give us the rights as citizens of a free democratic Nation. India has touched glorious heights in various fields due to the strenuous efforts of its people. On the solemn occasion of Republic Day, let us come together and take a pledge to march on the path of progress and make the Nation and State 'Aatmanirbhar'. **”**

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana | [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

*Outstanding. Everyone has been amazed at how easy he (Joe Root) has made it look. Magnificent gameplan, execution was clinical, it was brilliant.*



KUMARA SANGAKKARA  
SRI LANKAN CRICKETER

## THUMBNAILS

**Stokes arrives:** England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes has arrived in Chennai and is undergoing quarantine at a city hotel ahead of the upcoming four-match Test series against India. The big-ticket series starts here on 5 February and the team's training is scheduled to commence from 2 February.

**Ashwin grudge:** Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has revealed that the Indian players were not allowed to share the lift with their Australian counterparts during the Sydney Test, something the visitors found "too difficult to digest".

**Barca wins:** Barcelona picked up its second win in a row without the suspended Lionel Messi, defeating Elche 2-0 to regain third place in the Spanish league. Frenkie de Jong scored in the 39th minute and set up Riqui Puig's 89th-minute goal.

**Hockey eves:** The Indian women's hockey team suffered its second consecutive loss on the tour of Argentina, going down 2-3 to the hosts' B side in a thrilling clash in Buenos Aires.

**Juve wins:** Weston McKennie scored to help Juventus beat Bologna 2-0 in Serie A. He netted Juve's second goal, in the 71st minute, after Arthur had given the Bianconeri the lead in the first half.

# Chelsea fires coach Lampard mid-season

## AGENCIES

LONDON, 25 JANUARY

**F**rank Lampard was fired by Chelsea on Monday halfway through his second season in charge after being unable to replicate his success as the club's record scorer in his first Premier League managerial job.

Chelsea has lost five of its last eight Premier League games and dropped to ninth place, despite Lampard benefiting from nearly \$300 million spent on new players for this season.

Chelsea said the performances had not met expectations and left the team "without any clear path to sustained improvement" making a change of managers necessary with former Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel set to be hired.

Reflecting Lampard's statement at the west London club, the firing was announced in a rare statement by owner Roman Abramovich.

"This was a very difficult decision for the club, not least because I have an excellent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him," owner Roman Abramovich said.

"He is a man of great integrity and has the highest of work ethics. However, under current circumstances we believe it is best to change managers."

"On behalf of everyone at



the club, the board and personally, I would like to thank Frank for his work as head coach and wish him every success in the future. He is an important icon of this great club and his status here remains undiminished. He will always be warmly welcomed back at Stamford Bridge.

Lampard leaves with the lowest points-per-game record of the dozen managers since Abramovich bought the club in 2003.

As the pressure has grown, the cracks were showing ahead of this weekend's FA Cup win over Luton, when Lampard hit out at perceived negative coverage of the team.

But his own shortcomings of a fledgling coaching career were being exposed and sentimentality counted for little

despite being instrumental to the trophy-laden revival of the club as a player since the takeover by Abramovich.

Chelsea brought back its midfield great as coach in 2019 despite him having only a single season's experience in management in the second division with Derby.

He achieved Champions League qualification in his first season by securing a fourth-place finish in the Premier League. The rush to dismiss Lampard is indicative of the impatience shown by Abramovich, particularly when the team is slipping away from the Champions League spots.

After securing one of the biggest jobs in English management so early in his coaching career, Lampard leaves Stamford Bridge without any

success having lost the 2020 FA Cup final to Arsenal.

Lampard is a Chelsea great after scoring 211 goals from central midfield from 2001-14, during which he won every major honor at the club including three Premier League titles and the Champions League. He was associated with some of the best moments in the club's history and admired for his work ethic and making the most of his talent.

Next in the dugout at Stamford Bridge is set to be Tuchel, Sky's German sports channel first reported.

It would be a swift return to coaching for the German less than a month after being fired by PSG following a power struggle with the Qatari ownership.

Tuchel is only five years older than Lampard but vastly more experienced in coaching having been forced to retire from playing at 24 due to injury.

Tuchel made a name for himself in Germany by showing faith in young players during a five-year stint with unheralded Mainz. In 2009, he was promoted to take charge of the Mainz first team after just one year in charge of the youth side, and quickly promoted young talent.

He lasted only two years at Borussia Dortmund before being fired despite winning the German Cup after falling out with officials just as he would do at PSG.

# ManU compounds Liverpool's woes

## AGENCIES

MANCHESTER, 25 JANUARY

A scream from Andy Robertson was a forlorn attempt to distract Mason Greenwood beginning Manchester United's comeback. The defender won't be the only one shrieking at Liverpool after going out of the FA Cup.

Not that everything went wrong for Liverpool, with Mohamed Salah (in photo right) scoring twice.

The Liverpool striker's opener was canceled out by Greenwood and he leveled after Marcus Rashford put United in front. But Bruno Fernandes bent in a free kick in the 78th minute to send United into the fifth round with a 3-2 victory on Sunday.

Losing compounded a miserable 70 hours that also saw Liverpool beaten at home by Burnley on Thursday in a further blow to its title defense. It was a 0-0 draw with United a week ago that helped Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side stay top of the standings in the pursuit of the team's first Premier League title since 2013.

We have to sort it together and that's what we will do, Liverpool manager Jrgen Klopp said.

The excitement lacking in the Anfield league encounter was on show a week later at a freezing and fan-free Old Trafford with the highest scoring match between these fiercest of English rivals since 2010.

United was joined by Chelsea, Everton, Leicester and Burnley on Sunday in advancing to the round of 16 where it will play West Ham next month.

We gradually layer by layer



are getting better and better and winning tight games, Solskjaer said.

"So the morale and the confidence of course is very good."

Liverpool has gone 483 minutes without a league goal but remembered where the net is in the cup. Roberto Firmino thread a pass to Salah who lifted a shot over Dean Henderson from close range in the 18th minute.

But the lead lasted only six minutes. Paul Pogba's tackle gained possession, Donny van de Beek released Rashford on the left flank by the halfway line and a diagonal pass landed perfectly at the feet of Greenwood, who withstood the yelling of Robertson to maintain his composure to score.

The favor was returned three minutes into the second half. Greenwood played in Rashford through the center and the striker placed the ball in bottom corner for his 15th goal in all competitions this season. But United was made to pay for its slackness.

As sideways pass from Edinson Cavani was too casual and was intercepted by James Milner. After passing to Firmino on the left of the penalty area, Milner was inside the box as the return pass came across. But Milner's stepover let the ball roll through to Salah who squeezed a shot through Henderson's legs.

The introduction of Fernandes was transformative as so often since he arrived a year ago. Presented with a chance to grab a winner from a free kick, the Portugal midfielder seized it, bending the ball around the wall into the net. Yesterday, he was told that he wasn't playing so he stayed out practicing for half an hour to 45 minutes, Solskjaer said. "But it worked and it paid off."

# IOC to consider placing Italy on probation

## AGENCIES

ROME, 25 JANUARY

The International Olympic Committee will consider imposing a humiliating probation on Italy's team for the Tokyo Games this week because of a two-year domestic dispute that it says amounts to government interference.

The IOC has taken issue with the Italian government's formation of a new organization, Sport e Salute, that was created at the start of 2019 to run the country's sports finances. The money was previously controlled by an arm of the Italian Olympic Committee.

Possible punishments from the IOC could include preventing Italian athletes in Tokyo from wearing their national team uniforms and hearing their national anthem being played.

Barring a last-minute change from the government, the embarrassing prospect of probation would lump Italy together with Russia, which last month was

banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next two Olympics or at any world championships for the next two years in fallout from a state-backed doping scandal.

International bodies such as the IOC and FIFA typically threaten national affiliates with suspension to protect sports officials' decision-making power from lawmakers.

Kuwait competed at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics as Independent Olympic Athletes under the Olympic flag and anthem during a similar dispute over government interference.

The Olympic Athletes from Russia team name was used at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games because of the doping scandal.

In the first of two warning letters that IOC president Thomas Bach wrote to Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte late last year, he noted that significant legal and structural changes have been imposed on the national Olympic committee of Italy, which is known as CONI.

# England turn tables on Sri Lanka, win 2nd Test by six wickets

## INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

GALLE, 25 JANUARY

England defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test to seal the two-match series 2-0. Needing 164 to win, the English faltered when reduced to 89 for four. But opener Dominic Sibley and No. 6 Jos Buttler shared an unbeaten 75-run partnership for the fifth wicket to lead their team to victory.

Earlier, English spinners effected a remarkable turnaround as both off-spinner Dom Bess (4/49) and left-arm spinner Jack Leach (4/59) skittled out Sri Lanka for 126 after the hosts had taken a 37-run lead on first innings.

Sri Lanka, who had bowled

England out for 344 on the fourth day's morning with the visitors adding just five more to their overnight score, went to bat in the second innings only to find themselves get reduced to 78 for eight. Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya then made 40 off 42 deliveries to help Sri Lanka get to their eventual 126-run total.

While Bess and Leach took four wickets each, skipper Root took the remaining two wickets with his off-spinners. Root broke the 48-run ninth-wicket partnership between Embuldeniya and Suranga Lakmal (11 not out).

Chasing 164, England lost opener Zak Crawley early with the score on 17. Jonny Bairstow

then added 45 for the second wicket. England then lost three wickets for 27 runs to let Sri Lanka sneak in. However, Buttler and Sibley saw the visitors through.

England, who are fourth in ICC World Test Championship table, now proceed to India for a four-Test series beginning 5 February.

Root was the man of the match for his 186. He was also the man of the series for aggregating 426 runs at an average of 106.5.

**Brief scores:**

Sri Lanka 381 & 126 (L Embuldeniya 40, D Bess 4/49, J Leach 4/59, J Root 2/0) vs England 344 & 164/4 (D Sibley 56 not out, J Buttler 46 not out, L Embuldeniya 3/73).

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दिल्ली सरकार

आप की सरकार



**The pride of our nation  
Corona warriors, Sanitation workers,  
Soldiers and Farmers!**

**This Republic Day,  
we salute the four pillars of our nation**

*Wish you a very Happy Republic Day*

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0103/20-21



Directorate of Information and Publicity, Government of NCT of Delhi