



**CHRISSY TEIGEN RESPONDS TO CRITICISM FOR ATTENDING 2021 INAUGURATION AS AMERICANS ARE ASKED TO STAY HOME**  
*pg 08*

**TO HELP THE YOUNG GROW WELL, PROVIDE THEM ACCESS AND COUNSEL**  
*pg 04*

**GAGA, J. LO HEADLINE BIDEN INAUGURATION**  
*pg 0 8*



# SummitTIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 20 | Gangtok | Thursday | 21 January 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | RS. 5



**Mecha Netralaya & Ophthalmic Research Center (P) Ltd.**  
Center of Excellence in  
Topical Phacoemulsification Cataract Surgeries & Vitreo-Retinal Surgeries.



**KAKARVITTA, Bahundangi Road, Mechi Nagar-6, NEPAL.**  
WhatsApp No-+91 9002709680/+977 9842718948  
Email:info@mechinetrалaya.org  
Website:www.mechinetrалaya.org

## 573 health workers vaccinated so far, one suffers serious side effects

### SECOND BATCH OF 14000 COVISHIELD DOSES ARRIVE IN SIKKIM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

So far, 573 health workers have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield in Sikkim.

On the second day of the vaccination at Singtam hospital, 55 health workers received their first shot of the Covishield vaccine while 80 health workers got their first shot of the vaccine at Namchi hospital. At the Urban Primary Health Centre where vaccination began today, 80 received the COVID-19 vaccine.

In all the centres, the target was to vaccinate 100 health workers on the day.

Till Tuesday, 358 health workers had been vaccinated and together with the 215 health workers receiving the vaccine today, 573 have so far received their first dose.

Meanwhile, the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccine



Covishield arrived in Sikkim today at around 4:30 P.M. This batch contains 1400 vials (14000 doses) of the COVID-19 vaccine which was received by Assistant Engineer, Biomedical cum Cold Chain Officer and his team.

The vaccines are stored in

the Walk-in Cooler of Universal Immunization Program (UPI) Store, Cold Chain Section in STNM Complex.

So far 12 incidents of Adverse Event Following Immunization [AEFI] have been reported in the state since the vaccination began on 16 Jan. Of these 3 in Namchi

hospital and 8 in STNM Hospital experienced minor side effects while only one in STNM Hospital experienced serious side effects after receiving the vaccine.

However, the Health authorities have not revealed details of the kind of serious side effects this person has suffered.

## Five new COVID cases

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

Five new cases of novel coronavirus and one recovery of COVID patient have been reported in the last 24 hours in Sikkim. Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported so far has reached 6057, in which 5671 persons have been discharged from isolation. There are now 160 active cases of novel coronavirus in the State, of whom two are currently admitted in the ICU facility of COVID-dedicated STNM hospital.

In his daily health bulletin on Wednesday, Health Department

State IEC Officer, SonamGyaltsen Bhutia mentioned that five fresh cases of novel coronavirus in Sikkim were reported in the testing of 277 samples on Tuesday, in which two were found in RT-PCR testing of 170 samples, two in TrueNat testing of 21 samples and one in the rapid antigen testing of 86 samples.

New cases reported from in and around Gangtok are; one person from Manbir Colony and one from near Cooperative, Sichey, while one person from Majhitara and one from Fatak Line in East District

were also found positive for COVID-19. Likewise, the sample of one person from Lower Lingchom, Gyalshingalzo tested COVID-19 positive.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that a total of 215 health workers were vaccinated at different venues in the State on Wednesday. He added that 80 persons at Urban PHC, Gangtok, 55 at District Hospital, Singtam and 80 at District Hospital, Namchi were vaccinated today. He further informed that with today's vaccinations a total of 573 persons have been vaccinated so far in the State.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

Sikkim Table Tennis Association [STTA] has announced plans to organize the State Table Tennis Championship from 28 to 30 January at Paljor Stadium complex. The tournament will have cadet, sub-junior, junior and senior category matches on 28 and 29 January and veterans' matches on 30 January.

This was decided during the annual general body meeting of STTA held here on Tuesday.

An STTA press release informs that the annual



general body meeting resolved to conduct the state championship adhering to Covid-19 SOPs and decided to conduct the championship for cadet singles for boys and girls, junior singles for boys and girls,

sub-junior single for boys and girls and seniors and veterans [40 years plus, 50 years plus and 60 years plus].

The release mentions that the tournament will be open only for Sikkim residents with

## State TT C'ship in end-Jan

27 January set as the last date for submission of entries.

Entries are to be sent to KB Subba for West District, Rupesh Lama for South District, Sonam Bhutia for North District and Norden Bhutia and Zarina Rana for East District.

The release informs that no entry fee will be charged from cadets and sub-junior, while juniors and seniors will be charged Rs 50 and Rs 100 respectively and veterans, Rs 1,000.

Entries can also be submitted directly to organizing committee member, Sashi Dong at the venue or deposited into the association's account.

## 2021 book list: Pamuk, Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri et al.

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL

NEW DELHI, JAN 20 (PTI):

Novels by Orhan Pamuk, Kazuo Ishiguro and Jhumpa Lahiri, a collection by Salman Rushdie and memoirs of Ravi Shastri, Girish Karnad and Priyanka Chopra are some of the highlights of 2021 that book lovers can look forward to.

Another anticipated book of the year -- "Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth" by Nigerian legend Wole Soyinka, his first novel in 48 years -- will be published in September by Bloomsbury.

A number of memoirs will come out during the year. They include "Enter Stage Right: The Alkazi / Padamsee Family Memoir" by Feisal Alkazi (Speaking Tiger); "This Life at Play" by Girish Karnad and Ravi Shastri's memoir with Ayaz Memon (both HarperCollins); "The Untold Story of H D Deve Gowda" by Sugata Srinivasaraju (Penguin Random House), "Sach Kahun Toh" by Neena Gupta and "The Stranger in the Mirror" by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra (Rupa).

Some of the children's books lined up are "Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes" by Ruskin Bond and "The Story of World Civilizations by Subhadra Sen Gupta" (both Talking Cub); "All Time Favourites for Children" by Ruskin Bond, "Let's Go Time Travelling #2" by Subhadra Sen Gupta (both PRH) and "50 Greatest Stories for Older Children" and "100 Greatest Stories for Young Children" (Hachette India).

The year will also see many cinema-related books like "Unscripted Conversations on Life and Cinema"

by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Abhijat Joshi (PRH), Diptakirti Chaudhuri's "BollyGeek: The Crazy Guide to Bollywood Trivia" and the four-series "Bolly-Dates", "Bolly-Places", "Bolly-Characters" and "Bolly-Things" (Hachette) and a comprehensive guide to pregnancy by Kareena Kapoor Khan (Juggernaut).

Culinary books include "Spiced, Smoked, Pickled, Preserved: Recipes and Reminiscences from India's Eastern Hills" by Indranee Ghosh and Shubhra Chatterji's "Rasa: The Story of India in 100 Dishes" (both Hachette), "A Taste of My Life" by Chitrita Banerji (Pan Macmillan) and a sassy "All He Left Me Was A Recipe" by Shenaz Treasurywala (PRH).

Penguin Random House India's publishing list has Pamuk's "Nights of Plague", "Unfinished: A Memoir" by Chopra Jonas, Lahiri's "Whereabouts", "Languages of Truth" by Rushdie, "The Art of Bitfulness: Keeping Sane in the Digital World" by Nandan Nilekani and Tanuj Bhowani and "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir" by Gulzar among other titles.

It will also publish Amitav Ghosh's "The Nutmeg's Curse: A Parable for a Planet in Crisis", Bangladeshi writer Tahmima Anam's "The Start -Up Wife", "Eden An Indian retelling of Jewish, Christian and Islamic lore" by Devdutt Pattanaik, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" by Bill Gates, "Klara And The Sun" by Ishiguro, "First Person Singular" by Haruki Murakami, "The President's Daughter" by Bill Clinton and James Patterson.

HarperCollins India's list has books like "The Last Queen" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, "Club You To Death" by Anuja Chauhan, Nikita Singh's "What Do You See When You Look In The Mirror?" and "Don't Say It" by Malini Agrawal aka MissMalini.

Rupa Publications will also come out with former vice president Hamid Ansari's book "By Many A Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life" besides titles like Subramanian Swamy's "Ayodhya and Beyond: National Hindutva Awakening", Manish Malhotra's memoir "One Big Blur", Vinod Rai's "The BCCI Story" and Yashwant Sinha's "India's Foreign Policy Blunders".

Sister publication Aleph will publish books like "Pride, Prejudice & Punditry: The Essential Shashi Tharoor" by Tharoor, Amitava Kumar's "A Time Outside This Time", Annie Zaidi's "One of Them", "It's a Wonderful Life: Roads to Happiness" by Ruskin Bond and Deepti Naval's memoir "A Country Called Childhood".

Some of the titles Simon & Schuster will publish include "Guru Dutt: An Unfinished Story" by Yasser Usman, "Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims" by Mujibur Rehman and Chandrabhas Choudhury's "The Taste of Literature".

"The Tale of the Horse: A History of India on Horseback" by Yashaswini Chandra, Sundeep Bhutoria's "The Bera Bond", "After I Was Raped: The Untold Lives of Five Rape Survivors" by Urmi Bhattacharyya and "Gangster State: The Rise and Fall of the CPIM in West Bengal"

by Sourjya Bhowmick are some of the books to be published by Pan Macmillan.

On Amaryllis' list are "More Things in Heaven and Earth" by Kiran Manral, "I'm Old, I'm Wise and I Know My Shit" by Bevinada Collaco, Shivani Singh's "Nalanda", "It's Also About Mynah" Rucha Chitrodia, Anvita Sudarshan's "Beauty Queen: The Pathway to Pageantry" and "India and Faraway Lands: 5,000 Years of Connected History" by Ashutosh Mehndiratta.

It will also come out with anniversary editions of classics like "Pride and Prejudice", "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and "The Arabian Nightmare".

Oxford will publish interesting titles like "The Kashmir Backchannel: How India and Pakistan Negotiated the Kashmir Deal from 2004 to 2007" by Happpymon Jacob, "Militant Piety and Lines of Control: The Lethal Literature of the Lashkar-e-Taiba" by C Christine Fair, Ashis Nandy's "Breakfast with Evil and Other Risky Ventures: The Non-essential Ashis Nandy" and Tauseef Ahmad's "Islam and Democracy in 21st Century".

Some of SAGE Publications titles are "Alt-Right Movement: Dissecting Racism, Patriarchy and Anti-Immigrant Xenophobia" by Ipsita Chatterjee; "BJP-Led Regime In Assam: Saffron In The Rainbow" by Akhil Ranjan Dutta; and "How People Buy Online: The Psychology Behind Consumer Behaviour" by Seema Gupta.

Speaking Tiger's non-fiction books include "Locking Down the Poor: The Pandemic and India's Moral Centre" by Harsh Mander; "Case Files: My Days in the CBI and IPS" by former CBI boss Amar

Pratap Singh and "Winged Stallions and Wicked Mares: The Horse in Indian Myth and History" by Wendy Doniger.

Some of its fiction titles are "The Loves of Yuri" by Jerry Pinto; "Travels With My Beloved Ghost" by Bulbul Sharma; "The Tombstone in My Garden: Stories" by Temsula Ao and "Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland" by Avinuo Kire.

Hachette will publish international authors like Stephen King ("Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption"); Martin Lindstrom ("The Ministry of Common Sense"); Damon Centola ("Change: How to Make Big Things Happen") and Scott Haas ("Ukeireru: Happiness and Acceptance through Japanese Wisdom").

It will also publish "In Search of the Divine: Living Practices of Sufism in India" by Rana Safvi.

