

Top news stories of Tuesday 21 January 2020

Curated by Audita Bhattacharya, Final Year Journalism Student, SCMC

Amend Constitution to restrict Speakers: SC

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that Parliament may seriously consider amending the Constitution to substitute the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies as arbiter of disputes concerning disqualification which arise under the Tenth Schedule.

No way CAA will be withdrawn, says Shah

Lucknow, Jan 21 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday reiterated that the government will, in no way, withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), challenging the Opposition leaders to debate on the Act on a public platform.

Modi, Shah are a drag on democracy: Sibal

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Hitting out at Narendra Modi government over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR), which causes widespread protest across the country, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said "just like our growth is a drag on the global economy, the actions of Prime Minister and Home Minister are a drag on our democracy".

Big trade deal with EU tops Trump's agenda

Washington, Jan 21 (UNI) United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that plans for "a big trade deal" with the European Union would top his agenda during his bilateral discussions with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Davos.

"We are going to talk about big trade deal. We have been talking about that for a while. Hopefully we will get something done," Trump said at the start of the meeting.

India committed to its neighbours, says Modi

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said improving cross border connectivity is an important aspect of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and his government is committed to develop relations with countries in the region in areas like trade, culture and education.

MP CM at Davos to attract investments

Bhopal, Jan 21 (UNI) With the objective of attracting funding to Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Tuesday commenced his four-day visit to Davos for participating in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting, official sources said.

Immediately after reaching the Swiss town, he began one-to-one interactions with industrialists. Briefing about investor-friendly policies, Mr Nath said that Madhya Pradesh has a better environment for global investment and suitable policies have been brought into existence in the state.

Cong dissolves Punjab PCC, district units

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) A day after Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh met party president Sonia Gandhi, the Congress on Tuesday dissolved its Punjab unit and all district units, however, the PCC chief Sunil Jhakar will remain unchanged.

Rajiv assassination:

SC pulls up TN govt

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday pulled up the Tamil Nadu Government on the issue of pardon of convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

L&T, MDL get nod to construct submarines

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh-headed Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Tuesday accorded approval to only two Indian companies -- Mazagon Docks Ltd (MDL) and Larsen and Turbo (L&T) and rejected Gujarat-based Adani Group and state-run Hindustan Shipyard Limited's joint venture bid to participate in a Rs 45,000 crore submarine project - referred to as Project 75I.

Delhi polls: BJP joins hands with JD(U), LJP

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday formally announced its alliance with Janata Dal (United) (JDU) and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) for the Delhi Assembly Polls.

PBL 2020: Tai Tzu Ying shines for Bengaluru

Chennai, Jan 21 (UNI) World No 2 Tai Tzu Ying of Bengaluru Raptors put up a masterclass on her return to the Star Sports Premier Badminton League 2020 as she coasted to an easy win over rising star Ashmita Chaliha of the North Eastern Warriors here on Tuesday.

Delhi polls: Giriraj call to reject urban naxals

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Vocal BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh on

Tuesday said ensuing Delhi polls will be vital in 'giving a new direction to the country' and said people should vote to give a befitting reply to the Tukde-tukde gang and Urban Naxals.

No single formula to success: Ayushmann

Kolkata, Jan 21 (UNI) The 4th season of Signature Masterclass, powered by Signature Packaged Drinking water kicked off in the city last evening on an inspiring note with National Award-winning actor Ayushmann Khurrana at The Saturday Club here.

Benelli India launches club for its bikers

Hyderabad, Jan 21 (UNI) Instilling pure passion and unanimity amongst Imperiale customers, Benelli India on Tuesday announced the Imperiale Raiders Club for the new generation of riders.

The announcement comes in the light of Benelli's successful launch of Imperiale 400, an authentic bike with a pure spirit that today finds its essence in an elegant and retro motorcycle.

Labelled as Blue-Blooded Riders, the Imperiale owners are brought under a single platform to offer them an ultimate riding experience, thus celebrating oneness clubbed with great pride of owning an Imperiale.

Samson replaces hurt Dhawan for T-20I

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) The BCCI announced the ODI squad for a 3-match series and named a replacement for injured Shikhar Dhawan in the squad for a 5-match T20I series on Tuesday.

The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Sanju Samson as Dhawan's replacement in the T20I series and Prithvi Shaw for the ODI series.

Top news stories of Monday 20 January 2020
Curated by Aditi Parida, Final Year Journalism Student, SCMC

Historic AP Bill allows three capitals in State

Amaravati, Jan 20 (UNI) The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the historical bill of 'the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All the Regions Bill 2020' here on Monday night.

After a marathon speech on the bill by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy explaining the necessity of creating three capital cities for the development of all the regions, the bill was adopted and passed by the Assembly.

Nadda succeeds Shah as 11th BJP president

New Delhi, Jan 20 (UNI) Softspoken Jagat Prakash Nadda on Monday elected unopposed as the 11th BJP president succeeding Mr Amit Shah.

After the expiry of the time for filing nomination, Mr Nadda was declared elected as the new party chief in presence of Mr Shah among others.

