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**MINISTRY SENDS LETTER TO FARMER UNIONS**

Tell us when you want to talk, ready for ‘logical’ solution: Govt

Three farm laws have no relation to MSP-based procurement, says ministry

Christina Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, urged farmers to decide the time table for the next round of talks, and also contended that the government had contended that no law is being introduced. She also contended that only the existing laws are being strengthened.

**Delhi Police search office of Prachanda, lawyer in several riot cases**

Violates due process of clients, say lawyers; police allege forged papers

Delhi Police searched the office of Prachanda, lawyer in several riot cases. The Special Cell of Delhi Police searched the Nizamuddin East office of journalist Mohammad Prachanda Thursday. The police also raided his residence in Mehrauli.

**ECONOMIC BUREAU**

**NESA**

Growth to break into positive territory in Q3, says RBI study

In first half of 2021-22, GDP growth likely to be 14.2 per cent

The Indian economy could break into positive territory in the third quarter of 2021-22, provided that fiscal and monetary stimulus measures continue to support investment and consumption demand, according to an economic survey published Thursday.

**JOURNALISM OF COURAGE**

**ECONOMIC BUREAU**

**NESA**

**W**hat worked for big growth

**E**arning the Covid-19 curve and a ‘method’ to the madness engineered by the government seems to be working. India’s GDP growth rate for the December quarter was 7.4 per cent, the highest in four years, buttressed by robust agricultural output. The economy expanded 4.1 per cent in the three months to September, and 13.9 per cent in the previous quarter. What worked for the big growth?

**ECONOMIC BUREAU**

**NESA**

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2. The Second Page

FROM PAGE ONE

Growth to break into positive territory in Q3, says RBI study

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Thursday that the Indian economy’s annual GDP growth, which has been negative for the past three years, is expected to turn positive in Q3 of the current fiscal year. However, the growth rate is likely to be lower than the pre-COVID levels.

The RBI study, titled “Economic Outlook: Q3FY22,” says that the economy is expected to grow by 8.5% in Q3, down from 9.5% in Q2. The study forecasts a GDP growth rate of 7.5% for the full fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

The study also highlights the challenges faced by the economy, including high inflation and weak investment demand. It notes that the recent surge in oil prices and the ongoing supply chain disruptions have added to the inflationary pressures.

The study further states that the recent measures taken by the government, such as the increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for crops, and the introduction of the Farm Bills, have helped to boost farm incomes and spur rural demand.

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Go back to the top
51 lakh people to get vaccine in first phase, says Kejriwal

**Express News Service**

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24** The Delhi government will approach IGI Airport authorities through five CPMZ points to initiate an initiative to vaccinate about five lakh people at the airport in the first phase. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced this on Tuesday.

Addressing a virtual meeting of the Union cabinet, Kejriwal said: “We have identified nearly all the 51 lakh citizens under the priority category for vaccination. Those identified will be contacted via SMS. The government will arrange a transport to take them to the vaccination centres.”

He said 1.2 crore doses are needed to cover priority categories in the first phase. Kejriwal said Delhi has about 3,500 canteens in the city which are working with the Delhi government’s Food and Civil Supplies Department to provide nutritious food and will be converted into vaccination centres.

Kejriwal said 1.2 crore doses are needed to vaccinate the 51 lakh people identified under the priority category. “We have identified nearly all the 51 lakh citizens under the priority category for vaccination. Those identified will be contacted via SMS. The government will arrange a transport to take them to the vaccination centres,” he said.

In response to a question from the opposition, Kejriwal said the government was looking at the Possible to vaccinate about 50 lakh people in the first phase and about 15 lakh people in the second phase.

**Dr. Gambhir launches ‘Jan Rasoi’ canteen at Gandhi Nagar market**

Dr. Prakash Mansingh Gambhir, the MP, launched the ‘Jan Rasoi’ canteen at Gandhi Nagar market on Tuesday.

Gambhir said the canteen was being run with his own money and that of his NGO, Gautam Gambhir Foundation. The canteen will be open from 11.30 am to 3 pm and food will be served at a nominal cost of Rs 10.

Gambhir said: “The Jan Rasoi canteen will serve nutritious, hygienic food to those in need. The canteen will be open from 11.30 am to 3 pm and food will be served at a nominal cost of Rs 10.”

