nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE I THURSDAY 28 | JANUARY 2021

WEATHER



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Thai 15 Tithi: Pournami Star: Pusam Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm Yamagandam: 6 am to 7.30 am **PRAYERS**

Fajar: 5.22 am Zohar: 12.26 pm **Asar:** 3.39 pm Maghrib: 6.06 pm Isha: 7.20 pm

Kerala HC notice to Kohli,

actor Tamanna for online gambling ad

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli and the state government in a plea seeking ban on online gambling in the state. Besides Kohli, a division bench, headed by Chief Justice S. Manikumar, also issued notices to Malayalam actor Aju Varghese and South Indian actor Tamanna

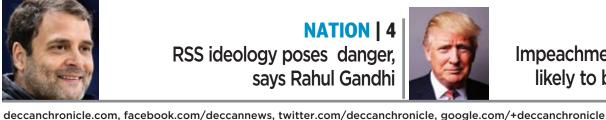


It's high time we allocate more funds in the budget for teargas shells, lathis, water cannons...



NATION I 4 RSS ideology poses danger,

says Rahul Gandhi



WORLD | 5 Impeachment trial: Don likely to be acquitted

SPORT | 8 Ganguly back in hospital after chest pain



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Violence has two unions Jaya memorial opened withdraw from protests

■ But other farmers' unions say they will continue stir

SANJAY KAW |DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

A day after the national capital witnessed unprecedented violence during Republic Day tractor rally, two farmers' unions - the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Bhanu) -- on Wednesday separated themselves from the ongoing protests against the contentious agriculture laws at Delhi

AIKSCC leader V.M. Singh said his organisation is withdrawing from the agitation with immediate effect because the format of the protest is "unacceptable" to it. "We are discontinuing our agitation but our fight for farmers' rights will continue," he said at Ghazipur bor-

Mr Singh said he and his organisation have nothing to do with the protest led by Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait. "I have nothing to do with the protest which is being led by them and over here being represented by Rakesh Tikait on their

Mr Tikait, who has been



Yogendra Yaday (second left) Rakesh Tikait (second right) and other leaders of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha during a press conference regarding the violence in their January 26 tractor march, at Singhu border in New Delhi.

agitation until the three

laws are withdrawn and a

legal guarantee is assured

price. Agitation against the

Union minister

Javadekar: The

government

has not shut

the door on fur-

Prakash

ther discussions

he neither spoke

ers. Hitting out at Mr Tikait, the AIKSCC leader

about issues faced by sug-

arcane farmers, nor he dis-

cussed their pain in meet-

ings with the government.

on the minimum support

agricultural laws was a

with farmer leaders.

THE DAY AFTER All India Kisan Sangharsh **Coordination Committee:** The format of the protest is

unacceptable. But our fight for farmers' rights will continue. We didn't come to defame January 26. **Bharatiya Kisan Union** (Bhanu): Deeply pained by

whatever happened in Delhi. Ending our protest. Samyuktha Kisan Morcha: Will not call off the

at the forefront of the agitation, has alleged that the violence was part of a conspiracy of certain forces to defame their "genuine" movement to protect the interests of the poor farmDC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 27 The crackdown on those who indulged in violence

in Delhi while participating in the tractor march on Tuesday continued on Wednesday with 19 protesters being arrested and over 50 others being detained on charges of rioting, damaging public property and attacking police personnel. The police also lodged cases against several farmer leaders for violating predecided agreements on the tractor rally. About 550 Twitter accounts have also been suspended for violating social media norms.

19 ARRESTED, 50

DETAINED FOR

DELHI VIOLENCE

A petition has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking an inquiry by a retired apex court judge to inquire into the violence. It also sought direction to the authority concerned to lodge an FIR against the individuals or organisations responsible for the violence.

amid mega party show B. VIJAYALAKSHMI & D. SEKAR |DC

CHENNAI, JAN. 27

The ruling AIADMK put up a huge show of strength in the city with thousands of party cadre and senior leaders thron ging the Marina where Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the phoenix-themed memorial for party supremo late J. Jayalalithaa Wednesday.

The memorial, also housing a digital museum, is spread across 50,422 square feet and was built at a cost of ₹80

Speaking after the event, the Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's militarylike discipline made the party grow. He exhorted the cadre to work hard and win a third term in government as a tribute to Jayalalithaa. "We have to win the

Assembly elections by a huge margin and return to this memorial to thank our Amma. An iron woman. Jayalalithaa was a mother to people of Tamil Nadu," he added.

The Chief Minister listed out the various welfare measures implemented by Jayalalithaa.



Panneerselvam and Assembly Speaker Dhanapal paying homage at Jayalalithaa's memorial in the city on

MAN DIES OF HEART ATTACK AT FUNCTION

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

A 60-year-old man died of heart attack at Kamarajar Salai while visiting the memorial of former chief minister J. Jayalalithaa during its inauguration Wednesday.

Mookkan (60) from collapsed Dindigul while watching the ceremony.

He was rushed to a government hospital declared was brought dead. Mylapore police registered a case.

SASIKALA FREED, **MAY RETURN TO**

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, JAN. 27

Expelled AIADMK leader and close associate of late Jayalalithaa V. K. Sasikala was released from jail here on Wednesday after serving four years of imprisonment in a corruption case. Sources said she is likely to leave for Chennai in the first week of February.

Speaking to reporters here, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, MLA, Sasikala's nephew and founder of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), said Ms Sasikala had been released.



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OTHER STORIES

CM slams Stalin for trying to stall Jaya memorial

From P1

.Among others, he credited her for the new Veeranam project, cradle baby scheme, reservation for women in local bodies and police department and Cauvery and Mullaiperiyar

verdicts.
Mr Palaniswami slammed
DMK chief M.K. Stalin for trying to stall the construction of the memorial through his 'benamis' by filing cases. "However, nothing prevented us from inaugurating the memorial," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvem said the party was indebted to Jayalalithaa and the memorial was built as a mark of their gratitude to her. He urged party men to dedicate their victory in the ensuing Assembly elections to her.

Speaker P. Dhanapal, ministers, MLAs and MPS took part in the mega event.

Sasikala supporters eagerly waiting for her return

From P1

It was the happiest moment for all of them. doctor's advice, we will take a call on her returning Chennai. People in Nadu Tamil eagerly her," he said.

The formalities for her release were done at the staterun Victoria Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment for Covid-19 infection. Ms Sasikala would remain at the hospital for three more days as mandated under the Covid-19 protocol, though she is now asymptomatic.

'As per protocol, she will be discharged on the 10th day (January 30) if she is asymptomatic and free for oxygen sup-port for at least three days," the hospital said in a bulletin. A large number of Sasikala supporters lined up outside the hospital, raised slogans in her favour and distributed sweets in celebration.

Ms Sasikala was in prison since February 2017 along with Ilavarasi and late Jayalalithaa's foster son V. N. Sudhakaran in connection with the Rs 66 crore disproportionate assets case.

Violation of spl holidays Act: 2,000 firms in dock

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

Officials of the labour welfare enforcement wing, labour department, under orders of Labour Commissioner Vallalar held inspections in several institutions, industries, eateries, horticulture transport, firms and shops across the state, which violated the Tamil Nadu Industrial Establisments Holidays Act, 1958. Raids held on the

Republic Day exposed violations committed in this regard by 957 shops, 925 eateries, 94 transport organisations and 24 hor-ticulture firms. In total, as many as 2,000 firms have been charged for violations, and legal action has been initiated against all of them.

The labour department enforces several welfare measures for workers.

Notable among those is the Special Holidays Act 1958, according to which all workers should be compulsorily provided a day's leave along with full wages, on all national, festival and special holidays like the Republic Day, May Day, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, and five other festival

In case this is not possible, the concerned institution, firm or industry has to pay its workers double wages for that particular day, for working on such

Workers also have to sign related papers signed by concerned authorities of their firms, and the same has to be forwarded to the labour depart-

But invariably, several institutions miserably fail to honour this commitment to their workers

Techie ends life in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

31-year-old woman techie allegedly ended her life at a house in Madambakkam Tambaram due to marital

problems, police said.
According to police, the deceased woman has been identified as Hemavathy, resident

Mambakkam near Tambaram. She was a divorcee, police said, adding that Hemavathy re-married Karthik, a software engineer, who is also separated from his wife. Hemavathy and Karthik met through a matrimonial site and got married two years ago.

They worked at an IT company in Siruseri and lived at Karthik's house in Chitlapakkam near Pallikaranai. Police said,

She was a divorcee, police said, adding that Hemavathy re-married a software engineer, who is also separated from his wife. Hemavathy and Karthik met through a matrimonial site and got married two years ago

give birth to a child. After argument with Karthik regarding the problem, Hemavathy left for his mother' house in Madambakkam a week ago. On Monday night, while her parents were sleeping, she locked her room and allegedly hanged herself.

Her body was recovered and sent for post-mortem. Hemavathy's mother Shanthi lodged a com-plaint against Karthik

cially from Chengalpet to Tambaram.

