



PICT MUN'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE INQUISITOR

Issue 5.0



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Introduction

The PICT MUN Club consists of a group of students who are passionate about social and political aspects of events that have and are taking place throughout the world. Our main goal is to enhance the spread of awareness and information, which has a direct and imperative relevance, among the general public.

Our organization abides by the motto- 'Think. Discuss. Prosper.'

To further propagate our motto, the PICT MUN team has developed 'The Inquisitor' from scratch. It consists of articles that have been written by the members of the club as well as by enthusiastic writers in and around the city. The articles have been written after carrying out extensive research in order to serve reports to the readers with the maximum possible factual accuracy. We plan on expanding the outreach of this esteemed newsletter with each edition and would love to accept articles from individuals who would be interested to get their work published. Feel free to communicate with us on - newsletterpictmun@gmail.com regarding the same.

For the edition 5.0, on popular demand, we conducted an interesting article writing contest- "Write For Us". The contest provided a platform to express opinions on raging social issues where participants wrote articles on the following themes-

- 1) Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century
- 2) Climate Politics
- 3) Opportunities during Crisis

Out of all the entries, the following articles published in "Inquisitor 5.0" are winners of the contest-

Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century-

- 1) 'Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century' by Shubham Mujumdar
- 2) 'Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century' by Asawari Walkade
- 3) 'Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century' by Anupam Patil

Climate Politics-

- 1) 'Campaigning Common Conscience' by Swarnima Gawhane
- 2) 'Climate Change' by Esha Dorle

Opportunities during Crisis-

- 1) 'Remarks and Guidelines on Opportunities during Crisis' by Snehal Borkar

Honorary Mention-

'Multifaceted but Related' by Medha Badamkar.

Our authors have ensured that the content is accurate and up to the date. The views expressed in the articles reflect the author's opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the organisation publishing this document.

The members of the club have poured their heart and soul into this newsletter and we hope that the readers realise and appreciate these emotions.

Happy Reading!

Regards,

The Secretariat

PICT MUN

Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century

Shubham Mujumdar

Free Speech is a very powerful thing. From the ability to change ideologies, bring your concerns out to the public and speak up against oppression, to the ability to make a change in the society, speech empowers the public.

But how exactly does freedom of speech do all that? When every individual has the right to openly express one's views to the whole world, they can bring their issues to light. It provides one with the ability to criticize oppressive Government policies, the ability to call out the public for help in adverse situations, the ability to express one's opinion to others and make people see all the different sides of a story, and most importantly, the ability to influence other people and make people believe in one's cause.

Historically, in almost every part of the world, the then rulers have limited an individual's right to speech. They saw free speech as a threat which gave rise to the possibility of discourse and revolution against unfair policies, and often against the rulers themselves. Imperial India saw a

massive amount of censorship in the media, muting out the voice of oppressed sections of the society, to limit the spread of the revolution against them.

After Independence, with the spread of Liberal Democracies, this right has been reinforced into constitutions as a basic right of every citizen in the country. The First Amendment of the Constitution of India moved by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru to curb the abuse of freedom of speech was a controversial move against the very right to the freedom of speech guaranteed and safeguarded in the Constitution.

Freedom of Speech is now considered an essential part of a democracy due to it giving individuals the right to garner public support and influence their nation's policies and get their voices heard. The 21st century has seen advancements in technology resulting in the upsurge of social media which has transcended the boundaries of expression. Opinions and critiques have a much wider reach now than they did ever before. This has further strengthened the power of expression.



Although this has led to several serious issues such as terrorist organizations using social media to propagate their message, recruit new people and spread terror in the form of beheading videos, the entire issue of “fake news” is a result of the same. Because of the easy access media provides to people, any individual can use it to spread false information and conspiracy theories that can in certain sensitive circumstances like during the Coronavirus pandemic, turn out to be harmful to the public. ‘Hate speech’ is yet another classic philosophical question arising in the case of freedom of speech. Public speech that expresses hate or encourages violence towards an individual or a group based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc is now possible due to the freedom of speech that individuals enjoy and exploit today.