**Invitation for Expression of Interest**

International Commercial Corp (India) Limited ("ICCI") invites qualified suppliers for the supply and delivery of traffic police uniforms for the Delhi Police Department, and the necessary accessories and equipment.

**Details**

- **Scope of Work:**
  - Supply and delivery of traffic police uniforms for the Delhi Police Department.
  - Supply of necessary accessories and equipment.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- **Company Profile:**
  - Registered under Indian Law.
  - Minimum 5 years of experience in manufacturing and supplying traffic police uniforms.

**Procedure:**

- Interested suppliers can submit their expressions of interest to ICCI for further details.

**Contact Information:**

- ICCI:
  - Address: 153, C, Lodi Colony, New Delhi-110003
  - Phone: 011-22535683
  - Email: ICCI@nic.in

**Invitation Closing Date:**

- 21-01-2021

**Importance:**

This invitation is aimed at identifying qualified suppliers who can meet the requirements of the Delhi Police Department. Interested suppliers are encouraged to submit their expressions of interest for further consideration.
At Singhu, support from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

**NISHANK SINGH from Punjab (Punjab) and Delhi**

A stand they were about to make by laying waste to the memorial and then the parade was involved because of the wide smiles and nods when they started speaking. Meanwhile, the farmers from Maharastra's Moga said that only one time was when they approached Dr KC, the traffic police officer who was at the front of the crowd, and they were told that they were blocking traffic. The farmers also said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving. The farmers also said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving.

**SOORYA LAKHAN**

The farmers from Punjab on Thursday, they moved towards the memorial and Delhi Police said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving. The farmers also said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving.

**No vaccine for kids**

On Friday afternoon, the farmers from Punjab on Thursday, they moved towards the memorial and Delhi Police said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving. The farmers also said that they were returning home, but the police were blocking them from leaving.

**Abhishek Dhir**

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**Summary**

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**At Singhu, support from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu**

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Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021
On home turf, Suvendu says BJP will win over 200 seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

Suvendu Adhikari is not leaving anything to chance as he gears up to contest East Midnapore constituency for the upcoming election. He said the BJP’s recent alliance with TMC to win back West Bengal's seats in Lok Sabha elections and the nationwide high-octane campaign by the party’s national high command have left no room for complacency.

Prime Minister Modi will address the gathering during the centenary celebrations of Visva-Bharati University.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not only said the TMC was in a strong position in West Bengal but also suggested that the alliance of the Opposition parties' performance in the last assembly elections would be replicated in the national polls.

Not invited to centenary event at varsity: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

On Thursday, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, who is the chief minister of West Bengal, said she was not invited to the centenary event of the Visva-Bharati University, a global university founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in the city.

BJP gets no nod for pact with Left

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

Manoj C.G.

BJP’s national executive has been told to stop the talks with the Left-Congress alliance for forming a pre-poll understanding for 2021 assembly elections.

Bengal Cong gets nod for pact with Left

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

The Congress has given the nod to its West Bengal unit for discussing the alliance with Left parties in a high-level summit which is likely to take place in the first week of January. The talks will be held by the state Congress unit which is led by Preet K. Kachroo.

CPM welcomes Cong decision to enter into electoral alliance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

The CPM has welcomed the Congress decision to enter into an electoral alliance with the Left in West Bengal. The CPM has congratulated the Congress for taking such a “bold step” to contain the BJP’s poll campaign in the state.

State Level Programme will be organized at Haryana

Chief Guest Sh. Mahanor Lal Chief Minister, Haryana

Programme will be conducted at District, Teshil & Block level

The significant aspects of Good Governance and accountability are:

e- services, our Government has encouraged accountability in the last person in the queue

Y. G. S. Reddy

KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

Sudipta Sen

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KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

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**GoV & Politics**

*INDIA ON THURSDAY said two cargo vessels with a total of 39 Indian sailors were stranded in Chinese waters near the Shandong Peninsula. India’s foreign ministry said it was among 15 ships and 130 sailors stuck in various parts of the world, mostly in China. Some 11 ships and 93 sailors have been allowed to leave through the Malacca Strait, including one from Pakistan.

**STATE OF UNITY**

Oppose inclusion of areas around statue under eco-sensitive zone: ex-BJP MLA to sarpanches

**GOV OF BIHAR**

**BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD**

L.A. University Building, Near Patna Patna- 54.

**UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING**

Bihar Combined Entrance Examination Board, Bihar. Patna.

**Advis-**

**BCECEB**

**UGMAC-2020**

Date : 25.12.2020

For Punjab National Bank, Circle Sastra Centre, Biharsharif

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**DATE: 25.12.2020**
In stir against Reliance, farmers snap power to jio towers

In most of the villages in Rajasthan, farmers have been protesting against the three new farm laws, which have led to a situation where they are being forced to take drastic measures to ensure their livelihood. The three new farming laws - the agriculture land laws, the minimum support price laws, and the joint venture laws - have led to a situation where farmers are being forced to sell their crops at a lower price. This has led to widespread protests across the state, with farmers demanding the repeal of these laws.

The protests have been intense, with farmers blocking roads and highways, as well as occupying the Jio towers in various parts of the state. The Jio towers are essential for the delivery of power to the rural areas, and the farmers have been blocking them in order to disrupt the supply of power.

The farmers have been demanding the repeal of the three new farm laws, and they have been supported by various organizations, including the Countrywide Farmers’ Movement and the Indian Farmers’ Federation. The farmers have also been demanding the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system, which is currently in place.

The government has been under pressure to address the farmers' demands, and there have been calls for dialogue between the government and the farmers. However, the government has been firm in its stance, and has so far refused to repeal the three new farm laws.

Despite the protests, the Jio towers have been operational, and the power supply has been uninterrupted. However, the farmers' blockade has led to a disruption in the delivery of essential services, such as electricity and communication.

The situation in Rajasthan is a reflection of the larger farmers' protest that has been ongoing across the country. The farmers have been demanding the repeal of the three new farm laws, and they have been supported by various organizations, including the Countrywide Farmers’ Movement and the Indian Farmers’ Federation.

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who, according to sources, is a terror-related case, including a Pakistan national. The second militant was Amir Siraj, a resident identified as Abrar Ali (Abas) Langoo affiliated with JeM.

Jammu and Kashmir police said.

forces in Baramulla district of militants including a Pakistani national were killed Thursday in militants fired upon a search and a cordon-and-search operation in Wanigam Payeen in Kreeri area of Baramulla district in retaliation.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Hesaidthemilitantswereaf-

Asperpolicerecords,themil-

The gunfight ensued after the presence of electricity departments. We asked it to facilitate the construction of the Ram temple following the Supreme Court’s verdict in the case, and we are feeling overburdened by no-

One of the slain ultras was One of the slain ultras was...
Walking home with friend after birthday party, Muslim youth booked under love jihad law

My friend, says girl, father alleged police dictated complaint, asks ‘is it unfafulow boy, girl to walk together?’

Anand Mohan J

KAKRABAD (KSA) — A 16-year-old boy has been arrested from this city for allegedly abducting a 15-year-old girl and attempting to rape her.

The police said that the accused, who is a resident of a nearby village, had abducted the victim on Monday night.

KAKRABAD: Police have arrested a 16-year-old boy for allegedly abducting a 15-year-old girl and attempting to rape her in this city.

The police said that the accused, who is a resident of a nearby village, had abducted the victim on Monday night. He was arrested after a police complaint was lodged by the victim’s father.

Meanwhile, the police have also sealed off the area where the incident took place.

Police said that the victim was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment and that she is currently stable.

The accused has been remanded to police custody for 14 days and will be produced in court on December 9.

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Tripura: 4 top NLFT leaders surrender, abducted border fence workers return

Director-General of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in-charge of Indo-Bangladesh border Vijay Kumar called on the four top leaders of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) who had been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act to surrender themselves to the BSF in a number of cases. The surrender comes after the NSG abducted persons were employed as a police supervisor, labor contractor and a PCR machine driver.

As per reports, the four leaders were arrested and booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act.

The surrender was made after the four leaders were involved in the abduction of persons working in the border area. After the surrender, the BSF has registered a case against the four leaders under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
Continuing with the highly contentious policies of the UP government. On Thursday, it was proposed that the state assembly should be summoned to meet on March 17. The governor, in his address, said that the government would need to take a tough approach to ensure that the law is implemented. This is likely to be a test of the government's commitment to the rule of law.

The move is likely to be seen as an attempt to distract from the state's economic difficulties. The state has been hit hard by the pandemic, and the government has struggled to provide effective assistance. The government has also faced criticism for its handling of the pandemic, including the closure of schools and universities.

The opposition has already started to gather momentum against the government. The Chief Minister, Adityanath, is facing increasing criticism for his handling of the pandemic and the state's economic situation. The opposition is likely to use this opportunity to challenge the government and to highlight its failures.

The government is likely to face a tough battle to win the upcoming assembly elections. The state has a history of high-voting turnout, and the government will need to win a majority to secure a second term. The government is likely to face a strong challenge from the opposition, which is likely to use the state's economic situation and the government's handling of the pandemic to fuel its campaign.

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There’s very little that was redeeming or cheerful about the last 10 months. But times like this are precisely when we need a list that helps us be grateful, when all has failed.

Shahleda Raj Mehta

**Saving the public university**

The first step in governing for equality and a more accountable governance is to understand the current state of affairs. We need to have a clear understanding of the problems that the public universities are facing and the solutions that can be implemented. In the absence of such an understanding, it is impossible to make meaningful changes. The public universities are facing a number of challenges, including funding shortages, staff shortages, and inadequate infrastructure. These challenges need to be addressed in a timely manner to ensure that the public universities can continue to provide high-quality education to all students.

**What the others say**

“Rather than promising bold actions, Mr. Suzuki would be better off talking publicly about the actual steps that are being taken to ensure accountability and transparency in the public universities, and launching a national recovery council of ministers and trade unions along with civil-society groups.” — The Guardian

Aakash Joshi

**Letter to the Editor**

**VICTIMS' REDRESS**

THE EDITOR THE editor, "Victims' Relief" (December 24). The Indian constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to receive reparations and compensation for injuries suffered due to state action. However, the implementation of this right is often hindered by various obstacles, such as lack of resources and bureaucratic red tape. In the case of Victims' Redress, the government has a responsibility to ensure that the victims receive timely and adequate compensation. The government should take necessary steps to ensure that the Victims' Redress scheme is implemented effectively and efficiently. The government should also provide all necessary support to the victims and their families to ensure that they receive the compensation to which they are entitled.

Deepak Singhal

**IDEAS ONLINE**

**ONLY IN THE EXPRESS**

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SEARCH FOR MISSING

P.D. Anil Kumar, 45 yrs., Height: 6’0” Completion: Fair, Face: Long, has changed his name to Shwetas Ingh, 235, E-2/2B, Road No. 20, Sector 8, Faridabad (Haryana) - 121102 has been lodged at Police Station Najafgarh, Delhi. Anyone having any information about this missing person is requested to contact Shweta Ingh or police on 9810455888.

Appeal for Identification

Cheeka Singh, 30 yrs., Height: 5”4”, Compleation: Fair, Hair: Black, has changed his name to Rohit Yadav, 301406, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi - 110034. The person claiming any right, interest, possession or claim in the person at above address/phone no : 9810455888 may write/contact with above named and immovable properties and also from M/s. Haffkine Bio Pharmachetical Corporation Limited (Having its Registered Office at 1, P.G. Block, Sector 7, Sonepat, HUDA, Haryana - 131001) have changed my name P.D. Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Bhasin for all purposes.

ANIL KUMAR BHASIN, 45 yrs., Height: 6”0”, completed: Fair, Face: Long, has changed his name to Roshan Lal Anand, 24.3.1965 & Transfer Deed 5.5.1965 (iii) Letter wherein sale permission was granted by publishing this type of information, also damaged the reputation and the client will not be responsible for any loss or damage caused to any person.

Haffkine Bio pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, written in Kaushalya Devi with address at 1, P.G. Block, Sector 7, Sonepat, HUDA, Haryana - 131001, have changed my name to Shri Sonepat Has shown Her Interest to Purchase the area measuring 100 sq. yds. by virtue of mutation involving share of Shri Kumar Sinha Ragu Yaj, Yamuna Prasad, Vaishnavi Up (Phase-I), Delhis. Any other person claiming any title or claim in the name of Shri Roshan Lal Anand and Shri Chetan R. Kanojia, permanently.

