



**THE 'FINAL STRAW' BEHIND  
MEGHAN AND HARRY'S FALLOUT  
WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY: REPORT**  
pg 08

**SHOULD WE BE WORRIED  
ABOUT THE NEW WUHAN  
CORONAVIRUS?**

04

**JOHNNY FLYNN JOINS  
SHOWTIME SERIES 'RIPLEY'**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 21 | Gangtok | Friday | 24 January 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

**CAA unconstitutional, must be withdrawn:**  
*Yashwant Sinha*

**JAIPUR, JAN 23 (PTI):** The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is “unconstitutional” and the central government must withdraw it, former Union minister Yashwant Sinha said on Thursday.

Sinha also demanded a judicial probe into the violence that broke out in several parts of the country against the amended law, particularly in BJP ruled states.

“The government is trying to divert public attention but such diversion will not last long. It is temporary. The government should withdraw the CAA as it is unconstitutional,” he said here.

“There are a number of problems and issues in the country which includes the issues of farmers, youth and unemployment. There is an atmosphere of unrest and the government should fulfil its constitutional duty without doing any discrimination on the basis of caste and religion,” he added.

Sinha will extend his support to a rally which scheduled to be organised on Friday against the CAA, National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register (NPR).

**Kejriwal holds roadshow in northwest Delhi's Matiala**

**NEW DELHI, JAN 23 (PTI):** Surrounded by scores of supporters, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took out a roadshow in northwest Delhi's Matiala Assembly constituency on Thursday. Kejriwal, atop an open yellow coloured jeep, waved to the public and shook hands with them as his roadshow moved through the narrow lanes of the Matiala Assembly.

He was accompanied by Matiala MLA Gulab Singh Yadav.

Holding placards in support of various schemes of the government, including free healthcare, and electricity, AAP supporters danced to the tune of ‘Lage Raho Kejriwal’ (the party's anthem).

Shakuntala Devi, an 42-year-old homemaker, peeped from her window as the roadshow moved past her house.

“I am glad we have option of voting for a party like AAP in Delhi otherwise we would have been forced to cast our vote either for the BJP or the Congress. The AAP has worked more than any party I have seen,” she said. Two houses ahead, Ramesh Gaur said he is also planning to vote for the AAP in the upcoming polls.

## Commercial Taxes Division to conduct GST enforcement drive

**Focus on hotel sector where GST collection is “below par”**

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN (IPR):** The Commercial Taxes Division, Finance Department in association with Sikkim Hotels & Restaurants Association (SHRA) has decided to organize an awareness drive on GST (Goods and Services Tax) followed by an enforcement drive to ensure timely payment of GST and other taxes. The enforcement drive will commence from 17 Feb, 2020. A press conference in this regard was organized today by the Commercial Taxes Division of the Finance Department, here in the capital.

The press conference was jointly addressed by Mayor (GMC), Shakti Singh Choudhary, Com-

missioner (Commercial Taxes Division), Jigme Dorjee Bhutia, Director (Accounts) Tourism Department, Tseten Dorjee Bhutia, Superintendent of Police (East), Hari Chettri, and President (SHRA), Roshan Pradhan.

It was informed that GST is a destination based tax system, and this feature of GST has generated more revenue for consumer states like Sikkim and other states of North – East.

The overall collection of Commercial Taxes Division during April–December, 2019 has grown by 21.28 % in comparison to collection of April–December, 2018. Further, GST collection during April–December, 2019 has grown by 17.32 % in comparison to collection of April–December, 2018; Per capita collection of GST from April–December, 2019 in Sikkim is Rs 3.505.00 which is highest among all the



states of India. Second position is held by Goa with per capita collection of 2.488.00 and Delhi is third with 2.203.00.

Nevertheless, in sector wise analysis of revenue collection it is found that the collection of GST from Hotel sector remains below par compared to other sectors of the State Economy. Department conducted

a field survey of the hotels and found that the number of defaulters is very high and the majority of the defaulters are ignorant about the consequential law. It is essential to make stakeholders aware about the legal provision before taking coercive action. Hence, the Commercial Taxes Division arranged to publish notices in local

newspapers urging the hoteliers to obtain registration, pay GST in time and file returns regularly.

It was also informed that this Joint Press Conference is specially held to inform hoteliers that the Commercial Taxes Division will launch enforcement action from 17 February 2020 against the defaulting hoteliers. It may even include the

arrest of the defaulters under Section 69 of the Sikkim Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017. So all hoteliers should make sure their GST payment is up to date before 17 Feb, 2020. It has been noted that most of the property owners and license holders have leased out their business to a third party. In such cases, it is the duty of the Les-

sor (the property owner or licensee) to register himself/herself as a taxpayer providing leasing service. He/she should collect GST on the lease amount and deposit the GST to the Government.

When the Lessor is registered, it will automatically compel the lessee also to obtain registration as taxpayer providing service of supply of food and accommodation services. The lessee can take credit of the tax paid on lease amount, so there is not extra tax burden on him.

It was further informed that in the current scenario, the lessor is neither taking registration nor paying tax on the lease amount. This is opening back door route to the Lessee to evade tax. It may be true that the lease deed is a mere bunch of paper and can be shielded, but the ongoing hotel business is hidden

**turn to pg 02**

### CAA wake up call for NE states: UDP

**SHILLONG, JAN 22 (PTI):** The United Democratic Party (UDP), a coalition partner of the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), on Thursday said the Citizenship Amendment Act is a wake up call for all states in the north east to act against illegal immigration from neighbouring countries and influx of non-indigenous people.

The UDP executive met here and debated at length on the issue of CAA and the Inner Line Permit, according to its general secretary Jemino Mawthoh.

He said the UDP opposed the CAA in principle. We are opposing it because we dont see any rationale here. Let us wait for the wisdom of the Supreme Court to make its interpretation in this regard.

When CAA was passed, it was a wake up call for the states of NE and for the people of Meghalaya. Although this issue is a common one for the North East and the Centres approach is frag-

mented, all the states in the region must work together to find a solution against illegal immigration from the neighbouring countries and influx of non-indigenous people, Mawthoh told journalists after the meeting.

He said, We have been battling the issues of influx and illegal immigration for the last four decades now. This is the right time for the North East states to come up with something which is oncrete for the protection and safeguard of the indigenous people.

While 97 per cent of Meghalaya is exempted (scheduled areas) from the purview of the CAA, the MDA had pressed for total exemption of the entire state from the purview of the Act.

The MDA had adopted a resolution last month to urge the Centre to implement the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system after it was announced for Manipur to protect the indigenous people of the state.

### Sikkim one point away from T Ao C'ship semis



**SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 23 JAN:** Sikkim held Meghalaya for a draw in its second match in the ongoing T Ao North East Football Championship at IG Stadium in Kohima, Nagaland, on Thursday. A goal by Dawa Sherpa in the injury time of the match helped Sikkim to get one point from this 1–1 draw match. Sikkim is now with 4 points from a win and a draw in the point

tally in group-B.

The neck-to-neck played first half of the match ended in a goalless draw. The second half was again full of attacks and counter-attacks with Meghalaya scoring the lead in the 78th minute of the match.

Sikkim's Dawa Sherpa scored the equaliser in the four minutes injury time of the match.

Sikkim team manager, Arjun Rai expressed

that the squad played a wonderful game but was not able to capitalize on some good opportunities. He mentioned that Sikkim goalkeeper Nindup Lepcha made some very crucial saves in the match.

He stated that Sikkim now has 4 points from one win and one draw in group-B and a win or draw in its last match against Mizoram will take it to the semi-final round of the tournament.

### Raj govt to introduce resolution against CAA: Pilot

**JAIPUR, JAN 23 (PTI):** The Rajasthan government will introduce a resolution against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in the assembly session beginning Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said.

He said the Centre should listen to people protesting against the act across the country and asserted that democracy weakens if there is no dialogue.

“We are requesting the central government to reconsider the act. The Constitution has given the right to protest but if someone does it, they are attacked and called anti-nationals,” Pilot, who is also the chief of Pradesh Congress Committee, said on Thursday.

Kerala and Punjab have already passed resolution seeking the withdrawal of the new legislation.

“The Rajasthan Assembly will pass a res-

olution against the CAA in this session,” he told reporters after reviewing preparations ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's rally in Jaipur on January 28.

Pilot said the legality of the CAA will be decided by the Supreme Court.

People have right to express their disagreement to the CAA in a peaceful manner and within the boundary of the law, he said, adding, “We do not support those who take law in hand”.

He claimed that besides party workers, Gandhi's ‘Aakrosh Rally’ will be attended by youths and students in large number.

“There is unrest among youths in the country today. The educated are unemployed and the economy is in poor state and Rahul Gandhi wants to focus on it. The message from the rally will go across the country,” he said.

### Hardik held in 2017 case as soon as he walks out of jail

**AHMEDABAD, JAN 23 (PTI):** Congress leader Hardik Patel, who walked out of the Sabarmati Central Jail here on Thursday a day after he was granted bail in a sedition case, was immediately arrested by Gandhinagar district police in a 2017 case of addressing a rally without police permission, an official said.

A local court in Ahmedabad had on Wednesday granted bail to Patel, four days after he was arrested for failing to appear before the trial court in a 2015 sedition case.

As soon as he walked out of the jail on Thursday afternoon, he was arrested by Mansa tehsil police of Gandhinagar district in connection with an FIR registered against him in 2017 for disobeying a police order.

“We arrested Hardik Patel as soon as he



walked out of the jail today. Ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections in December 2017, he had addressed a gathering in Mansa town without police permission. While the FIR

was lodged at that time, he was arrested in the case today,” police sub inspector of Mansa, S S Pawar, said.

Patel was arrested on January 18 by the crime branch of Viramgam tehsil in Ahmedabad district for failing to appear before the trial court here in the 2015 sedition case, after a warrant was issued against him.

He had been previously arrested in connection with this sedition case filed by the Ahmedabad crime branch after violence broke out during a rally of the Patidar community in the city on August 25, 2015.

The quota agitation spearhead was granted bail in July 2016, and in November 2018, the court had framed charges against him and other accused in the case.

Patel had joined the Congress ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

**DEAR READERS,  
IF YOU ARE HAVING  
TROUBLE GETTING  
YOUR COPY OF THE  
SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE  
MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US  
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS  
AT 9832556698 AND WE  
WILL ENSURE THAT THE  
NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.**



## BJP activists arrested for inflammatory posters against Kanhaiya Kumar

**KOLKATA, JAN 23 (PTI):** Several BJP activists were arrested by the police from Titagarh area of North 24 Parganas district on Thursday for putting up inflammatory posters against CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar, who is scheduled to address rally there. The local BJP organised a sit-in the area in protest and the police sent them back. According to the police few BJP activists had

put up inflammatory and derogatory posters against Kumar, who is scheduled to address a rally in the area later in the evening.

"We received complaints from locals and on the basis of it we arrested some BJP activists," a police officer said.

The local BJP leadership when contacted said it is not a crime to put up posters against political opponents.

## 2 Bangladeshi rustlers shot dead by BSF

Malda (WB), Jan 23 (PTI): The Border Security Force personnel shot dead two Bangladeshi smugglers who were trying to steal cattle from a village in West Bengal's Malda district on Thursday, a police officer said here.

Another Bangladeshi smuggler was detained, Superintendent of Police Alok Rajoria said.

"After crossing the border, they reached Baidyapur village near Kedaripara border outpost and started stealing

cattle early in the morning," he said.

Rajoria said when the BSF personnel intervened, the smugglers attacked them and the border guards opened fire killing two of them.

The two were identified as Kamal Sheikh and Sanjit Oray who were residents of Naogaon district of Bangladesh, he said.

The detained person, Kabir Hasan, also hailed from the same district.

Police has started an investigation.