According to the police, traffic on GST road in the southern suburbs of

prevented from entering by the police due to heavy

This heavy traffic hit arterial roads as well and Passengers felt a lot of inconvenience due to the heavy traffic jam. The

his displeasure and said how usually it would take 45 to 50 minutes to cover the stretch and how it took around 3 hours to reach Tambaram from Chengalpet. Office-goers underwent a lot of incon-venience on Wednesday



AIADMK cadre throng Chennai, choke traffic

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAL JAN. 27

As thousands of people thronged into the city to visit Jayalalitha's memorial on its inauguration day, there was heavy traffic congestion on Tiruchy-Wednesday morning, espe-

Chennai was paralysed as people and cadres of AIADMK party were headed to the city to participate in the inauguration ceremony. Some of them work mony. Some of them were

disruption to the traffic A senior police officer

said road traffic was completely hit on the Tiruchy-Chennai national highway with a large number of AIADMK cadres proceed-

police personnel were busy regulating the traffic. vehicles moved at snail's pace despite many police personnel regulating the

the couple, however, did and his family for allegednot get along due to some ly harassing her. Selaiyur marital problems. Sources alleged that the police registered a case and launched an investicouple did not have a child and Karthik's famigation into the matter. An investigation by the Tambaram RDO has also ly had been harassing her since she was unable to **NO PUBLIC** Chloride main culprit behind

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

An international study carried out by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) researchers has found that chloride was the highest inorganic fraction in the particulate matter which is primarily responsible for the haze and fog formation in north India, including Delhi. The research paper in this regard has been pub-lished in the peer-reviewed international journal 'Nature Geoscience' recently.

Dr. Sachin S. Gunthe, associate professor, department of civil engineering, IIT-Madras, who led the study, claimed that though many studies had found PM2.5 (particulate matter) was responsible for fog

"It had resulted in a hurdle to formulate effective policies to improve the air quality and visibility. New findings have enhanced the understanding about the precise role of PM2.5 in chemistry of fog formation, which will help policymakers to frame the better policies for improving the air quality and visibility in the national capital"

Delhi fog, says IIT-M study

formation, the role of PM2.5 and a detailed chemistry of haze and fog formation over Delhi had poorly been done in studies. 'It had resulted in a hurdle to formulate effective policies to improve the air quality and visibility. New findings have enhanced the understanding about the precise role of PM2.5 in chemistry of fog formation, which will help policymakers to frame the better policies for improving the air quality and visibility in the national capital', he said.

The study explains that complex chemical reactions involving hydrochloric acid, which is directly emitted in the atmosphere from plastic waste burning and few industrial processes, is primarily responsible for high PM2.5 chloride and subsequent haze and fog formation over Delhi during chilly winter nights.

The study was carried out in collaboration with Max Planck Institute for Planck Chemistry, Germany, Harvard University, USA; Georgia Institute of Technology, USA; an Manchester University, UK.

ENTRY INTO VEDA NILAYAM

Chennai: The Madras court Wednesday allowed the TN government to inau-gurate Jayalalithaa's residence, Veda Nilayam at Poes Garden, in Chennai as a memorial but restrained it from throwing the house open to the public. Justice N. Seshasayee said the government can conduct the memorial's inaugural ceremony on Thursday. Taking note that inventory of arti-cles in the bungalow was not done in the presence of the legal heirs J. Deepa and J. Deepak, niece and nephew of Jayalalithaa, the HC judge said no one should enter the building during the inaugural cere-

Drop Alamparai harbour project: Greens A. ARUL PALANI I DC approach channel to the fishing harbour. The coastal erosion triggered small-scale, artisanal fisherfolk who use both motorised and non-motorised fishing boats.

Appealing to the state government to drop the fishing harbour project at Mahabalipuram, the environmental activists have alleged that the scheme would pose a threat to

The project proposes to reclaim a hydrologically and ecologically sensitive inter-tidal zone for the construction of the har-

breakwaters of 600m and 400m each are also proposed close to the Alamparai estuary, for the

by these breakwaters put the historical Alamparai Fort at the risk of falling into the sea. Any activity that will cause damage to archaeological sites is prohibited under the Ancient Monuments archaeological Sites and

"The proposed fishing harbour will cater primarily to largescale mechanised fisheries, which will change the fishing dynamics in the area. Increasing depth, reclaiming inter-

tidal areas etc. will hurt

the livelihood of the

where the project is pro-Remains Rules, 1959. posed, is part of a large coastal wetland complex

comprising the Odiyur-Kazhiveli lagoons. draining into the Bay of Bengal through Eedayanthittu

Further, those who rely on

hand picking and cast net-

ting of fish will be further

Sathish Kumar, a fisher-

man from Alamparai. The Kazhiveli lagoon,

marginalised"

This brackish water body maintains an opti-

protecting the fresh water further inland. This wetland has been

identified under National Conservation Management Programme by the government of India and as a key biodiversity area due to its unique ecological tures. Without a valid environmental assessment report the fisheries department is planning to conduct a public hearing on January 29. Hence, the activists demanded the govern-



The tale of King Harishchandra, considered the epitome of truth and virtue in ancient Indian history, etched on the compound wall of Villivakkam burial ground.

Kid dies post vaccination, dad gets ₹2 lakh compensation

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) directed the state government to pay a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the father of a five-year-old girl child who died following vaccination in a government hospital in Chennai, three

In the complaint, D. Gopi of Kodungaiyur stated that his daughter Thanishka (5), had gone to the Institute of Social Pediatrics, government Stanley Medical College, for the purpose of taking M.R.

Vaccine on May 2, 2018. Thanishka was a hale and healthy child without any health issues before taking 3:20 pm the next day, the hos-

In the complaint, D. Gopi of Kodungaiyur stated that his daughter Thanishka (5), had gone to the Institute of Social Pediatrics, government Stanley Medical College, for the purpose of taking M.R. Vaccine on May 2, 2018

the vaccine. Soon after taking the vaccine, she fainted and was unable to breath. Hence, she was urgently taken for emergency treat-ment by the hospital staff, and the complainant was not allowed to even see his daughter after that. Around

pital staff d Thanishka was dead. declared Gopi's complaint,

Flower Bazaar police registered a case. He alleged that due to the negligence and deficiency of service in the hospital, the child had died. In reply, the hospital man-

agement stated that the child was vaccinated with MR vaccine and 15 to 20 minutes later, the child developed Anaphylaxis, which was promptly identified and treatment initiated in the emergency room. The condition of the child was explained to the parents in detail and the complainant and his wife agreed and also signed the hospital records.

The same vaccine and dilu-

ents were given to 20 children the same day. Except Thanishka, all other children reported no complications. The government Stanley Hospital is providing proper services and also conducting the 'national immunization programme' routinely, till date.

member SHRC Jayachandran, said the death of Thanishka caused irreparable loss and much mental agony to the complainant. Considering the pathetic situation and also on humanitarian grounds, on behalf of the hospital, the state government is vicariously liable to pay compensation of ₹2 lakh to the victim's father, D Gopi.

'Girls without boyfriend not allowed': SRM goes to cops DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, JAN. 27

The SRM Institute of Science of Technology in Chengalpet's Kattankulathur has filed a complaint with the Crime Branch police on Wednesday, regarding a 'fake circular' making rounds on social media. The circular, issued on

the letterhead of the instiwould not be allowed in the SRM campus, and that it is mandatory for the girl students to have a boyfriend for security

campus, the fake circular

The fake circular dated January 22, has the signature of registrar N. Sethuraman and others as in an official letter.

After the fake circular went viral, the institution threatened the students of expelling them along with a police complaint if they circulated the notorious fake circular.

A message from the institute's Registrar office "This is to bring The girl students will your kind attention that

have to show a recent photograph with their boyfriend to enter into the there are a couple of fake and inappropriate circulars being sent under the and inappropriate circulars being sent under the name and designation of SRMIST's administra-SRMIST's administra-tion/registrar. These circulars contain false information and spoil the image of our Institute. Henceforth, any person student attempting to send such unauthorized letters will be dealt with

> the Institution.' However, to ascertain the source of the message, SRMIST has filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime police, the notice

firmly and expelled from

ment to halt the project immediately.

Sasikala, thrown out of AIADMK ARULOLI M | DC TIRUNELVELI, JAN. 27

Cadre hails

A Tirunelveli district functionary of the AIA-DMK was expelled from the primary membership of the party for putting up posters welcoming Sasikala Natarajan, released from the Parappana Agrahara jail, Bengaluru.

The functionary, Subramanya Raja, deputy secretary, Tirunelveli dist rict MGR mandram, had put up posters and banners welcoming Sasikala Natarajan. Posters carrying pictures of former chief ministers, C. N. Annadurai, M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa, along with Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and deputy chief minister, O. Panneerselvam, were installed all over the district. The posters also contained words eulogising Sasikala Natarajan as AIADMK general secretary, seeking her to lead the party.

However, within a few hours following the display of the posters, a circular was released jointly by AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam and deputy coordinator, Edappadi K. Palaniswa-mi, expelling Ramasub-ramanya Raja from the party post, and also from the primary membership of the party.

Padma Shri for Subburaman hailed

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JAN. 27

The South Zone Board of Continuing Education (SZBCE) has congratulated Tiruchy-based expert in the field of eco-sanitation and founder of NGO SCOPE M. Subburaman for being chosen for the Padma Shri award.

In a release at Tiruchy on Wednesday, SZBCE chairman Dr. Sevai K. Govindaraju recalled the yeoman services of Mr. Subburaman in rural development and empowering the marginalised women in rural areas. Dr. Govindaraju also pointed out that for the past five years Mr. Subburaman's NGO has been focusing on ecologi-cal sanitation and con-structed over 2,000 ecosan toilets on the banks of rivers Ganga and Cauvery and in tsunami-hit coastal of villages Nadu. Tamil

Anglo-Indians urge govt to ignore census fraction

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC TIRUCHY, JAN, 27

The Anglo-Indian United Christian Welfare Association (AICUW), Tiruchy has urged the prime minister and union home minister to ignore the fraction of 296 Anglo-Indians who were erroneously enumerated as a separate section under the data on religion in the 2011 census as the term Anglo-Indian refers to a community and not

dnesday, AICUW president Dr. Howard D' Monte said that a resolution to this effect was adopted at their executive meeting held at Tiruchy on Tuesday which also pointed out that the enumerators of the census undertaken in 2011 were instructed to compile data based on 8 heads of religion and as all Anglo-Indians belong to the reli-

gion Christianity. The enumerators should have added this 296 also to religion. the four lakh Anglo-In a press release on We-Indians who were enumer-

Christianity religion in the 2011 census instead of creating a separate religion called Anglo-Indian, the resolution added.

He also pointed out that no Anglo-Indian has been given a party ticket so far by any political party and even the small Island Lakshadweep has an elected MP for just a population of around one lakh and based on these factors the government should restore the nomination of Anglo-Indian members to

assemblies beyond 26 January 2020 for a further period of 10 years till 2030 under Article 334(b) of the Indian Constitution, in the ensuing Parliament session, he emphasised.

Among others Dr. A. Roy Rozario, former vice-president of Federation of Anglo-Indian Associations, Chennai, Jude Fernandez, president, and the All Indian Anglo-Indian Association (Trichy branch) president Vassou spoke.

college develop

Coimbatore, Jan 27: Students of Sri Shakti Institute of Engineering and Technology, here, have designed and developed a satellite at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore.

It would be inaugurated

by chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) Dr R

Indian National Space

Ooty man gets 44-year jail term under Pocso Act

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC

The Mahila court here sentenced a man to 44 years of imprisonment under the Pocso act.

Police said, one Antony Vinoth (34 years), hailing from Jayanthi Nagar area in Wellington, completed catering technology and was in search of a

In 2017, he developed an affair with a Plus II school girl in the area. Promising her marriage, he raped her and impregnated her. Later, he used tablets to

Authorisation Centre in June last by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Development, the institute became a member of the Satellite Networked Open inspired 12 students of the Ground institute to collaborate with ISRO and develop 'SriShaktiSat', the institute chairman Dr (SATNOGS) project, he said. SATNOGS aimed at providing technologies for a

After installing Sri Shakti Sat Ground Station in collaboration with Serbia-based Community

In 2017, he developed an affair with a Plus II school girl in the area. Promising her marriage, he raped her and impregnated her

abort the foetus.

After a brief lull, he again is said to have impregnated her several times, using the ruse of marriage. On all the occa-

sions, he had fed her tablets to abort the foetus. Sensing that Antony Vinoth was using her only for sex and trying to avoid marrying her, the girl lodged a complaint with

Thangavel

ground stations.

distributed network of

low earth orbit satellite

Srishaktisat would be

weighing only 460 grams

but can perform like any

other nano satellites weighting upto 10 kgs, he

the All Women Police

Station at Ooty. Police arrested him and filed a case against him at the

The court which heard

the case sentenced Antony Vinoth to 44 years

of imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh.

Government pleader

(Maila court) here, Malini

Prabhakar, said that the

DNA analysis of the foetus helped fix the crime. As of now, this is

the maximum punish-

ment accorded to a con-

vict under the Pocso Act,

she added.

Mahila court, Ooty.

The satellite would be used as a technology demonstrator for Internet of Things in space and for inter-satellite communica-

tion, he said. After the virtual inauguration, the satellite would be handed over to Isro in February for its use, he

DC CORRESPONDENT

SRIRANGAM, JAN, 27

The annual Thai car festival of Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam-Tiruchy, was held at Srirangam on Wednesday in which hundreds of devotees pulled out the temple car by chanting "Ranga Ranga" through four Uthira streets and returned it to its base.

Temple car festival held at Srirangam

Since this was the first festival after the relaxation of the lockdown due to Covid-19, there was an additional

Coimbatore students satellite for Isro

Thangavel told reporters here on Wednesday.

Sivan on January 28. The formation of the for Space Programme

Jail bird jumps from hosp terrace, dies

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC

A jail inmate, Muthuvel, admitted to the government hospital here for treatment, suicide on Wednesday by jumping from the second floor of the build-

Sources said, Muthuvel (29) hails from Nagarasampatti area near Pochampally in Krishnagiri district.

Muthuvel is said to have murdered his mother and stepmother last month, and after arrest, was lodged in the Salem Central Jail, Block 8. He was also charged

under the Goondas Act.
On January 16, Muthuvel jumped down from the jail terrace, and was admitted to the Salem government hospital. Three police personnel were also put on security

On Wednesday morning, Muthuvel had gone to the restroom, and jumped down through the hospital toilet

Muthuvel is said to have murdered his mother and stepmother last month, and after arrest, was lodged in the Salem Central Jail, Block -8. He was also charged under the **Goondas Act**

Realising that Muthuvel had not come out for a long time, the security personnel went in search of him, and later found him lying dead on the ground, due to the fall. The government hospital

police and prison superintendent, Tamilselvan, were informed about the incident. Tamilselvan rushed to the hospital and held preliminary investigations. A magistrate is also investigating the



Martin's Duskhawker, rare dragonfly, spotted again

B RAVICHANDRAN I DC OOTY, JAN .27

Naturalists belonging to the Coonoor-based Wynter-Blyth Association (WBA) and Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS) Trivandrum, rediscovered a rare dragonfly known as 'Martin's Duskhawker' in the Western Ghats.

It was on the Odonates of 'Western Ghats Facebook' group discussion between Dr Kalesh Sadasivan, an avid naturalist from the TNHS, and Manoj Sethumadhavan from the WBA at Coonoor, that this species which was described in 1922, had not been sighted in south India ever since, has sprung to light. The last record of this species was by F.C. Fraser in

1933 in the Annamalai hills. Manoj Sethumadhavan said, the Martin's Duskhawker (Anaciaeschna Martini) is a rare dragonfly species belonging to the family 'Aeshnidae'. This species was originally described by Sélys in 1897 from Japan. F.C. Fraser in 1922, described Anaciaeschna donaldi from specimens collected from Kodaikanal, Yercaud and Ooty.

During a field walk in

September 2014 in Coonoor region by WBA members and during a similar nature expedition by TNHS members in June 2019 in Munnar region in Kerala, this dragonfly was photographed.

After further study of the species, Dr Kalesh Sadasivan, along with Baiju Kochunarayan from TNHS in Munnar Hills and Manoj Sethumadavan along with S. Jeevith from WBA, Coonoor, published their finding in the Journal of Threatened Taxa'.

According to Dr Kalesh, the males of this species are virtually never seen in the field, while the females are seen during ovipositing on emergent aquatic vegetation. Manoj Sethumadavan opined that its breeding season was from May to November, tallying with the monsoon rains in the region.

The species is a strong flyer, and hence, may be expected to be found across similar mountainous

locations with suitable habitats in Peninsular India, as commented recently by experts in the field. The status of the species is possibly locally 'not uncommon', but may be rare altogether in the









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IN BRIEF

No SC relief in

'Tanday' case New Delhi: The Supreme

Court on Wednesday declined to interfere with the spate of FIRs filed against the producer, director, and actors of Tandav web series on Amazon Prime and asked them to approach the High Courts of the states where FIRs have been lodged for their quashing. Observ-ing that the freedom of

speech is not absolute but subject to restrictions, the bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah while dismissing the plea for the quashing of the FIRs said, "You want the FIRs to be quashed. But why can't you approach the High Courts?" While declining the plea for the quashing of the

FIRs, the court, however, issued notice "limited to transfer and clubbing of the FIRs with first FIR." Having issued notice on the transfer and clubbing of the FIRs, the court made it clear that it will not come in the way of actor and makers of the webseries from approaching the concerned courts for anticipatory bail.

'COVAXIN WORKS AGAINST UK VARIANT TOO'

New Delhi, Jan. 27: Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech with ICMR has equivalent immunogenicity against the UK-variant and circulating strains of SARS-COV-2 in India, ICMR said on Wednesday.

Its assurance has come at a time when scepticism is on the rise over the efficacy of both Covaxin as well as Serum Institute of India's Covishield, as they haven't completed their third phase trials.

A general feeling emerged among people that the nation-wide inoculation is being done as a trial on them and as a result, there is a reluctance even within the medical fraternity over getting vacci-

Meanwhile, as India entered the 309th day since a nationwide lockdown to help curb the Coronavirus pandemic was implemented, there have 1,06,89,527 confirmed including

JAWAN KILLED, 3 HURT IN IED BLAST IN J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN. 27

An Army jawan was killed and three others were wounded in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district on Wednesday morning.

The soldiers belonging to the

Army's 24 Rashtriya Rifles were part of a road opening and area dominance party targeted by suspected separatist militants Kulgam's Subhanpora area.

Meanwhile, a Srinagar resident shot and wounded by suspected militants last month died in a city hospital early Wednesday.

The police sources say the IED had been planted by militants in the premises of a roadside school at Subhanpora and was detonated when the soldiers reached the place for routine area dominance and road opening

Farmers cancel Budget Day march

BJP blames Rahul Gandhi, Communists for instigating farmer unions for violent protests on R-Day

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

As cracks began to appear in their ongoing agitation against the agri laws, farmer unions Wednesday cancelled their planned march Parliament on February 1 when the Budget would be presented.

The decision by farmer unions came a day after massive violence during their tractor parade in the national capital that left nearly 400 police personnel injured.

The farmer leaders, however, alleged that there was a conspiracy behind Tuesday's incidents and demanded a probe.

They said their agitation against the farm laws will continue and public meetings and hunger strikes will be held across the country on January 30.

'The tractor parade was hit by a government con-spiracy. Deep Sidhu is an RSS man. Police let him go after he hoisted a religious flag at Red Fort," farmer leader Darshan Pal, who has been accused by police of making inflammatory speeches, alleged at a press conference.

"We have cancelled our plan for a march to Parliament on budget day on February 1. But our agitation will continue and there will be public meetings and hunger strike across the country on January 30, "Pal said.

Another farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal claimed that over two lakh tractors and lakhs of people participated in Tuesday's parade and "99.9 percent of the protesters

were peaceful". Meanwhile, blaming the Congress, in particular its leader Rahul Gandhi and the Communists for instigating farmers unions for violent protests witnessed on the Republic Day in the national capital and "defaming the tricolor" at the Red Fort, the BJP on Wednesday said the Congress used the same against the amended Citizenship Act, asked them to come on roads against it and fanned riots and mayhem.

Claiming that Narendra Modi govern-ment made "sincere efforts" by reaching out to farmer unions over the farm laws, held several rounds of meetings, even suggesting clause by clause discussion but farmer unions remained adamant on repealing the laws as "there was politics behind their demand.

Asserting that all those who instigated the violence will be brought to book and the nation will never forgive those who defamed the tricolor, Union minister and senior leader Prakash ekar said the Javadekar Congress and Congress ruled Punjab had been instigating farmer unions since day one against the laws and when there were statements and videos of some of them claiming "final match on the Republic Day" why did the Punjab government did not act against "habitual criminals" who were leaving the state to reach Delhi borders. He said no other state witnessed such protests by farmers as in Punjab.

Reading some of the tweets of Congress affiliated handles, Mr Javadekar said Congress members were supporting the violence by claiming that it was peaceful protest when police personnel were beaten up, mob was damaging barricades, flouting the agreed routes of their 'tractor parade,' damaging vehicles and defamed the tricolor at the Red Fort. "Congress has been los-

ing electorally, politically, it is dejected, desperate and so are the Communists, who now only want that somehow they instigate people, create a situation where there is mayhem, there are riots, so that police is forced to act, lives are lost, public property is damaged so that they can do politics,"



Farmers ride on tractors during their ongoing protest against the Centre's new farm laws at the Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Lone INLD MLA Abhay Singh Chautala resigns

Chandigarh, Jan. 27: Indian National Lok Dal Abhay Chautala, who was his party's lone representative in the 90-member Harvana Assembly. Wednesday resigned as an MLA over the three new Central farm laws.

"I decided I cannot sit in the Assembly with those who bring resolutions favouring these laws," Chautala said, referring to the BJP-led government's earlier move of bringing in a resolution backing the Centre's three contentious farm laws.

Abhay, who younger son of INLD president and former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, drove to the state assembly complex with his supporters in his green tractor to submit his resignation.

"Abhay Chautala, who represents the Ellenabad constituency, came to me

his resignation and I have accepted it with immediate effect," Speaker Gian Chand Gupta said, adding his resignation letter was correct in all technical

Abhay has said in his resignation letter that he was resigning as farmers' demands have not been met by the government, the Speaker told reporters

In his resignation paper, Abhay has referred to two letters he had sent to the earlier Speaker month, telling him that the Centre failed to accept farmers' demand to repeal the new farm laws then his letters be treated as his resignation from the state assembly, Gupta said.

The Speaker had not accepted Abhay's previous letters as his resignation on the grounds that "conditional letters" cannot be considered as such.

Abhay, the 57-year-old general secretary of the INLD, had slammed the Centre for imposing the black laws" on farmers in an undemocratic way and said the farming community in the entire country is opposing these legisla-

After Abhay's resigna-tion, the 90-member Haryana Assembly now has 40 MLAs of the BJP, 10 of ally JJP, 31 members of the main opposition Congress and one MLA of Haryana Lokhit Party. Seven members are

ndents, out of five including Independents, Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala support the ruling combine. Abhay's move to resign

is likely to come as a boost for workers of the party, which has been out of power for over 15 years in Harvana and has suffered a series of electoral setbacks in recent times.

Farmer who died had returned from Oz to celebrate his wedding

Rampur (UP), Jan. 27: He had returned from Australia to his hometown Pradesh's Uttar Rampur to celebrate his recent wedding. And there was a gathering indeed at his home at Dibdiba vil-lage in Bilaspur on Wednesday. But no celebration.

Navreet Singh's family and friends were mourning his death a day earlier. The 27-year-old farmer got crushed underneath the tractor he was driving after it toppled on the road

when he tried to break through a police barricade at central Delhi's ITO during a farmers' tractor parade, police have said.

A police officer said on reached Rampur Tuesday night and post-mortem was conducted. native place from Australia to throw a wed-ding party after he tied the knot abroad some time back, his family members

Persuaded by his uncles Singh visited the national capital on Republic Day to participate in the farmers' protests against the Centre's agriculture laws and drove a blue tractor at high speed, according to footage circulating on social media.

As the tractor rammed into the yellow police barricade, it flipped and Navreet came under the toppled vehicle leading to his death, the Delhi Police had said Tuesday. came together to participate in the parade but never knew it would happen," a neighbour said.

Violence has two unions withdraw from protests

"We didn't come to defame January 26. We supported their agitation but what happened yesterday?" he asked.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Bhanu) president Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh said he, too, is withdrawing from the protest as he was pained to see the violence in Delhi. "I am deeply pained by whatever happened in Delhi and am ending our protest.

Even after the two farmer unions withdrew from over two-month long protests, the Samyuktha Kisan Morcha, umbrella organisation of the agitating groups, made it clear that they

will not call off their agitation until the three laws are withdrawn and a legal guarantee is assured on the minimum support price (MSP). The Morcha appealed to protesting farmers to maintain peace and said their agitation against the agricultural laws was a long one.

A section of the protesting unions have made it clear that they have no plans of delaying or abandoning their march to the Parliament on the Budget day on February 1.

Ůnion minister Prakash Javadekar, however, said that the government had not shut the door on further discussions with farmer leaders on the

Skin-to-skin contact: SC stays HC order acquitting accused

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed a judgment of the Bombay High Court holding that groping a child's breast without removing her top is no sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act,

Permitting Attorney General K.K. Venugopal to file an appropriate challenging January 19, 2021, High Court judgment, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading a three-judge bench comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice Ramasubramanian stayed the acquittal of accused Satish and issued notice to him and the Mahar-

ashtra government. "In view of what is stat-

we permit the Attorney learned General to file an appropriate petition against the said judgment", the court said ordering that "In the meantime, we stay the acquittal of the accused ... in respect of the offence under section

8 of the POCSO Act." The notice to accused and state of Maharashtra is return-

able in two weeks.
At the outset of the hearing on Wednesday, Attorney General Venug opal in a mentioning described the January 19 judgment as a "disturbing conclusion" and asserted that it "sets a dangerous precedent". The Attorney General

said that the Centre will file a petition challeng-ing the High Court verdict on Thursday. The High Court ruling came in an incident dat-

TERRITORY | DISPUTE | Uddhav accuses K'taka of deliberately changing Belgaum's name

Belgaum should be UT, says Uddhav

DESPITE THE matter being

changed the name of Belgaum

city. They made Belgaum the

in court, the Karnataka

government deliberately

ing back to December 2016, the victim girl's mother complained that the accused took her daughter to his house on the pretext of giving her a guava, pressed her breasts and tried to remove her salwar. The mother immediately lodged an FIR against accused Satish, who was held guilty in February 2020 and sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹500 by a trial court under secti ons 354 (assault or crimi-

nal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 363 (kidnap-ping) and 342 (wrongful confinement) of the IPC, and Section 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the POCSO Act.
On his appeal, the Nagpur Bench of the

Bombay High Court held that "admittedly, it is not the case of the prosecution that the appellant removed her top and pressed her breast. As such, there is no direct physical contact i.e. skin skin with sexual intent without penetra-

tion," it said.
Holding that the crime falls under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and convicted him to a year's rigorous imprisonment instead of three years of rigorous imprisonment.

Meanwhile, the Youth Bar Association of India has also filed a petition in the top court challenging the High Court verdict. The petition asserts that the observations and reasoning in the verdict would "lead to a dastardly situation.'

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights too has demanded the review of the High Court order.

9 HELD UNDER NEW ANTI-CONVERSION LAW IN INDORE

Indore, Jan. 27: Madhya Pradesh police have arrested the parents of a woman and seven other people under the state's new law which penalises religious conversions through fraudulent means, an offi-

cial said on Wednesday. Before the arrest of the accused, some Bajrang Dal workers on Tuesday created ruckus at a centre of the here, while alleging that many persons there were being forced for religious conversion.