Roli Books will come out with titles like an English translation of Abdul Ghaffar Khan's autobiography in Pashto; "Fractured Freedom: A Prison Memoir" by Kobad Ghandy; "1946: The Indian Naval Uprising that Shook the Empire" by Pramod Kapoor and "City of Gated Walls: The Map of Shahajahanabad", which has text by Swapna Liddle and visually curated by Pramod Kapoor.

Among Niyogi Books' titles are translations works of Indira Goswami's "Five Novellas about Women" and Anita Agnihotri's "Mahanadi: A novel about the river"; "Growing up Jewish in India: Synagogues, Customs, and Communities from the Bene Israel to the Art of Siona Benjamin" edited by Ori Z Soltes; and "Reflections on Mughal Art and Culture" by Roda Ahluwalia.



## ICDS centres under Turuk-Ramabong GPU receive playing kits

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**TURUK, 20 JAN:**

Turuk Ramabong Gram Panchayat Unit distributed Playing Kits to the eight ICDS centers under the GPU today, a press release informs. The playing materials were provided from funds set aside under the Gram

Panchayat Development Plan for 2019-20. On the occasion, essential medical items were also distributed to Health and Wellness Centre Turuk.

Health staff, Bhumi Basnett, of Turuk Health and Wellness Centre was felicitated as a frontline warrior.

Digital Blood Pressure measuring machines were also provided to the ICDS Centers.

On the occasion, cotton bags designed by the Gram Panchayat Unit as part of Swatcha Bharat Mission, was also officially launched.

## Intra-Himalayan Open Volleyball Tournament begins



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 20 JAN:**

The Intra-Himalayan Open Volleyball Tournament started today at Rangpo Bazaar playground, a press release informs.

According to the Organizing Committee president, Badru Ashwin, a total of 11 teams are participating in the

tournament and the final match will be played on 26 January.

The winner will get cash prize of Rs 60,000 while the runner up will get Rs 30,000 along with trophies.

Today's inaugural match was played between Mamring Boyz and Zydu - VI which was won by the former. The second match was played

between Rongli Police and Restaurant 17, in which the latter emerged victorious.

17 Restaurants will now play against Six Star on 22 January.

Bimal Kharel was the chief guest on the occasion along with Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Trade Cell State Level president, Sajjan Agarwalas the special guest.

## SFPB chairperson calls on MoS DONER

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 20 JAN:**

Chairperson for Sikkim Film Promotion Board, Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Sikkim, Pooja Sharma made a courtesy call on Union Minister of State, Ministry of DONER, MoS PMO, Government of India, Dr. Jitendra Singh in New Delhi, today, a press release informs.

Ms Sharma was accompanied by Resident Commissioner Sikkim House, Joint Director IPR, Bishal Khawas and other department officials.

During the meeting, Ms Sharma appraised the Union Minister on the establishment of Sikkim Film Promotion Board (SFPB) and its various projects which



are in the pipeline. She also discussed about Eco-heritage Film City, Film Policy and Sikkim Global Film Festival 2021 planned by SFPB to promote Sikkim as a shooting destination and enhance State tourism.

She further mentioned about the Chief Minister,

Prem Singh Tamang's determination and keen interest in establishing a Film Industry in Sikkim.

During the meeting, the Minister accepted the invitation to attend the Sikkim Global Film Festival in its inaugural ceremony scheduled to be held in the first week of April 2021.

## Nasal COVID-19 vaccine will be easy to give to children: AIIMS Director

**NEW DELHI, 20 JAN [PTI]:** A nasal COVID-19 vaccine will be easy to be given to school-going children who bear a "very mild" load of the disease but they are infectious, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said on Wednesday.

The noted pulmonologist, who was interacting with the personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) during their 16th Raising Day celebrations here, also said that people who have contracted coronavirus should also get the jab about 4-6 weeks after recovery.

"It (coronavirus infection) is very mild in children but they are infectious. They can spread the disease."

"The vaccines that have come are not approved for children because there have been no studies conducted on children but this (vaccination) is a very important step and trials are being done," he said.

Once children start

going to the school regularly and they contract the COVID-19 infection, they will not have much problem but if they bring it home they can spread it to their parents or grandparents, the chief of the premier Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said.

"Vaccines for children may come later... Bharat Biotech is trying to get approved a nasal vaccine. Such a vaccine will be very easy to be given to children as it is a spray and not a jab and hence compliance is more."

"In half-an-hour you can vaccinate an entire class. So, if that (nasal vaccine) is approved it will be even easier to give the vaccine (for COVID-19)," Mr Guleria said in reply to a question.

He was also asked by the NDRF personnel if a person who has recovered from COVID-19 should get

vaccinated with India commissioning two vaccines last week.

"A vaccine jab is essential for them (recovered from coronavirus) due to two reasons."

"One is you are not sure how strong is your post COVID-19 immunity and it has been seen quite a few times that those who had a mild to moderate infection their anti-body response has been less and we also don't know how long it will be," he said.

A vaccine will be "beneficial" for such an individual as it will act as a "booster" and if antibodies are depleting, with the vaccine it will be back to a high level, he said.

"So, you should get the vaccine if you have been infected with COVID-19 but if it has happened recently say like 7-10 days then one should wait and take the jab after may be 4-6 weeks," he said.

Before replying to queries, Mr Guleria

also gave a powerpoint presentation on the topic "Infectious Diseases: Emergencies and Challenges Ahead" and said "bio-terrorism" is an upcoming challenge.

He said densely populated countries like India "provide an opportunity" for the outbreak of infectious disease emergencies as it is coupled with the phenomenon of crowding and urbanisation.

He batted for having a "very good surveillance system" to better combat coronavirus like diseases and epidemics.

He said the country did "aggressive" work with a strong political will in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak and said the need of the hour was to have lab-based surveillance and more and more trained public health officials.

"We need to enhance our research capacity and we should not forget what we learnt during coronavirus outbreak," Mr Guleria said.

## SikkimSCAN

# Indane LPG distribution outlet inaugurated at Yuksam

**PRITAM LAMA**  
**YUKSAM, 20 JAN:**

Indane LPG distribution outlet has opened at Yuksam in West District providing much needed relief to villagers who had to earlier travel 45km to Gyalshing or 75Kms to Jorethang to get a domestic LPG connection or refills.

Yuksam SDM, Tshering T. Bhutia inaugurated Yuksam Indane distribution gas agency today.

The SDM said that the outlet at Yuksam will cater to people in the rural areas and will be a huge relief to the



consumers of Yuksam-Tashiding Subdivision and adjoining areas.

Indane is trying to provide regular supply to every consumer in the rural areas by opening more such

agencies, added Mr Bhutia.

The inauguration of the agency was also attended by Yuksam BDO, Samber Man Limboo, former Panchayat President,

Sonam Palden Bhutia, Gram panchayats, tourism stakeholders and locals.

Managing Director of the Yuksam Indane branch, Kinzong W. Bhutia informed that

the centre will cater to people of Yuksam-Tashiding and adjoining areas. The branch will provide services like refilling of cylinders, transportation and new connection.

Since Yuksamis also a tourist destination, this would also help tourism stakeholders such as hotels, homestays and trekking agencies for fulfillment of LPG requirements.

On the day, the Yuksam branch of Indane donated a set of LPG cylinders and stove to Dubdi Monastery as their first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

## New Diamond Club celebrates silver jubilee

**AARON RAI**

**GANGTOK, 20 JAN:**

New Diamond Club, an NGO, celebrated its silver jubilee at Chujachen, East Sikkim, today. While talking with Summit Times, the club's president, Mahendra Thapa informed that this club was established on 20 January 1996.

The club recently organized blood donation camp, cleanliness drives, and also helped needy people during lockdown. The club's treasurer,

Jiwan Mishra informed that the silver jubilee celebration began on 12 Jan and concluded today.

The highlights of the programme were cultural dances and felicitation of four social workers.

The program was attended by Agriculture cum IPR Minister, LN Sharma as chief guest. He was accompanied by Area MLA, KB Rai, Area in-charge, Damber Pradhan as special guests and officers of different

departments.



BEFORE THE LD.OATH COMMISSIONER, WEST  
SIKKIM, AT GYALSHIN

### AFFIDAVIT

I, DILIP KUMAR LIMBOO (SUBBA), Son of Late Buddhi Lal Limboo (Subba), aged about 23 years, R/O Lingchom, West Sikkim, P.O. Lingchom P.S. Gyalshing, West Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That I am the natural son of Late Buddhi Lal Limboo.
2. That my title has been recorded as "SUBBA" in some of my documents including in my Electoral Card.
3. That my title has been also been recorded as "LIMBOO" in some of my documents including in my Aadhaar Card bearing Number: 901743040773.
4. That the titles "SUBBA" and "LIMBOO" are the different nomenclature used to mean and refers to one and the same caste and are often used synonymously.
5. That this affidavit is sworn by me to declare that the names "DILIP KUMAR LIMBOO" and "DILIP KUMAR SUBBA" belongs to one and the same person i.e. myself.
6. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

I, the above named deponent, do hereby verify that the statements made in above paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I sign this affidavit on this the 23rd July, 2013 at Gyalshing West Sikkim.

DEPONENT

BEFORE THE LD.OATH COMMISSIONER, WEST  
SIKKIM, AT GYALSHING

### AFFIDAVIT

I, DILIP KUMAR LIMBOO (SUBBA), Son of Late Buddhi Lal Limboo (Subba), aged about 23 years, R/O Lingchom, West Sikkim, P.O. Lingchom P.S. Gyalshing, West Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That I am the natural son of Late Buddhi Lal Limboo.
2. That my title has been recorded as "SUBBA" in some of my documents including in my Electoral Card.
3. That my title has been also been recorded as "LIMBOO" in some of my documents including in my Aadhaar Card bearing Number: 901743040773.
4. That the titles "SUBBA" and "LIMBOO" are the different nomenclature used to mean and refers to one and the same caste and are often used synonymously.
5. That this affidavit is sworn by me to declare that the names "DILIP KUMAR LIMBOO" and "DILIP KUMAR SUBBA" belongs to one and the same person i.e. myself.
6. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

I, the above named deponent, do hereby verify that the statements made in above paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I sign this affidavit on this the 23rd July, 2013 at Gyalshing West Sikkim.

DEPONENT.

**to book**  
**advertisements in Sum-**  
**mitTimes, call**  
**03592-208698**  
**9734152541**

## LAND FOR SALE:

General land measuring 40'x40' at roadside at Chongay is for sale. Interested party may contact : 9933427505.

## ANTHYESTI KRIYA



The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Shri Man Bahadur Chettri (Roka) who left for heavenly abode on 10th January 2021 falls on 22nd January 2021 (Friday).

All relatives, family, friends and well wishers are requested to join us

in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence Lower Samdur, Ranipool, East Sikkim. We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

### Bereaved Families:

**Bishnu Maya Chettri Roka (wife)**

**Hem Bdr Chettri (son), Srijana Chettri (daughter-in-law),**

**Pratima Chettri (daughter), Suraj Sapkota (son-in-law),**

**Sony Chettri (daughter), Bhakta Bdr Roka (brother), Kharka Bdr Roka (brother), Tara Bdr Roka (brother), Indra Bdr Roka (brother)**

**and entire Roka family.**

**Contact- 9609906181, 9775445161, 8670765399**

## ANTHEYSTHI KRIYA



The 13 day Anthyesthi Kriya of Late DK Khati (Dil Kumar Khati) ex Chairman, S/o Lt. Padam Singh Khati, R/o Pavitra Bhawan, Opposite Daffodils School, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. DOB - 5th June 1937 left for his heavenly abode on 13th

January 2021 falls on 25th January 2021 at our residence Pavitra Bhawan, opposite Daffodils school at Development area. All family friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the deceased. We also take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Karuna Khati (Daughter).**

**Roshan Khati (Son).**

**Dhiraj Khati (Son).**

**Srijana Khati (Daughter)**

**Phone: 9434137305/9734009999**



## CM meets team from Shri Dattatreya pith



Summit Report  
Gangtok, 20 Jan:  
Chief Minister, PS  
Tamang met Pithadhish  
1008 Shri Omkarananda  
Giriji Maharaj of

Shri Dattatreya pith,  
Varanasi, today at his  
official residence.  
In a Facebook post  
the CM wrote, "I was  
pleased to meet a team

led by Pithadhish 1008  
Shri Omkarananda  
Giriji Maharaj of Shri  
Dattatreya pith, Varanasi  
along with the members  
of Sri Sri Dattatreya

Sewa Sangh, Sikkim at  
my official residence."  
The CM was  
felicitated by the team  
for which he has thanked  
them.