## Blood donation camp in Gyalshing



**SUMMIT REPORT GYALSHING, 23 DEC:**

The Gyalshing unit of the Voluntary Blood Donors Association of Sikkim [VBDA] organized a blood donation camp on Tuesday here at the community hall. The initiative was also supported by Sasastra Seema Bal battalion stationed at Yangtey.

42 units of blood were collected at the camp. The amount required at the District Hospital at Gyalshing was

dispatched there and the rest donated to the District Hospital in Namchi, it is informed.

Students and staff from Industrial Training Institute at Gyalshing, members of Sarvodaya Samaj Lingchom, Nava Prabhat Samaj, Tikjek, Nirankari Mission and personnel from Sasastra Seema Bal donated blood at the camp.

VBDA's advisor, Rajesh Thapa, commended the high turnout of blood donors.

# Mapping of Tribal Sports Talents held in Mangan



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

The Tribal Research Institute, SJ&WD, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, organised its second edition of Mapping of Tribal Sports Talents at Mangan today, a press release informs.

This second edition of Mapping of Trib-

al Sports Talents was funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. The mapping was done in Archery, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Football.

Tribal children from

the age group of 9 to 14 years participated in these events and displayed their skills. The best two talents from each category will be considered for partici-

pation in the state level at Gangtok to be held later. After due selection, the best 10 talents will be sponsored to visit a Sports Academy outside the state, the release mentions.

The objective of the program is to identify talents from these tribal children and groom them so that they can avail opportunities to hone their skills in a chosen disci-

pline in national and international arena.

The Mapping of Tribal Sports Talent will be subsequently held in rest of the 3 districts shortly.

The programme at Mangan was attended by the Officials of Tribal Research Institute, coaches and officials from Sports and Youth Affairs Department (Gangtok & Mangan), Government of Sikkim.

## Airline asked to pay compensation for damaged baggage

**MUMBAI, JAN 23 (PTI):** The District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum here has directed private airline GoAir to pay compensation to a passenger for the damage caused to his baggage.

Marazban Bharucha, resident of Andheri here, had travelled by a GoAir flight from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in July 2019.

When he collected his bag from the conveyor belt, he found its front compartment was "ripped and torn", he said in his complaint.

He brought the matter to the notice of the airline's representatives at the airport, who asked him to send his complaint through email, he said.

When he did not receive any response to the email, he moved the consumer forum.

In its reply before the forum, GoAir contended that after the scrutiny of the bag, they found it had only "minor wear and tear".

Hence he was not eligible for any compensation, but as a goodwill gesture it had offered Bharucha a compensation of Rs 1,000, the airline said.

In its order last week, the consumer forum held that the complainant had proved that there was a "deficiency in service" and "unfair trade practice" on the part of the airline.

It directed GoAir to pay Bharucha Rs 7,500 on account of damage, Rs 5,000 towards "mental agony" and Rs 3,000 as litigation costs.

**HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?**  
email us: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

## IHRC Sikkim donates water pipes to de-addiction centre

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

International Human Rights Council (IHRC) Sikkim has donated flexible water pipe to the Centre for Addiction Medicine, Chuwatar, West Pendum in East Sikkim, a press release informs.

IHRC president, Ganesh Sharma, president South district, Srijana Subba, Santosh Prasad along with other members visited the Centre and also discussed problems in the society today.

Team IHRC is regularly visiting drug treatment centres to extend support and develop community based strategy to generate awareness on substance abuse prevention, the release mentions.

IHRC president, Ganesh Sharma and South District president, Srijana Subba mentioned that the team is going to orga-



nise various Community Based Programs. They informed that just a few days before they raised the problems faced by

drivers and passengers on National Highway 10 in different areas before the West Bengal administration.

## AIFF's 2nd Division League to kick off on Saturday



**NEW DELHI, JAN 23 (PTI):** The 2nd Division League preliminary round will get underway on Saturday in four different venues in Kerala, Gujarat and West Bengal, the All India Football Federation said on Thursday.

ATK Reserves take on Jamshedpur Reserves in Group A, Bhawanipore FC face Mohammedan Sporting in Group B, while ARA FC and Mumbai City FC Reserves and FC Kerala and Kerala Blasters Reserves face each other in Group C on the first day.

A total of 17 teams are taking part in this edition of the 2nd Division League, which is organised by the AIFF, out of which, nine are reserves sides of I-League or ISL clubs.

The teams have been divided into three groups, with Group A and C consisting of six teams each, while Group B has five.

The teams finishing at the top of each group will advance to the final round. The second-placed teams out of Group A and C with

the highest number of points will also make it to the final round, which will be played in a single leg round-robin format, with the top team gaining promotion to the I-League.

The reserves sides of the ISL and I-League teams, however, will not be eligible to qualify for the final round. In case they finish in one of the qualification spots in any particular group, the next best-placed non-reserves team in the group will progress to the final round.

## PM fulfilling "anti-Muslim agenda" of Jana Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha, alleges Deve Gowda

Bengaluru, Jan 23 (PTI): JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda on Thursday called on secular regional parties and Congress to fight against the "divisive policies" of the central government like the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens with a Common Minimum Programme.

The former Prime Minister also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of fulfilling the "long standing anti-Muslim agenda" of Jana Sangh and Hindu Mahasabha, and leading the country to the margins of danger.

Gowda said that during these trying times, regional parties and the Congress still believing in secular principles have to fight with a CMB "to avert the disaster that may explode anytime."

It was a matter left for bigger leaders to decide, but the JD(S), being a small party, should be ready to fight these acts at any level and be ready to go to jail if such a situation arose, he said, addressing a JD(S) convention here.

Alleging that attempts were being made to treat Muslims as second grade citizens of the country, he accused Modi of "fulfilling the nearly 70-year-old anti Muslim agenda" of the Jana Sangh and Hindu Mahasabha, after his party won over 300 seats in the Lok Sabha in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

Pointing to nationwide agitations, he said "this government has led the country to the margins of danger..."

Noting that Congress

and JD(S) as "secular parties", had formed a coalition government in Karnataka that eventually collapsed, the regional party's national President said he would not discuss who was right or wrong and reasons for the government to fall. "But somewhere we have stumbled," he said.

"How the BJP government was formed in Karnataka, how long will it survive, where did we stumble...let's not discuss about it.

Let's concentrate on strengthening our organisation...be prepared for everything. Only then will the party survive," he added.

Pointing to his defeat in the Lok Sabha polls and the party getting 15 seats in the assembly polls, Gowda asked JD (S) workers not to be disheartened, fearing the party's poor prospects in the future.

"...the strength of the party is you (workers) and it is you who can build and rejuvenate it. You will have to work with zeal. Without your support one Deve Gowda or one Kumaraswamy (his son) cannot achieve anything," he added.

The JD(S) also passed three resolutions against the "weakening" economic situation in the country and growing unemployment and to hold a mass public movement in this regard; agitation against discrimination in allocation of funds to the state by the centre if it is not set right soon; and demand to withdraw Citizenhip AA to maintain peace in the country.

## Commercial...

neither in the physical market nor in the Internet market. If the Lessee does not take the registration for the hotel business, then by default the person holding the license issued by UDHD or Municipality 'or the BDO office to run the hotel will be responsible to pay the GST for the business turnover. Usually the license holders are property owners themselves or their nominees. It should also be noted that the Commercial Taxes Division is part of the Common Forum constituting Income Tax Department, Private Banks and Public Banks. The forum regularly shares all information about financial transactions.

In today's state of information technology advancement it is not possible to remain hidden from the eye for a very long time. Any kind of tax, interest, and penalty can be recovered through various measures empowered in the GST Act including Auction of properties, it was stressed upon.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.  
**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).  
**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410

## F&CS Deptt conducts Aadhar link process in Singtam



**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 23 JAN:**

Acting on the directions of the Government of India, the Food and Civil Supplies Department here conducted an Aadhar-linking process at the Singtam Nagar Panchayat community hall today.

The linking process was carried out in the presence of DCSO, Dak Man Subba, and Asst Director Shyam Rai along with departmental staff and local volunteers. More than 500

Aadhar Links were carried out today.

The process was held for rural area and AOI, OPH and PHS were updated.

The process will continue at the same venue on Friday and after that the leftover beneficiaries and those from urban areas can visit the food office at Topakhani for linking update.

"Voter card, Aadhar card and Bank account are required for the process", informs Asst Director, Shyam Rai.



# Birendra Prasad demands apology on IT exemption allegation

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 23 JAN:

Sikkim Bihari Jagaran Manch general secretary, Birendra Prasad, has alleged that some Bihari members of the Old Settlers of Sikkim community have distorted his recent statement on Income Tax exemption to create confusion in the Bihari community of Sikkim. He has demanded a public apology from a group of Bihari old settlers who made allegations against him.

Anil Kumar Gupta, Chotelal Prasad and Ram Pujan Singh had alleged that in an SBJM oath taking ceremony at Pakyong, Birendra Prasad had given a statement that Sikkim's Biharis do not need IT exemption.

Addressing a press conference here this



afternoon, Mr Prasad lashed out against them for distorting his statement on IT exemption and making personal attacks on him.

"I have not said that Bihari community of Sikkim does not need income tax exemption. I clearly said IT exemption

is not an issue of SBJM but it is an issue of old settlers of Sikkim," he clarified. He urged them to understand his statement properly before making any comments.

He stated that the real issue for SBJM is the implementation of 145th Report on the petition

praying for protection of interest of bona fide Indian nationals residing in Sikkim prior to its merger with India in 1975 by the Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha.

Mr Prasad lashed out against Anil Kumar Gupta for making personal attacks on him.

"He alleged that I am not a RC holder of Sikkim but I want to ask Anil Kumar Gupta about his application to the Ministry of Home Affairs around 8 years back asking about his citizenship. The file about his citizenship is still pending in the ministry so he should clarify his own citizenship status before asking about others," he said.

He demanded that they should apologize to the entire Bihari community of Sikkim for misleading the community time and again on different issues and especially during election time.

"Instead of always talking about IT exemption, they should also explain to us about the benefits to Bihari community if old settlers get IT exemption," he demanded.

## Mumbai City FC eye return to top-four in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jan 23 (PTI): Mumbai City FC would look to return to the top-four of the Indian Super League standings when they face Hyderabad FC in a crucial clash here on Friday.

Mumbai, under Jorge Costa, are fifth on the table with 19 points from 13 matches. They have a game in hand over Odisha FC -- currently at fourth -- and can move to fourth place with a win against the bottom-placed Hyderabad.

Hyderabad are on a 10-match winless run and have lost their last four games. They need five points from their last five matches to not become the worst team in the league's history in terms of total points earned.

Mumbai's season has been a roller coaster ride. Costa's team has been inconsistent in recent games but their last outing, a 2-0 win against defending champions Bengaluru FC at home, should have them riding high on confidence. Costa's side have the best away record in the league this season, picking up 12 points and losing just one game in seven games on the road.

"It is a very important game for us. We know that we cannot make mistakes. So we need to be focused, work a lot and respect Hyderabad," said Costa.

"If you look at the table, they are at the bottom of the table but when you look at the games they played, they believe until the end. They have very good players, very good foreigners. I'm sure that we will have a lot of problems but in the end, what we want is to win the game."

Hyderabad and Mumbai have both been leaking goals this season. Hyderabad have conceded the most number of goals (31) and Mumbai City are the second-worst in that category (21).

There will be goals expected out of this fixture and with Modou Sougou in good form in the final third (3 goals in the last 4 matches), Mumbai will be eyeing three points.

"I have been watching all the statistics of the team. We conceded 31 goals. If you want to be successful and at the top level of the competition, one of the things that need to be done is don't concede so many goals," said Hyderabad interim head coach Javier Gurri Lopez.