Earlier this month, the state government promulgated the Freedom of Religion-2020 ordinance, which provides for 10 years in jail in some cases. The state police last week also arrested a married man in Barwani and a

mechanic in Bhopal in sep-

arate cases under the new In the latest case, a 25year-old woman in her police complaint alleged that her parents, on the pretext of taking her to her grandmother's place, took her to a Christian community's centre in Indore for a prayer meeting, Bhanwarkuan police

station in-charge Santosh Kumar Dudhi said. — PTI

danger, says Rahul **GILVESTER ASSARY | DC** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

RSS ideology poses

Former Congress president Ğandhi Rahul Wednesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that his 'incompetence' coupled with the RSS ideology of 'hatred', was causing immense damage to

Gandhi was addressing Congress-led UDF's preelection preparation meeting in Malappuram district of Kerala. "Of course the Prime Minister is incompetent. But the greatest danger is the hatred that RSS is spreading in the country" he said while accusing Modi of ruining the economy through demonetisation and flawed implementation of the GST.
At the two meetings that

he addressed in Malappuram, Gandhi did not say anything on the farmers agitation or the violence that was witnessed in Delhi on Tuesday. "You would remember the

Prime Minister said he has a 56 inches chest. I am wondering what happened to 56 inches chest when Chinese troops entered kilometres inside our territory? I have

been watching for the last six months, the man with 56 inch chest has not said the word "China". The word seems to have struck inside his throat and it is not coming out. And there is a reason for this situation. The reason is that he has weakened the country and the Chinese know that he would not be able to counter them," he added.

Gandhi said the Prime Minister insisted on doing things for five or six of his corporate friends. "You look at every single sector, it is handed over to his close corporate friends. The mobile phone sector, ports, airports, power and now agriculture all are being given away one by one to them,' he alleged. Rahul is on a two-day visit

to Kerala during which he will tour his constituency Wayanad and address meetings of Congress workers. On Wednesday, he also inaugurated the Congress-led Front's preparatory meetings for the Assembly polls scheduled to be held in April. Rahul, however, spared the LDF of scathing attack. He said the Congress workers in Kerala were aware of the wrongdoings of the LDF government.

Rajasthan gang murders jeweller's wife, son

SIRKAZHI, JAN. 27

Police shot dead a notorious thief in an encounter at Olaiyampudur near Sirkazhi in Mayiladuthurai district during the wee hours of Wednesday, after a hot chase of a four-member gang which committed a double murder in a jewelry

Dhanraj and their son Akil,

Rajasthan, as Manipal, rushed in and attempted to Manis and Ramesh. The identity of the fourth per-attacked with deadly weapons. Both died due to

The gang fled in Dhanraj's oped a technical snag near Olayampudur village on near Melamathur, and the gang attempted to take cover in a nearby paddy

witnessed the gang alerted the police.

Maharashtra Minister Uddhav Thackeray has demanded that the Marathi speaking villages at the border

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC

with agency inputs

MUMBAI, JAN. 27

region with Karnataka be declared as a Union Territory. He has also threatened to make Belgaum a part of Maharashtra.

Thackeray accused the Karnataka government of deliberately changing the name of Belgaum despite the matter is in court and making the city deputy capital of the state.

"Looking at the atrocities of Marathi-speaking peo-ple in disputed border areas, our government will urge the Supreme Court to declare the disputed area



"Despite the matter being

in court, the Karnataka government deliberately

changed the name of

Belgaum city. They made

Belgaum the second capital

where they also held an

Wednesday.

as a Union Territory as Assembly long the case is in court,"

second capital where they also held an Assembly session. Maharashtra is following the rule of law but the Karnataka government does not. UDDHAV THACKERAY Maharashtra Chief Minister

Maharashtra is following the rule of law but the Karnataka government does not. We should all come together to put an end to their arrogance. We will strive hard to bring the bor-

der region in Maharashtra

for sure," he said after a

meeting with the High

with Karnataka. For decades, Belgaum has been the subject of a bitter dispute between the two neighbouring states. Uddhav Thackeray had earlier claimed that the

tuted for the border dispute

Karnataka government is "committing atrocities" on Marathi-speaking people living in Belgaum, Karwar, Nipani and also accused the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'siding' neighbouring Karnataka, which has a

BJP government in power.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra

deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said, "This matter is

in the Supreme Court and

this is our last option.

When we have one option

left then we have to prepare

Power Committee consti- for it very well, and we have to win it. If this is not done now, then I don't think it will happen anytime. Earlier too, Thackeray in his recent tweet had backed

incorporating Marathispeaking areas in Karn-ataka into Maharashtra. "Bringing Karnataka-occu-pied Marathi-speaking areas into Maharashtra will be a true tribute to those who accepted martyrdom in the boundary battle. We are united and committed towards it," he had said in his tweet.

Thackeray said a timebound action plan is needed to win the legal battle and ensure the Marathispeaking leadership and in those areas Karnataka remained

owner's house, and decamped with 16 kgs of gold jewels.

Police identified three of the four-member gang, suspected to be from son is yet to be known. Wearing masks, the men

knocked the doors of jeweler Dhanraj's house who owned a jewelry-cum-pawn broker shop at Širkazhi. As soon as Dhanraj opened the door, the gang attacked him. As he swooned on the floor, the gang entered the house, broke open the steel almirahs where the jewelry was kept. Hearing the noise, Asha, wife

car along with the booty. In a short while, the car develthe Sirkazhi bypass road

But local villagers who

SHORT TAKES

RIVER OF LAVA FROM VOLCANO IN INDONESIA

(Indonesia), Yogyakarta Jan. 27: Indonesia's most active volcano erupted Wednesday with a river of lava and searing gas clouds flowing 1,500 metres (4,900 feet) down its slopes. It was the Mount Merapi's longest lava flow since authorities raised the volatile volcano's danger level in November, said Hanik Humaida, the head of Yogyakarta's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre.

The alert level was being maintained for now at the second-highest level, she said, and people should stay out of the existing 5-kilometre (3mile) danger zone around the crater as the local administrations in Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces closely monitor the situation. The 2,968-metre (9,737-foot) volcano is on the densely populated island of Java and near the ancient city of Yogyakarta.

TREAT SAILORS **FAIRLY, CHINA TELLS INDONESIA**

Beijing, Jan. 27: China's government called on Indonesia on Wednesday to treat a group of detained Chinese sailors fairly but gave no indication what their oil tanker was doing when it was found at sea transferring fuel from an

Iranian ship.
The Iranian-flagged MT Horse and Panamanian-flagged MT Freya were seized Sunday and are suspected of illegally transferring fuel at sea, shutting off their identification systems and other offences. Indonesian authorities said 36 Iranian and 25 Chinese crew members were detained. Iran has sold oil on the black market since then-President Donald Trump imposed sanctions in 2018 and threatened to penalise countries that bought Iranian crude.

Indonesian authorities confirmed to the Chinese Embassy crew members are "in good condition," said foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian.

IRAN PREZ FLAYS PROSECUTION OF TELECOM MIN

Tehran, Jan. 27: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday criticised Iran's hard-liner dominated judiciary over last week's prosecution of the country's telecommunications minister.

Mohammad Javad Janromi was released on ball after he was summoned for prosecution. Judiciary officials cited his refusal to block Instagram and impose limitations on the bandwidth of other foreign social media and messaging systems.

Speaking in a Cabinet meeting Wednesday, Rouhani said improving the bandwidth of the Internet was done on his orders. "If you want to try someone, try me. It was my order," he said.

Under pressure from hard-liners, the Iranian government has long blocked access to many websites and social media platforms, from YouTube and Facebook to Twitter and Telegram. The relatively mod erate Rouhani said increasing bandwidth would help improve business and an anti-corruption campaign.

U.S.: ERITREA SOLDIERS MUST LEAVE TIGRAY

Nairobi, Jan. 27: The United States said all soldiers from Eritrea should leave Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region "immediately." A State Department spokesperson cited "credible reports of looting, sexual violence, assaults in refugee camps and other human rights abuses." "There is also evidence of Eritrean soldiers forcibly returning Eritrean refugees from Tigray to Eritrea," the spokesperson said.

The statement reflects new pressure by the Biden administration on the government of Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country and the anchor of the Horn of Africa, and other combatants as the deadly fighting in Tigray nears the three-month mark.

The AP this week cited witnesses who fled the Tigray region as saying Eritrean soldiers were looting, going house-to-house killing young men and even acting as local authorities. The Eritreans have been fighting on the side of Ethiopian forces as they pursue the fugitive leaders of the Tigray region, though Ethiopia's government has denied their presence.

Fog engulfs Eiffel Tower



A pedestrian crosses a bridge in front of the Eiffel tower in Paris on Wednesday. The top of Eiffel Tower is engulfed

Impeachment trial: Don likely to be acquitted

Democrats fail to get enough support from Republicans **PIO LAWMAKERS** Washington, Jan. 27: Former US President Donald Trump is likely to Biden inks orders

be acquitted in his impeachment trial as the Democrats failed to garner enough support required from Republican Senators. The Democrats who have impeached Trump in the House charging him with "incitement of insurrection, needs two-thirds of the vote for the Senate impeachment.

Currently both Democrats and the Republicans have 50 mem-bers each in the 100-seat Senate. The Democrats need the support of at least 17 Republican Senators to reach the two-thirds majority mark. Trump is the first US president who facing an impeachment trial after he left the presidency. This is for the second time in about a year that Trump is likely to be acquitted by the Senate. "I can't see how you get 17. I think that was a test vote," Republican Senator John Boozman said after 45 of the 50 Republican Senators voted for the motion that the impeachment trial of Trump after he left the presidency is uncon-

stitutional. The article of impeachment was delivered by the House to the Senate Monday night. "The next step, as you all have reported and people watching at home know, is for the Senate to proceed with their trial. He's going to allow them to move forward at the pace and manner that the leaders in the Senate determine. And I can promise you that we will leave the vote counting to leaders in the Senate from now on," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

for racial equity

Washington, Jan. 27: US President Joe Biden has signed a series of executive orders to ensure racial equity across the country, acting on one of his core campaign promises to dismantle "systemic racism" that has plagued

America far too long. While announcing the four presidential actions on Tuesday at the White House, a week after being sworn in as the 46th US President, Biden cited the killing of George Floyd, a PoC man, by a Minneap-olis police officer last May,

which touched off demonstrations across the coun-Biden called the killing "the knee on the neck of justice," and said that because of it, "the ground has shifted.