## SOAP-MAKING TRAINING AT TURUK

SUMMIT REPORT  
TURUK, 20 JAN:

A soap-making training, conducted by State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, concluded here at Turuk Village Administrative Centre today. The valedictory function of the 3-day training had area MLA, Farwanti Tamang, as chief guest along with the Panchayat President of Turuk-Ramabong GPU, Chandra Kr Rai, all the Panchayat representatives and Block Programme Manager, Binod Nepal, SRLM.

Passangkit Lepcha of Anmol SHG spoke at the valedictory function and recounted the experience



of the training and expressed happiness with the skills acquired and the prospects opened. The area MLA urged

the trainees to use their new skills well and pointed out at Turuk's locational advantage of good traffic linkages with markets around

like Siliguri, Gangtok, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Namchi, Jorethang, etc as something they could leverage.

## “Kamalastan not far away”: Gujarat’s renaming of Dragon Fruit draws digs

NEW DELHI, 20 JAN [PTI]: Gujarat's decision to rename the dragon fruit “Kamalastan” has drawn sharp political reactions alongside memes and jokes on social media.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the dragon fruit would be called “Kamalastan” in his state for two reasons. “The name dragon fruit is not proper, and due to its name one thinks of China,” he said, adding, “Farmers say it looks like lotus and that is the reason we have named it “Kamalastan.”

“Kamalastan” is Sanskrit for lotus, the BJP's poll symbol. The Gujarat BJP

party office is also named Kamalam.

Mr Rupani said there was nothing political in the decision to rename the exotic fruit now grown by farmers in Kutch, Navsari and different parts of Saurashtra.

But critics were not having it. On social media, “Kamalastan” became almost as viral as “Kamala” on a day Kamala Harris was to take office as the first woman, first Black American and first Asian American US Vice President.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was among those who criticized the Gujarat move and likened

it to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's renaming spree.

“Is the Gujarat CM competing with or mocking the UP CM? Suggest it would be best if the BJP government constitutes a ‘National Renaming Council’ to keep these Chief Ministers occupied, considering that's the only thing they're good at, and save their states from misgovernance,” Mr Tharoor remarked.

“The dragon has been slayed,” joked Congress MP Karti Chidambaram Sharad Pawar's NCP, which is part of

Maharashtra's ruling coalition, said the day was not far when the BJP would call the country Kamalastan.

“The BJP has now started branding itself on fruits also,” NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said in a statement.

“We fear that the time may be not far when they would start addressing Hindustan as Kamalastan.”

Priyanka Chaturvedi of the Shiv Sena, which leads the Maharashtra alliance, posted: “Hallelujah! The dragon has been shown its place... oh wait, I meant dragonfruit.”

## Road repair work stalled amid infighting in ruling TMC

KOLKATA, JAN 20 (PTI): Infighting in the TMC came to the fore yet again, with the party's Uttarpara MLA Prabir Ghosal on Wednesday stating that a faction of the ruling camp has stalled repair work of a road in his constituency in Hooghly district, as it wants to hamper his poll prospects.

Ghosal said that the Kanaipur-Nabagram Road is need of immediate repair, and his attempts to rebuild the stretch have been foiled by local TMC leader Achhe Lal Yadav.

Denying the allegation, Yadav, who is also the Kanaipur gram panchayat head, said Ghoshal was nothing more than an “ornamental MLA, trying

to show me in poor light”.

The legislator, who recently voiced his grievances against some leaders in the party's district unit, said, “As the panchayat did not cooperate, I took up the issue with the PWD... I am thankful to them for sending a team to inspect the road condition. But the PWD engineer was asked to leave the area by people close to the panchayat pradhan.

“I was told by my sources within the party that those who stopped the PWD from inspecting the road are in favour of keeping the road in the same condition to dim my chances, if fielded by the party in the upcoming elections,” he said.

Party sources said Ghosal and TMC Hooghly district president Dilip Yadav had been

at loggerheads over organisational matters for quite some time.

Meanwhile, Biswarup Dey, the former secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), joined the

TMC on Wednesday.

“I have joined the Trinamool Congress inspired by the indomitable spirit of Mamata Banerjee,” he said.



**SIKKIM UNIVERSITY**

SU/REG/Esst/F-2/09/2018/Vol.II/973 Date: 21.01.2021

**APPOINTMENT NOTICE**

Sikkim University, a central university established by an Act of Parliament in 2007, invites applications from Indian citizens having requisite qualification and experience for the post of Registrar. Detailed advertisement giving requirements for each post is given on our website.

Interested candidates may submit the online application form from the University website [www.cus.ac.in](http://www.cus.ac.in) on or before 20.02.2021.

Sd/-  
Registrar

davp21318/11/0011/2121

## Kissan Mela cum Farmer Scientist Interaction



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

Agriculture Technology Management Agency, (ATMA), East District in coordination with Agriculture Department, organized a daylong Kissan Melacum Farmer Scientist Interaction Programme, today at the premises of SAMETI Office, Tadong, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Secretary Agriculture, Rinzing C. Bhutia, as chief guest. Joint Director cum Deputy Project Director, ATMA-East, Rachna Gurung highlighted mobilization of Self Help Group (SHG) through Capacity Building Programs, Exposure Visits, Support

with Revolving Funds etc. She mentioned that in order to disseminate technology, ATMA organizes Melas and Fairs for farmers and today's District Level Kissan Mela is one of the components of transferring the technology among the farmers group.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest, Secretary Agriculture, Rinzing C. Bhutia highlighted some of the important schemes of the Department like PMKSY, PMFBY, MOVCD. He expressed his happiness over the participation of youth in the programme.

Speaking on the food security, the chief guest highlighted the importance of Agriculture and allied

sectors. Here he shared his experiences during the time of pandemic last year.

Under the component of Rewards and Incentives to the Best Organized Group representing different enterprises, an amount of Rs. 5,000 each along with Certificate of Appreciation were given to six Best Performing Self Help Groups of East District namely Sanjok SHG, Martam Block, M/s Ujal SHG, Pakyong Block, Jan Kalayan Sangh SHG, Duga Block and Sakchyan Nari SHG, Nandok Block (GTK)

Likewise and amount of Rs. 10,000 each along with Certificate of Appreciation on the same category was given to Ritu SHG, Rakdong Tintek

Block and Prakriti SHG, Martam Block

The programme also had Farmer Scientist Interaction where queries on Crop Insurance, Animal Insurance, Pest and Disease Management, etc were raised by participants and were answered by experts.

The programme was also addressed by Bina Rai, Additional Director Agriculture, Dr. Janak Singh, Programme Coordinator, KVK East, R.K. Sharma, Joint Director-IPM and Veterinary Officer from Animal Husbandry Department.

The overall programme was presided by Geeta Sharma, Block Technology Manager, (Ranka Block)

## Child Protection Committee of Lungchok-Kamery meets

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 20 JAN:

Lungchok-Kamery Gram Panchayat Unit conducted a meeting of its Village-Level Child Protection Committee at the conference hall of the Gram Prasashan Kendra today. The main proposals passed at the meeting chaired by Panchayat President Deoraj Rai were identification of school dropout children by 08 February, work towards securing Child-Friendly GPU status for the GPU



soon, list out names of school drop outs before

the school session begins and provide a healthy

environment to the children of the GPU.

## Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival to begin on Jan 22

KOLKATA, JAN 20 (PTI): The three-day Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2021, beginning on January 22, will be held in new-normal format this year.

While some of the programmes will be held under strict COVID-19 safety protocols at the recently renovated heritage Currency Building here, other events will be held on live digital format, organisers said on Wednesday.

The festival in its 12th edition will focus on new writings, translations,

mythologies and literature for children.

Festival Director Maina Bhagat said the schedules have been curated meticulously to meet the challenges of the Hybrid/Virtual format and delegates from across three time zones will participate in the festival.

Bhagat and Swagat Sengupta, director of a leading book store, said that speakers will include renowned authors, film personalities, politicians, columnists

and icons from the world of sports.

Some of the names are - Paro Anand, Alexandra Pringle, Andaleeb Wajid, Kunal Basu, Namita Gokhale, Shashi Tharoor, Shobhaa De, Kishwar Desai, Viswanathan Anand, Boria Majumder, Anand Neelakantan, Kevin Missal, Ashok Banker, Anjum Katyal, Sonu Sood, Virginia Corteval, Jrme Petit, Deepa Mehta, Juhi Chaturvedi, Manoj Bajpai, Lisa Ray, Abhijit Bhaduri, Sandip Roy, Avik Chanda among others,

they said.

Discussions at the festival will be on topics like 'Teen-teen Adventures, I am no Messiah' to be participated by Sonu Sood, 'Out of Print: What's plaguing publishing?', 'Announcement of the Romain Rolland Prize', Challenges of Translation, Bengali Literature & Miniatures, 'New Normal, New India', 'Books and Cinema, from word to screen' and 'A Centenary Tribute to Federico Fellini by Federico Grandesso.

## Conditions of Varavara Rao's detention cruel, inhuman: High Court told

MUMBAI, 20 JAN [PTI]: The conditions of poet Varavara Rao's detention are “cruel, inhuman, and degrading”, senior lawyer Indira Jaising told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, and urged it to exercise its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution to release him from prison.

Mr Rao, an octogenarian poet-activist, is an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case and is lodged in Taloja prison in Navi Mumbai as an undertrial.

However, he is currently admitted to the Nanavati Hospital in Mumbai.

Jaising told a bench of Justices S S Shinde and Manish Pitale that Mr Rao's right to dignity and health were being breached due to his detention and that the court must exercise its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution to release him from prison.

“I am submitting that there is violation of right

to life and dignity...The conditions of his (Rao's) detention are cruel, inhuman and degrading,” Jaising said.

“The right to health and dignity is a faucet, a fundamental right under Article 226 of the Constitution of India,” she said.

“The right to life and dignity is fundamental right under Article 21,” Jaising added.

The court, however, said that such claims to fundamental rights were “general submissions”.

“Considering his (Rao's) age and health, you can argue specifically,” it said.

During the same

hearing earlier in the day, the bench also heard arguments by Mr Rao's counsel, senior advocate Anand Grover, on his bail plea on medical grounds.

Grover reiterated that the Taloja prison hospital was inept to provide requisite medical care to the ailing poet.

He suggested that Mr Rao could be granted bail for a trial period of three months and in the meantime he could report to any authority as the court directed.

Grover concluded his arguments on Mr Rao's medical bail plea on Wednesday, after which Jaising began her arguments.



## Correct Pressure from the Right Peers

To help the young grow well, provide them access and counsel

A 13-year-old who used to tear open a bag of chips or kurkure whenever his hands were free and the moment allowed, has managed to stay away from such “junk” food for four months now. And for the past two months, he has not even taken the occasional cheat days. True story. From Gangtok. What convinced him to go “clean” and “live healthy” was the discovery of football as a passion and a senior who came along at the right moment and coached and guided him. And the 13-year-old is not even a good footballer, but has a passion for the sport which motivates him to be the best footballer that his late initiation into the sport and lean frame will allow. Earlier, no amount of sage counsel or dire warnings succeeded in weaning the child away from junk food. Eventually, all it took was for a peer elder to says, “Sportspersons need discipline. We do not do junk food”.

We have often seen such course corrections around us. Some of us might have even experienced it first hand when had a peer, elder or colleague who put things in perspective and gave us context, may be even set us off on the course of our life. In the episode shared here, two things converged – access and counsel. Thankfully, the child developed an interest in football because just about every school and town has a ground where he could kick a ball around. What if he had taken an interest in lawn tennis? ( But just access to something one can get passionate about is obviously not enough. What also came along at the right time was counsel in the form of a senior at school who could channel the passionate energy into what will hopefully be lifelong discipline. There is an important lesson here for Sikkim which is grappling with more teen-problems than it has fashioned solutions for.

Significant attempts like SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) have been underway at select schools to build a network of peer-educators and counselors who can intervene and assist fellow students deal with the challenge of addiction and other influences that beset them. But this, if we are go by the analogy drawn above, addresses only one part of the problem. Sikkim, hence, needs to also provide access to its young if it wants to keep them away from, as leaders here are wont to say, “antisocial” activities and distractions. The young, as anyone who was young at one time will attest, are not excited with counseling sessions and rarely take such advise seriously, which is why it is a good idea to have someone closer to their age speak to them about their concerns. But even this will meet with limited success unless their energies find proper release. Iceland has done so with remarkable success. Teenage smoking, drinking and drug use have been radically cut in the past 20 years, a development directly credited to a policy shift which saw the country invest heavily in after-school activities by setting up well appointed clubs and community centres for sports, music, dance, art or whatever else the young could take a fancy for. Simultaneously, mentors from among the young were groomed. And now, twenty years down the line, the change is obvious. The need for “human” mentors and physical activities cannot be stressed enough in these times of online connectedness and human detachments. Sikkim will do well to ponder of this option...

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at **GANGTOK:** For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at [advertise@summit-times.com](mailto:advertise@summit-times.com) **SILIGURI:** Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at [mani\\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in). **KOLKATA OFFICE:** Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzanine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: [contact.synapse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.synapse@gmail.com)/ [irshad\\_ali123@rediffmail.com](mailto:irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com)

# How to stay safe with a fast-spreading new coronavirus variant on the loose

SURESH DHANIYALA & BYRON ERATH  
THECONVERSATION.COM

A fast-spreading variant of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been found in at least 20 states, and people are wondering: How do I protect myself now?

We saw what the new variant, known as B.1.1.7, can do as it spread quickly through southeastern England in December, causing case numbers to spike and triggering stricter lockdown measures.

The new variant has been estimated to be 50% more easily transmitted than common variants, though it appears to affect people’s health in the same way. The increased transmissibility is believed to arise from a change in the virus’s spike protein that can allow the virus to more easily enter cells. These and other studies on the new variant were released before peer review to share their findings quickly.

Additionally, there is some evidence that patients infected with the new B.1.1.7 variant may have a higher viral load. That means they may expel more virus-containing particles when they breathe, talk or sneeze.

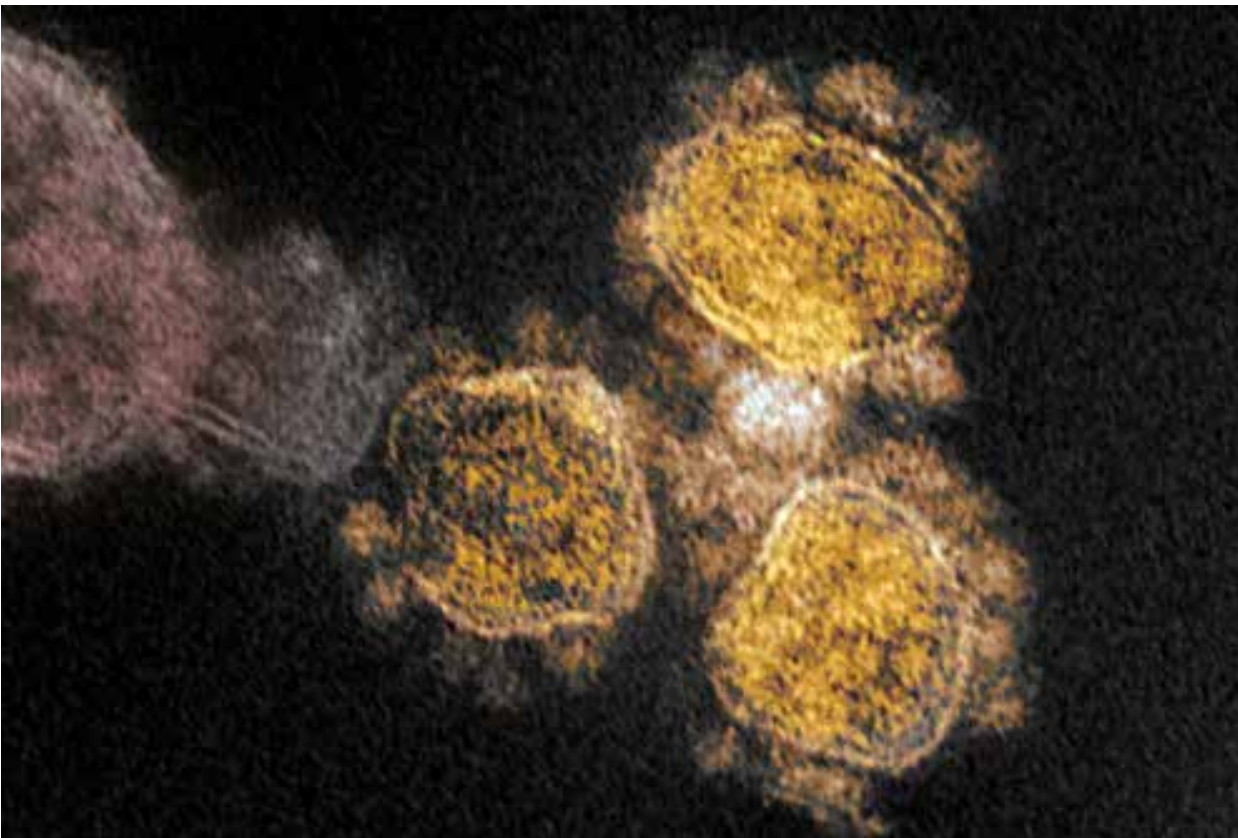
As professors who study fluid dynamics and aerosols, we investigate how airborne particles carrying viruses spread. There is still a lot that scientists and doctors don’t know about the coronavirus and its mutations, but there are some clear strategies people can use to protect themselves.

**AIRBORNE PARTICLES ARE STILL THE BIGGEST PROBLEM**

The SARS-CoV-2 variants are believed to spread primarily through the air rather than on surfaces.

When someone with the coronavirus in their respiratory tract coughs, talks, sings or even just breathes, infectious respiratory droplets can be expelled into the air. These droplets are tiny, predominantly in the range of 1-100 micrometers. For comparison, a human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter.

The larger droplets fall to the ground quickly, rarely traveling farther than 6 feet from the source. The bigger problem for disease transmission is the tiniest droplets



– those less than 10 micrometers in diameter – which can remain suspended in the air as aerosols for hours at a time.

With people possibly having more virus in their bodies and the virus being more infectious, everyone should take extra care and precautions. Wearing face masks and social distancing are essential.

Spaces and activities that were previously deemed “safe,” such as some indoor work environments, may present an elevated infection risk as the variant spreads.

The concentration of aerosol particles is usually highest right next to the individual emitting the particles and decreases with distance from the source. However, in indoor environments, aerosol concentration levels can quickly build up, similar to how cigarette smoke accumulates within enclosed spaces. This is particularly problematic in spaces that have poor ventilation.

With the new variant, aerosol concentration levels that might not have previously posed a risk could now lead to infection.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY SAFE?**

1) Pay attention to the type of face mask you use, and how it fits.

Most off-the-shelf face coverings are not 100% effective at preventing droplet emission. With the new variant spreading more easily and likely infectious at lower concentrations, it’s important to select coverings with materials that are most effective at stopping droplet spread.

When available, N95 and surgical masks consistently perform the best. Otherwise, face coverings that use multiple layers of material are preferable. Ideally, the material should be a tight weave. High thread count cotton sheets are an example. Proper fit is also crucial, as gaps around the nose and mouth can decrease the effectiveness by 50%.

2) Follow social distancing guidelines.

While the current social distancing guidelines are not perfect – 6 feet isn’t always enough – they do offer a useful starting point. Because aerosol concentrations levels and infectivity are highest in the space immediately surrounding anyone with the virus, increasing physical distancing can help reduce risk. Remember that people are infectious before they start showing symptoms, and they many never show symptoms, so don’t count on seeing signs of illness.

3) Think carefully about the environment when entering an

enclosed area, both the ventilation and how people interact.

Limiting the size of gatherings helps reduce the potential for exposure. Controlling indoor environments in other ways can also be a highly effective strategy for reducing risk. This includes increasing ventilation rates to bring in fresh air and filtering existing air to dilute aerosol concentrations.

On a personal level, it is helpful to pay attention to the types of interactions that are taking place. For example, many individuals shouting can create a higher risk than one individual speaking. In all cases, it’s important to minimize the amount of time spent indoors with others.

The CDC has warned that B.1.1.7 could become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant in the U.S. by March. Other fast-spreading variants have also been found in Brazil and South Africa. Increased vigilance and complying with health guidelines should continue to be of highest priority.

[Suresh Dhaniyala is Bayard D. Clarkson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, Clarkson University; Byron Erath is Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Clarkson University]

# How is History Written and Who Writes it?

CURIOUS KIDS  
THECONVERSATION.COM  
Marion Löffler

**Q: How is history written and who writes it? – ZOE, aged ten, Glasgow, Scotland**

Thinking about who writes history is very important if we want to figure out how it is written. Lots of things influence how we see the world. This includes our education, where we come from, whether we are male or female, rich or poor. All these things affect how historians write the history of people, families, communities and societies in the past.

For a long time, the people who wrote history were mostly educated men: from the “father of history”, the ancient Greek Herodotus who lived over 2000 years ago, to medieval monks such as the Englishman Bede, and 20th-century university professors like Eric Hobsbawm. Often, they wrote histories about great men, great wars, and empires that set out to conquer the world.

In the 20th century, this began to change. People from different backgrounds were writing history and making their voices heard. For instance, for

a long time the history books about countries like India, which had been part of the British empire, were written by British people who focused on the story of the empire.

Now, people from those countries are writing their own history. Also, more women and people from poorer families go to university. Their experiences and outlooks were very different from those of the older historians, and it has changed how history is written.

For example, books about Victorian Britain used to explain that men went to work and women stayed at home. This is because the historians writing these books focused on people like them: they read the letters and diaries of educated, middle-class people, and looked at the paintings or photographs that were taken of them. These letters and photographs told them that men went to work and women managed the home.

**TAKING A DIFFERENT LOOK**

For women historians and those from a working-class background, this did not look right. What about the maids and cooks working in those middle-class homes? What about



the seamstresses who made the expensive dresses in the photographs? What about the women and girls working in the textile factories of northern England and the coal mines of south Wales?

The history of Victorian Britain was rewritten because the next generation of historians focused on different groups of people and searched for different source material.

So, how is history written? Every historian attempts to find evidence to build their story of the past, but there are two ways they tend to go about it. One way is to start with a theory. They might theorise that nations, such as Italy and Germany, are modern

developments, and that they only really appeared in the last few centuries.

They will research how nation states, such as the UK or Germany, were formed in the 19th century. Or they might have a theory that nations go way back to the early middle ages. Their evidence may be the different cultures, clothes and languages of the English, the Scottish and the Welsh.

Other historians discover an interesting person, group of people, object or place, and want to find out more about them. I am writing about Thomas Stephens, a rebellious chemist from south Wales who wanted to make life in his community better for

all, and who, like me, wrote history books.

When I opened the first archive box filled with his manuscripts, I could smell the Victorian cough medicines he prepared for the iron workers around him and almost imagine his world, so I just had to know more about him.

History is not only written, it is re-written by every generation. However brilliant an exploration of the past is, it will always be influenced by the historian’s background and identity. The next generation – perhaps you – may ask different questions, look for different sources, and write it differently.

[the writer is Reader in Welsh History, Cardiff University]



# Bhutan, Maldives first countries to receive Covid vaccines from India

**NEW DELHI, 20 JAN [PTI]:** Bhutan and Maldives on Wednesday became the first two countries to receive COVID-19 vaccines sent by India in sync with its “neighbourhood first” policy.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar shared on Twitter photos of the consignments reaching the two countries.

On Tuesday, India had said it would send COVID-19 vaccines under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles from Wednesday.

The supplies to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will commence after confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances.

It is learnt that 1,50,000 doses of



Covishield vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII), were sent to Bhutan and 1,00,000 doses reached Maldives as part of India's grant assistance.

“Indian vaccines reach Maldives, reflects our special friendship,” Mr Jaishankar tweeted along with a photograph of the consignments.

“#VaccineMaitri begins. Consignment arrives in Bhutan. Another example of #NeighbourhoodFirst,” he said in another tweet.

India is one of the world's biggest drugmakers, and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring coronavirus vaccines.

The Ministry of External Affairs had said on Tuesday that India would supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner, keeping in view the domestic requirements.

India has already rolled out a massive coronavirus vaccination

drive under which two vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, are being administered to frontline health workers across the country.

While Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield is being manufactured by the Serum Institute, Covaxin is being produced by Bharat Biotech.

The MEA said it will be ensured that domestic manufacturers have adequate stocks to meet the country's requirements while supplying abroad.

India had earlier supplied hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir and paracetamol tablets, as well as diagnostic kits, ventilators, masks, gloves and other medical supplies to a large number of countries to help them deal with the pandemic.

## Netanyahu courts Arab voters in election-year turnabout

**JERUSALEM (AP):** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has spent much of his long career casting Israel's Arab minority as a potential fifth column led by terrorist sympathizers, is now openly courting their support as he seeks reelection in the country's fourth vote in less than two years.

Few Arabs are likely to heed his call, underscoring the desperation of Netanyahu's political somersault. But the relative absence of incitement against the community in this campaign and the potential breakup of an Arab party alliance could dampen turnout — to Netanyahu's advantage. He might even pick up just enough votes to swing a tight election.

Either way, Netanyahu's overtures have shaken up the Arab community. The Joint List, an alliance of Arab parties that secured a record 15 seats in the 120-member Knesset last March, is riven by a dispute over whether it should work with Netanyahu's right-wing Likud at a time when less objectionable center-left parties are in disarray.

Its demise would leave the community with even less representation as it confronts a terrifying crime wave, coronavirus-fueled unemployment and persistent inequality. But given the complexities of Israel's coalition system, a breakaway Arab party could gain outsized influence if it is willing to work with Netanyahu or other traditionally hostile leaders.

The struggle was on vivid display last week when Netanyahu traveled to Nazareth, the largest Arab-majority city in Israel, his third visit to an Arab district in less than two weeks. Outside the venue, dozens of people, including a number

of Arab members of parliament, protested his visit and scuffled with police, even as the city's mayor welcomed and praised him.

“Netanyahu came like a thief to try to scrape together votes from the Arab street,” said Aida Touma-Suleiman, a prominent lawmaker from the Joint List. “Your attempt to dismantle our community from within won't succeed.”

Arabs make up around 20% of Israel's population. They have full citizenship, including the right to vote, and have a large and growing presence in universities, the health care sector and other professions. But they face widespread discrimination and blame lax Israeli law enforcement for a rising wave of violent crime in their communities.

They have close familial ties to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and largely identify with their cause. That has led many Jews to view them as sympathetic to Israel's enemies, sentiments fanned by Netanyahu and other right-wing politicians.

On the eve of elections in 2015, Netanyahu warned his supporters that Arabs were voting in “droves.” During back-to-back elections in 2019, his campaign sent poll observers to Arab districts and pushed for cameras in voting booths, in what critics said was a ploy to intimidate Arab voters and whip up false allegations of election fraud.

Those moves backfired spectacularly.

The Joint List, an unwieldy alliance of Islamists, communists and other leftists, boosted turnout and emerged as one of the largest blocs in parliament. At times, it looked like it might help deny Netanyahu a majority coalition or even emerge as the official opposition.

But last May, after

three deadlocked elections in less than a year, Netanyahu formed a coalition with his main rival and the Joint List was left out in the cold. In the coming election, polls indicate a coalition of right-wing and centrist parties committed to ending Netanyahu's nearly 12-year rule would be able to oust him without the Arab bloc.

No Arab party has ever asked or been invited to join a ruling coalition.

In Nazareth, Netanyahu claimed his remarks in 2015 were misinterpreted — that he was merely warning Arab voters not to support the Joint List.

“All Israel's citizens, Jews and Arabs alike, must vote,” he said. In other Arab towns, he has visited coronavirus vaccination centers, boasting about his success in securing millions of doses and encouraging residents to get inoculated.

Netanyahu's Arab outreach seems to have given a green light to centrist and left-leaning politicians to do the same, with less concern that their right-wing rivals will use it against them. Opposition leader Yair Lapid, Netanyahu's main center-left opponent, said over the weekend that he was open to forming a government with external support from the Joint List.

The Joint List is meanwhile showing signs of breaking up. Mansour Abbas, the head of an Islamist party, has expressed openness in recent months to working with Netanyahu to address issues like housing and law enforcement. An aide to Abbas declined requests for an interview.

A full-scale breakup of the Joint List could further reduce turnout and potentially leave one or more of its four parties with too little support to cross the electoral threshold.

## Three new COVID-19 cases in Arunachal, tally at 16,815

**ITANAGAR, JAN 20 (PTI):** The COVID-19 tally of Arunachal Pradesh rose to 16,815 on Wednesday as three more persons tested positive for the infection in the state, a health department official said.

Two fresh cases were reported from Changlang district and one from the Capital Complex region, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa

said.

One new case was detected through TrueNat method and two through rapid antigen tests, he said.

A total of 1,075 health workers had received shots of COVID-19 vaccine in the first couple of days of inoculation in the state, Jampa said, adding that the vaccination programme was temporarily halted

on Tuesday.

According to him, 891 people were vaccinated on January 16, the opening day of the nationwide inoculation programme, and 184 received the jabs on Monday.

The state has received a total of 32,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from the Centre till now.

Eight more people were cured of the disease

on Tuesday, taking the total number of recoveries to 16,707, the official said.

The recovery rate among coronavirus patients in the state currently stands at 99.35 per cent.

Arunachal Pradesh now has 52 active cases, and 56 people have succumbed to the infection so far.

West Kameng district

has the highest number of active cases at 23 and Changlang at 7.

The Capital Complex region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas, has 11 active cases.

The state has so far conducted 3,88,013 sample tests, including 322 on Tuesday, the official said, adding that the positivity ratio is at 0.30 per cent.

## Jharkhand reports 101 new COVID-19 cases, 3 more deaths

**RANCHI, JAN 20 (PTI):** Jharkhand's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,17,887 as 101 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said on Wednesday.

The state's coronavirus death toll rose to 1,057 after

three more patients succumbed to the infection in the last 24 hours, he said.

Ranchi district registered the highest number of fresh cases at 53, followed by Dhanbad (16) and Bokaro (9). Jharkhand now has

1,147 active COVID-19 cases, while 1,15,683 people have been cured of the disease so far, the official said.

The state has tested 13,886 samples for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, he added.

Meanwhile, 2,749 health workers were vaccinated at 48 centres in the state on Tuesday, another health official said.

Eighteen of them complained of Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

but none required hospitalisation, he said.

A total of 3,200 health workers were vaccinated on the first day of the nationwide immunisation drive on Saturday and 2,964 on Monday, the official added.

## West Bengal govt makes key poll appointments ahead of Election Commission visit

**KOLKATA, 20 JAN [PTI]:** IAS officers Smaraki Mahapatra and Sanghamitra Ghosh were appointed as the joint chief electoral officer and additional chief electoral officer, respectively, by the West Bengal government on Tuesday, a day before the full bench of the Election Commission (EC) visits the state to review the poll preparedness, an official said.

The two officials were directed to take over the responsibilities immediately, he said.

“Both the officials

have been asked to be present during the visit of the full bench of the EC,” the official said.

Ms Ghosh is presently posted as the secretary of state Women and Child Welfare Department, while Mahapatra is the secretary in the state Finance Department with the additional responsibility of the director of West Bengal Highway Development Corporation.

The full bench, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, will arrive in the state on Wednesday

night on a two-day visit.

On Thursday, they will be holding meetings with Chief Electoral Officer Ariz Aftab and Additional Director-General (Law and Order) Gyanwant Singh, who is also the nodal officer of the state police.

The EC officials are also scheduled to meet representatives of political parties before meeting officials of the central and state regulatory agencies.

There will also be a review meeting with divisional commissioners, district

election officers and senior police officers over the assembly elections in the state, sources in the state poll panel said.

The EC will also be meeting Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay, Home Secretary HK Dwivedi, DGP Virendra and other senior officials, they said.

Meanwhile, the CEO on Tuesday held a meeting with Inspector-General of CRPF PK Singh and Inspector-General of BSF AK Singh over the availability of security forces during

the assembly elections in the state, likely in April-May.

## Kiren Rijiju gets additional charge of AYUSH Ministry

**NEW DELHI, 20 JAN [PTI]:** The Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju, has been temporarily assigned the charge of the Ministry of AYUSH, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique issued on Tuesday.

The move was necessitated as Shripad Yesso Naik, the Minister

of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Goa.

Mr Naik, 68, was admitted to the hospital on January 12 after he met with an accident

while on his way back to Goa from Karnataka.

The minister's wife and his close aide died in the accident.

“The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed that during the hospitalization and treatment of Mr Naik, following a road accident, his portfolio

related to Ministry of AYUSH be temporarily assigned to Kiren Rijiju in addition to his existing portfolios,” according to the statement.

The President has further directed that this arrangement may continue till Mr Naik resumes his work related to the Ministry of AYUSH, it said.

**SummitTIMES**

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

Facebook.com/SummitTimesOnline

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | EICETERA

**To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at**

**GANGTOK:**  
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749877695, +91-9647102692  
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427905 or at office no 03592-208698  
Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**  
Irshad Ali/ Imteyaz Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072, Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-98308397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irshad\_ali123@rediffmail.com

**Phone:**  
03592-208698  
+91-9832556698  
+91-9832080753

**www.summittimes.com**  
news@summittimes.com  
summittimes6@gmail.com  
advertise@summittimes.com

**Address:**  
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road  
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)  
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES

REPORTERS

NAMCHI

9832048410,

9775736596

SINGTAM

7699771651

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/

9434011213

GANGTOK

8016270440,

9832082664,

9832424750,

8768664251

9832470000



# Brazil to California to Lyon: Catarina Macario’s long road to stardom

**BRYAN ARMEN GRAHAM**  
**LOS ANGELES, 20 JAN**  
[THEGUARDIAN]: It has been a week to remember for Catarina Macario, the Brazilian-born, San Diego-bred midfielder who for years has been touted as the future of the US women’s national team but at the moment appears increasingly bound to its present.