"I think the problem is not specific to the defenders but of the team. We try to be compact. We attack with 11 players including the goalkeeper and we defend with 11 players including the strikers," he said.

## Training for recently appointed Govt advocates



**GANGTOK, 23 JAN (IPR):** A day-long Training Programme for the newly appointed Assistant Government Advocates cum Assistant Public Prosecutors was organised by the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim at the Administrative Training Institute, Gangtok.

The Training Programme was chaired by LR-cum-Secretary, Law & PA Department, Government of Sikkim, Jagat B Rai. The two-session Training Programme was specially organised for the recently appointed Asst. Government Advocates cum Asst. Public Prosecutors to educate them in the intricacies of the legal matters and also as an Orientation Programme for them.

The Training cum Orientation was conducted by two of Sikkim's very respected and reputed Senior Advocates, AJ Sharma and NP Sharma.

In the first session of the day, Resource Person, AJ Sharma enlight-

ened the gathering on the basic concept of civil cases under the Civil Procedure Code, 1980 r/w Evidence Act, 1872 and Limitation Act, 1973 all the while drawing attention to filing of nature of suits, plaint, filing of written statements, injunction application, stay of suits, filing of evidence of affidavits, filing of documents, issuance of commission, appeal, revision, second appeal, additional evidence in appeal, amendment, rejection, judgment on admission, suits of Specific Relief Act and suits for Defamation.

Following the first session, the second session of the day was conducted by Senior Advocate, NP Sharma. In this session NP Sharma discussed the basic concepts of Criminal Cases under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 r/w Evidence Act, 1872 and Limitation Act, 1973 mainly focusing on the filing of charge sheet, pecuniary jurisdiction, cognizance of offences

by Magistrates and Court of Session, bar of taking cognizance, examination in chief, cross-examination and re-examination, framing of charge, joinder of charge, alteration of charge, additional evidence appeal, revision, evidence for defense, warrant trial and summary trial, bail, recalling of witnesses, Proclamation for person absconding, attachment of property of person absconding, compounding of offences, withdrawal from prosecution and procedure in cases of unsound mind/lunatic.

The entire day and the topics discussed therein by the two very experienced Resource People will prove to be very helpful to the new Legal Practitioners in their careers. The very informative and knowledgeable day concluded with an encouraging speech by Joint Secretary, Law & PA Department, Government of Sikkim, Choden Gyatso, along with the distribution of Certificate of Participation to all the trainees/attendees.

# Anti-superstition law RPT law notified in Karnataka

**BENGALURU, JAN 23 (PTI):** Over two years after it was passed by the Karnataka legislature, the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP government has finally notified the much-hyped anti-superstition law that aims to prevent and eradicate "inhuman evil practices".

Interestingly, the BJP, which was then in the opposition, had expressed strong reservations about the bill, piloted by the Siddaramaiah led Congress government and passed by the state legislature in November 16 2017.

The Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act RPT Act, 2017, that intends to protect the common people against "evil" and "sinister" practices, shall come into force with effect from January 4 2020, the government notification issued earlier this month said.

The Act seeks to combat and eradicate other such inhuman practices propagated and performed in the name of "black magic" by common people, thereby destroying the social fabric in society.

Further, it aims to bring social awakening and awareness in the society and create healthy and safe social environment.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah congratulated

BJP for enforcing the Act by rectifying its mistake of "condemning, hounding and maligning" his government when they tried to implement the Act with an intention to stop it. He also hoped that things which are beliefs now "don't turn into superstition under pressure."

Considered similar to the one in Maharashtra, the Act has 'savings' and 'schedule' categories, which classify practices that could be tolerated and those that need to be controlled or prohibited.

The notification said nothing in the act shall apply with respect to the forms of worship mentioned under the heading 'savings' These include practices like 'pradakshina', yatras, 'parikramas' performed at religious places, among other normal practices.

It also includes the advice with regard to 'Vastushastra', advice by 'jyothishya' and other astrologers

Practices included under the 'schedule' for prohibition are -- performing any inhuman, evil act and black magic in search of precious things, bounty and hidden treasures

Other practices listed under 16 points for prohibition are facilitating any person to roll over leaves of leftover food by other people in public or religious places or similar practices that violate human dignity; subjecting women to inhuman and humiliating practices

like parading them naked in the name of worship or otherwise, such as "beththale seve".

Also, forcing any person to carry out evil practices such as killing of an animal by biting its neck and coercing any person or persons to perform 'fire walk' at the time of 'jatras' (temple/village fest) and religious festivals have also been included, it added.

During the passage of the bill, certain amendments sought were made part of the bill, and a practice like Mudradharane by Madhwa Brahmins was exempted.

As per this practice, 'Mudras' (dyes) usually made of gold or copper are heated on coal fire and stamped on the body.

'Vashikarana', practiced in occult science as an act of subjugation or advertising about it in the name of treatment has been banned under the act, following the suggestions made by the members during the debate in the assembly.

The legislation was earlier proposed as The Evil, Inhuman and Superstitious Practices Prevention Bill. After omitting the word superstitious, it was titled 'The Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill, 2017.'

Superstitious practices, including black magic, are punishable under the Act for up to seven years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 can be imposed.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

**To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.**



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
OFFICE OF THE SR. SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS  
STATE CENTRAL PRISONS  
RONGYEK**

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotation are invited from registered firms of Sikkim for Supply of ration, grocery, hardware and electrical items to the State Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi for the period with effect from 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021. The rates quoted by the firms inclusive of all transportation / carriage charges upto point of delivery i.e. the Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi as and when the items are requisitioned shall be final for all purpose.

Th quotations addressed to the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 10 AM on \_\_\_\_\_. The Tender Selection Committee shall open the tenders in the office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek at 11 AM on the same day in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized agents.

The quotations shall be accompanied by a state Bank of Sikkim T.D.R made in favour of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek for Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand ) only alongwith certified copies of the concerned firms registrations, valid Trade License, GST registration etc. The failure to submit anyone of the above mentioned documents shall render the quotation void.

The tender Selection Committee reserves the right to accept any or all of the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek between 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM on all working days with effect from the publication of Tender Notices.

Sd/-  
Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek

R.O No. 334/IPR/Pub/Classi/19-20

dt. 22.01.2020

## Weekly Market Price of Large Cardamom & Fresh Ginger collected by Spices Board, Govt of India, Singtam on 23 Jan, 2020

GANGTOK, 23 JAN (PIB):

| Large Cardamom      | NAME OF THE MARKETS |          |          |           |          |           |          |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                     | Gangtok             | Singtam  | Mangan   | Jorethang | Geyzing  | Kalimpong | Siliguri |
| Badadana ( /kg.)    | 475.00              | 462.50   | 437.50   | 437.50    | 437.50   | 480.00    | 561.25   |
| Chotadana ( /kg.)   | 400.00              | 425.00   | 400.00   | 400.00    | 362.50   | 420.00    | 461.25   |
| Badadaba ( /mound)  | 19000.00            | 18500.00 | 17500.00 | 17500.00  | 17500.00 | 19200.00  | 22450.00 |
| Chotadana ( /mound) | 16000.00            | 17000.00 | 16000.00 | 16000.00  | 14500.00 | 16800.00  | 18450.00 |
| Ginger              |                     | Singtam  | Ranipool | Jorethang | Geyzing  | Kalimpong | Siliguri |
| (Price - /kg.)      | Mota                | 46.75    | 45.00    | ---       | ---      | ---       | 50.50    |
|                     | Patla               | 46.75    | 45.00    | ---       | ---      | ---       | 52.50    |



## Politics Demands Commitment

*...but slack accountability makes casual flirtations too easy*

Politics is an exciting engagement, one that evokes passionate stands and distracts very easily. Where Sikkim is concerned, its political milieu has been traditionally populated rather extensively by teachers and midlevel but ambitious government servants. Nothing wrong with having political leanings, in fact that would be a healthy engagement in a democracy, but everyone knows that involvement here extends much beyond engagement. It is also difficult in a State as small as Sikkim for anyone of any significance to remain genuinely apolitical. And as mentioned earlier, unless politics is really “dirty”, there is nothing wrong in having a political position even if your job description requires you to stay detached. What is important though is for the people concerned to keep their responsibilities (as government servants or “social workers”) and interests and (political) beliefs separated. Unfortunately, government servants, given the astoundingly slack concepts of accountability enforced by the administration, are easily tempted to flirt with politics and allow their executive performance to be politically dictated. In systems where accountability is casually fixed and job-responsibilities poorly defined, it is easy to start dispensing favours and bending rules; and before one knows it, the administrators become rather deft political players themselves instead of the sycophants they started off as. Engagement with party level politics follows and then come political ambitions.

What blurs the lines even more is the confusion with which politics is mixed up with administration and government mistaken for a party. Also, in a political environment thick with parties and slim on ideological commitments, the decision to take the plunge comes easy because options never dry out and crossovers rarely need to be explained with any conviction. Not just government servants, but this situation makes it easy for everyone to ‘try out’ politics, move around political parties, taste all options and if nothing works out, step back into a supposedly “apolitical” life only to resurrect whenever occasion demands or opportunity arises. It is the facility with which this option [the one of turning normal, apolitical after wearing politics on their sleeves] can be acquired that makes irresponsible dabbling in party politics so easy for most wannabes here. Let us agree first that while ideological political positions are absolutely acceptable, and even welcome, it is the tendency to indulge in ‘active’ politics, the one involving planning and negotiating, that vitiates work cultures and political engagements. This latter involvement diverts attention from the tasks they draw salaries for [in the case of government servants], and should they be aligning with factions opposed to the ruling party, could also lead to willful compromising of policy implementation. In the case of private people involved in “social work”, simultaneous political and social pursuits come at the cost of sabotaging their responsibilities towards society. And this cannot be dismissed as inconsequential even if they are volunteering their time and energies, because when one occupies a public space, one is required to remain earnest and not allow their priorities to get colored by political exigencies.

Politicians rarely suffer the fallout of such situations and the loss, in the long run, is burdened on the people whom the politicians, the government employees and the social workers should be serving first. Politics does not compromise governance or administration; it is the ambitious politicking that robs people of deserved delivery. For that reason alone, it is advisable to maintain a healthy interest in politics and also hold opinions, but leave the politicking to politicians; and if one is to engage actively, then doing so with full commitment.

### WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# Should We Be Worried About the New Wuhan Coronavirus?

IAN M. MACKAY & KATHERINE ARDEN  
*theconversation.com*

The World Health Organisation has postponed its decision about whether to classify the new Wuhan coronavirus as a global health emergency. It wants to gather more information and will meet again at midday on Thursday in Geneva (late Thursday night, Australian time).

In the meantime, China has barred people from leaving Wuhan from 10am today, local time:

There’s so much we don’t know about the virus, which increases the level of concern from public health officials.

So what do we know so far?

### ORIGINS IN WUHAN

We first heard about cases of pneumonia caused by a new virus in December from authorities in Wuhan, China – a city of 11 million people.

What started as a cluster of 27 people with pneumonia – with common symptoms including fever, dry cough, chest tightness and difficulty breathing – has spiralled to 582 confirmed cases, including medical staff, and 17 deaths.

The cases span 13 provinces in mainland China as well as Thailand, Japan, South Korea, the United States, Taiwan and Macau.

This is all occurring during peak influenza season in China so there are some illnesses around that may appear similar to coronavirus. It’s also a time when millions of people in the region travel home to family for Lunar New Year celebrations, potentially carrying the virus to new places, as we’ve already seen.

We are yet to see a confirmed case in Australia, but that could change any minute. Test results of a Brisbane man who was suspected of having the virus came back clear.

### DEVELOPMENT OF A DIAGNOSTIC TEST

China was extraordinarily efficient and open in identifying the virus, a new strain of coronavirus, within just over a week. Chinese scientists sequenced the virus’s genetic code and, within days, shared that information with the world.

This allowed researchers from Germany to rapidly develop and openly share a suite of specific nu-

cleic acid tests that sensitively identify the virus by detecting small amounts of its ribonucleic acid (or RNA, similar to DNA). Researchers in Hong Kong and from the Chinese Centre for Disease Control then published their own different tests.

### WE ALREADY LIVE AMONG CORONAVIRUSES

Four other human coronaviruses (HCoV-222E, HCoV-OC43, HCoV-NL63 and HCoV-HKU1) cause colds, flu-like illnesses and more severe respiratory diseases such as pneumonia. Viral pneumonia is a combination of virus infection of the lungs and our body’s immune response to that damage.

Newborns, the elderly, immunocompromised people and those with underlying disease are at particular risk.

There are also two more infamous coronaviruses that jumped from animals to infect human hosts: SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome).

The new Wuhan coronavirus seems to cause less severe disease than the SARS coronavirus, which is now extinct after its single dramatic outbreak in 2002-4.

MERS was less severe than either, unless the patient was already burdened with underlying disease. MERS continues to transmit from camels to humans, but it’s relatively easy to avoid infection and vaccines are in development.

Because we are at such an early stage of discovery and characterisation of the new Wuhan virus, it’s very difficult to compare it to other viruses or to draw any strong conclusions about how it transmits, and its impact on humans.

### HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

We don’t know where the new virus came from originally. We think it originated in animals, but testing so far has not confirmed a specific animal host. Analysis of the genome suggests it has only recently emerged in humans. So which host were humans exposed to? And how was it transmitted to humans?

Once we know where it came from we can track down and remove the source of the virus.

Some evidence suggests it can also spread between people. We don’t yet know how, but we can make some guesses.

It seems to be a respiratory virus, given the dis-

ease primarily involves the lungs, so it’s likely to spread through the same routes as colds and flu: sneezes and coughs propelling droplets into the air or onto hands that then touch other surfaces, or by touching our eyes, nose or mouth after contact with contaminated surfaces.

We also don’t know how easily it spreads. Initially it seemed to require prolonged and close contact, making it harder to catch in day-to-day life. However, there are more recent indications that it spreads more easily between people.

### WHAT WE KNOW AND DON’T KNOW

Up to January 22, 17 deaths have tragically occurred from 582 cases (about 3%). This is lower than the proportion who die from influenza-associated pneumonia, which one study estimated to be 10%. It’s a crude comparison, but one we can at least mull over for now.

The number of virus cases is likely to be an underestimate, but we don’t know by how much.

At the moment, colds and flu-like illnesses are common in China. There are also many causes of viral pneumonia – 135 people with pneumonia arrived in Hong Kong from Wuhan between December 31 to January 22. To date only two cases have tested positive for the new virus; most had an influenza virus or other viruses.

So far, we know the new Wuhan coronavirus causes pneumonia and therefore places an extra burden on hospitals. It’s likely transmitting from human to human, but may also still be transmitting from animal to humans. And it can be tested for by professional laboratories.

For now, health authorities are ensuring we are prepared and watching the situation while we await further details.

If or when it does come to Australia, you can protect yourself in the same way as you would against other respiratory illness: by being vigilant about hand-washing and practising good cough and sneeze etiquette, which means coughing or sneezing into your flexed elbow or into a tissue, and washing your hands.

[Ilan M. Mackay is Adjunct assistant professor, The University of Queensland; Katherine Arden is Virologist, The University of Queensland]



## How New Meltwater Lakes are Accelerating Shrinkage of Glaciers in the Himalaya

OWEN KING  
*theconversation.com*

There are almost 22,000km<sup>2</sup> of glacier ice in the Himalaya, the spectacular arc of mountains that stretches from north-west India to south-east China. These glaciers are the source of mighty rivers such as the Ganges, the Indus and the Brahmaputra, which hundreds of millions of people depend on for their daily needs.

For scientists, the behaviour of glaciers provides the clearest indication of climatic change in high mountain regions. Recent research has shown that most glaciers in the Himalaya are shrinking, most likely because of long-term increases in temperature. The contribution of glacier meltwater to river flow cannot be sustained over long periods of glacier shrinkage, which means the sustainability of river flow in south-east Asia will soon be at risk.

Over the past few decades, the increasing meltwater yield from glaciers has led to the formation of thousands of new lakes high in the Himalaya, where not all of it drains instantly downstream. These lakes can form directly at the head of retreating glaciers, buffered by big piles of rock debris that the glacier has carried down, called terminal

moraines, which signal the glacier has gone as far as it can go. Lakes can also form in large basins hollowed out of the bedrock by a glacier, or even on top of flat, slow-flowing, debris-covered glaciers.

The impact of this widespread development of meltwater lakes has never been studied in detail. But now our research shows that the formation of new glacial meltwater lakes over the past few decades is having an amplifying effect on glacier retreat across the Himalaya, driving a recent increase in the loss of ice across the region.

### SATELLITE SPYING ON GLACIERS

To examine glacier behaviour over a similar period to that of the newly formed lakes, we used declassified US Hexagon KH-9 spy satellite images, which captured the state of Himalayan glaciers as early as 1973. Combined with data from the Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission in 2000 and data from modern-day satellites, we created three-dimensional models called digital elevation models (DEMs) of the surface of approximately 7,500km<sup>2</sup> of Himalayan glaciers.

By examining the differences in the surface elevation of glaciers at different points in time, we were able to measure how quickly glaciers across

the region have thinned over the past five decades. We found that since the 1970s, glaciers flow down into lakes have thinned at around twice the rate (up to four metres a year since 2000) of glaciers flowing down on to land. We also showed that the difference in the rate of ice loss between glaciers flowing into a lake and on land has widened since 2000.

We also looked at how the position of the front of the same glaciers has changed since the 1970s. Again, glaciers that are now flowing into these new meltwater lakes retreated at more than twice the rate (an average of 26 metres per year since 2000) than glaciers flowing on to land (an average of nine metres a year). Since the 1970s glaciers that are now flowing into lakes reduced in length by an average value of 13%, but by as much as 49% in some cases. Glaciers flowing on land reduced in length by an average of 9%.

### THE FUTURE OF HIMALAYAN GLACIERS

The areas of High Mountain Asia covered in glaciers are warming at a higher rate than the global average. Even under the most conservative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) RCP2.6 scenario (which explores the possibility of keeping average global temperature

increase below 2°C) a 1.5°C increase of global temperatures will cause 2.1°C of warming in High Mountain Asia. Such a rise in air temperatures will ensure continued glacier retreat in the region. While rain may increase in the Himalaya in coming decades, snowfall is not predicted to increase to counter glacier melt.

The continued expansion of current glacial lakes combined with the formation of more new lakes will amplify ice loss levels above that caused by temperature increases. The existence of a glacial lake at the front of a glacier causes enhanced melting when warmer lake water makes contact with the ice, which then produces “calving” – the detachment of large chunks of ice from the front of a glacier.

Further work examining how widespread the right conditions are for further glacial lake formation across the region is vital if we are to understand the different scenarios of glacier evolution high in the Himalaya. The continued monitoring of glacier retreat will provide the clearest indication of the impact of global warming on this unique but fragile region.

[The writer is Research Fellow School of Geography & Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews]



# Bru voters to be deleted from Mizoram electoral roll

**AIZAWL, JAN 23 (PTI):** Names of more than 11,000 Bru community people living in relief camps in Tripura will be deleted from voters' list of their homeland Mizoram, following an agreement that allows the tribals to permanently settle in Tripura, a senior official said on Thursday.

Thousands of Bru community people have been living in relief camps in Tripura since 1997. They had fled Mizoram to reach the neighbouring state because of ethnic clashes. By now, the total number of these internally displaced people has risen to around 34,000.

The process of deletion of Bru voters from the state voters' list is likely to be undertaken once the relief camps are closed down, Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ahish Kudran told PTI.

"The action regarding deletion of names of the Bru voters will be taken probably during the next roll revision following provisions of the Representation of the People Act and taking approval from the Election Com-



mission," he said.

There were a total of 12,081 Bru voters in six relief camps in Tripura in the Lok Sabha polls in April last year.

Only 33.54 per cent of those voters exercised their franchise at 15 polling booths set up exclusively for them at a village on the Mizoram-Tripura border.

Kundra said the exact number of Bru voters could not be deter-

mined now as a section of them have returned to Mizoram during the final and ninth round repatriation in October after the last roll revision.

He expressed hope that the Bru voters, who did not return to Mizoram before the quadripartite agreement signed on January 16, would be included in Tripura's electoral roll.

The pact signed by representatives of the

Brus, the central, Tripura and Mizoram governments in New Delhi allows these tribal people to permanently settle in Tripura.

The agreement was signed one-and-a-half months after the latest initiative to send the Bru refugees back to Mizoram failed. Of the targeted 4,447 families, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb last week said only 350 fam-

ilies could be repatriated.

Deb said it will take at least six months to resettle the 34,000 odd members of the community who are living in Tripura for 23 years.

The Brus are staying in six camps at Kanchanpur and Panisagar sub-divisions of North Tripura district. They get free ration and a cash dole from the Centre.

The vexed Bru issue started from September, 1997, following demands of a separate autonomous district council by carving out areas of western Mizoram adjoining Bangladesh and Tripura.

The situation was aggravated by the murder of a forest guard in the Dampa Tiger Reserve in western Mizoram by Bru National Liberation Front insurgents on October 21 that year.

The first attempt to repatriate the Brus from Tripura was made in November 2009.

The Centre, along with the governments of Tripura and Mizoram, had been trying to repatriate them to their home state over the past one decade, with little success.

## East Bengal appoints Mario Rivera as new head coach



**KOLKATA, JAN 23 (PTI):** East Bengal on Thursday appointed Mario Rivera as new head coach of the team, a position which was lying vacant after the sudden resignation of Alejandro Menendez.

Rivera, who was a former deputy to Menendez, has been appointed as head coach till the end of the season (May 31), the club said in a statement.

An UEFA Pro Licence coach, Rivera had most of his coaching stints in

Spain. Rivera is familiar with the team and coaching staff and this will surely be an advantage for the remainder of the season.

Rivera is expected to join the club in the second week of February, probably in time to oversee the fixture against Aizawl FC as he is yet to get his visa.

The red and gold brigade next take on Chennai City and Indian Arrows with Bastab Roy in

charge of the team.

Menendez faced a lot of criticism after East Bengal suffered a hat-trick of defeats, the last one coming against arch-rivals Mohun Bagan 1-2 in the I-League derby.

East Bengal has slipped to seventh in the I-League standings with eight points from seven matches. Their arch-rivals Mohun Bagan, on the other hand, lead the standings with 17 points from eight matches.

## 644 militants surrender in Assam

**GUWAHATI, JAN 23 (PTI):** A total of 644 militants of eight banned insurgent outfits surrendered in Assam on Thursday along with 177 arms, police said.

The members of the insurgent groups -- ULFA (I), NDFB, RNLF, KLO, CPI (Maoist), NSLA, ADF and NLFB -- surrendered in presence of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda

Sonowal at a programme here. "This is an important day for the state and the Assam Police. Altogether 644 cadres and leaders of eight militant groups laid down their arms," Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta told reporters.

He said it was one of the largest surrender of militants in the recent times.

## Oppn slams UP CM for warning to anti-CAA protesters



**LUCKNOW, JAN 23 (PTI):** The opposition parties on Thursday slammed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for warning anti-CAA protesters that "azadi" slogans raised by them will be treated as sedition.

While the Samajwadi Party drew an analogy with the British rule, the Congress termed it "a language of dictators".

The UP CM in a rally in Kanpur on Wednesday had said, "If azadi slogans are raised here like they used to be raised in Kashmir, then it will come in the category of sedition and stringent action will be taken by the government."