It changed minds and mindsets." "In my campaign for President, I made it very clear that the moment had arrived as a nation where we face deep inequities in America and systemic racism that has plagued our nation for far, far too long," Biden said.

YouTube suspends Trump indefinitely

San Francisco, Jan. 27: three million subscribers -YouTube has suspended Donald Trump indefinitely from the platform and said it will also prevent the former president's lawyer Rudy Giuliani from being able to monetize his clips, US media reported.

It comes a week after the social media giant confirmed it would extend a ban on Trump's channel --which has just under

Republican Senator Kevin Cramer said the Senate should not be wasting its time holding another impeachment trial. "We do not have solid constitutional standing to impeach a for-mer president, and even if we did, this is not the time form. to use it. As I have said repeatedly, President Trump's comments on January 6 were rash and ill-advised but I do not believe

they meet the constituti-

onal standard for impea-

- joining other social

media platforms in ban-

ning his accounts follow-

ing the deadly January 6

Capitol riot.
The Google-owned firm

has faced some criticism

over its slow response fol-

lowing the violence in

Washington, as well as the

proliferation of conspira-

cy theories on the plat-

chment," he said.

IN CONGRESSIONAL **COMMITTEES**

Washington, Jan. 27: Indian-origin US lawmakers Pramila Jayapal and Krishnamoorthi have been named to key congressional committees on budget and the Covid-19 pandemic by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

While Congresswoman Jayapal, 55, was named to the powerful budget committee, Congressman Krishnamoorthi, 47, was appointed to a key congressional committee on the Coronavirus crisis on Tuesday. The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis was established to provide oversight of the federal Covid-19 pandem-

ic response. "I am honoured to join Chairman Clyburn and our colleagues on this panel to provide vital oversight of the federal Coronavirus response to protect the health and safety of the American people as we defeat the pandemic and rebuild our economy," said Krishnamoorthi, serving as the US Representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district since 2017.

"I look forward to working with members of both parties as we ensure that the trillions of dollars in taxpaver funds dedicated to our country's response to this pandemic and its economic impacts are used as efficiently, transparently and effectively as possible," he said.

Jayapal, the US Representative for Washington's 7th congressional district since 2017, was named as a member of the House Budget Committee. — PTI

Muslim attack plot: Two in trouble

27: A Singaporean teenager planned to attack two mosques in the city-state on the anniversary of a massacre of Muslim worshippers in New Zealand, authorities said Wednesday. A German woman has been charged with preparing a far-right attack and other crimes on allega-

Singapore/Berlin, Jan. tions she was in the process of building a bomb to target Muslims and local politicians in Bavaria, Munich prosecutors said Wednesday.

The 16-year-old — picked up in December — made "detailed plans and preparations" to mount the attacks using a machete on March 15, two years after a

shooting rampage in Christchurch by Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant, security offi-cials said. Tarrant was last year sentenced to life in prison without parole after killing 51 worshippers in the attacks on two mosques during Friday prayers. He also explored

planned to set fire to the mosques.

Susanne G., whose last name wasn't given in line with privacy laws, also faces charges of making threats and violations of weapons laws, among other things. She has been in custody since her arrest.

making a bomb and **JETS TO TAIWAN** Raj Kapoor Pak home owner **WARNING TO ALL** opposes sale at govt's rate

Beijing, Jan. 27: The Chinese government said Wednesday that actions like its warplanes flying near Taiwan last weekend are a warning against both foreign interference in Taiwan and any independence moves by the island.

POWERS: CHINA

Asked about the flights, Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said China's military drills are to show the nation's resolution to protect its national sovereignty and territorial integrity

Peshawar, Jan. 27: The owner of Indian film legend Raj Kapoor's ancestral home in Peshawar has refused to sell the building at the rate fixed by the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, saying the prime-location property has been severely undervalued.

Earlier in the month, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had approved the release of Rs 1.5 crore for Kapoor's ancestral home, with the aim to

star. Haji Ali Sabir, the present owner of the ĥaveli, in a chat with a private news channel on Wednesday, flatly refused to sell the prop-erty at Rs 1.5 crore. "Even half a Marla land in the orea is not avail in the area is not available for Rs 1.5 crore. How can I sell the six-

marla property for Rs 1.5 crore?" he said. Marla, a traditional unit of area used in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, is consid-

turn it into a museum in honour of the movie square feet or 25.2929 square metres. Sabir said the right valuation of the property is Rs 200 crore. Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, is situated in the fabled Qissa Khwani Bazar.

It was built between 1918 and 1922 by the legendary actor's grandfather Basheswarnath Kapoor. Raj Kapoor and his uncle Trilok Kapoor were born here.

Maduro 'miracle' cure for Covid draws skeptics ire

Caracas, Jan. 27: Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro appears to be counting on yet another "miracle" to save his citizens from Covid-19, promoting a secretive solu-tion with no published scientific evidence he claims will conquer the new Coronavirus.

'Ten drops under the tongue every four hours and the miracle is done,' Maduro said in a televised appearance on Sunday. "It's a powerful antiviral, very powerful, that neutralises the Coronavirus." But his government has released no evidence. He even kept secret the name of the "brilliant Venezuelan mind" behind it, saying he needed to protect them. Scientists at home and abroad remained skeptical. The local National Academy of Medicine said it appeared be derived from the common herb thyme. It's not the first time the Venezuelan leader has promoted a cure.
In October, he notified

the Pan American Health Organisation that Venezuelan scientists discovered a molecule that nullifies the replication capacity of the new Coronavirus. He hasn't spoken of that development since. He's also promoted a special herbal tea he claims can fend off the virus and other ailments.

Other leaders too have embraced solutions dismissed by scientific stud-

Supply chains vulnerable: UN

The Hague, Jan. 27: The head of the World Food Programme said Wednesday that the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need to strengthen vulnerable supply chains to impoverished nations struggling to feed their popu-

David Beasley, executive director of the United Na-tions' Nobel Peace Prizewinning food programme, said that the pandemic put further stress on supply chains getting food to the hungry. "We've got to continue to work the system, we've got to make certain that we are ... less

vulnerable to Covid type impacts," Beasley told a World Économic Forum virtual panel. "If you think you've had

trouble getting toilet paper in New York, because of supply chain disruption, what do you think's happening in Chad and Niger and Mali and places like that?" Beasley stressed that the food supply system is "not broken" but that 10 per cent of the global population is in extreme poverty and need to be reached by sup-pliers and that the global pandemic exacerbated existing problems.

ies. Former US President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro both stubbornly touted an antimalarial drug despite repeated studies finding it ineffective and possibly dangerous. The new Coronavirus

hasn't hit Venezuela as hard as other South American countries such as Brazil, Ecuador and Peru, though many experts say that's likely many because sanctions against have sharply limited trav-

Maduro said the treatment, which he called carvativir, has been under testing for nine months

el there

among Venezuelans ill with the Coronavirus. He said he plans to distribute it nationwide and to other nations as well. Dr David Boulware, professor of medicine and an infectious diseases physician at the University of Minnesota School, noted the lack of scientific evidence.

N-treaty extension gets Russian nod

Moscow, Jan. 27: The lower house of Russian parliament on Wednesday approved the extension of the last remaining nuclear arms control pact days

before it's due to expire.

The State Duma voted unanimously to extend the New START treaty for five years. The vote came a day after a phone call between US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in which they voiced satisfaction with the exchange of diplomatic notes about extending the New START

They agreed to complete the necessary procedures in the next few days, according to the Kremlin. The pact's extension doesn't require congressional

Euro court slams Russia's '08 war with Georgia noting that Georgia was 'recognised as a victim of

Tbilisi, Jan. 27: Europe's top human rights court on Wednesday found Russia responsible for a swath of violations in Georgia's breakaway regions after the 2008 Russia-Georgia war. Georgia hailed the verdict by the European Court of Human Rights as a major victory. President Salome Zurabishvili described

the ruling as "historic, approval in the US, but Russian lawmakers must ratify the move. Top members of the Kremlin-controlled parliaachievement for our country, our society, our history and our future." Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia also described the verdict as a landmark

this war and it is a great

move, saying that "the case against Russia at the European Court of Human Rights has ended with Georgia's victory."

ment said they would fasttrack the issue and complete the necessary steps to extend the treaty this week.

Dated :25.01.2021 Roc. No. 9989/2019/H3 E-Tender Notice For and on-behalf of Kancheepuram Municipal Council, bids are invited by the Commissioner, Kancheepuram Municipality for National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) 2018-19 from the eligible contractors through Online or Offline bids. Name of Work 16.02.2021

16.02.2021 Construction of Shelter for 90.00 90,000.00 Urban Homeless at Rajaji upto 3.00 p.m. 4.30 p.m. Bidders who fulfill the eligibility criteria, as set out in the tender document are eligible to

KANCHEEPURAM MUNICIPALITY

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) 2018-19

tender for this work The tender schedule shall be downloaded at free of cost from the website http://tntenders.gov.in/.



