

# Events Driving Global Instability and Risk



**US: 400 people charged with federal crimes following US Capitol Attack** in Jan 2021

- Pro-Trump mob stormed the capital building to halt vote certification following a rally by Trump. 5 dead in violent clashes with security forces, with over 140 officers injured
- Over 387 charged in federal court, including at least 110 indicted by federal grand juries.

## Instigation

"We will never give up. We will never concede, it doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved....We fight like hell, and if you don't fight like hell you're not going to have a country anymore...You'll never take back our country with weakness." *Donald Trump, 6th Jan 2021*

"This gathering should send a message to them: This isn't their Republican Party anymore! This is Donald Trump's Republican Party!." *Donald Trump Jr in "Save America" rally*



## Aftermath of Riots

- Investigations and prosecutions**, Federal prosecutors expect that at least 400 will ultimately be charged, including c.150 indicted by federal grand juries.
- Trump impeachment trial**. Trump, impeached by house for 2<sup>nd</sup> time, acquitted with the Senate falling ten votes short of the two-thirds majority required to convict

## Domestic and International Reaction to Riots

"When, in one of the world's oldest democracies, supporters of an outgoing president take up arms to challenge the legitimate results of an election, a universal idea - that of 'one person, one vote' - is undermined." *President Macron*

"The United States Senate will not be intimidated. We will not be not kept out of this chamber by thugs, mobs, or threat... **They tried to disrupt our democracy; they failed.** They failed" *Sen. (R) Mitch McConnell*

**Global: Third wave of Covid-19 infections**, new lockdowns enforced, global shortage of vaccine in Jan-Mar 2021

## Third wave puts healthcare system under strain

- Global third wave of infections spread driven by new variants and reinfections, threaten to overrun healthcare systems in various countries across Europe and Africa

## New lockdowns enforced amid surge in infections

- Nationwide lockdowns enforced across Europe and India to combat sharp rise in infections and presence of new strains
- Violent anti-lockdown protests across Netherlands, Israel, Denmark and Austria

## Vaccine shortage threatens economic recovery

- Slow rollout of vaccines and protectionism across Europe, Latin America, Africa and South East Asia due to supply shortage is likely to impact the economic recovery in those regions and across the world

## US: Violence against Asian Ethnicities in US

- in Jan-Mar 2021
- Eight people killed in a series of shootings in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian women or women of Asian descent
  - Attack raises fears of xenophobia against Asian-Americans, who have experienced an increase in race-based attacks during the pandemic, fuelled by Donald Trump's frequent references to the "China virus"



## US-EU-Iran: Iran rejects fresh nuclear deal talks with the US in Feb-2021

- Iran rejected an invitation to attend direct talks with the US over a return to the nuclear deal
- Both countries demand the other return to full compliance first, leading to a stalemate in reviving the accord



## Russia: Nationwide demonstrations following arrest of prominent critic in Jan-Feb 2021

- Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison,
- The Kremlin is showing increasing resolve to clamp down on dissent
- Mr. Navalny's arrest in January sparked demonstrations across 120 cities nationwide against corruption, injustice and plunging living standards

## India: Republic day riots in India's capital amid nationwide farmer protests in Jan-Mar 2021

- Violence erupted in Jan following months of protests against proposed farm laws
- Thousands of farmers clashed with police to storm Delhi's Red Fort complex.
- Over 80 police officers injured and one protester dead during protests

## US-China: Mutual sanctions being imposed over human rights abuses in Xinjiang in Mar 21

- US announced sanctions against two Chinese officials for "serious human rights abuses" against Uyghur Muslims
- Step coordinated with the European Union, Canada and the United Kingdom, which also imposed sanctions
- China has placed sanctions on US and Canadian citizens in retaliation for the decision



## Myanmar: Violent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Feb-Mar 2021

- Myanmar's military ended its decade-long dalliance with democracy, seizing power and deposing the democratically elected government
- Over 2,900 were detained and 400 killed by army rampage following nationwide civil disobedience movement against the takeover
- US imposes sanctions on companies controlled by military



Source: FT, NYT, WSJ, Vox

# Events Driving Global Development and Progress

## Politics, Economics and Society



### Politics: Biden issues executive order re-instating refugee program in Feb 2021

- The program will increase refugee admissions to 125,000 people around the world during Mr. Biden's first full fiscal year in office