Humans can transmit coronavirus: China

Beijing, Jan 20 (UNI) There are confirmed cases of new type of coronavirus human-to-human transmission in China, and 14 medical workers have got infected, the head of the special expert body of the country's National Health Commission said on Monday.

"According to the information that we currently have, the new type of coronavirus certainly transmits from human to human. Two cases have been registered in the Guangdong Province, they [infected people] have not visited Wuhan [where the new virus was reported earlier in January], but members of their families have and they have got infected with the new type of coronavirus there. This is why we can now say for sure that the virus transmits from human to human," Zhong Nanshan said, as aired by the China Central Television.

64 TDP leaders kept under house arrest

Kakinada, Jan 20 (UNI) As many as 64 Telugu Desam leaders in East Godavari district including Kakinada city Mayor Sunkara Pavani, former MLA Kondababu had been kept under house arrest since Monday early hours in connection with the Chalo assembly stir call given by the TDP led Amaravati parirakshana samithi, police said.

Another 173 TDP activists were also taken into custody under preventive arrests in this connection.

Iran threatens to quit NPT if UN is invoked

Tehran, Jan 20 (UNI) Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that the Islamic republic will leave the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in case the nuclear case of the country is sent to the UN Security Council.

"If the Europeans continue their unjustifiable behavior or send Iran's nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council, Iran will leave the NPT," Zarif was quoted as saying by official IRNA news agency.

French aid to fight Syria chem-weapons

Moscow, Jan 20 (Sputnik) France has signed an agreement with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to contribute \$1 million to the latter's Trust Fund for Syria Missions, the organization said on Monday.

In November 2019, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian announced the contribution during his visit to the OPCW.

Explosion kills 11 in Western Chad

N'djamena, Jan 20 (UNI) An explosion killed 11 people in the western Chadian province of Lac, a local media reported Monday.

The incident occurred in the border commune of Kaiga-Kindjiria, a frequent target of the terror group Boko Haram, local press Tchadinfos.com reported, adding that the death toll was 11, all of whom were suspected terrorists.

Putin's draft bill puts bar on Prez's tenure

Moscow, Jan 20 (UNI) Under Russian President Vladimir Putin's bill on amendments to the national constitution, one person cannot serve as the president for more than two terms.

Putin has submitted to the lower house of the country's parliament draft amendments to the Russian constitution, aimed at improving the regulation of certain aspects of public government organisation.

Rs. 5,100 cr released for Telangana farmers

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (UNI) State Agriculture and Cooperation Department has issued orders for release of Rs 5,100 crore for the Investment Support scheme (Rythu Bandhu) for farmers in the state.

After careful examination, the Telangana government accorded administration sanction for Rs 5,100 crore to the State Agriculture Commissioner from the Budget estimates provision of 2019-20 towards meeting the expenditure for Investment Support Scheme, according to the GO issued by C Parthasarathi, APC and Principal Secretary to Government, here on Monday.

Airtel, Google Cloud form partnership

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (UNI) Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's largest integrated telecommunications services provider, and Google Cloud, on Monday announced a partnership to serve the evolving needs of millions of Indian businesses in a rapidly digitizing economy.

Starting today, Airtel will offer G Suite to small and medium sized businesses (SMBs) in India as part of its integrated ICT portfolio.

Haryana to ratify new Constitution changes

Chandigarh, Jan 20 (UNI) Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya said on Monday that the special session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha has been convened for ratifying the amendments to the Constitution of India falling within the purview of clause (d) of proviso to clause (2) of article 368, proposed to be made by the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019, as passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

Hockey Aus thanks Hockey India for help

Melbourne, Jan 20 (UNI) Hockey Australia on Monday thanked Hockey India for their support and contribution towards the victims of Australia's bushfire crisis. Hockey Australia President Melanie Woosnam expressed her thanks and gratitude to Hockey India President Md Mushtaque Ahmad, for their generous support.

Hockey India has donated USD 25,000 to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal, while also providing Hockey Australia with two playing shirts signed by the Indian men's and women's hockey teams to auction with all proceeds going to the cause.

Synthetic feather shuttlecocks soon

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 20 (Xinhua) Synthetic feather shuttlecocks will be introduced in a bid to make badminton sustainable starting from 2021, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Monday.

The BWF explained in that extensive testing and trials of the first approved synthetic feathers shuttlecock, which was joint developed with Yonex, proved it to be more economically viable and durable compared to traditional natural feathered shuttlecocks.

Thanjavur IAF Station inducts Su-30 MKI

Thanjavur, Jan 20 (UNI) In a major boost to India's defence preparedness and to enhance the operational capability, the Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft was inducted into the newly reinstated 222 Tigersharks Squadron of the Indian Air Force at the Air Force Station here on Monday.

Israel, Canada make 3D heart tissues

Jerusalem, Jan 20 (Xinhua) Israeli and Canadian researchers have developed engineered three-dimensional (3D) heart tissues from induced human stem cells, Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) reported Sunday. The tissues were developed as part of a study published in the journal Nature Communications, conducted by researchers from the Technion and the Rambam Health Care Campus, both in northern Israel, and their colleagues at the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto, Canada.