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy - 20.

MildGle CatVery Basin Circle, Trichy – 20.

Tender Notice No. 18 / 2020 - 2021 / Dit / MCBC / Trichy / Dated 25 61 2021

For and so behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy invites souled tender as per fine tender system noted below for the following works from the experienced relevant class in PWD contractors. The tender will be opened as menioned below by the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy in presance of the Tenderies or their authorized agents. Lumpsum Contract - Percentage Tender System River Conservany Division, Trichy

1) Construction of New Generator room in the RB of Cauvery River for supplying Electricity Service to Cauvery Barrage at Upper Amout of Elamanum Midgleyn Stripnam Take of Trichy District

t Elamanur Village in Shirongam Takuk of Thichy District

Arriyaru Basin Division, Trich y Boston 2) Construction of Dramage Intel arrangements and providing Demarcation Stones in Orwandhur Tank Surplus Course in Orma and Shrugud Villages and Peremangalem Yank Surplus Course in Shrupamur village of Marvechanal un Tatuk in Trichy District. Last Date for Reculptof Tonder : 16.92.2021 upto 3.00 PM

and Strugual Willages and Peromangalom Eark Surplus Course in Strupamur village of Mariackinshirur Tauki in Thorby District.

Last Dale for Rocupitof Tenurur Tauki in Thorby District.

1. 16.02.2021 upto 3.09 PM.

Pite fender sobredula can also be downloaded at free of cost from the web site upto: 1. 16.02.2021 - upto 5.45 PM.

Details of EMD, rematance of EMD, and other datalis can also be available from this Government Designated website: (http:// www.tenders.ting.obj.ni) and in the office of the Superinteding Engineer. WRO, Midro Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy. Any sorrections / Extension / Corrigendum if any will be issued in the above web site only Superinteding Engineer, WRO, DIPR / 589 / TENDER / 2021

🌉 மாவட்ட பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டோர் மற்றும் சிறுபான்மைவினர் நல அலுவலகம், தஞ்சாவூர் ந.க எலக் F1/22083/2020 ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி அறினிப்பு எண். 01/2020—2021 நாள்: 25.01.2021 விடுதி கல்லூரி மாணவப்புளைவியின் பயன்பாட்டிற்கு இரண்டு அடுக்கு இரும்பு கட்டிங்கள் கொள்புத்தி நம்ந்ததர்பளில் ஆளுத்தக்காகவும் பற்றும் ஆளுதரின் னர்பாகவும் நம்ந்தப்பள்ளி ஆவணங்களில் வியர்பாட்டுள்ளம் படுத்தப்பட்டோர். மிகப்பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டேன் விடுதிகளில் அவிவிட் பகிலும் மாணவர்பாணவியின் பயன்பாட்டுற் 15 இரண்டு அடுக்கு இரும்பு கட்டில்கள் (Two Tier Steel Cot) கொள்முதல் செய்ய மூடி முத்திகளாம். ப்பட்ட இரட்டை உறைலினர ப்பத்தப்புன்ளிகள். வரைபறுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி படி வத்தில் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் நிறுவனங்களிடமிருந்தும் ஹீக்கரிக்கம் கட்ட வீதிலோகஸ்தாரர்களி, மிருத்துல் ஹீகேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

28,000/--(ருபாய் இருபத்தாராயிரம் மட்டும்) லிடுதி கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணவிபரின் பயன்பாட்டிற்கு 215 இரண்டு அடுக்கு இரும்பு கட்டிவ்கள் கொள்முதல் 12.02.2021 பிற்பகல் 3.00 மணி வரை 12.62.2021 பிற்பகல் 3.30 மணி

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 15th Central Finance Commission Fund
Roc. No.E4/56/Vec/20-21 TENDER NOTICE Date : 25.01.2021 TENDER NOTICE

Supply and Delivery of Manhole cleaning Robot -2 Nos. (Bandicoot) With Transit Vehicles- 2 Nos. at an Estimate Cost of Rs.91.50 Lakhs

Bid document and other information available at (free of cost) www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in www.salemcorporation.gov.in "e-submission" is also permitted.

Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures. Submission of bids - 29.01.2021 upto 16.02.2021 3.00 P.M.

Opening of bids - 16.02.2021 at 3.30 P.M.

Commissioner, Salem Corporation

DIPR/ 537/TENDER/2021



Chronicle

28 JANUARY 2021

China playing long game, be vigilant and prepared

he skirmish involving Indian soldiers on the Sikkim-China border last week is just another event in a decades-long chain featuring Chinese expansionism. It may seem incongruous that while Commander level talks have been going on that an incursion should take place. Place the event against a historical perspective and the reality hits home that more things change the more China remains the same. The skirmish may indeed be a minor face-off as the Indian Army described it but if it true that the casualties in terms of injuries was on a scale of five to one on the Chinese side, it might just have served the purpose in sending the message across to the territorially ambitious northern neighbour. India is prepared to hold its positions, at least wherever it is placed advantageously in terms of terrain and is capable of giving it back.

The gap between perceptions and reality is huge when it comes to India-China relations. While the political class might want 1.35 billion Indians to believe that not a square mile of territory has been surrendered to the Chinese since the 1962 war, the truth is huge

The way forward for India would be to keep building and buttressing border infrastructure, particularly for the IAF, safeguarding areas around roads India has built and moving armour and men into strategic areas

swathes of disputed land, which in India's eyes is its, has been progressively taken over. It would not be far from the truth to suggest that the Chinese have come in as much as 25 to 30 km in places along the LAC and at least 5 to 8 km in the Finger area north of Pangong Lake in Ladakh. Historically speaking, this can be blamed on the unbridgeable gap in perceptions of LAC rather than weaknesses in the regimes in New Delhi, which, since the times of Vajpayee's prime ministership, have taken a harder stance on India-China border issues.

The reality of China's expansionism is being reflected too often for comfort in most recent times, whether in Doklam in 2017, Galwan Valley in 2020 or in Naku La in Sikkim a week

ago. The complaints of our people in Arunachal Pradesh or Ladakh about Chinese soldiers and civilians using Indian roads to expand their presence across the LAC and taking over land they would normally use for grazing their yaks are real, so too whispers of villages coming up on what we perceive to be our side. There is no denying China's propensity to keep up the pressure on the 4,000 km border, ranging from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east and including on land bordering Bhutan and Sikkim.

Nothing could be more ideal than seeking peace through diplomacy and pursuing disengagement and de-escalation even if it means having to deal with a truculent neighbour whose deeds betray their words. Since recurring bouts of skirmishes cannot be ruled out, the way forward for India would be to keep continuously building and buttressing border infrastructure, particularly for the IAF whose capabilities are formidable, safeguarding areas around roads India has built and moving armour and men into strategic areas. All of this must serve eternal vigil about China while being prepared to shove if it comes to a push. Let us not for even a moment believe that China has changed.

Kerala must step up Covid fight

erala, which once led other Indian states in containing the pandemic, Covid-19, appears to have lost its way and is now lagging behind them in most parameters, excepting the mortality rate. At present, the state has about 71,000 active cases, which make about 41 per cent of the total active cases in the country. Its test positivity rate of 12.48 is the highest in

There have been a lot of factors contributing to the steady spike in the number but experts are in unison pointing to the complacency people exhibit in following the Covid-appropriate protocol. It has been well-established that crowding, close contacts and closed spaces facilitate easy spread of the virus. With the restrictions on most events gone, the state has witnessed a spurt in events with people paying little or no attention to the rules of the 'break-the chain" campaign. Elections to the local bodies held in November

and the festival season that followed did not help the situation either. A key point is the low mortality rate that has taken the fear factor off the people's minds. The state has seen only 3,643 deaths due to Covid-19 as on January 26, thanks to the healthcare infrastructure it has created over the decades and the efficient mechanism it has put in place to treat the patients. The state has not yet reached a point where its facilities are overwhelmed though healthcare experts fear that outcome, should the trend continue

The state government should act swiftly to contain the Covid spread, and even consider reintroducing some of the controls it has lifted. The state health minister is on record stating that the grassroots work undertaken by the local self governments helped contain the pandemic in the initial phases. The government should try and revive that spirit. With the elections to the state Assembly round the corner, it does not have much time to spare

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER Editor

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Subhani

As farmers lose ground, govt will take tough line



Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

Republic "tractor parade" may hem at two points in Delhi on Tuesday is an episode in the two-month-long standoff between the Narendra Modi government and the Punjab farmers that is neither too big nor too serious. There are always moments in long-drawn agitations when unruly elements indulge in unseemly acts. An agitator placing some flags of a Sikh gurdwara and of the farmers' union was indulging in a mindless prank, or the man dri-ying the tractor in ving the tractor into a police cordon was a man who had no sense. But this foolish episode has been blown out proportion by young television news channel reporters and anchors. Their innocence and ignorance were both amusing and touching to watch.