Reacting to it, Senior SP leader Ram Govind Chaudhary said the British too "had described freedom fighters as terrorists".

"Now their successors or those who had sided with them are terming those raising azadi slogans traitors," he said.

He said there was no need to get "per-

turbed" by such warnings. "Their countdown has started and that is why they are ranting," Chaudhary said.

The SP leader alleged that the CM was threatening women against those hell bent on dividing the country.

"Azadi is the birthright of all countrymen and those denying it will have to depart in the same manner as Hitler," the SP leader said.

SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary too said the dissent against the CAA is being dubbed as treason by the chief minister, which is against the very essence of a democracy.

"The CM is threatening women who are demanding their rights," Chaudhary asserted.

When asked about the chief minister's allegation that the SP was funding anti-CAA protests, Chaudhary said, "This amounts to making a mockery of people's emotions."

"Protests are on in all the states, including north-eastern region.

Are we distributing money in all states," Chaudhary wondered.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu said the CM is speaking "a language of dictators".

"If raising voice against the government's oppression and politics of hatred is treason, the government should first arrest me," Lallu said, adding that since the protests have rattled the government, it is accusing the Congress of sponsoring them.

"If people are on agitation path over this issue, why is the government not addressing it," Lallu said.

At a public meeting in Kanpur, the chief minister had said, "...I would like to say from the soil of India, and especially the soil of Uttar Pradesh, that in the name of protests, if azadi slogans are raised here like they used to be raised in Kashmir, then it will come in the category of sedition, and stringent action will be taken by the government.

## One more doctor at hospital for gas leak survivors quits

**BHOPAL, JAN 23 (PTI):** One more doctor at the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC), set up for survivors of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy, quit on Thursday, a day after 13 doctors at the facility resigned, a source said.

They are upset over lack of infrastructure at the hospital and denial of promotions, one of the doctors who resigned said on condition of anonymity.

Before the series of resignations, there were 15 doctors at the facility, he said. "While 13 doctors put in their papers on Wednesday, one of our colleagues resigned today. Now, only one doctor is left who has not quit," he added.

The doctors earlier submitted their resignations to BMHRC director Dr Prabha Desikan, who could not be contacted for comments.

"We have also emailed our resignations to the director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today," the doctor said, adding that in their resignation documents they



have mentioned that they would not report on duty after a month. He said they were unhappy over being denied promotions despite repeated pleas.

"Besides, many times we do not have necessary medicines or surgical appliances to treat patients or carry out operations. The situation has come to such a pass that we have to wait for months before conducting a surgery (as medicines or appliances are not readily available)," he said.

Meanwhile, social activist Rachna Dhingra appealed to the doctors not to think about themselves, but about the Bhopal gas tragedy survivors who were dependent on them for medical help and treatment. "The

ICMR should intervene and help the hospital overcome the mess," said Dhingra, who is member of Bhopal Group for Information and Action, an NGO working for the tragedy survivors. On an average 4,000 patients visit the hospital daily.

The BMHRC was built, on the Supreme Court's direction, to treat the survivors of the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak incident, considered the world's worst industrial disaster.

At least 3,000 people were killed and thousands of others suffered grievous health consequences when toxic gas leaked from the (now defunct) Union Carbide pesticide factory here on the night of December 2 and 3, 1984.

## Primary schools in Bengal to focus more on handwriting

**KOLKATA, JAN 23 (PTI):** Students of state-run primary schools in West Bengal will soon get special sessions devoted to improvement in handwriting.

Teachers of the primary schools will be specially trained before the next academic session for the purpose, syllabus committee chairman Abhik Majumder told PTI on Thursday.

The trained teachers will then work with the students of pre-primary and primary sections for honing up their handwriting skills, he said.

Apart from training teachers, a separate chapter on handwriting will also be included in one of the textbooks of the primary section, Majumder said.

At present, students have three books in class 1, seven books in class 3 and eight books in classes 4 and 5.

Majumder said the training module has been devised as per globally set norms and students will have to go through various writing and palm moving exercises.

"We have often seen poor handwriting causing serious problem to a student when he goes to higher classes. Poor handwriting also reflects a lack of coherence in thoughts.

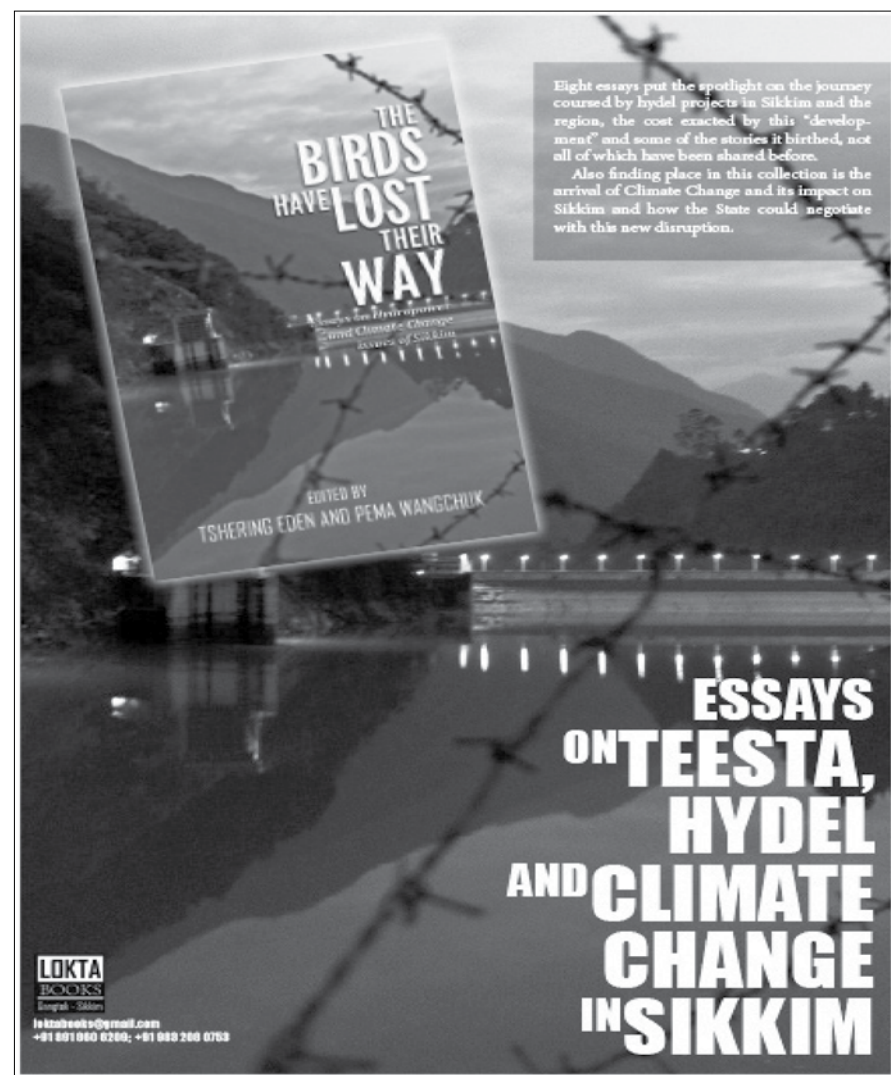
"That is why the committee, in consultation with the government, has decided to give thrust on it, starting with the primary school students," a school education department official said.

## 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@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.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, Mezzine - 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)





# Christchurch to host 2021 Women’s World Cup final

**AUCKLAND, JAN 23 (PTI):** Christchurch’s Hagley Oval will host the summit clash of next year’s Women’s Cricket ODI World Cup, it was announced on Thursday. The 50-over tournament which will run from February 6 to March 7 will be played across six cities.

Auckland will host a bumper opening weekend at Eden Park, before the focus shifts to matches in Wellington, Hamilton, Tauranga, Dunedin and Christchurch.

The tournament, featuring 31 matches between February 6 and March 7, will be capped by a final in Christchurch under lights at the Hagley Oval, one of New Zealand’s main Test venues.

ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup CEO Andrea Nelson said she was delighted to announce the six host cities for what promises to be a truly national event.

“Our goal was to ensure all 31 matches will be played at the best venues, encompassing a geographic spread that ensured as many Kiwi sports fans



as possible get to engage with the tournament,” Nelson said.

India ODI skipper Mithali Raj, who was present during the announcement here along side New Zealand captain Sophie Devine and teammates Suzie Bates and Amelia Kerr, said it is vital that women’s cricket continues garnering interest around the world. “Playing for your

country is always a special feeling and we’re all very excited to play in the beautiful country of New Zealand,” Mithali said

“Women’s cricket is slowly getting access to centre stage so it’s important that we continue to grow this interest around the world,” she added.

ICC Women’s World Cup 2021 Chair, Liz Dawson, said: “This incredible

event will underline the progress that has been made in the global game and the tremendous opportunities that now exist for women and girls in cricket.”

Manu Sawhney, ICC Chief Executive, said the event would highlight the massive increase in global engagement with women’s cricket.

“ICC is committed to growing the women’s

game and this event is another step forward on that journey and part of our continued investment in the game to provide a global platform for the world’s best players.”

“Women’s cricket has huge potential for growth and the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2021 gives us a fantastic opportunity to realise that,” Sawhney added.

## Upbeat India take on injury-struck Kiwis as build-up to T20 World Cup continues



**CHETAN NARULA**

**AUCKLAND, JAN 23 (PTI):** Preparations for the World Cup on top of their agenda, India will take on an injury-hit New Zealand in a rare five-match T20 International series starting Friday during which seam-friendly wickets would be a major challenge for the visitors.

Unlike most overseas tours, this will be a quick start for the Indian team. In a tight season, the first T20 comes only five days after their last ODI against Australia at home.

The team arrived in Auckland on Tuesday and chose to rest on Wednesday. Thursday was when they hit the nets ahead of the tour-opening game.

On the plus side, this hectic schedule helps the team management maintain consistency in team selection as they continue experimenting across the available squad in a World Cup year. The T20 showpiece is scheduled to be held in Australia in October this year.

Despite injury issues to key white-ball personnel like Shikhar Dhawan, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar this past home season, the bench strength has come across adequate and raring to go for challenges ahead.

It begins at the top where KL Rahul has stepped up as a key part of India’s white-ball plans.

He did enough against the West Indies as Shikhar Dhawan’s replacement to merit a starting spot, and then formed a solid pairing when Dhawan returned while Rohit Sharma was rested. And now, India will once again start this T20 series with Rohit and Rahul pairing up at the top.

Skipper Virat Kohli dropped hints that Rahul’s newfound confidence in his dual role as batsman-keeper has given vital options to the team.

According to Kohli, Rahul will continue to keep wickets in both ODIs and T20Is, but will open in the shortest format while returning to the middle-order in the 50-over format.

It could mean that Prithvi Shaw is being primed for an ODI debut and a potential pairing with Rohit when the three-match series begins on February 5.

The skipper also indicated a change in middle order plans. With Rahul keeping wickets, the fit-again Rishabh Pant could lose his spot in the playing eleven.

Manish Pandey is expected to play as the fifth specialist batsman and Shreyas Iyer will regain his spot at number four.

Pandey, Iyer and Pant batted together in the nets on Thursday, while Sanju Samson hung around, only to

pad up later on. The Kerala batsman didn’t seem to be in contention for the first T20I.

Pant and Pandey could both fit into the playing eleven should India opt for five bowlers and leave out the sixth option in Shivam Dube. Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja are the other two all-round options.

The Yuzvendra Chahal-Kuldeep Yadav combination is yet to play a game together since the 2019 ODI World Cup, and it remains to be seen if things will change in this aspect.

In the pace department, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah are assured starters, while the toss-up will be between Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini.

New Zealand had beaten India 2-1 in the T20I series last year. The Black Caps also won 2-1 in the T20I series during their Sri Lankan tour, and then drew 2-2 at home against England in a five-match series.