By publishing this type of information, also damaged the reputation and the client will not be responsible for any loss or damage caused to any person. Any other person claiming any title or claim in the name of Shri Roshan Lal Anand and Shri Chetan R. Kanojia, permanently.
**ECONOMY**

The Indian government has decided to extend the deadline for bids to sell disinvested stakes in the Indian Aviation and Defence sectors. The deadline for bids to acquire stakes in aviation companies had been extended from December 15 to December 20, and for defense companies from January 31 to February 15. The decision was taken after some potential bidders expressed difficulty in meeting the deadlines due to the ongoing pandemic. The disinvestment project aims to raise funds for the government's Covid-19 relief efforts and to revitalize state-owned enterprises. The government had planned to disinvest stakes in companies such as IndiGo, Air India, and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The extended deadlines will give bidders more time to evaluate the companies and submit their bids. The government has also agreed to relax certain conditions for the disinvestment process, such as the minimum bidding price and the requirement for strategic investors. The government hopes to receive increased interest from potential bidders and to complete the disinvestment process in the coming months.
**BREAKTHROUGH: UK, EU agree Brexit trade deal**

Agreement must be ratified by British and European parliamentarians; key details to be worked out later

Brexit is finally done, but the world has changed since the 2016 referendum

**MARK LANDER**
LONDON, DECEMBER 24

The EU and the UK have agreed to their first post-Brexit trade deal, with the bloc confirming on Monday that the agreement had been provisionally concluded, paving the way for the world’s largest trading economy to escape from the constraints of the customs union and the single market.

But the deal, which will also cover the normal rules of the World Trade Organization, will not enable the UK to escape from the common external tariff and common external commercial policy rules that still apply in the UK to goods and services entering the UK from the EU.

**The agreement**

The agreement has been provisionally concluded on a number of key points, including: customs rules, standards and verification, goods, services, and the internal market, financial services, fisheries, and a level playing field.

The agreement also includes a protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is intended to ensure that there is no hard border between Northern Ireland and the EU, and a protocol on Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The agreement is subject to ratification by the UK Parliament and the European Union, and it is expected to be signed by the end of the year.

**The text**

The full text of the agreement has not yet been made public, but it is expected to be published in the coming days.

**The UK**

The UK has been working on the agreement for several months, and it has been a key priority for the UK government.

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The agreement will have a significant impact on the world, and it is expected to be signed by the end of the year.

**Pardons mostly just for friends**

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The pardons, which were announced in a statement from the White House, were granted to a number of aides who had been charged with crimes or had served time in prison.

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**US law enforcement**

US law enforcement officials are expected to announce the pardons on Tuesday, and it is expected that they will be signed by the end of the year.

**US politics**

US politics is expected to be dominated by the US presidential election, which is expected to take place in November.

**US economy**

The US economy is expected to be hit hard by the US presidential election, and it is expected that the economy will continue to struggle in the coming months.

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Investors not panic over Covid-19 news flows

The market crashed earlier this week amid news about the new virus variant. But as the 2008 financial crisis and this pandemic have shown, markets do recover.

Sandeep Singh

A sharp 4.5% fall in the stock markets on Monday was the first manifestation of what some investors were bracing themselves for at the same time as the otherwise rising trend in the markets. As if to underline that, the Sensex, which had been rising for a few days, did not extend beyond Monday, how- ever, stability returned quickly across the board.

While the fall was driven by concerns over a new virus variant, investors must keep in mind that such mutations are only one part of the picture during the course of the pandemic, and that in important for some to panic. While day- traders need to react to such news fast and square off their positions or sell particular stocks, there is no such compulsion for long- term retail investors. They need to keep their focus on market volatility.

What happened then? The sharp 375 points drop in the Sensex was all the more surprising as it left even the traders in shock, and even more so as they were otherwise slowly returning to markets, ready to carry forward the gains that 2021 brought to the fore. The concerns that have been simmering for a while now, surrounding this new virus variant, were further heightened on Monday by the news of its emergence.

KAINAH SHERRIFF M

IN EMERGING information about the new virus variant, which was discovered in the United Kingdom late last week, it is important to understand the immediate implications of the new virus strain on the global markets. It is also important to comprehend if there are medium-term or long-term implications for India.

A mutation means an alteration in genetic material and can be caused by different mechanisms. Such mutations are common in the virus genome and can lead to changes in the shape of proteins. Mutations can also lead to changes in the functions of proteins.

Aiming to understand the impact of such mutations, researchers in the Global Initiative on Ana- mnesia and Anxiety and the International Centre for Evidence on Global Women’s Health conducted a study to determine if there is a potential to impact testing and vaccine efficacy. As per the study, the researchers have found that the new variant could affect RTPCR testing, and that it may also affect the effectiveness of vaccines.

WHAT HAPPENED IN AUKLAND

A new virus variant was first detected in the UK late last week. This variant, which is believed to be more contagious than the original strain of the coronavirus, has been spreading rapidly. Researchers believe that this variant could lead to a new wave of infections and could potentially affect testing and vaccine efficacy.

The first case of the new virus variant was confirmed in the UK on December 20. Shortly after, authorities in the UK announced travel restrictions to and from the country, and announced lockdown measures. The UK government also announced that all travel from the UK to the EU will be banned, and that all flights from the UK will be grounded.

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According to the researchers, the new virus variant could affect RTPCR testing and vaccine efficacy. They believe that this could lead to a new wave of infections and could potentially affect testing and vaccine efficacy.

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON INDIA?

India should not panic but keep a close watch on the development. It is also important to note that the new variant has not been detected in India yet.

**NEW CHINESE COMMANDER ON LAC: WHAT IT MEANS FOR STABILITY**

New Chinese commander on LAC: what it means for stability

Maj Gen (Dr) G D Pande

On December 8, President Xi Jinping, the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, commissioned a new commander of the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division of the People's Liberation Army of China to assume command of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) troops deployed on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern sector of the India-China border in Sikkim. The new commander, Maj Gen (Dr) G D Pande, was previously theatre commander of the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). He is a veteran of the 1999 Kargil conflict and has extensive military experience.

**The new incumbent**

General Pande, a veteran of the 1962 India-China War, served nearly 30 years in the Indian army before retiring as a major general. Army General Pande has an extensive experience in the Indian army, having served in various capacities. He has also been the theatre commander of the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army. During his tenure, he led the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division to victory in the Second Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

General Pande has also been a commander of the Chinese Peacekeeping Forces in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). He has also been the theatre commander of the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army. During his tenure, he led the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division to victory in the Second Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

**Timing of the change**

General Pande has taken over the 75th in 2016, and is believed to be the first commanding officer to assume command of the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division. He is a veteran of the 1962 India-China War and has extensive military experience.

In his new role, General Pande will be in charge of the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division, which is responsible for the security of the Sikkim sector of the India-China border. The division comprises of three regiments and is one of the most well-equipped units of the Indian army.

**Impact on LAC situation**

It is important to note that the new commander, Maj Gen (Dr) G D Pande, will be assuming command of the 75th Mechanized Infantry Division, which is deployed on the LAC in the Eastern sector of the India-China border in Sikkim. The division comprises of three regiments and is one of the most well-equipped units of the Indian army.

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MEETING - NABE

The 42nd meeting of NABE was held in New Delhi recently.

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Parseshottamrao Bagh, Brahma Sarovar
Chief Guest
Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

State Haryana a place of rich culture, heritage, and the origin of Bhagvad Gita. The Gita not only inspires people to serve humanity but also guides the mankind to show courage at difficult times. The Gita teaches us to fearlessly face challenges of life and serve the humanity on the path of truth.

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

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Tokyo-bound athletes, coaches should be priority for vaccine: Parliament panel

The panel has also recommended identifying training facilities, national and sports centres for Olympic qualified athletes which have not opened yet. It said the closed centres should be reopened “little earlier” if the athletes should be allowed to alternate centres which have opened.

The Department of parliamentary affairs was represented by Former Union Minister, Western Chalons, Youth and Sports hobbyist Prabhat Jha submitted its report on "Preparations for Olympics 2021" to House Sahib (Deputy of India's National労働者) outside.

The report said medical staff and other medical support such as X-ray and MRI machines should be readily available within the Sports Authority of India and other teams.

"This will ensure that athletes do not require to travel to distant hospitals. They should also keep them from travelling to hospitals where the chances of getting COVID-19 is the highest," it observed.

The panel noted that there is common stigma of exclusivity and travel restrictions, there was lack of international and national competition exposure which has lagged behind the training of the athletes.

"The Department and National Sports Federation must ensure that players get an opportunity to play maximum international tournaments before the 2021 Olympics properly disrupt priority as they prepare athletes for pressure situations they may find themselves during actual Olympic Games," it said.

The committee observed that travelling for far away tournaments is challenging for the athletes. Countries such as France and Germany carried out their own tournaments and have packed more champions, pinpointed it.

"We should have more international tournaments in India that collect more points and move up the ranking ladder. Also, larger number of athletes can benefit from the same amount that India spends on sending athletes abroad," the report observed.

"The standing committee also recommended creation of two 'bubble' international locations so that athletes can be isolated in a secure environment and train with minimal possibility of being infected. It proposed giving individualised programmes to disable players who are acting as substitutes on the pitch and also depending on the medical advice as a part of possible strategy. "The Delhi and National Sports Federation must ensure that all domestic tournaments are available," it added.

Through the Melbourne Cricket Ground will be only up to 10 per cent full when India take on Australia in the second Test on Saturday, at the imposing 12,000-seat amphitheatre comes with its inherent challenges. The intimidating last win over South Africa in 1989 was transmuted from one builder to another. Christmas Day, the last of the Melbourne Test, is traditionally seen as a home-ground fixture at the MCG, where the original fixture plan was put into effect after the heavy snowfall in the north-western part of Melbourne, which was scheduled to be the opening fixture of the series.

"I am pleased to inform you that the fixture plan has been further extended to the second Test at the MCG and the third Test at the Adelaide Oval," said Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, the head coach of the Indian team, who had earlier said that the team would be ready to play in both the Tests against Australia. "This is one of the best opportunities for us to prove our mettle in front of the biggest cricketing audience in the world."

The Indian team, which is currently touring Australia, will be back in the country for the third Test at the Adelaide Oval, which is scheduled to begin on January 6.

"The Indian team has been performing well in the Tests against Australia in recent times. We have not lost against them in any of the previous matches, and it will be a great opportunity for us to extend our winning streak," Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said.

"We have prepared ourselves for this Test series and I am confident that our team will be able to perform well. We have a strong batting line-up and a bowling attack that has the potential to take the game to another level," he added.

"The Melbourne Test is going to be an important one for us. We want to make sure that we perform well against Australia and give our best to win this Test."

The Test will be a crucial one for both teams as they aim to gain a series lead. The Indian team is currently leading the series 2-1 with a win in the first Test at the WACA Ground in Perth. The second Test is scheduled to start on December 30 at the Gabba, Brisbane.
Politicians, officials, musicians ... everyone gets treated like a celebrity this festive season.

If COVID-19 impacts sales, BCCI to compensate players

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to compensate cricketers in case of any loss of earnings due to COVID-19 pandemic. The compensation will be paid to the players based on their domestic and international match appearances. The compensation will be paid in cash and will be calculated based on the number of matches played in the domestic season and the international tours that were scheduled to take place.

The BCCI has also decided to hold the remaining domestic tournaments, including the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Ranji Trophy, with the intention of completing the season in a timely manner.

The BCCI has stated that it will continue to prioritize the safety and health of its players and officials, and will work with the relevant authorities to ensure that all precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Christmas Brings Communities Together!

Christmas is one such festival that transcends communities and unite them in one global celebration. Observed with much gusto among people of all faiths, Christmas is a beloved festival across the globe. On Christmas, people throng to churches and cathedrals in scores to attend prayers and Mass. On this day, people from other communities too visit churches to pay their obeisance to Jesus Christ.

Christmas represents a great way to develop bonds between people in a society. Since there is an underlying feeling of family that comes with celebrating this festival, people always seem to bond well during Christmas. This is just one of the things that is an intrinsic part of Christmas that can help build support for one another.

The season of preparing for Christmas is called ‘Advent’ and begins on a Sunday about four weeks before Christmas. The Christmas Season (called Christmas-tide) ends 6 January or the Twelfth Day after Christmas, in which Epiphany is remembered. In many countries, “the season for retail stores to sell gifts, food, greeting cards, Christmas trees, and decorations begins a month before the Christmas Day.” Being a cultural festival, preparations for Christmas start early for most people so that celebrations begin almost a month before the Christmas Day.”

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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

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