### Environment: Norway's sovereign wealth fund (SWF) sells all investments in fossil fuel companies in Jan 2021

- Norway's SWF has sold the last of its oil and gas investments representing a major step away from the country's reliance on its petroleum industry



### Politics: UK and EU reach agreement on regulation of financial services in Mar 2021

- EU and UK have reached a deal on regulations for banks and financial markets
- Deal was a pre-requisite set for any further EU market-access openings for the City of London

### Politics: Senate approves US\$1.9tn stimulus legislation in Jan 2021

- The stimulus package is expected to boost the US economy with a large-scale dose of federal support
- It includes an extension of federal emergency unemployment benefits, aid to states and local governments and extra funding for the rollout of vaccinations



### Environment: US launches initiative to expand offshore wind power in Mar 2021

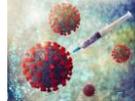
- The plan will jumpstart the country's nascent offshore wind industry on the east coast and generate 30 GW of power by 2030 besides creating thousands of union jobs
- The project will power over 10m American homes and cut 78m metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions

## Science & Technology



### Healthcare: New Alzheimer's treatment slows cognition decline using antibody in Jan 2021

- New experimental drug has shown results of significantly slowing patients' cognitive decline by 32%



### Healthcare: US FDA clears Johnson & Johnson's vaccine in Feb 2021

- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the first with a single shot to be approved
- The single dose vaccine is expected to accelerate vaccinations across the US

### Technology: World's first carbon neutral liner vessel in March 2021

- Maersk will launch of the world's first carbon neutral liner vessel in 2023
- The vessel will decarbonise marine operations and is seven years ahead of schedule



### Technology: World's first 3D printed school to be built in Madagascar in Mar 2021

- The cost of building the school will be half that of traditional construction
- Millions of children globally don't have schools to attend, and this will help solve the problem by reducing construction costs



### Healthcare: Scientists Develop Ultra-Precise Lasers to Remove Cancers Without Damaging Healthy Tissue in Jan 2021

- The new laser system will help surgeons remove cancer more precisely and safely
- It will help distinguish cancer cells, allowing surgeons to remove the cells without damaging healthy surrounding tissue



### Technology: SpaceX preparing prototype interplanetary Starship rocket launch in Mar 2021

- SpaceX preparing for possible launch of its prototype interplanetary rocket
- Company plans to combine Starship spaceship with a Super Heavy rocket, creating a fully reusable system

### Technology: African countries using satellites to reduce deforestation in Jan 2021

- Satellite monitoring system designed by GLAD, the Global Land Analysis and Discovery system
- Using the system, deforestation has gone down by 18% over a 2-year period



### Healthcare: Scientists repair injured spinal cords using stem cells in March 2021

- The stem cells prepared from the patient's own bone marrow
- Intravenous injection of the stem cells have led to significant improvement in motor functions



### Environment: Samsung achieves 100% renewable energy in the USA, Europe, China in Mar 2021

- Samsung has reached 100% reusable energy at its factories located in the USA, Europe, and China, achieving its target set in mid-2018
- The company has also been working continuously on reducing the energy consumption in its home appliances and phones



### Society: Capital invested in ESG funds doubles in 2020 in Jan-Mar 2021

- ESG funds raised US\$51bn of net new capital in 2020, more than double that raised in 2019
- ESG funds to get a further boost as Biden administration seeks to offer sustainable funds to employees



### Society: Google unveils grant for NGOs, social enterprises working on women empowerment in Mar 2021

- Google will provide US\$25m to non-profits and social enterprises globally working on empowering women
- The company also committed support to one million rural women entrepreneurs in India



### Society: India to Supply 1.1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines to UNICEF as of Mar 2021

- India's Serum Institute signed a long-term agreement with UNICEF to supply 1.1bn doses of Covid-19 vaccines to c.100 low- and middle-income countries

### Environment: International Solar Alliance (ISA) to launch the world solar bank in India in Jan 2021

- ISA, co-founded by India, to launch World Solar Bank focused on increasing green financing globally
- Green finance will be among priority themes at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference