**=>2022, 13 November, Sunday, 11:17, Velachery in Chennai.**

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**SUNDAY**

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**CHENNAI**

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**FERRY TREND**

**Water taxis break into Mumbai seas**

Even as it presents a viable alternative to congested land routes, its high price margin remains a challenge

**NEWS >> PAGE 11**

One missing after landslide near Munnar

**SOUTH >> PAGE 8**

Ukraine broadcasts return to Kherson

**WORLD >> PAGE 12**

Pakistan and England eye the big prize

**SPORT >> PAGE 21**

**NEARBY**

**Rain likely in T.N. and Puducherry**

**CHENNAI**

With the low pressure area losing steam upon crossing to the coast, light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on Sunday. It is expected to spill into Monday as well. **>> Page 6**

**All-party meet rejects EWS quota**

**CHENNAI**

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday chaired an all-party meeting of representatives of legislative parties, at which a resolution was passed rejecting the 103rd Constitution Amendment that provides 10% quota for economically weaker section of society. **>> Page 6**

***MBBS in Hindu lost in transliteration?***

Doctors, students, hospitals raise concerns about viability of programme and employability of students from bilingual stream in Madhya Pradesh

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**

NEW DELHI

**Taking the lead:** Madhya Pradesh is the first State to offer the programme. A.M. FARUQUI

**T**ransliterated medical textbooks, bilingual classes without separate language-based batches or faculty, and the choice of taking exams in Hindi or English – these are the main features of the new MBBS course being offered in Hindi, with the first batch of students set to begin their classes in Madhya Pradesh this coming week.

However, a number of stakeholders in the medical community have questioned the long-term viability of the system, and the employability of doctors who have studied this primarily English language syllabus in transliteration. In the first phase, transliterated books in three subjects – anatomy, medical biochemistry and physiology – will be offered to students.

This means that the text will be in English language written in the Devanagiri script rather than translated into Hindi.

Madhya Pradesh is the first State to have issued these books and the first to offer the programme. “There will be no language-based segregation of students or faculty. Students studying in Hindi and English will share classroom and teachers,” said Madhya Pradesh Medical Education Minister Vishvas Kailash Sarang.

**CONTINUED ON**

**>> PAGE 9**

**Voters in Himachal brave cold, snow to record 73.6% polling**

**Making it count:** Voters wait to cast their votes for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election at a polling station in Jalot village. PTI

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHANDIGARH

Polling concluded peacefully for the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, with the hill State recording a voter turnout of 73.64%, as per provisional data at 11.30 p.m. The State had recorded a 75.57% turnout in the 2017 election.

From the State capital, Shimla, to the icy heights of Spiti, people across the State voted braving cold and, in the higher reaches of mountains, trudging through snow to elect a new government.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Maneesh Garg said the polling process was peaceful in all the 68 Assembly constituencies.

“Even in the snow-covered areas, people came out in large numbers with full zeal and enthusiasm,” Mr.Garg said.

**CONTINUED ON**

**>> PAGE 9**

**Nalini, 5 other Rajiv case convicts walk out of prison**

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

The six life convicts in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case – Nalini, R.P. Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robbert Payas and Jaya-Kumar – were freed from prisons on Saturday after the Supreme Court on Friday ordered their release.

DGP (Prisons) Amaraesh Pujari told *The Hindu,* “After receiving the court order, we completed all formalities. Subsequently, we have set them free. Nalini and Ravichandran, who were on ordinary leave, were recalled. They were freed later after finishing the formalities…”

**CONTINUED ON**

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**(IN SELECTED AREAS)**

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**THE HINDU**

**TAMIL NADU**

Sunday, November 13, 2022

CHENNAI

**Raiders of lost idols**

**In the last year or so, the Idol Wind-CID recovered a series of high-value antique bronzes, temple stone idols and artefacts that had been stolen from across Tamil Nadu, and traced other valuable antiquities to foreign soil. This has been welcomed by historians and locals who have been reunited with their temple idols after years. But investigations have not only exposed a nexus between smugglers and temple authorities, but also the police.**

**A memorable year:** It has been a year for the idol Wing-CID. It has traced more than 50 idols to foreign soil and has brought back 10 idols, says its DGP K. Jayanth Murali (left). M. VEDHAN

**R. Sivaraman**

**N**early six years ago, a rare variety emerald lingam (‘maragadha lingam’) was reported missing from the Thyagaraja Swamy Temple in the Thirukkuvalai police station limits. The locals had forgotten this ‘lingam’; those who still remembered the theft nurtured no hopes of its recovery. Until January 2022. Until the revamped Idol Wing-CID found new talent and energy and launched a drive to recover it.

It formed three teams to scout for leads. The investigation officer received a clue from an informant, who reported that someone was seen performing puja to an idol on the outskirts of Thanjavur.

“We have this year, traced more than 50 idols to foreign soil, which is a record 500% more than any year. This year, we have brought back 10 idols.

**K.JAYANTH MURALI,**

Director-General of Police,

Idol Wing-CID

**A major catch**

The teams started to look for a person fitting the description of the man who was spotted with the idol. They narrowed down on seven persons; by a process of elimination, they zeroed in on Arun Baskar based at Arulananda Nagar, Thanjavur. When the Idol Wing officers landed at his house and confronted him about the ‘maragadha lingam’, he feigned ignorance initially but informed them that the ‘lingam’ was stored in his bank locker.

Idol Wing-CID Director-General of Police K. Jayanth Murali said, “That was a major catch in the beginning of the year. The party recovered the ‘maragadha lingam’ from the locker. We were able to collect evidence to establish that it had been stolen from the temple. The person who possessed it said he inherited it from ancestors.” A gemologist put its worth at several hundred crores of rupees, and it was restored to Dharmapuram Adheenam, which manages the temple.

That would turn out to be the proverbial beginning of an active year for the Idol Wing. It went on to trace, in action-movie style races across several nations, and sometimes, with the aid of the Internet, other antique pieces and idols that the true possessors had lost hope of recovering and initiated action to bring them back to their rightful temples.

**A precious book traced**

Yet another major breakthrough is the tracing of a precious book – the first Tamil translation of the Bible, which was reportedly stolen from the Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur