

1565

Battle at Talikota India: Decan sultanate destroy Vijayanagar's army and the last Hindu kingdom of Southern India

1840

American naval expedition under Charles Wilkes is first to identify Antarctica as a new continent

1949

1st Israeli election won by David Ben-Gurion's Mapai party



1971

Military coup in Uganda under Major General Idi Amin

## UK to launch climate adaptation effort



A ship is seen from the shore of the Bay of Bengal before cyclone Mahasen approaches in Chittagong

Reuters | London

Britain will team up with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, Saint Lucia and the Netherlands to help communities around the world that are threatened by climate change to adapt and build resilience, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Early warning systems for storms and investments in flood drainage and in drought-resistant crops could form part of the measures promoted by the new Adaptation Action Coalition, Johnson's Downing Street office says.

"It is undeniable that climate change is already upon us and is already devastating lives and economies. We must adapt to our changing climate, and we must do so now," Johnson will say at a Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Netherlands.

Britain holds the rotating presidency of the G7 group of industrialised countries this year and Johnson said he would make the need for a resilient economy a priority within that framework.

In addition, Britain will host COP26, a global United Nations Summit on climate change, in the Scottish city of Glasgow in November. The summit was delayed by a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnson's office said the new coalition on adaptation would tap scientists, businesses and civil society groups to share knowledge and best practice on local, regional and global solutions to dealing with climate change.

## US warships conduct exercises in S. China Sea



The USS Theodore Roosevelt moored in Guam in May 2020

AFP News

A US aircraft carrier group sailed into the South China Sea on a so-called "freedom of navigation" exercise, the first routine operation in the region under new President Joe Biden.

Led by the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the carrier strike group entered the area Saturday, the US Indo-Pacific Command said, the same day Taiwan reported multiple Chinese jets and bombers had flown into its air defense zone.

"It's great to be in the South China Sea again, conducting routine operations, promoting freedom of the seas, and

reassuring allies and partners," said Rear Admiral Doug Verissimo, commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine.

China's foreign ministry spokesman called the routine US exercises a "show of force and not conducive to the peace and stability of the region".

The South China Sea is a strategic waterway and also believed to have valuable oil and gas deposits.

The US operation comes days after Washington said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock-solid", the first comments from the Biden administration on the democratic island.

# India will exceed Paris Agreement targets: PM Modi



Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday asserted that the country is looking to exceed its Paris Agreement targets, stating that climate adaptation is a key element of India's developmental efforts.

"We have promised ourselves that we will not just arrest environmental degradation but reverse it. We will not just create new capacities but make them an agent for global good," said PM Modi addressing the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021.

Modi said that India is targeting 450 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. "We are promoting LED lights and saving 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually."

Listing out the actions planned by the country to meet the goals of sustainable development, the PM said that India is planning to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

"We are providing clean cooking fuel to 80

million rural households. We are connecting 64 million households to piped water supply," said PM Modi.

He stated that India's efforts are not restricted to the country. "The International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure show the power of global climate partnership. I call upon the Global Commission on Adaptation to work with CDRI to enhance infrastructure resilience globally," said the PM.

Solar bank plan in India

The steering committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is set to meet shortly to clear the decks for the World Solar Bank (WSB), which is expected to be headquartered in India.

The country may become its lead member by taking a 30% stake in it through a \$600 million equity commitment.

This would be the first multilateral development bank (MDB) headquartered in India and comes even as Beijing has taken the lead in creating the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank (NDB).

## All set for second impeachment trial



Reuters | Washington

The US House of Representatives is set to formally charge ex-President Donald Trump with inciting insurrection in a fiery speech to his followers before this month's deadly attack on the Capitol, signalling the start of his second impeachment trial.

Nine House Democrats who will serve as prosecutors will proceed through the building where hundreds of Trump supporters fought with police, leaving five dead, at about 7 p.m. on Monday (0000 GMT), carrying the article of impeachment to the Senate where Trump will face trial.

A similar ceremony was carried out for Trump's first impeachment trial last January, when the House clerk and ser-

geant at arms led a small procession of lawmakers through a hushed Capitol.

It will mark two historic firsts - Trump is the only US president to have been impeached by the House twice and will be the first to face trial after leaving office. Conviction in the Senate

could result in a vote to ban him from holding future office.

Leaders of the Senate, which is divided 50-50 with Democrats holding a majority because of the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Kamala Harris, have agreed not to start the trial until Feb. 9.

### Trump lawyer faces \$1.3 bn lawsuit

A US voting machine company filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against former President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani, accusing him of defaming in what it called his "big lie" campaign about widespread fraud in the presidential election, court documents yesterday showed.

The Denver-based company, Dominion Voting Systems Inc, filed an earlier lawsuit against

Trump campaign lawyer Sidney Powell, whom the company also accused of spreading false conspiracy theories about the election that Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

A senior Dominion employee, Eric Coomer, also filed a defamation lawsuit against the Trump campaign, saying he had been driven into hiding because of death threats from Trump supporters.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Since Monday 2.3 million of you have come forward to be vaccinated when asked to by the NHS. This puts the running total at a fantastic 6.3 million doses given right across the United Kingdom.

@BorisJohnson

02



We are proud of all those who have been conferred the Padma Awards. India cherishes their contribution to the nation and humanity at large. These exceptional individuals from different walks of life have brought qualitative changes in the lives of others. <https://padmaawards.gov.in/PDFs/2021AwardeesList.pdf>

@narendramodi

03



Preserving health will remain the priority before everything and above anything ... and our society will cross this year with greater strength and more beautiful energy towards the future, God willing..

@Hhshkohh

04



If economic assistance to all Israeli citizens is an election economy, are vaccines also an election economy? With all due respect, we will continue to care for all Israeli citizens - against the health corona and against the economic corona!

@netanyahu

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