To curb all these issues, as per the constitution, the Indian Government officially limits this right in several cases. These limits exist in cases where the freedom of speech compromises the security of the State, international relations, public order (provoking violent response from the

public), decency and morality, contempt of court or is defamatory towards an individual or a group of individuals and hampers the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

Although the formal intention of these limits is basically to withhold the social contract theory where the rights of citizens are limited to a certain extent to uphold democracy and the rights of other individuals, we see these limits being exploited in our society in arbitrary laws like Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

We keep hearing and reading about journalists being arrested and beaten up by the police for speaking up against influential politicians. Kashmiri separatist activists and journalists suffer the same fate. On an international level, whistle-blowers of the government wrong-doings like Edward Snowden are forced to hide in countries without extradition laws.

Some of these are justified to an extent as there arises a need to draw a line between criticizing and speaking against a country’s government and speaking against a country altogether. Anti-nationalism isn’t and shouldn’t be excused in the name of the right to freedom of speech. However, there

are several cases where journalists are still in prison for speaking out against a corrupt politician, and that is completely unjustified. So is the complete 3G/4G ban in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh just to curb extremism present only in a small portion of the public.

All this calls for reforms in the implementation of this right. Checks and Balance measures must be put in place to limit the power of politicians and a clear-cut list of what's allowed and what isn't

should be made public and followed in legal proceedings. Important and crucial issues like the 'basic structure doctrine' which are widely cited to save the essence of the constitution need to be clearly justified by the judicial institutions.

To conclude, the right to freedom of speech is an essential right to uphold the spirit of democracy. Though it also needs to be well defined, for the maintenance of law and order in the society.

Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century

Asawari Walkade

A throbbing pain shoots up your forehead as you pick up your phone for the tenth time in an hour to think of a befitting reply for someone you would describe as a troll, someone with a lot of time on their hands to annoy people online. Your irritability now starts to creep up, as you think of some crushing argument in return while simultaneously realizing that these people, along with having abundant time also possess the freedom of speech to back their words. In a world where anyone can put their thoughts online, it's easy to find people whose opinions don't match our own. While our primal instincts of sticking together lead us to find like-minded folks, every now and then we may come across people who have political ideology, literary opinion, or even preferences of the starting eleven in a football team different from ours. Yet one thing that's common between a Harvard educated businessman and a struggling student is that both have the freedom to share their thoughts openly. In a country where this law ends up being wielded by some more than the others, it is interesting to see how people twist a comedian's joke to fit their narrative

and lap up the antagonizing speeches delivered by politicians. It is also appalling how your criticism for certain policies can have you being called an anti-national while mobs can be stirred and enraged by just one rumour. The framers of our Constitution considered the freedom of speech vital for the growth of a young nation, and rightly so. Without this amenity, we wouldn't have had thinkers, dreamers, activists and believers, who are essential for the growth and sustenance of a democracy. It is indeed puzzling to see how this particular freedom paired along with the internet revolution of the 90s has created a chasm of opinions and to an extent, brought out the worst in many. We now have a spectrum of absurdity to choose from, starting with journalists who would rather use this freedom to talk about WhatsApp chats between actors to angry male chauvinists who feel that their freedom to catcall women shouldn't be overruled by someone who tries to speak against them.

Our right to use the freedom of speech to question the government is paramount when it comes to being a citizen of a democratic nation. It is also something that most people revel in by talking about taboo subjects, educating people

using the internet, and putting their thoughts out in the open.

But an issue of concern here is that when does our freedom of speech cross a line and who gets to decide that?

One of the six freedoms under Article 19 of our Constitution comes with some conditions as well, which include strict restrictions against defamation, incitement, and with the stipulation that the sovereignty and integrity of our nation must not be threatened. These terms act as a loose leash to curb provocative dissent and spread of misinformation as it is tough to keep a check on the morality of the people in power

since it varies from time to time and place to place. Most of us find it easier to paint incidents of political criticism and actual insurgency with a broad brushstroke and label them as anti-national. In an era full of navigation between dark meme pages and sardonic YouTube channels, it is easy to feel comfortable in a circle of like-minded people. It takes a lot of self-introspection to realize that choosing to be silent on important issues is a stance of privilege, especially in tumultuous times. Our great-grandparents were jailed and brutally treated for speaking up for what they believed was right, so the least we can do is acknowledge our birth right and use this freedom to educate others.



Freedom of Speech in the 21st Century

Anupam Patil

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they don’t want to hear.”

With these words in mind, let us ponder upon an idea; imagine, a world where one expresses oneself freely, without the worry of societal pressure, with no fear of censure or denunciation. Wait, doesn’t this bear familiarity with the present-day scenario? With the world in strife amidst the current global chronology of events, it seems that we’re living in an era where the pen reigns supreme, both for the better & worse. With such ambiguity on its pros & cons, it might seem like a play of rhetoric to weigh them out. With the intent of doing equal justice to both, let us delve deeper.

In the current situation, as the world witnesses a shift towards virtualization, the role of social media has been pivotal in the propagation of Freedom of Speech by giving a platform to everyone irrespective of caste, creed, or colour. It is a place where people can be themselves without the dread

of judgment or fear (to some extent). This justifies the very principles of liberty and freedom, that is to express oneself truly & openly, which our world today is built upon. With the ever-growing awareness on pressing issues like the MeToo & BlackLivesMatter movements, it is clearly evident that expressive freedom has had a social impact for the better, striving for equal opportunities & rights for all; more importantly to provide people a means to stand for themselves.

While one may laud the merits of such freedom, we should also take into aspect the darker hue of the same. Instances of hate-speech, controversial opinion & fake news are on the ever rise, drawing immense flak & leading to conflicts on multiple levels. It’s no surprise that all social media platforms are turning towards censorship; akin to the saying, “kill the message, not the messenger” (pun intended!). Words seem to have lost the gravity they once bore, a result of being utilized frequently & recklessly. The base idea

of speech freedom was to express oneself freely, to stand for what you felt was right, but not whilst hurting anyone's sentiments. A right which was once considered as a boon, today is equally a bane. On witnessing such negative instances, silence seems more golden than ever.

Reading the last couple of paragraphs might put you in a fix, hopefully, the words to follow won't. While there is no utopian standard to categorize speech into a universal binary equivalence, it definitely is in our power to choose what to make of words. A word of wisdom to all the orators; the only thing in your power is to make sure you don't end up harming anyone's sentiments, feelings

or thoughts. Words are a powerful tool; they cannot be taken back once used, thus getting objectified, resonating into the recipient's mind. As far as the recipient is concerned; it all trickles down to what you interpret words as; do so with caution; if on a positive note, admire it, if in critical tonality, take it sportingly & weigh it out with well- thought reciprocation, but if in a negative hue, ignore it. It is always in your power to choose to reciprocate, no words can compel you towards anything. Bearing these precepts in mind, let us all take a step towards making a world that respects everyone, their thoughts, their feelings & opinions equally, towards a near-flawless tomorrow.



Campaigning Common Conscience

Swarnima Gawhane

Even before this gruesome pandemic, we were entering the most crucial decade for survival of mankind. Now, eight months into it, government leaders along with multinational businesses stand at crossroads, as they have little clue as to how one must rebuild economies and environments impacted by COVID-19. It is the need of the hour to work with a consensus, in order to accelerate action to create a greener and a more resilient future and to combat climate change.

The earth's vital signs have revealed to be like a patient with declining health. We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees to our future generations. However, we are at a crossroad in our battle against climate change.

Article 48A of the Constitution of India states that, *"the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country"*. Contrary to this statement, laws are neither respected nor consistently enforced in India. A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted

the near catastrophic depletion of India's resources as fisheries collapse, frequent wildfires and escalating deforestation over the last four decades.

The evidence connecting climate change and political reactivity has been less obvious but it is becoming increasingly impossible to ignore. Warmer temperatures and extreme weather worsen social stress and economic outcomes; these in turn affect political behaviour.

Among other countries across the globe, petty disagreements over which greenhouse gas emission metrics should be used, which companies should head the change and which cities should be the epicentre of change still exist. It is about time we realize the change around us and take into consideration the indirect causes as well such as, population growth and consumerism, and rethinking the principles of progress and wealth.

There are dangers in both action and inaction. Some developing nations blame the developed world for having created the global warming crisis because the developed countries emitted most of the CO₂ over the twentieth century. With innovations being

introduced at an exponential rate, developed countries are using most of the resources. In lieu of this, vulnerable countries stress that it should be the developed countries that should pay to fix the problem.

