

COLDEST DAY SINCE 1901

9.4°C
Maximum temperature on Monday in Delhi

2.6°C
Minimum temperature

RAIN
and thunderstorm likely Jan 1 night

5298 MW
record peak power demand in winter

(Right) In New Delhi, Monday. *Amit Mehra*

REPORTS, [PAGE 4](#)



Gen Rawat retires as Army Chief, begins as Chief of Defence Staff

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A DAY before his retirement as Army Chief, the government Monday appointed General Bipin Rawat as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a post meant to enhance the quality of military advice to the political leadership through integration of service inputs.

General Rawat will take over the duties of CDS from December 31, his last day in office as Army Chief. The official press release does not specify a time-bound tenure for General Rawat, stating that he will continue "until further orders and extension in service... with effect from 31.12.2019 and till such period he holds the office of CDS".

On Saturday, government had notified that the age of retirement for the CDS will be 65 years; General Rawat will turn 65 in March 2023 — if he continues till then, it will be a tenure of 3 years and 3 months.

General Rawat, who took



He takes charge today as the first CDS

over as Army Chief on December 31, 2016 after superseding two officers senior to him, was widely tipped to be the first appointee to the post of CDS after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the post during his Independence Day speech from Red Fort on August 15. He will act as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-services matters, but will not exercise any military command, including over the three service chiefs.

On December 24, the Union Cabinet had given sanction to creation of the post of CDS, and his role and charter in the government. He will be an officer of four-star rank at par with the three service chiefs. He would be responsible for achieving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Protest damage notices: UP goes where no state has gone before

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

FOLLOWING DAMAGE to public property in the anti-CAA-NRC protests, the Uttar Pradesh government has slapped notices on 372 people (out of 478 identified) to recover damages. It has cited a set of Supreme Court recommendations from 2007 and a 2011 Allahabad High Court order to justify this after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared "badla"



'INFIGHTING IN BJP, SO CM GAVE POLICE FREE HAND'

AKHILESH YADAV
SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

(revenge) on rioters.

An analysis of protests and consequent action taken by administrations of at least six states — including Uttar Pradesh — in the past shows that the Yogi Adityanath government's move to recover damages is unprecedented, at least in scale.

"This is the first time we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
[PAGES 9, 11](#)

SDG goals: Kerala retains No. 1 slot, Bihar at bottom, UP is highest gainer

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

KERALA RETAINED the top slot while Bihar came out as the worst performer in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2019, which assesses each state and Union Territory's achievement regarding sustainable development goals (SDG) such as good health, quality education, gender equal-

ity, clean water and sanitation, reduction in hunger and poverty, among others.

Kerala had the top rank among states with a score of 70, while Bihar has lowest score of 50.

In terms of progress, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the biggest gainer followed by Odisha. While UP saw an improvement in its overall score from 42 in 2018 to 55 in 2019, Odisha increased its overall score

by 7 points.

As per the SDG India Index 2019, the composite score for each state/UT is computed by aggregating their performance across the goals, and then by taking the arithmetic mean of individual goal scores. A score of 100 implies that the State/ UT has achieved targets set for 2030; a score of 0 implies that the particular State/UT is at the bottom

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

APPOINTMENT OF CDS A KEY STEP

BY SUJAN R CHINYOY
[PAGE 12](#)

WORLD



TALIBAN SAY NO PLANS FOR TRUCE

CHINA CONVICTS 3 RESEARCHERS INVOLVED IN GENE-EDITED BABIES

[PAGE 14](#)

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All telecom players, including Huawei, can join 5G trials: Prasad

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to give all telecom operators and equipment manufacturers, including Chinese giant Huawei, clearance to start trials for 5G services in the country.

Speaking at an event Monday, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said: "We have taken the decision to give 5G spectrum for trial to all the players. The in-principle decision has been taken."

Later, asked specifically on the sidelines of the event whether Huawei would be allowed to take part in the trials, the Minister said: "Yes, all have been allowed."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

All eyes on Huawei

THE IN-PRINCIPLE approval for participating in trials does not mean final approval for Huawei to function as a 5G equipment-maker in the country. While the spectrum sale will be concluded in April 2020, the service rollout is likely to take another six months.

JAY MAZOOMDAAR & ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE BIENNIAL State of Forest Report (SFR), released Monday by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, announced an overall gain of 3,976 sq km of forests in India since 2017. But hidden in the not-so-fine print of the report is a loss of 2,145 sq km of dense forests that have become non-forests in those two years.

What largely offset this loss is the conversion of 1,858 sq km of non-forest areas to dense forests since 2017. Dense forests are defined by canopy cover: over 70% is considered very dense and 40-70% medium dense. Unlike natural forests,



Prakash Javadekar released the report. *Prem Nath Pandey*

commercial plantations grow rapidly and show up as dense cover in satellite images. A monoculture, however, cannot substitute natural forests in biodiversity or ecological services.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New New Delhi: Triangular Parliament with spires, Rashtrapati Bhavan biodiversity park

North and South Block will be museums — one showcasing India until 1857, the other since

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

A NEW Parliament building with a triangular edifice with three spires, an underground shuttle service to connect all offices, a new home for the Prime Minister, an iconic installation to mark India at 75 — these are



Ten state-of-the-art office buildings for all ministries. *File*

some of the features of the Central government's ambitious redevelopment project of the Central Vista in New Delhi.

On September 13, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the "PM's dream project," and architectural firms deposited bids.

In October, Gujarat-based HCP Design, Planning & Management Pvt Ltd, headed by Dr Bimal Patel, beat five bidders and bagged the project, which is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

43-STRONG MINISTRY

Uddhav gets his son, Pawar his nephew in Maharashtra Cabinet



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Aaditya Thackeray and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari in Mumbai on Monday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 30

OVER A month after inducting seven Cabinet ministers, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Monday expanded his ministerial team to 43 in a glittering oath-taking ceremony inside Vidhan Bhavan. With this exercise, the state's new council of ministers — 33 cabinet and 10 state — has hit the maximum limit, capped at 15 per cent of the Vidhan Sabha strength of 288.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar returned as Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister a little over a month after he had broken ranks to ally with the BJP. Many of the 14 NCP ministers sworn-in on Monday are seen as close aides of Ajit Pawar. The induction of Thackeray's son, Aaditya, closely held till the last minute, is the first time in state history where a father-son duo will be part of the same cabinet. Uddhav's father and Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray had always stayed away from positions of power

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

19 is tally of Ministers who are dynasts, Congress tops with 8

ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 30

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya Thackeray are not the only political dynasts in the Maharashtra Cabinet of 43. There are 17 others on the list topped by the Congress, with eight of the party's Ministers related to political leaders.

According to the ruling coalition's arrangement, the Shiv Sena's quota is 15, including the Chief Minister, the NCP's 16 and the Congress's 12.

The NCP has seven dynasts as Ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, followed by the Shiv Sena with three.

In the previous BJP-Shiv Sena government, there were at least eight dynasts in the Cabinet.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



They included Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, whose father Gangadhar Fadnavis was a BJP MLC, and Pankaja Munde, whose father, the late Gopinath Munde, was a senior BJP leader who had served as a Minister in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

There is always a need for a larger umbrella



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