Despite the recent good record in the shortest format, there is a downbeat mood in the hosts’ dressing room thanks to the 3-0 shellacking received in Australia over the past month.

It hasn’t helped matters that the disappointing loss to their trans-Tasman rivals has raised questions about Kane Williamson’s future as captain.

For the moment, New Zealand’s leading batsman is happy to lead the side across all formats, but his position is up for review after the shattering defeat to Australia.

As always, they have a dearth of all-rounders to choose from but need to balance with pickings in the pace department, which is missing the services of Trent Boult, Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson owing to injuries.

It remains to be seen if the Black Caps opt for two spinners in Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner given the really short boundaries at Eden Park, venue for the first two T20Is.

Teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul (wk), Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, Navdeep Saini, Washington Sundar.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (capt), Martin Guptill, Ross Taylor, Scott Kuggeleijn, Colin Munro, Colin de Grandhomme, Tom Bruce, Daryl Mitchell, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert (wk), Hamish Bennett, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Blair Tuckner.

Match starts at: 12.20pm IST.

## With No. 1 in sight, McIlroy takes long view



**LOS ANGELES, JAN 23 (AFP):** Rory McIlroy can regain golf’s world number one ranking at Torrey Pines this week, but the Northern Ireland star says he’ll focus on his game and let the ranking take care of itself.

“It didn’t get on the list of goals at the start of the year,” McIlroy said of the top spot, which he last held in September of 2015.

“It’s all about the process, it’s all about the game, it’s all about trying to make improvements. If I do that and I achieve those goals, then hopefully inevitably I get to that position.”

While McIlroy has been consistently high in the rankings for the last four years, he admitted that regaining the number one spot “wasn’t even on my radar” when he was returning State-side after missing the cut at the British Open in Portrush, Northern Ireland, in July.

“But I’ve played consistently good golf since that point,” said McIlroy, who earned US PGA Tour Player of the Year honors in 2019 after a season that included wins at the Players Championship, the RBC Canadian Open, the Tour Championship and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai.

He needs a win at Torrey Pines to supplant American Brooks Koepka atop the rankings.

But, again, McIl-

roy said his focus as he launches his 2020 campaign is on adding to his tally of four major titles. With a win at the Masters in April he would complete a career Grand Slam.

“When I look back at the majors I’ve won and done well in, I’ve always started well,” McIlroy said. “Three of the four majors last year, I had started slow. That’s something I’m going to try and improve this year.” With the Tokyo Olympics and Ryder Cup also coming in 2020, McIlroy is plotting his way through a busy year.

He said he’ll play five straight weeks at the Irish Open, the Memorial, the Canadian Open, the US Open and the Travelers Championship.

The Open championship will be followed by the Olympics and the US PGA Tour’s FedEx Cup playoffs and the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

If he doesn’t find himself atop the world rankings come Sunday, McIlroy said, there will be plenty of opportunities.

“I don’t want to say it feels like it’s just a matter of time, but if I just keep doing what I’m doing, if it isn’t this week, then hopefully it’s a couple weeks down the line and I’ll have my chances,” he said.

“I’m not putting myself under any pressure this week to get it done.

## Rodgers eases Vardy injury fears

**LEICESTER (UNITED KINGDOM), JAN 23 (AFP):** Brendan Rodgers hopes Jamie Vardy will not be sidelined for long after Leicester’s leading scorer limped off during 4-1 win against West Ham.

Vardy was hurt while chasing a pass in the first half at the King Power Stadium on Wednesday.

He was treated for several minutes before trying to resume playing, a move which lasted just seconds before he again fell to the turf clutching his leg. This time the 33-year-old was forced to come off as Kelechi Iheanacho replaced him in a game where Leicester were leading 2-0 at half-time.

Vardy is the Premier League’s top scorer with 17 goals this term and would be huge miss if he is out for an extended period.

But, speaking after the match, Rodgers said: “It is not his hamstring



which is good. Hopefully over the next couple of days it will ease off and he will be fit.

“Jamie is a real talisman for the team but if we are going to have success it is about the team. “He hasn’t played for us in a number of games and the team has still played well but of course we want him fit and well. He is such a good player and we hope it is not too serious.”

Rodgers’ side are third in the Premier

League as they bid to qualify for next season’s Champions League via a top four finish.

While Vardy has retired from international duty, his fine form had prompted suggestions England manager Gareth Southgate might try to tempt him back into the fold ahead of Euro 2020.

Southgate has been hit by injuries to strikers Harry Kane and Marcus Rashford in recent weeks.

## Jay Rodriguez’s bolt from the blue for Burnley shatters Manchester United

**JAMIE JACKSON**

**MANCHESTER, 23 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]:** Burnley have a famous first win at Manchester United since 1962 and Ole Gunnar Solskjær’s side must again regroup somehow. This was a defeat that spoke of their deep callowness and their inability to turn possession into goals.

Burnley were sharper at the business end of the pitch, leaving United to rue a chance to close the gap to fourth-placed Chelsea to three points. Instead the deficit is six and United’s one-step forward, one-step back form continues.

During a torrid evening there were anti-Glazer and anti-Ed Woodward chants from a Stretford End seriously disgruntled at the owners and executive vice-chairman. There were songs in support of Solskjær but the bottom line is that this was a new nadir in a rocky season.

Solskjær had spoken of bouncing back from Sunday’s defeat at Liverpool and a slick move involving Andreas Pereira, Anthony Martial and Juan Mata ended with a Fred shot during a bright start. But, really, this was the first sign of United’s lack of bite. Daniel James slipped in along the left and won a corner. Next Brandon Williams switched the ball to Aaron Wan-Bissaka from the

same corridor, whose cross deserved better control from Pereira.

As they did in last month’s reverse fixture United were controlling the ball and, apparently, the contest. Sean Dyche’s men seemed content to sit deep and back themselves to defend better than United could attack.

When Solskjær’s side picked up the pace Burnley struggled but this only occurred sporadically. The only peril United were in at this juncture was of complacency but when Mata then Fred took aim at Nick Pope’s goal they seemed to be up to the task.

Moments later they were warned, though, in what was a dress rehearsal for Burnley’s opener. Chris Wood was able to take aim following a free-kick punted into United’s area by Dwight McNeil which was headed on by Ben Mee. While the No 9 could not score, David de Gea was left furious at his defence, whose aerial vulnerability led to Liverpool’s first goal at Anfield at the weekend.

There was an equal lack of focus when Mata hit a shot from close range against his other leg: a surprise from a technically accomplished footballer. Far better was when Wan-Bissaka once more crossed the ball in and James

rose, but his header was tipped over by Pope. Then, Nemanja Matic’s diagonal ball was allowed to run past by Mata and suddenly Martial had the goal before him. But a heavy touch allowed Charlie Taylor to intervene and so the Frenchman spurned the game’s clearest chance.

Burnley were about to strike with a route-one special. Ashley Westwood pinged in a free-kick from halfway, Mee beat Matic to the header and Wood finished first-time past De Gea. Having been on the ropes here was a classic one-two counter that had Burnley fans gleefully singing about “anti-football”.

By the interval there had been the first angry chants from the home fans and the manager had serious work to do. Solskjær reacted by replacing the misfiring Pereira with the 18-year-old striker Mason Greenwood. He then saw Williams take out Mee who inadvertently felled De Gea. The latter two were able to recover but the question was whether United could find a spark that had so far been missing in front of goal.

The answer would prove to be a resounding no. Burnley were confident: Taylor and Jack Cork exchanged passes near United’s right corner flag, hemming them in. The sense was that

having gone ahead the Clarets would fight ever harder to keep their opponents out.

James has not scored since August and has struggled to be a creative factor all season. The latest illustration came when he breached Burnley’s backline only to produce an aimless pass that ultimately led to an easy clearance.

There was nothing simple about Burnley’s second goal from Jay Rodriguez. With Harry Maguire off the pace – not for the first time in a United shirt – the striker fashioned a one-two with Wood before firing in a finish that rifled past De Gea at his near-post and ricocheted in off the bar. Cut to Solskjær rooted to his seat and the sense that United were slipping into disarray.

“Stand up if you hate Glazers” chanted the Stretford End. On the pitch a Greenwood turn drew a yellow card for Taylor before Solskjær introduced Luke Shaw and Jesse Lingard for Williams and James. Despite a few shots and a disallowed Shaw goal, United’s lack of ruthlessness told in the end.

Next up for Solskjær is an FA Cup fourth-round tie against either Watford or Tranmere Rovers on Sunday afternoon. They dare not lose that match, too.



# Democrats present case against President Trump in Senate impeachment trial

BY LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, JAN 23 (PTI):** Led by Congressman Adam Schiff, House Democrats on Wednesday began making a strong case before Senators to remove President Donald Trump in the third ever impeachment trial in the American history.

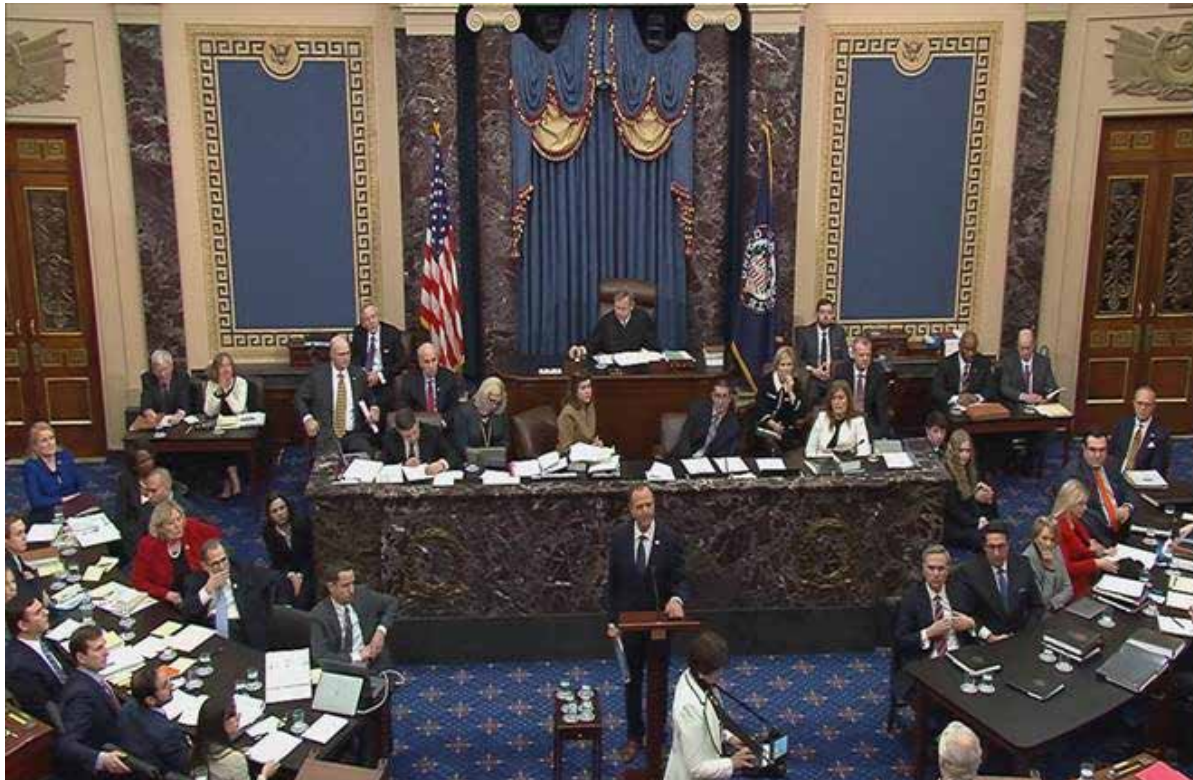
Knowing that they are unlikely to succeed in ousting Trump from the White House as Republicans enjoy a 53-47 majority in the 100-membered Senate, the managers of the House, wherein Democrats enjoy a majority, had their arguments on the Senate floor with an eye on the November elections.

Making a strong plea before Senators, Democratic Congressman Schiff, who is the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, accused Trump of using his power to cheat in the elections.

Today we will begin our trial with the factual chronology. The facts are damning. We're going to lay them out in great detail in our chronology today, Schiff told reporters before he went to the Senate to argue against the president.

In his opening argument, Schiff quoted founding father Alexander Hamilton who imagined a scenario in which future president would put personal interest ahead of that of the nation.

We are here today in this hallowed chamber, undertaking this solemn action for only the third time in history, because Donald J Trump, the 45th President of the United States, has acted precisely as Hamilton and



his contemporaries had feared," he asserted.

President Trump solicited foreign interference in our democratic elections, abusing the power of his office by seeking help from abroad to improve his reelection prospects at home. And when he was caught, he used the powers of that office to obstruct the investigation into his own misconduct," Schiff said.

The 435-member House on December 18 charged Trump with "high crimes and misdemeanors" and impeached him for pressuring Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential Democratic rival for the current president in the 2020 elections.

The days proceedings on Wednesday began with Senate Chaplain Barry Black prayer.

"Help them remember that patriots reside on both sides of the aisle, that words have consequences, and that how

something is said can be as important as what is said. Give them a civility built upon integrity that brings consistency in their beliefs and actions," Black said.

The impeachment trial is being presided over by the Supreme Court's Chief Justice John Roberts. As per the ruled of the trial passed by the Senate Tuesday, House managers and lawyers on behalf of Trump will have 24 hours to present their cases over the three days.

As per the decorum guidelines, during the impeachment trial, Senators are supposed to stick to their seats and not talk to others, and not bring cell phones or tablets to the floor.

But a number of Senators on both sides were seen breaking this decorum.

I am not somebody who is very good at sitting at one place, said Senator Pat Thune.

On the Senate floor,

Senators were allowed to drink only water and milk. A large number of Senators were seen drinking milk.

Trump's lawyers led by Pat Cipollone and Jay Sekulow are planning to make a strong defense for the president. Based on their multiple television interviews and interaction with reporters they are likely to paint Trump as a victim of a partisan charade.

We will challenge aggressively the case that they're putting forward based on what we're hearing, and we also have an affirmative case as well, Sekulow told CNN on Wednesday.

They're not here to steal one election. They're here to steal two elections. It's buried in the small print of their ridiculous articles of impeachment. They want to remove President Trump from the ballot, Cipollone said.

Soon after Trump returned to the White

House after attending the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, the White House alleged that Schiff's one-sided impeachment report -- the document that serves as the basis for Democrats' entire case -- is nothing but a partisan hatchet job.

Rather than drawing more attention to their flimsy, fake 'investigation,' Schiff chose to deflect and make up more lies about President Trump, it said.

Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein said the case made by the House impeachment managers is a fact-based case that lays out how Trump tried to trade nearly USD 400 million in appropriated funds for Ukraine in exchange for its interference in our upcoming presidential election.

We also continue to hear from the House managers about why we need to have access to documents and witnesses, she said.

## Pakistan 'spews venom', takes to hate speech like fish takes to water: India at UN

BY YOSHITA SINGH

**UNITED NATIONS, JAN 23 (PTI):** India has slammed Pakistan for "spewing venom and false narratives" of monumental proportions in the United Nations, saying it takes to hate speech like fish takes to water and "obfuscates" the international community from the truth as Islamabad yet again raked up the Kashmir issue at the world body.

Pakistan consistently rakes up the Kashmir issue at various UN platforms in a bid to internationalise it but has repeatedly failed to get any support.

Last week, Islamabad failed in its efforts to get any traction from the membership of the UN Security Council when its 'all-weather ally' China made another pitch to raise the issue in the 15-nation Council. There was consensus among the rest of the Council members that Kashmir is a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu, speaking at a session of the General Assembly on 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization' on Wednesday, said Pakistan "indulges in confabulations and ob-

fuscates the international community from the truth" instead of putting an end to the "bellicose and vitriolic diatribe" and taking steps to restore normal ties.

"Just like a fish takes to water, one delegation has again taken to hate speech. Every time this delegation speaks, it spews venom and false narratives of monumental proportions.

"It's extremely surprising that a country that has completely decimated its minority population talks about protecting minorities. Pakistan's practice of using false pretenses to distract from addressing the malaise that afflicts it has run its course. Pakistan needs to reflect that there are no takers for its false rhetoric and should get down to the normal business of diplomacy," Naidu said.

The Indian diplomat's strong response came after Saad Ahmed Waraich, Counsellor at Pakistan mission to the UN, raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks during the session, saying no other situation reflects the "abdication" of the UN's responsibility to discharge its responsibilities more than the decades-old Jammu and Kashmir issue.

China's latest attempt to raise the Kashmir is-

sue at the UN Security Council on Pakistan's behalf failed last week, with an overwhelming majority of the body expressing the view that it was not the right forum to discuss the bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

It was China's third such attempt to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNSC since August last when the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was scrapped by the government, and the state was bifurcated into two union territories.

"We once again saw an effort made by one member state of the UN, fail in plain view of all others. We are happy that neither alarmist scenario painted by the representatives of Pakistan nor any of the baseless allegations made repeatedly by representatives of Pakistan in the UN fora were found to be credible today," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said last week.

"We are glad that the effort was viewed as a distraction and it was pointed by many friends that bilateral mechanisms are available to raise and address issues that Pakistan may have in its ties with India," Akbaruddin said after the January 15 Council meeting.

## World leaders in Israel to recall horrors of Auschwitz

Israel hosts dozens of world leaders Thursday to mark 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, the World War II death camp where the Nazis killed more than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews. The presidents of Russia, France and Germany, US Vice President Mike Pence and Britain's Prince Charles were set to address the sombre event at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial centre in Jerusalem in the presence of Auschwitz survivors.

Guarded by more than 10,000 police, one third of the national force, the meeting of more than 40 presidents, premiers and monarchs is the biggest international diplomatic gathering ever held in Israel.

Alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the leaders will warn against a resurgence of anti-Semitism in speeches at the memorial centre for the six million Jews that Nazi Germany killed in gas chambers, ghettos and forced labour camps.

"This is a historic gathering, not only for Israel and the Jewish people, but for all humanity," Israeli President Reuven Rivlin told a dinner on the eve of the commemoration.

"As we remember the victims of the Holocaust, and World War II, we also mark the victory of freedom and

human dignity," he said, calling for a global push to "stand united in the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and extremism". The ceremonies move on next Monday to the site in Poland of the Auschwitz camp, liberated by the Soviet Red Army on January 27, 1945.

While the focus in Jerusalem will be on the Holocaust and its haunting legacy, modern politics have impacted the event, held at a time of soaring US-Iranian tensions and ahead of Israel's March general election. Netanyahu this week drew a direct link between the Nazis' "Final Solution" to exterminate Europe's Jews and the threat that Israel says it faces from its arch-foe Iran.

While in the Nazi death camps, "a third of the Jewish people went up in flames", today "Iran openly declares every day that it wants to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth," he said.

"I think the lesson of Auschwitz is: one, stop bad things when they're small. And Iran is a very bad thing, it's not that small, but it could get a lot bigger with nuclear weapons."

Tehran strongly denies all accusations of anti-Semitism, insisting that while it opposes the Jewish state and supports the Palestinian cause, it has no problem with Jewish people, including its own Jewish minority.

## Protest messages shared in Hong Kong Lunar New Year packets

HONG KONG, JAN 23 (AP):

Hong Kong's anti-government protests are putting a new spin on a Lunar New Year tradition. Every year, adults hand out red packets stuffed with cash to children and young, single adults. Messages printed on them generally convey wishes for prosperity and happiness, but artist Jason Kwan has designed rubber stamps for those who want to add a political message. Kwan says stamping the packets can be therapeutic for those who have taken part in the protests and offer a sense of participation. Many of the printed messages were drawn from the protest movement, expressing a desire for greater democracy or an investigation into alleged police abuses.

Although a rubber stamp can convey relatively little in terms of details and information, I think the rubber stamps could evoke the memories of the Hong Kongers who have gone through this, Kwan said. The Lunar New Year holiday is the most important on the Chinese calendar and falls on Saturday this year.

Hong Kong's protests began in June to oppose proposed extradition legislation that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to stand trial in mainland China.

## Impeachment trial not ready for broadcast prime time

**NEW YORK, JAN 23 (AP):** The first night of arguments in favor of President Donald Trump's impeachment before the US Senate was judged not ready for prime time by many of the nation's television executives.

ABC, CBS and NBC all stuck with regularly scheduled programs like Chicago Med, Criminal Minds and Modern Family Wednesday evening instead of showing the House managers' evening session at the impeachment trial. That lasted about two hours, 15 minutes.

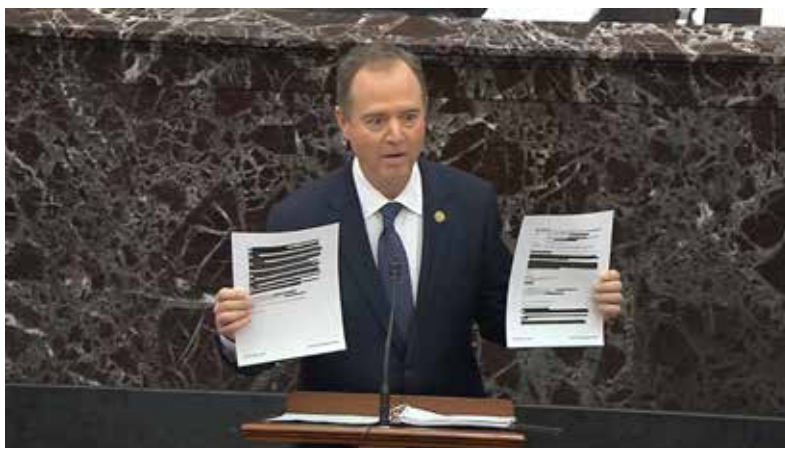
CNN and MSNBC carried the trial in full. Fox News Channel, after showing Rep. Adam Schiff speak for about a half hour, interrupted for a story about a child support case involving former Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter, and never returned.

Even two PBS stations in the New York area showed science programming and Antiques Roadshow instead of the trial Wednesday evening. PBS said it gave its local stations the option to show the trial or not.

The calls Wednesday night are significant because if the top networks decided not to preempt programming on the first full night the case against Trump was laid out, chances are they won't reverse course later unless the unexpected happens.

Daytime was an intriguing contrast, since the top three broadcasters and cable news outlets all carried Schiff's initial stand at the podium, which lasted more than two hours.

It was rare for anyone in today's media world to command



full television attention to that extent. The Senate's rules for the trial, which required using a single camera on the speaker and didn't allow reaction shots of senators, only served to accentuate Schiff's message. Meanwhile, Trump was setting a record for sending out the most tweets in a single day since he's been president.

For the television networks, however, prime time is a different animal altogether, with more viewers and advertising revenue available.

After pulling away from House managers Wednesday evening, Fox News personalities spent much of their time ridiculing the proceedings. Fox mostly kept a postage stamp-size picture of the speaker soundlessly mouthing words in a corner of the screen, with an invitation for viewers to go online if they wanted to hear the arguments. Fox's Tucker Carlson ran clips of TV commentators on other network personalities who praised Schiff's afternoon speech, calling the comments pornographic.

He said Trump wasn't the only

victim of the impeachment trial suggesting viewers were, too. He brought on a former Republican congressman to talk about alleged crimes in the Obama administration and Texas Republican Rep. John Ratcliffe to assess the trial.

Today was really boring and the president's defense team is very happy, Ratcliffe said.

Carlson also interviewed Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, with the host saying Hawley had stepped out of the trial to talk on television and criticize House managers. Similarly, Fox's Sean Hannity labeled the impeachment trial the Schumer Schiff Sham Show and attacked Schiff for his afternoon speech.

He is a lunatic," Hannity said. If you watched him talk he was totally unhinged. He looked like a lunatic who has lost his mind.

Wrapping up his evening argument a half-hour later, Schiff also used the word sham, but in a much different context, as a description for Trump's attempts to get the Ukraine to investigate the activities of Hunter Biden.

# SummitTIMES

ENTER OF THE NEWS

Sikkim SCAN | Capital TIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | ETCETERA

*It's easy to relax... When you can trust the News.*

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

**GANGTOK:**  
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749897695, +91-9647102692  
& for advertisement booking at +91-9933427905 or at office no 03092  
208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

**SILIGURI:**  
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st  
9833085973, E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com, irshad\_jalil23@gmail.com

**floor:** Opp. Gangotri Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/  
9806682989/915303100 or mail at man\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**  
Irshad Ali/Intersynapse, 6, Madan Street, Marine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata -  
700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547794/ +91-  
9833085973, E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com, irshad\_jalil23@gmail.com

**Phone**  
03592-208498  
+91-98323556698  
+91-9832080753

**www.summittimes.com**  
news@summittimes.com  
summittimes15@gmail.com  
advertise@summittimes.com

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

**VIDEO NEWS SECTION**  
facebook.com/SummitTIMES



## The 'final straw' behind Meghan and Harry's fallout with the royal family: report

New details are coming to light regarding Meghan and Harry's shocking decision to break from the royal family earlier this month.

From treatment by the British press (including racist explosives) and controversy over their political views, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have faced a long list of criticism even before they tied the knot in 2018. And while the buildup of tensions understandably contributed to their choice to step away from their roles as senior royals and start over in Canada, their decision ultimately came down to protecting the privacy of their son Archie, reports maintain.

A new TMZ report claims that while Meghan understood she'd be under immense scrutiny as a royal, the birth of Archie last May is when things turned "sour." While Meghan and Harry sought to keep their son away from the public -- such as not participating in a public photocall after Archie's birth and keeping details of his christening under wraps -- British press were unhappy with the lack of access the couple divulged on their son.

According to the publication, "royal higher-ups" advised Meghan and Harry to be more "forthcoming" about access to Archie with pictures, but the couple

pushed back. Prince William and Kate Middleton, for example, are known to publish photographs of their children occasionally, but it's a precedent that Meghan and Harry chose not to follow. But, as heir to the throne, William is expected to be a little more open about his family than Harry.

However, "The final straw" for the

couver Island, Canada, hasn't stopped the press from receiving access to the couple and their child. This weekend, photographs of Meghan walking with Archie and the family's two dogs in a public park were published by The Sun.

On Wednesday, The New York Times reported that the couple's lawyers have sent a letter to British news outlets



couple was the persistent criticism that Meghan received on Archie's christening.

"They think if the British public aren't contributing financially then they don't have the same right to comment on their private life," a source told TMZ.

It also seems that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's recent move to Van-

threatening legal action over the publication and purchases of the photos. The paparazzi reportedly used "all possible methods, including subterfuge" and hiding in bushes to capture the personal photos. Photographers are camping outside their rental home and some have even tried to take photos through the windows of their house.

## Johnny Flynn joins Showtime series 'Ripley'

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 23 (PTI):** Actor Johnny Flynn, best known for starring in period anthology "Genius", is joining Andrew Scott in the upcoming series "Ripley".

Based on Patricia Highsmith's novels, the show has received a straight-to-series order at Showtime with the "Fleabag" star in the title role.

According to Variety, Flynn will appear in a series regular role in the eight-episode first season.

The series follows Tom Ripley (Scott), a grifter scraping by in early 1960s New York, who is hired by a wealthy man to try to convince his vagabond son, Dickie Greenleaf (Flynn), who is living a comfortable, trust-funded expat life in Italy, to return home.

"Ripley" comes from writer-director Steven Zaillian,

Prior to the upcoming series, the



character made an appearance in 1999 film "The Talented Mr Ripley" starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Cate Blanchett and Matt Damon in key roles.

## Jackie Shroff to team up with son Tiger in 'Baaghi 3'

**MUMBAI, JAN 23 (PTI):** Actor Tiger Shroff is set to share the screen with his father and veteran actor Jackie Shroff for the first time in "Baaghi 3", the makers announced on Thursday.

In the third installment of action-drama, directed by Ahmed Khan, Jackie will play the on-screen father of Tiger and his co-star Riteish Deshmukh's characters.

In a cameo appearance, the 62-year-old actor will essay the role of a police inspector in "Baaghi 3", producer Sajid Nadiadwala said.

"Everyone has been waiting to see Tiger team up with his 'Hero' father Jackie since we launched him. There have been plenty of speculations and no one has been able to bring them together in the

last six years as the duo was categorical they would only share the screen when a film and role merited their presence.

"Ahmed and I feel the story line required Jackie to be a part of them film and I believe our visions matched to understand how it's a pivotal role in the film," Nadiadwala said in a statement.

The producer said having Jackie on board will add to the film's expectations.

"...I am confident no one will be disappointed by this double dose of Shroffs and will stand as a strong USP," Nadiadwala added.

Jackie started shooting for the film on Wednesday.

Also starring Shraddha Kapoor and Ankita Lokhande, "Baagi 3" is scheduled to be released on March 6.

## Karanvir Bohra's 'The Casino' starts filming

**MUMBAI, JAN 22 (PTI):** Karanvir Bohra-starrer Zee5 series "The Casino - My Game. My Rules" on Wednesday commenced shooting here.

The show, being directed and produced by Hardik Gajjar, will mark the actor's foray into the digital medium.

Bohra is playing Vicky, a rich yet humble, simple and loving boy, who is the heir to his father's multi-billion-dollar casino.

The show is set in the world of high society and will reflect its glamour and glitz with a tinge of mystery and conspiracy. The backdrop will be a huge casino around which the story will unfold.

Bohra said he is excited about his digital debut with such a "unique" series.

"It's a great time to be an actor because truly content is on an exponential growth with the digital medium today. We are being able to experiment with concepts, make content for niche audiences, and have artistic liberty without limitations.

"I am excited about making my digital debut because truly The Casino on ZEE5 is a unique series and my character has shades and nuances which I haven't experimented with as an actor before. It is going to be interesting to see the audiences' reaction to these new shades as well as a backdrop which hasn't been explored in India yet, that of the gambler's world," the 37-year-old actor said in a statement.



**FUN IN STRIPES!** The actress, Liv Tyler says hi to her fans outside the Jimmy Kimmel Live! studios in Los Angeles.

## 'Captain Marvel' sequel in works



**LOS ANGELES, JAN 23 (PTI):** A follow-up to "Captain Marvel", featuring Oscar winner Brie Larson in the title role, is finally taking shape at Disney.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the studio is in final negotiations with Megan McDonnell, a staff writer on its Disney Plus series "WandaVision" on the project.

Sources said Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who co-wrote and directed the 2019 hit, will not return to helm the sequel. However, they are in talks to remain in the Marvel Universe and direct a possible Disney Plus series.

Marvel is hoping to find a female filmmaker

er for "Captain Marvel 2" and is eyeing a potential 2022 release.

Plot details are under wraps but the new story will move the setting from the 1990s of the original film to the present day.

"Captain Marvel", which was Marvel's first female-centric movie, followed Larson as US Airforce pilot Carol Danvers, who becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes.

Also starring Samuel L Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn and Gemma Chan, the film grossed USD 1.13 billion worldwide.

Larson's Captain Marvel also appeared in 2019's "Avengers: Endgame".

**ARIES:** Building your psychic muscles is a process, Aries, just like working out. Your guides are trying to get in touch with you, sending you messages from the beyond. But are your receptors working to their optimum capacity? Today, you're being asked to tune into your third eye, the space between your brows. Envision a luminescent golden light descending from the heavens, clearing any and all blocks.

Tip: Your spirit guides are trying to get through. **TAURUS:** Brian Leaf, author of Misadventures of a Garden State Yogi, defines inner wisdom "as a knowledge that comes from quieting the mind, setting aside the ego, setting aside one's ideas of how things should be, and listening and feeling for what feels truly right."

Tip: Quieten your mind in order to tune in. **GEMINI:** The emotional is an extension of the physical. How we care for our sacred vessel directly affects our state of being. So, where do you want to vibrate at, Gemini? Today, you're being asked to consider

detoxification. What are the things that are causing more harm than good? Once you've eliminated the harmful substances, consider switching to a wholesome, plant-based diet. Tip: Eliminate the toxins.

**CANCER:** The moon signifies 'Shakti' or the sacred feminine. She's infamous for activating our intuition or inner wisdom. As a Cancerian, you are directly affected by her movement. Take a moment to understand her cycles and rhythms and how they affect you on a soul level. Today, la Luna is in the waning phase, one step away from the new moon, urging you to retreat into your sacred space and focus on shadow work.

Tip: Tune into the phases of the moon.

**LEO:** An important aspect of being a leader is training others to be one too. Leo, we know you are the master of masters, you can do everything by yourself. Do you need to push yourself to your limits though? Learn the art of delegation. Consider this as a testimony of your team's skills; a testimony of how well you have taught them.

Tip: Let your baby birds fly.

**VIRGO:** We are always talking about manifestation and making space for the big stuff. Truth is, new energy cannot enter until we have cleared out the clutter. Work with the cycles of the la luna, Virgo. Today, we are under the influence of the waning moon. This is considered to be a sacred time to practice shadow work and confront our so-called dark parts. Resistance to letting is but natural.

Tip: Make space to receive what you have asked for.

**LIBRA:** Embrace the beauty of endings, Libra. They signify the completion of a phase, thereby making space for beginnings. Now isn't that a wonderful place to be in! Think of this as a period of surrender; of letting go. Be grateful for the journey and the soul lessons. When you find yourself pushing against the flow, make a list of things that you'd like to release from your existence, whether it's a limited belief or a relationship that's no longer in alignment.

Tip: Cut the cords where you need to.

**SCORPIO:** Our body is three quarters water. Therefore, it is paramount to keep replenishing this reserve. Word for the wise: stay hydrated! Beginning your day with two or three glasses of water is a good way to set a precedent. Exposing our bodies to different temperatures of water is known to have varying effects on the system. For instance, cold showers are invigorating, while hot baths help calm the nerves and release stress.

Tip: Allow the element of water to heal you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Take a look at the recurring patterns in your life. Why do you think the story is repeating itself, Sagittarius? Is there a lesson here you haven't been paying attention to for a long time? Quieten the mind and listen to what Spirit is trying to communicate.

Tip: The Universe is supporting you to break this cycle.

**CAPRICORN:** "Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly." You are in the midst of a massive transformation, Capricorn. Ready to blossom and become who you were meant to be all

along? While some people are going to applaud your courage others may attempt to bring you down to their level.

Tip: Embrace the changes.

**AQUARIUS:** Late President Abdul Kalam once said, "To succeed in your mission, you must have single-minded devotion to your goal." Aquarius, tap into the power of focus. Put paper to pen as you word your intentions. Then, like an arrow, move straight towards the target. When you are aware of your destination and certain of the route you want to take, there is no reason why you will not hit the target.

Tip: Let focused intention be the secret to your success.

**PISCES:** Starting a project? Now that's the easy part. Sustaining that inner fire is where the real challenge begins. What do you do when you face challenges or when things refuse to go as planned? Channel your inner improv artist. Be flexible when you can. This will help you navigate the obstacle course.

Tip: Yes, you can do it!