Another aspect that is worsening the debate is the youth blaming the older generations for recklessly exploiting the earth. It's easier to accuse the previous generations and chalk up their failures to naiveté. However, they didn't surf the internet or crowd around the world on airplanes; surely, the current leaders in power can come up with more sophisticated solutions. While we may be far more technologically advanced today, ancient civilizations didn't spew tons of harmful gases into the atmosphere, making it toxic. The stark contrast today? A spurt in temperature rise poised to blow the environmental changes faced by older generations out of the water.

It is crystal clear that protecting nature brings magnificent collective rewards. Wearing ourselves off fossil fuels would clear up air pollution rapidly and in turn save tons of money that is spent in dealing with the comorbidities. The Cities would be more liveable, the countryside purer. Action on nature regeneration could be easily recast as visionary politics offering huge public benefits, instead of regarding it as a heavy imposition.

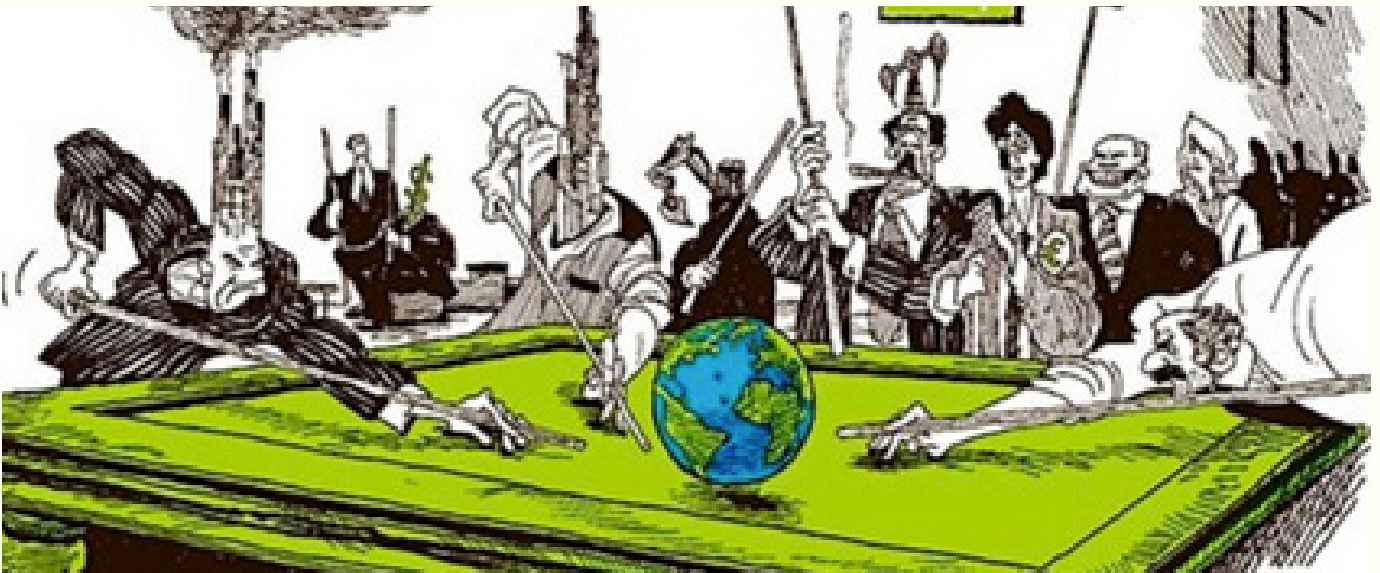
Of all the statements made by political personalities who actually address the abyss our planet may be headed towards; none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as these words:

“No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease”.



Climate Change Politics

Esha Dorle



In today's day and age, we often hear words like 'climate change' and 'carbon footprint' being thrown around casually; but do we know what they imply? The rabbit hole of poisonous gases and warming weather that we keep digging ourselves deeper into is extremely complex. Humans are the ones mostly responsible for the changes in climate and the ones most drastically affected by it. But ironically, they don't care enough. Climate change has been a sidelined issue for decades now and it's not helping our planet and the future generations.

Although normal citizens do play a significant role in climate change, it's not

entirely their fault. Climate change is substantially caused by the poisonous gases released into the air and the toxic chemicals into our waterbodies by the industries-industries which provide a large chunk of the citizens with jobs, contribute to the country's economy and are therefore, essential to the country and its people. Although these industries occupy a large part of this dystopian picture that we have painted, it's hard to remove them from the picture entirely. One might say, we need to get better rules to administer this industrial pollution, but a framework already exists and is gracefully ignored by politicians and industrialists alike in favor of the economic boost that these industries provide. Countries across the world prioritize their economy, however,

this prioritization draws attention away from climate change. The countries run in a constant loop of demands and the demands being met, breaking this loop isn't easy but it is the need. Governments need to prioritize climate change and ease its citizens into a more sustainable lifestyle. We're already in too deep and if we don't take a step back to reprioritize soon, we might just see the end of the world soon. This reprioritization however, is easier said than done. The biggest problem, is the government in most cases (and by extension- the people), which refuses to acknowledge climate change as an issue much less a need of the hour. As this issue is sidelined most of the time, there is no awareness among the people. The intensity and the complexity of this issue is just chalked up to weather changes due to pollution. But it is much more than that, more severe and can lead us to extinction if not handled at the moment.

Climate change is a community issue- everyone is accountable and thus, no one is accountable ,however, everyone is affected by it. Denying climate change, pretending everything is fine may help one sleep well at night, but not for long , considering the present scenario.

It is a collective problem and thus, requires the government to take up strict action in the form of laws, taxes etc. The government needs to educate its citizens, spread awareness, and prioritize the health of the planet.

We as a generation, need to increase our reach and take the responsibility to create change for the better. We need to change this normal of polluting the environment for profit and give back to the planet.



Opportunities During Crisis

Snehal Borkar

“In the middle of Difficulties lie Opportunities”

The coronavirus crisis began in China in late 2019, but emerged as a full-blown pandemic by March 2020. The pandemic has plunged us all into a global health crisis and an economic downturn. It drastically changed normal life. The truth is that every crisis, which is deeply unsettling, also contains the seeds of Opportunity.

In the face of such a crisis, we must ask three questions -

1. How do we cope with such a crisis now?
2. What opportunities does this crisis create?
3. What can be done to anticipate such a crisis in the future and prepare to respond accordingly?

We should recognize that the coronavirus pandemic has not just created a new normal, but has brought into being a new reality -

Many countries have gone into lockdown and companies have assigned most employees to work from home.

Schools and Universities have discontinued

the mode of traditional classroom instruction and switched to online lectures.

Many retail establishments remain closed. Everyone should be thinking about how things can be done differently and better. Experiments should be designed to deal with short term challenges as well as longer-term. Air travels have largely been suspended. Businesses have to switch to audio, video and Web conferencing.



Some Guidelines for Creating Opportunities

1. Identify New Business Opportunities Generated by the Crisis: One way to spot new opportunities is to creatively address people's fears. We should always be focused on company culture.

2. Re-examine Talent Strategy: Many companies have on their staff, non-productive employees who do not have the competencies needed to succeed in the 21st Century. It is possible to build a new talent strategy around a small core of full-time employees.

3. Identify areas of opportunities through an idealized design process: Crisis often offers opportunities at very reduced prices to acquire companies that may be in trouble

or talent has been laid off. It is smart to be selective and have a grand vision and master strategy that guides these acquisitions. When such moves are combined with an idealized design process, they can help move the organization towards alliances and build long-term value.

4. Innovate and Adopt an Adaptive Approach: Experimentation and innovation are must in today's environment. We must continuously innovate to stay relevant in the ever-changing market.

5. Leadership Role: Seek out leaders that can cope with adverse conditions and train people to create future leaders.

“ Every Crisis Poses a Challenge ,Every Challenge Offers an Opportunity”

Multifaceted But Related

Medha Badamikar

Both India and Japan are diverse contemporary countries, yet similar. India is famous for its democracy, secularism and exquisite delicacies. Japan is known for its technological advancements, for its accentuation on cleanliness and individual discipline. The feature they have in common, is the possession of a rich, ethnic culture.

Precisely known as the Indian subcontinent, India dominates the southern part of the continent, occupying 1,222,550 sq. miles area , standing second internationally in terms of population(1.3 billion). An archipelago of some 6,582 islands, Japan is encompassed by the majestic Pacific Ocean. It spans over an area of approximately 145,920 sq. miles and accommodates approximately 126 million people. Despite its dense population, it has one of the world's best lifestyle amenities. One such feature is the transport system. Transportation in Japan is highly advanced. The rail network is extremely efficient and dependable. The longest delay of trains is by an average of one minute. The stations and train compartments are impeccably tidy. Millions of people rely on this flourishing network, making it easier than ever to commute, to virtually any desired destination within the country.

On the contrary, one of the most basic but nonprioritized facility in India, is that of public transport. Indians fret and frown over the substandard quality of facilities. The government has narrated to us for years, the sob stories of ever-increasing population. But is population growth really such an impossible hurdle?

The answer is no. The system simply lacks planning and practices biased fund distribution. In most metro cities, buses and trains are means of transit. There are deep seated problems within this system. Wages are delayed, let alone allowances/ incentives. Driving is under inexorable pressure of the bosses, which in turn adds to the risk of accidents. In addition to this, the maintenance on equipment is inadequate. Consequently, people prefer arranging for some other means to travel. In some regions, even though buses ply regularly on fixed routes, it is not always convenient for all ,since one must either walk some distance or switch buses to reach a location. Thus, door-to-door transport service still remains a dream in the nation.

Another striking feature of Japan is its life expectancy. It has the world's leading life expectancy of 85.03 years. This is a nation that has suffered the wrath of severe natural calamities. How then, did it manage to



surpass all these barriers? Vehement implementation of public welfare schemes and optimum cooperation from the citizens was the approach. Apart from the government policies, the citizens lead a rigorously disciplined life. The famous mantra of ikigai (the art of staying young while aging) and fulfilling only 80% of their appetite is the secret to longevity of life.

Utmost importance is given to the native Japanese language. Speaking in English is considered inferior and is discouraged. The citizens willingly converse in Japanese regardless of being well-versed in English.

What is disheartening though, is, India despite having a rich heritage has failed to preserve it. Our leaders were so preoccupied

by country politics, they did not have time to bother about our authentic culture. Yoga, is an ancient and spectacular practice of Indian origin. Its root meaning is the 'union' of one's mental and physical state. It is a form of life that was recognized globally only a few years ago. So, why is it gaining importance now? Did it not have the same impact on the mind and body before it was appreciated worldwide? ...It is time that our country is identified by something else other than colonial oppression, the harrowing religious disputes and curries. Our role is straightforward. Promoting Indian practices with pride and conforming to beneficial government policies instead of conflicting them.





Billionaire Michael Bloomberg pays off fines for 32,000 convicted felons in Florida so they can register to vote.

N O R T H A M E R I C A

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, known for her progressive votes on contemporary social issues, succumbs to cancer at 87.

Brazil's football federation announces equal pay for men and women representing the national team.

S O U T H A M E R I C A

UN investigators accuse authorities in Venezuela of crimes against humanity.



Swiss voters reject proposal to end EU citizens' freedom of movement in the country, accept two week paternity leave; Geneva implements minimum wage.

E U R O P E

UN Secretary-General "extremely concerned" about Armenia-Azerbaijan dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh; international community calls for ceasefire and dialogue.

Taiwanese think-tank predicts Southeast Asia to surpass China as the world's top laptop producer, Vietnam and Thailand pegged as main manufacturing hubs.

A S I A

India's GDP shrinks by 23.9% in Q1; first economic contraction in 40 years.



Ugandan lawmakers reject proposal for hydropower dam on Murchison Falls, part of UNESCO's list of wetlands of international importance.

A F R I C A

Clashes between ISIS-linked militants, government troops and mercenaries have displaced 200,000 in mineral-rich Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.

TikTok to share its source code and algorithm with Australian government officials for inspection in a bid to overcome distrust surrounding the video streaming app.

A U S T R A L I A

New Zealand's economy faces record recession amid current pandemic.