Three months after receiving her American citizenship, the 21-year-old playmaker wept tears of joy with her family last Wednesday after receiving confirmation from Fifa of her approval to represent the four-time world champions in international play. The paperwork was finalised a day after Macario signed a contract to start her professional career with European champions Lyon, forgoing her senior season at Stanford University. Then on Monday night, she cut the figure of a polished veteran while making her USA debut in a 4-0 friendly win over Colombia at Orlando’s Exploria Stadium.

It is the culmination of a journey – and a gigantic gamble – that first took shape on a different continent more than a decade ago.

Macario became attached to the sport from an early age growing up in São Luís, Maranhão, on Brazil’s northeastern coast, taking after her older brother, Steve, and playing in pick-up games in the neighbourhood. She cut her teeth as the lone girl among boys, first with the Cruzeiro youth team she joined aged five and later for a Santos affiliate after the family moved to Brasília where her mother, Ana Maria, was completing her surgical residency.

Knowing she would no longer be permitted to play on boys’ teams after her 12th birthday and her opportunities to develop would be severely limited, Macario’s parents were forced to make a difficult choice in order to cultivate their daughter’s gift. Her father, Jose, moved with the two children to San Diego where the infrastructure and support

for women’s soccer was far more advanced than in Brazil. Her mother stayed behind in Brasília to offer financial support.

“Both of my parents wanted to give my brother and me a better experience, a better quality of life, and the chance to experience a different culture,” Macario tells the Guardian. “And obviously it was around the time I would have been barred from playing with boys. So we were just thinking like, what to do next? And obviously we knew that women’s soccer is more popular in the US. So it almost just became an easy choice. Not an easy move, but an easy choice.”

The move to San Diego offered a number of challenges. None of them spoke English except her teenage brother, who was thrust into the role of interlocutor when the family needed to buy a car or rent an apartment. All the time, Ana Maria’s absence made young Catarina question if the dream was worth it – and feel like failure was not an option.

“As a 12-year-old girl, it’s quite hard to be without your mother,” Macario says. “There were definitely some instances where I just had that coming in the back of my mind, whether it was the right thing to do. A lot of times I just felt bad, you know? Because it’s like here she is, she’s trying to, she’s essentially having to support us and just keep working over there, while we’re here in this great country, you know? And she’s trying to support the whole family, but also just hoping that this soccer endeavour will work out.

“And so to me, it was just a little bit challenging while not having my mom and also at the same time, just having this pressure on me that I need to do well. It’s like, is it really worth it?”

Whatever pressure Macario experienced in those first years on US soil served her well as her career progressed. As a stylish playmaker and devastating finisher for youth-club giant San Diego Surf,



she developed into one of the top players in the girls’ soccer hotbed of southern California, drawing the attention of college scouts from as early as middle school. After accepting a scholarship offer to attend Stanford, she scored 63 goals in 68 games and helped lead the Cardinal to a pair of national championships while twice winning the MAC Hermann trophy as the top collegiate player in the country.

While Macario was eligible to play for either Brazil or the United States, her preference was never a question. “I had already made that decision before moving here,” she says. “Despite having had invites from Brazil to play with them, I just did not want to play for a federation that does not support or view as equal, my sport, you know? I just did not want to reinforce that idea that’s like, oh, this is OK.

“At least when I was there, it was just very shunned upon to be a woman playing soccer. There is still a lot of discrimination around

that. And just because they think that women should, I don’t know, like if they want to play sport, it’s like go play volleyball, because it’s pretty, you know? Do anything but play soccer.

“So that’s a hard mentality to swallow, because I feel anyone is entitled to anything. And that’s thankfully how it is here. If you want to play whatever you want to play, you can play. If you can play, you can play, period.”

Two of Macario’s long-held dreams were realised in the span of a few hours on 8 October when she officially became a US citizen and was named to the roster to attend her first USWNT training camp.

“It felt like the biggest relief and a weight off my shoulders. I’d felt American for the longest time,” she says. “And so I just needed a piece of paper to almost validate that. And to have waited so long and to have gotten this approval within 30 minutes, it was just almost comical, you know?”

Macario bubbles with

enthusiasm at the prospect of helping the US national team on the pitch, where she will try to earn a spot on the 18-player squad that will travel to the Tokyo Olympics this summer. But she is equally keen on joining a group that has become known as much for their unwavering commitment to social justice and fearlessness in leaning into thorny political issues as their dominance.

“I think at this day and age, where social media and the platform that elite athletes have, I think it’s very important that we don’t just stick to sport, you know?” she says. “After all players are humans. I look up to them even more, not only because they’re so badass, but because they know exactly how to use this great platform that they have and to inspire others to speak out to tell what’s really meaningful to them, and hopefully try to spark some change. It’s definitely something that I’ve looked up to them a lot for. And it makes me even more

happy and grateful to be a part of this team.”

It’s Marcario’s social consciousness and sense of morality that informed her decision to forgo her senior season at Stanford and sign a two-and-a-half-year contract with Lyon. Ultimately, it was the French club’s demonstrated track record of gender equity that captured her spirit.

“They have such world class players and I think playing in that environment every day will really take my game to the next level,” Maracio said. “But also because they’re huge on women’s equality, you know? That’s something that’s very important to me, and something that I wish other teams would mimic. Because I think a lot of people underestimate the value that women’s sports and women’s soccer has in general.

“I want to be a part of something that is spearheading the movement, if that makes sense? I’m actually investing in seeing myself as an equal to my male counterparts. When you have that type of investment in your sport, that’s how you can really grow. And that’s how you can become the best version of yourself that’s possible.”

Macario demurs when asked about with the breathless hype that’s accompanied her ascent and arrival with the national team – she’s been hailed as a generational talent and a cornerstone of the team for years to come – but also doesn’t hide from the headlines.

“It’s very flattering, especially because I have yet to play a professional game, you know?” she says. “Of course, I highly value the compliment. But at the same time, it’s just like, ‘OK, let’s get to work’, you know? So that I can actually fit into this idea that people perceive of me.

“It’s very flattering, but I don’t see myself as that. I just see myself as this rookie that’s trying to find her spot, you know? Do I think that I can get there? Totally.”

## ATK Mohun Bagan eye comeback against Chennaiyin FC

**MARGAO, JAN 20 (PTI):** ATK Mohun Bagan will look to put up a better show after dropping the five points in their last two games when they take on Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League fixture at the Fatorda Stadium here on Thursday.

The Kolkata team lost to Mumbai City FC and drew with FC Goa which nearly cost them the second spot.

Coach Antonio Habas, however, said there is ‘no added pressure’ on him, despite the results going against his side.

“In championships, you have good moments and sometimes bad. We have played the last two games against the top two teams FC Goa and Mumbai City FC who are capable of winning the league. We are in the top half of the table. Maybe we need to improve,” said Habas.

Habas’ side have created the least number of chances (81) this season and attempted just 35 shots on target. They have also scored just 11 goals the joint-second-lowest in the league.

“We need to find the right balance between attack and defence. I wouldn’t prefer scoring and conceding 25 goals. That’s not good for me,” the Spaniard said.

Roy Krishna, their main attacking outlet, scored five goals in his

first six matches but since then, he has scored just one in the last five.

Asked about the Fijian’s form, Habas said: “Don’t worry this situation will happen. I don’t have any problem. This is football.

“We have to continue our work. Our idea is to get three points in every match. After that we can think about the playoffs.”

The last time the two teams met, they split points after a goalless draw and it will be quite a challenge for ATK Mohun Bagan when they come up against Csaba Laszlo’s team, which has kept its play-off hopes alive with the help of some good defensive performances.

Chennaiyin have already kept more clean sheets than they did in the entire last season. However, their progress has been marred by injuries during the campaign, with Rafael Crivellaro being the latest casualty.

“I know my team and I know the actual situation in the team. We lost our captain Rafael Crivellaro. Rafa was an important piece of the puzzle in the system and he was voted one of the best players last season,” said Laszlo.

“We are fighting with injuries. We are fighting with some kind of (bad) luck. But we are not complaining. I can take everything positively. You have to take the best out of the team.

## Championship: Rooney praises Derby’s desire in win while Watford go third

**LONDON, 20 JAN [PA MEDIA]:** Wayne Rooney was keen to shift the praise towards his players after landing his first win as permanent Derby manager.

Krystian Bielik’s tidy finish in the first half was enough to see off promotion-chasing Bournemouth 1-0 at Pride Park. The Rams were good value for the win and it was a victory which lifted them out of the bottom three.

A delighted Rooney reflected on the maiden success, saying: “To get any win is great. Obviously I’ve not been looking at it like that [first win] as I’ve been doing it a while but yeah I’m delighted. But most of all I’m really pleased for the players. It shows what a difference it makes playing with more desire, and that desire to stop crosses.

“I demanded a reaction tonight and in fairness it has been a difficult couple of weeks. I felt this game had a lot of pressure on us tonight. There’s only one game lately where I’ve been disappointed in us and that was the loss to Rotherham last week. But I was delighted with their reaction tonight.”

Even the late introduction of Jack Wilshere, who agreed

terms with Bournemouth until the end of the season on Monday, failed to inspire Jason Tindall’s side as they fell to a second successive defeat.

Xisco Munoz urged his Watford side to improve their away record after Troy Deeney’s penalty saw off Barnsley 1-0 and earned the Hornets a 10th league success at Vicarage Road this season. The captain blasted home from 12 yards after Callum Brittain had blocked his 26th-minute cross with his right arm to improve a home record that was already the best in England. Watford moved up to third place in the Championship as a result of a third successive home win under Xisco, who succeeded Vladimir Ivic as manager in December. However, the Hornets trail leaders Norwich by seven points after winning just twice away from home.

“This is a good moment for us because every time we play at home we take the points,” Xisco said. “I am very happy with the players but now we must start to win away. “We are going to work a lot on this and try our best to improve our results away from home. It is something

everybody wants in this team.”

The Rotherham manager Paul Warne said his side were amazing as they drew a thrilling contest 3-3 with Stoke to mark his 200th game in charge. Rotherham twice let their lead slip in the second half as Stoke battled back to earn a point on a wet night in South Yorkshire. “I really enjoyed it and it’s sad the fans weren’t in,” Warne said. “Both sets of fans would have really enjoyed it. Both teams weren’t settling for a draw. I always ask the lads to leave everything out on the pitch and they did. I’ve no complaints.”

Play-off contenders Reading strengthened their top-six position with a comfortable 3-0 victory over 10-man Coventry. The home side went ahead in the 16th minute when top scorer Lucas João slotted home his 17th goal of the season from close range. Andy Rinomhota made it 2-0 straight after half-time and John Swift added a third with a superb 72nd-minute free-kick. The Coventry centre-back Kyle McFadzean was sent off for his second yellow card for the foul that led to Swift’s goal.

## Championship: Rooney praises Derby’s desire in win while Watford go third

**LONDON, 20 JAN [PA MEDIA]:** Wayne Rooney was keen to shift the praise towards his players after landing his first win as permanent Derby manager.

Krystian Bielik’s tidy finish in the first half was enough to see off promotion-chasing Bournemouth 1-0 at Pride Park. The Rams were good value for the win and it was a victory which lifted them out of the bottom three.

A delighted Rooney reflected on the maiden success, saying: “To get any win is great. Obviously I’ve not been looking at it like that [first win] as I’ve been doing it a while but yeah I’m delighted. But most of all I’m really pleased for the players. It shows what a difference it makes playing with more desire, and that desire to stop crosses.

“I demanded a reaction tonight and in fairness it has been a difficult couple of weeks. I felt this game had a lot of pressure on us tonight. There’s only one game lately where I’ve been disappointed in us and that was the loss to Rotherham last week. But I was delighted with their reaction tonight.”

Even the late introduction of Jack

Wilshere, who agreed terms with Bournemouth until the end of the season on Monday, failed to inspire Jason Tindall’s side as they fell to a second successive defeat.

Xisco Munoz urged his Watford side to improve their away record after Troy Deeney’s penalty saw off Barnsley 1-0 and earned the Hornets a 10th league success at Vicarage Road this season. The captain blasted home from 12 yards after Callum Brittain had blocked his 26th-minute cross with his right arm to improve a home record that was already the best in England. Watford moved up to third place in the Championship as a result of a third successive home win under Xisco, who succeeded Vladimir Ivic as manager in December. However, the Hornets trail leaders Norwich by seven points after winning just twice away from home.

“This is a good moment for us because every time we play at home we take the points,” Xisco said. “I am very happy with the players but now we must start to win away. “We are going to work a lot on this and try our best to improve our results away from home. It is something

everybody wants in this team.”

The Rotherham manager Paul Warne said his side were amazing as they drew a thrilling contest 3-3 with Stoke to mark his 200th game in charge. Rotherham twice let their lead slip in the second half as Stoke battled back to earn a point on a wet night in South Yorkshire. “I really enjoyed it and it’s sad the fans weren’t in,” Warne said. “Both sets of fans would have really enjoyed it. Both teams weren’t settling for a draw. I always ask the lads to leave everything out on the pitch and they did. I’ve no complaints.”

Play-off contenders Reading strengthened their top-six position with a comfortable 3-0 victory over 10-man Coventry. The home side went ahead in the 16th minute when top scorer Lucas João slotted home his 17th goal of the season from close range. Andy Rinomhota made it 2-0 straight after half-time and John Swift added a third with a superb 72nd-minute free-kick. The Coventry centre-back Kyle McFadzean was sent off for his second yellow card for the foul that led to Swift’s goal.



# Boats emerge from Sahara sand to transport migrants to Spain

**DAKHLA, WESTERN SAHARA (AP):** Beneath a star-packed sky in the Sahara, smugglers and handymen unearth a boat buried in the sand, a made-to-order vessel for carrying migrants from the North African coast to Spain's Canary Islands.

With seasoned skill, the men hoist the blue-bottomed wooden boat atop a four-wheel drive vehicle that will take it from this inland hideaway to the Western Sahara shore. From there, the boat is meant to take 20 to 30 migrants into the Atlantic Ocean and across what the European Union's border agency calls "the most dangerous migratory route in the world."

The boat handover is a crucial but little-seen piece of the migrant smuggling chain in disputed Western Sahara — a business that thrived last year, as the coronavirus pandemic plunged many Africans into poverty and, with other routes choked off, migration to the Canary Islands jumped eight-fold to the highest rates ever recorded.

Encouraged by aid from Spain and the EU, the Moroccan authorities who control Western Sahara — where some

residents have long sought independence — are increasingly cracking down and thwarted a recent boat transfer witnessed by The Associated Press.

But many others succeed, as smugglers dodge police helicopter searchlights in the desert and reach fishing towns on the coast around Dakhla. The peninsula city boasts a thriving fishing port, and kitesurfing enthusiasts flock to its waters. But in recent months, its beaches have become a hot spot for smuggling networks eyeing the Canaries, 500 kilometers (300 miles) north.

Although irregular crossings to Europe dropped overall in 2020, the Canary Islands route saw a significant rise, with some 22,600 migrants arriving, making Spain the main point of entry for migrants trying to reach European shores last year, according to EU and Spanish government figures. At least 600 people died or disappeared trying to make the journey.

The resurgence of the route has been driven in part by COVID-19.

The pandemic has wiped out livelihoods across Morocco by

cutting off tourism revenue and periodically shutting down local businesses. While in the past most arrivals in the Canaries were from sub-Saharan Africa, now about half are Moroccans. Boats also routinely set out from the West African shores of Guinea, Gambia and Mauritania, according to the International Organization for Migration.

A resident of Dakhla who organizes trips for migrants said economic difficulties drove him to work for a smuggling network.

"We had to make money and feed our families," the 32-year-old told the AP on condition of anonymity because what he does is illegal.

He says he puts together one trip per week, while competitors send out up to 10 boats a night. He estimates as many as half of the migration attempts fail, either because of problems before departure or at sea.

One recent failure was visible on the shores of the Dakhla peninsula: the freshly charred remains of a migrant boat that caught fire. The fate of those aboard is unclear.

IOM's Missing Migrants Project provisionally recorded 601 deaths or disappearances on the Canary route last year, including at least 109 who left from Dakhla or were found near Dakhla. They are still investigating another eight missing boats with 355 people aboard.

The Dakhla resident said migrants pay \$2,000 for the trip — a vast sum in Morocco, where the typical worker earns a few hundred dollars a month — but wouldn't say how much he earns himself.

"I don't know where they get the money from, but they want to leave at any cost," he said.

One recent night, a group of smugglers left Dakhla and headed inland, followed by a vehicle carrying a dozen handymen. They drove past police checkpoints then turned off the highway into the endless expanse of desert. The driver had a GPS coordinate on a phone and crossed the sand with the experience of someone who seemed to have taken the route many times.

At the meeting point, the men found a white tent and a young boat-builder — and unearthed a large boat.

Just as they prepared to head back, the smugglers received a message about police "movement" and were told to leave the boat. Within minutes, the vessel was deep beneath the sand again — and the tent and equipment gone.

As the men drove back toward town, police stopped their car and searched it for signs of smuggling — but found none.

The carpenter said he built the boat in the desert to avoid attracting attention — a common practice, though smugglers also sometimes simply buy boats from fishermen. The carpenter, who said he earns about 20,000 dirham (\$2,000) per vessel, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the connection to smuggling networks.

When such boats make it to Dakhla, they find plenty of takers.

It can take up to four days to get to the Canaries, and people arrive in terrible shape. They generally don't take food on the journey and very little water, if any, according to migration agencies.

But deterring people from taking the risk is a huge challenge in a

global economic crisis. As crossings surged last year to the highest level since EU border agency began collecting data in 2009, Spain sent top government officials to Senegal and Morocco in November to discuss how to stop the crossings.

The EU provides development aid to African countries to help them manage migration and has also set up a 5 billion-euro (\$6 billion) trust fund to address the problem. For its part, Moroccan police have said they prevented nearly 10,000 migrants from crossing to Europe last year, and the government agreed to take back Moroccans who are deported.

But still hundreds of people attempt the journey. Already six deaths have been recorded in 2021 on the Canary route, most recently a boy who drowned.

"It is absolutely one of the most deadly routes to the European Union," Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told EU lawmakers Tuesday. "And we don't know actually how many lives have been lost."

## DC on lockdown and on edge before Biden's inauguration

**WASHINGTON (AP):** The inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden will take place in a Washington on edge, after the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol unleashed a wave of fear and unmatched security concerns. And law enforcement officials are contending not only with the potential for outside threats but also with rising concerns about an insider attack by troops with a duty to protect him.

There have been no specific threats made against Biden.

The nation's capital is essentially on lockdown. More than 25,000 troops and police have been called to duty. Tanks and concrete barriers block the streets. The National Mall is closed. Fencing lines the perimeter of the U.S. Capitol complex. Checkpoints sit at intersections. The U.S. Secret Service, which is in charge of the event, says it is prepared.

But law enforcement officials have been monitoring members of far-right extremist and militia groups. They have grown increasingly concerned about the possibility such groups could stream into Washington and spark violent confrontations, a law enforcement official said.

Even in the hours before the event, federal agents were monitoring "concerning online chatter," which included an array of threats against elected officials and discussions about ways to infiltrate the inauguration, the official said.

And 12 National Guard members were

removed from the security operation after vetting by the FBI, including two who had made extremist statements in posts or texts about Wednesday's event. Pentagon officials wouldn't give details on the statements.

Two other U.S. officials told The Associated Press that all 12 were found to have ties with right-wing militia groups or to have posted extremist views online. The officials, a senior intelligence official and an Army official briefed on the matter, did not say which fringe groups the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in. The officials told the AP they had all been removed because of "security liabilities."

The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

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

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

FBI has been working to vet all 25,000 National Guard in town. Officials have said the Pentagon has found no intelligence so far that would indicate an insider threat.

But the FBI has also warned law enforcement officials about the possibility that right-wing fringe groups could pose as members of the National Guard, according to two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter. Over the summer, a man carrying a handgun and an assault rifle was arrested in Los Angeles and charged with impersonating a National Guard member during a protest. Actual Guard members confronted him when they noticed things out of place on his uniform.

Investigators in Washington are particularly worried that members of right-wing extremist groups and militias, like the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, could descend on Washington to spark violence, the law enforcement officials said. Some of the extremist groups are known to recruit former military personnel and train extensively and have frequented anti-government and political protests.

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

The nation's capital has been on edge since the deadly insurrection. A fire in a

homeless camp roughly a mile from the Capitol complex prompted an evacuation Monday during a rehearsal for the inauguration. The arrests of two people with guns who entered the checkpoints set off concerns, though the arrests had no apparent connection to the inauguration.

Federal law enforcement officials have also been wary of increased surveillance of military and law enforcement checkpoints and other positions. Some National Guard troops have reported people taking pictures and recording them, said the law enforcement officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing security matters.

In a related problem, the Secret Service issued a bulletin over the weekend about what it sees as an "uptick" in National Guard troops posting pictures and details of their own operations online.

The AP obtained the message sent to all National Guard troops coming to Washington. The bulletin read, "No service members should be posting locations, pictures or descriptions online regarding current operations or the sensitive sites they are protecting" and urged them to stop immediately.

Asked about the bulletin, a spokesperson for the Secret Service said the agency "does not comment on matters of protective intelligence."

Neither Hokanson

nor Pentagon spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman would provide details on the comments or texts made by the two Guard members. Speaking at a Pentagon news conference, Hokanson said one was identified by his chain of command and the other was identified through an anonymous tip.

"Much of the information," Hoffman said, "is unrelated to the events taking place at the Capitol or to the concerns that many people have noted on extremism."

These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past or any potential link to questionable behavior, not just related to extremism."

Hoffman said officials aren't asking questions right now of those who were flagged.

But later, he said, "we will address them, whether it's through law enforcement, if necessary, or through their own chain of command."

## Jack's back: Chinese e-tycoon ends silence with online video

**BEIJING (AP):** China's highest-profile entrepreneur, Jack Ma, appeared Wednesday in an online video, ending a 2 1/2-month absence from public view that prompted speculation about the future of the e-commerce billionaire and his Alibaba Group.

In the 50-second video, Ma congratulated teachers supported by his foundation and made no mention of his disappearance or official efforts to tighten control over Alibaba and other internet companies over the past six months. The video appeared on Chinese business news and other websites.

The normally voluble Ma disappeared from public view after he irked regulators by criticizing them in an Oct. 24 speech at a Shanghai conference. Days later, regulators suspended the planned multibillion-dollar stock market debut of Ant Group, a financial platform that grew out of Alibaba's payments service, Alipay.

That prompted speculation online about whether the 56-year-old Ma, China's biggest global business celebrity and a symbol of its tech boom, had been detained or might face legal trouble. Alibaba and the government haven't responded to questions about him.

The Jack Ma Foundation said in a statement Wednesday: "Jack Ma participated in the online ceremony of the annual Rural Teacher Initiative event on January 20." The foundation and Alibaba didn't respond to questions about Ma's status and when his next public event might be.

President Xi Jinping's government says anti-monopoly enforcement against internet companies will be a priority this year. Alibaba and other companies have been fined for violating anti-monopoly

rules. Some social media services have been reprimanded for lapses in enforcing censorship.

In his October speech, Ma complained regulators had an antique "pawnshop mentality" and were hampering innovation, according to Chinese media. He appealed to them to make it easier for entrepreneurs and young people to borrow.

That clashed with the ruling party's marathon campaign to reduce surging debt in China's financial system that prompted fears about a possible bank crisis and led rating agencies to cut Beijing's credit rating for government borrowing.

Some people suggested the ruling Communist Party was making an example of Ma to show entrepreneurs couldn't defy regulators. But finance experts said Xi's government was uneasy about Alibaba's dominance in retailing and Ant's potential financial risks.

Anti-monopoly regulators warned executives Alibaba and five other tech giants in December not to use their dominance to block new competitors from entering their markets. The central bank and other regulators have ordered Ant to overhaul its business before its market debut can go ahead.

Alibaba's share price in Hong Kong is down 10% since October but recovered some of its loss from its low point this month.

Ma, a ruling party member, stepped down as Alibaba chairman in 2019 but is a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors. He played a leading role in developing Ant, which grew out of Alibaba's online payment service, Alipay.

**DONATE BOOKS FOR NOBLE CAUSE  
TO BUILD LIBRARY**

*If anyone willing to donate books or  
support through  
Finance, than you are most welcome*

**"GIVING IS NOT JUST  
ABOUT  
MAKE A DONATION,  
ITS ABOUT MAKING  
DIFFERENCE"**

**For more Details Contact ; 6294745117,8768809862**

**Email ; chitishchetri7@gmail.com**

**SummitTIMES**  
SOCIETY BY DESIGN



## Chrissy Teigen Responds to Criticism for Attending 2021 Inauguration as Americans Are Asked to Stay Home

Chrissy Teigen took to social media on Jan. 19 after users questioned why she was allowed to join husband John Legend at Joe Biden's 2021 presidential inauguration.

Chrissy Teigen is not feeling deterred by the backlash to her attending the 2021 presidential inauguration for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

The 35-year-old model posted photos and video to social media on Jan. 19 of her family traveling to Washington, D.C. to support husband John Legend, who is performing at the historic event on Jan. 20. This led a number of users on both sides of the political aisle to criticize the fact that Hollywood stars such as Chrissy are allowed to attend when most other Americans are being asked to stay home amid the ongoing pandemic and heightened security.

One individual questioned why John's "whole family" is able to attend the virtual celebration "when literally no one can move about the city."

Chrissy replied, "for f--ks sake why are you guys always always mad at me, all I wanna do is make you happy or at least leave you with a neutral feeling of indifference."

When the user wrote that D.C. residents "aren't very 'happy' right now"



about the locked-down city, the Lip Sync Battle co-star shot back, "this is not my fault but I'm sorry you're frustrated. I just like to share what we are up to and whatnot."

The negative reaction has seemingly not discouraged Chrissy from continuing to post about the visit. After her above responses to the criticism, she later shared more pics and footage from her trip, including video of their family watching a rehearsal in front of the Washington Monument.

"Imao we got lost on the way to soundcheck but I just got to meet these

f--king actual heroes," she tweeted, along with an image of herself and John with some National Guard troops. Upwards of 25,000 troops will be in D.C. in light of the riots at the United States Capitol on Jan. 6.

John is among the myriad musicians participating in "Celebrating America," a prime-time special airing live on Jan. 20 at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT, following the swearing-in of Joe Biden as the nation's 46th President. Justin Timberlake, Demi Lovato, Bruce Springsteen and Katy Perry are some of the other scheduled performers.

## Gaga, J. Lo headline Biden inauguration

*Gaga. J. Lo. Hanks. Legend. Miranda. Bruuuuuce.*

It's a far cry from a normal inauguration, with Washington locked down due to security concerns, and most inaugural events gone virtual because of the raging coronavirus pandemic. But one thing is back that virtually disappeared four years ago: the A-list.

A slew of glittery celebrities is descending on Washington — virtually or in person — to welcome the new administration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, a duo popular in Hollywood, where Donald Trump was decidedly not.

They're led by Lady Gaga -- about as A-list as you can get -- singing the national anthem Wednesday on the West Front of the Capitol, with Jennifer Lopez and Garth Brooks contributing musical performances.

Gaga posted a photo of herself on Twitter and Instagram Tuesday afternoon, standing inside the Capitol, site of the deadly riot Jan. 6. She called for Inauguration Day to be "a day of peace for all Americans. A day for love, not hatred. A day for acceptance not fear."

Other top-tier performers will be part of "Celebrating America," a 90-minute, multi-network evening broadcast hosted by Tom Hanks that takes the place of the usual official inaugural balls. Miranda will contribute a classical recitation, joining musicians like Bruce Springsteen, John Legend, Katy Perry, Demi Lovato, Foo Fighters, Justin Timberlake and Bon Jovi. Hosts Kerry Washington and Eva Longoria will be joined by basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, chef Jose Andres, labor leader Dolores Huerta and Kim Ng, the first female general manager in MLB history.

The inaugural committee has made sure to blend this high-powered list with ordinary Americans and inspiring stories. Segments will include tributes to a UPS driver, a kindergarten teacher and Sandra Lindsay, the first in New York to receive the COVID-19 vaccine outside a clinical trial. The proceedings will be carried by ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, MSNBC and PBS as well as the committee's social media channels and streaming partners.

There's also a virtual "Parade Across America" on



inauguration afternoon, hosted by actor Tony Goldwyn with appearances by Jon Stewart, Earth Wind & Fire and the New Radicals — reuniting after more than two decades — among many others.

The history of celebrities performing at inaugurations dates back to Franklin D. Roosevelt's third inauguration in 1941, when a gala celebration the evening before saw performances from Irving Berlin, Mickey Rooney and Charlie Chaplin, says Lina Mann of the White House Historical Association. "Chaplin performed his monologue from 'The Great Dictator,'" Mann notes.

The celebrity component only increased over time, and one of the starriest inaugurations was that of John F. Kennedy in 1961. That celebration, hosted by Frank Sinatra, drew Harry Belafonte, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Gene Kelly, Ethel Merman, Laurence Olivier, Sidney Poitier and other celebrities.

Fast forward to the first Barack Obama inauguration in 2009, where Aretha Franklin sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" at the swearing-in, and the new president and his wife, Michelle, were serenaded by Beyoncé singing "At Last" at an inaugural ball.



**JASMINE'S BEACH JAUNT!** Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Cover Model 2020 Jasmine Sanders hit the beach in Miami, looking stunning in a PrettyLittleThing bikini and black wrap.

## Teen Mom's Javi Marroquin Speaks Out After Lauren Comeau Accuses Him of Cheating With Kailyn Lowry

Teen Mom 2 star Javi Marroquin broke his silence after his fiancée Lauren Comeau claimed he had an affair with his ex-wife Kailyn Lowry. Read on to see what the father of two had to say.

Javi Marroquin and Lauren Comeau are done, but the Teen Mom 2 star is denying it had anything to do with his ex-wife Kailyn Lowry.

Javi told InTouch on Tuesday, Jan. 19, "While I have tried to avoid a he said/she said situation [by] staying quiet, the accusations Lauren made against me this afternoon on Instagram are false." He added, "My only focus right now is creating healthy coparenting relationships with both Lauren and Kail for the sake of my boys and bettering myself."

Lauren and Javi welcomed their son Eli in 2018 and got engaged in June 2019. He also shares 7-year-old son Lincoln with Kailyn.

Earlier in the day, Lauren posted an Instagram video accusing her fiancé of cheating on her with Kailyn, though she's since deleted the clip.

"I have dealt with my fair share of betrayal and pain my whole life, but what I learned today, what I found out today — from the kids none the less — just makes me feel like the

last three years, they've just been waiting for this to happen," Lauren said through tears, according to the outlet.

She continued, "I've always known people have been against me and Javi, people have wanted to see us break up our whole relationship and now that it's finally here, it's just like, where did those three years go? People can move on with their life, their relationship gets better and I'm just here to pick up the pieces with my kid, stuck here with no family or friends."

Lauren added, "So if anyone sees Javi driving around in a black Suburban, you'll know why I'm crying today."

However, if today's drama sounds familiar, it might be because a similar fight happened in August 2019 as well. Just two months after their engagement, Javi was left begging for Lauren's forgiveness amid another alleged cheating scandal.

"Lauren, I'm sorry for my mistakes," the 28 year old wrote on Instagram. "I'm sorry I broke your heart, I'm sorry I disrespected you. I'm sorry I took you for granted. I could say sorry for a million other things but I'm sorry will never be enough."

first hand, Cancer. Observe the green light you are receiving and where it is leading you. Even though things are looking topsy-turvy in your world, you are about to make a breakthrough. So march ahead armed with courage and confidence. The mysterious forces above and below are helping you make this transition a seamless one.

**LEO:** Many a times, we feel like the closer we get to the finish line, the further the finish line moves away from us. But, this is far from the truth, Leo. You are where you need to be and you are progressing at the right pace. The delays in this plan are providing you with an opportunity to add finishing touches wherever necessary—finishing touches that will take the quality of your work to a whole new level. PS: You know what you need to dedicate yourself to today.

**VIRGO:** Following the plan to the tee is a good thing, but it's also synonymous with predictability. Today, the cards are urging you to tap into your adventurous side and say yes to the opportunity of travel, should it arise. Yes, we're talking about an artists' retreat or a spiritual sabbatical, depending on what you're vibing with at this moment. Your friends may or may not be on board depending on the personal responsibilities they're dealing with at the moment. PS: Stay open to the

idea of meeting new people.

**LIBRA:** Your eye for beauty puts artists to shame, Libra. Curating a space that reflects your sensibilities is the equivalent of therapy for you. This week, you're being asked to dedicate yourself to the art and craft of beauty, and bring a sense of harmony into your space. Imagine waking up to a place that reminds of your favourite Airbnb halfway across the world! PS: If you've been thinking about moving into a new home, expect good news on that front soon.

**SCORPIO:** Scorpio, you're feeling rather artsy this week and are in the mood to surround yourself with objects and people who inspire the best in you. Consider signing up for a retreat this weekend or heading to your favourite spot in the hills—someplace you can experience a sense of oneness with Mother Nature and all of her creations. PS: Your special someone will be more than happy to embark upon this adventure with you!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Sagittarius, you're actively thinking about making certain lifestyle changes this year. Consider adopting a plant-based diet, one that's rich in fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and whole grains, which is known to reduce the risk of various diseases such as metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cancer, and depression, while

increasing our energy levels. But there's nothing quite like direct experience, is there? PS: Put the Mediterranean lifestyle to the test and see the changes for yourself.

**CAPRICORN:** You matter, Capricorn, and so do your dreams. Do not allow anybody to diminish you in any way. Today, the cards are urging you to get your plan of action in place and go full steam ahead. The funds and resources you require will be provided to you at each step. If you've been thinking about expanding your business, focus on organic marketing. Talk about your product/service to the right target audience as you continue to focus on the quality of your creations.

**AQUARIUS:** Maybe you're not the black sheep of the tribe, Aquarius. Maybe you're the only one who got it right all along. Today, the cards are urging you to be who you are unapologetically. There are a lot of people who will not understand your story or where you're coming from, and that's okay. It's not your job to make those around you feel comfortable.

**PISCES:** You've tried taking a softer approach and that hasn't worked for you so far. The given situation requires you to take the assertive route and ask for what you want. It's time to stop diminishing your power, Pisces. It's time to stop letting others take advantage of your kind and loving heart. Yes, this includes your inner circle too.