fracas on Tuesday has more to do with the position of the farmers, who could proudly claim till then that theirs was a peaceful protest and they could sit on a high moral perch. Their inflexible stance carried a quixotic nobility about it. All that vanished by the afternoon of Republic Day as some of the agitation's senior leaders even apologised as they blamed the people who had turned into hooligans and they tried to say that the troublemakers were not from their fold. Of course, that defence is weak and unconvincing. And it will be hard for them to live down the avoidable clash with the police. But the farmers and their leaders have lost strategic ground as well. They cannot any longer speak with the courage and confidence they had before Tuesday. They may not be to blame for

the trouble and violence that erupted on the streets, but they cannot

responsibility.
The more curious part in this showdown is that of the Delhi police and that of the Union home ministry, with home minister Amit Shah at the helm. The unintended consequences of Tuesday's clash with the agitators allows the government to corner the farmers and their leaders, and it also gives them the room to prosesuspected the "Maoists" "Khalistanis" who ran amok on the streets. There is an uncanny resemblance to what the police did in February 2020 during the communal riots in northeast Delhi. The Delhi police literally adopted the guerrilla tactic of allowing the protesters to unleash violence, and they used the violence to agitators. In last the

turn the tables on the Citizenship Amendment Act stir was used to shut down the months-long protest at Bagh. It peaceful Bagh. Shaheen remains to be seen whether Mr Shah will try to use Tuesday's violence to push the farmers back now that they are on the backfoot. But that is unlikely to happen as the principal leaders of Punjab's farmers aren't going to allow themselves to be distracted by Tuesday's developments; their eyes are focused on the repeal of the farm laws. Mr Shah may not have an easy time though he has ordered the deployment of paramilitary forces in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. It is, however, clear that Mr Shah will have more of a say in dealing with the agi-

tation now. Behind this political grandstanding by the government following

is the troubling fact that the Delhi police has lost the ability to tackle agitations and protests. It has been argued by wellincluding those who have a sneaking sympathy for the Narendra Modi government and a correspondantipathy for Punjab's "pampered farmers", that the Delhi

police could not have deployed sufficient forces at all points of the tractor parade's route due to the constraints of numbers. That the police officers could not but trust the farmer unions leaders, and the police was caught offguard by the over-whelming numbers of angry protesters with their speeding tractors, swords, rods, etc. This lament of betrayal by police officials is as naïve as that of the farm

leaders' blaming so-called saboteurs. It is quite evident that the Delhi police has not been exposed to agitations like before, and that its personnel haven't been trained sufficiently to tackle such situations. The police officers as well as Union home ministry officials should have realised that there was a need for a larger force to monitor the movement tractors and the protesting farmers. The decision to deploy paramilitary units Tuesday should have been taken on Monday the moment it was decided to allow the tractor parade. These miscalculations indeed part of the fallibility of those in command. It is however to be seen whether they will learn any lessons

for the future. confrontation

The Delhi police is to be blamed for its inept handling and lack of preparedness. The farmers too have lost the moral high ground as rogue elements ran amok on the capital's streets.

farmers and the government will turn more hostile than before, and this may not help to find a face-saving exit for either of the two sides. Prime Narendra Modi has kept himself aloof from the issue apart from giving general, vague rhetorical responses. The people on the ground are agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar, railway and commerce minister Piyush Goyal and of course home minister Amit Shah. Mr Shah was earlier active in dealing with the agi-tation but then moved back and let Mr Tomar hold the fort. It was clear Mr Shah was not the man to take conciliatory positions of any kind, while Mr Tomar played the role of conciliator quite deftly.

After Tuesday's minor explosion, it is likely that Mr Shah will again be in the forefront and will show the mailed fist of the government. This may not help to end the agitation and the deadlock. The force deployment becomes inevitable all around. The government might relish the moment as it would create the momentary satisfaction that is in control of the situation. The Prime Minister, with his unassailable parliamentary majority in the last seven years, has not shown any signs of flexibility on any issue. The deployment of forces will maintain "law and order", but the decisions that gave rise to the agitation still need reviewed. Somewhere down the line, the Modi government is losing its political capital. But ruling cocooned behind the turrets and moats of power, do not care much for the changes in the senti-ments of the people. There is clear trouble ahead of the political kind, even as the Prime

> The writer is a Delhi-based $comment ator\ and$ analyst

Minister and his col-

leagues exhibit self-

righteousness.

LETTERS

SHOCKING ORDER

The groping of a minor cannot be considered sexual assault without 'skin-to-skin contact' or if clothes were not removed, is a Bombay High Court order. It is highly shocking if not surprising too. The Supreme Court has put the order on hold. It is welcome from the ladies point of view. It is surprising that the Bombav High Court ruling has come from a lady Judge. This order was highly disturbing. Any act to malign the modesty of women amounts to sexual harassment and needs severe punishment to the perpetrators. Groping a minor's breast without removing the clothes is no doubt a sexual assault on the minor. Or for what else is it done? A wrong has been corrected or else a dangerous precedent would have been created.

Sravana Ramachandran,

IN TROUBLED WATERS

The other day, cricketer Shikhar Dhawan was caught feeding birds during a boat ride in the Ganga at Varanasi despite a strict ban on the feeding of birds due to bird flu scare. The district administration, however, has decided to spare Dhawan, but has initiated punitive action against the boatman for not informing the cricketer about the ban. assic example of how the ric and influential escape the net while the poor get the boot!

P.G. Menon,

PERFECT PLAN

The popular saying, "plan your work and work your plans" aptly fits the current Indian cricket team. Both head coach Ravi Shastri and the bowling coach Bharat Arun deserve approbation for the strategy they devised long before to plot the downfall of Australia in the recently concluded Test series by contriving a 'leg-side trap' plan, which paid off successfully. However, as we all know, the result of a cricket match often hangs on slender thread, with ability and luck waltzing amidst swings in fortunes. Imagine, if Rishab Pant, whose heroics with the bat on the last day at Gabba, Brisbane that effectively sealed the Test and the series in India's fayour, had got out in the closing stages of the game, then the outcome of the series could well have gone the other way. In such a scenario, it is questionable if the above game plan formulated by the Indian think tank would really have cropped up now for discussion.

R. Sivakumar

Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



Foreign assets on IRS radar as **CBDT** lobbies for more funds

he Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is strength-ening its drive against unaccounted foreign assets and benami properties with a slew of steps. It has launched a new online facility to encourage informants to tip off tax sleuths on black assets abroad. Further, it has started creating special Foreign Asset Investigation Units (FAIUs) in its 14 directorates across the country. Already, sources say, some 70 investigators have been transferred to these units to kickstart their operations. Sources say that CBDT has also put in a request for more Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers. Since this requires additional resources, the CBDT has sought more allocation in the Union Budget to fund the drive.

The FAIUs will function under director-general ranked income tax officers, and depending on how these units are grouped, they will also have directors, additional directors and sufficient support staff to perform their mandated job. All these units will be directly monitored by the CBDT, though it is unclear at this stage how this will be achieved.

Sources also reveal that the CBDT is not averse to hiring the services of experts like data analysts and chartered accountants from outside the government if required. The FAIUs will also probe cases of Indian entities named in global tax document leaks, such as the infamous Panama Papers. It does appear that the IRS cadre, often eclipsed by the other more highprofile civil services. may get their moment in the sun.

DON'T KEEP VIGILANCE CASES PENDING, SAYS CVC

In a significant move, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has urged cadre controlling authorities, including the Union home ministry and the department of personnel and training (DoPT), to facilitate and approve vigilance

Speculation is rife that Mr Arvind Sharma could be named the home minister or even deputy chief minister of UP. But many see a larger plan for Mr Sharma in UP politics.

clearance of IAS, IPS and IFS officers if the state government or relevant department fails to respond within three months on vigilance queries.

The communication from chief vigilance commissioner Sanjay Kothari also states that in all instances where the authorities fail to provide details of vigilance cases against babus within three months, the officers will be considered as clean and fit for promotion.

Sources say that this order is consequent to the commission discovering that often cadre-controlling authorities do not adhere to the

rule, leading to long-pending and unresolved complaints shown against the officers' names. Apparently, in some instances, even the concerned officers were unaware of a complaint pending

against them!
If the CVC has its way, this could put an end to the many frivolous vigilance cases that are kept pending for months (and years in some cases) and give deserving officers their career dues.

SHARMA TO SPEARHEAD

MODI'S UP PLAN The advent of Arvind Sharma, a former Gujarat cadre IAS officer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trusted lieutenant, in the hurlyburly of Uttar Pradesh politics is being watched keenly. Mr Sharma recently joined the BJP after having retired as MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) secretary at the Centre. He is to join the state leg-

islative council. Speculation is rife that Mr Sharma could be named the home minister or even deputy chief minister of UP. But many see a larger plan for Mr Sharma in UP politics. They feel that Mr Modi wouldn't depute his trusted ex-babu to simply become an MLC or minister. It is believed that Mr Modi will start the party's campaign for the 2022 Assembly elections through Mr Sharma. So, it is quite likely that Mr Sharma's role will be to help chief minister Yogi Adityanath's government implement govern-ment schemes in the state before

The move also reiterates Mr Modi's oft-seen penchant for introducing his trusted bureaucrats in politics. Retired bureaucrats and technocrat professionals are his first choice—bringing R.K. Singh, Hardeep Puri and S.K. Jaishankar into politics is an example.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com Let's multiply the effect.













THURSDAY | 28 JANUARY 2021 | COIMBATORE

quick

INDICATORS -1.94 47,409.93 -1.91 Nifty 50 13,967.50 S&P 500* 3,775.91 -1.91 Dollar (₹) 72.91 0.05 Pound Sterling (₹) 100.07 -0.43 88.60 0.02 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 48,421 ₹231 0.00 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 56.30 0.70 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.954 0.00 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 1.003 -0.037

JLR appoints creative chief to board

* As of 8:30 PM IST



Jaguar Land Rover appointed its chief creative officer Gerry McGovern to the board of management to help redefine the Jaguar brand as Britain's biggest carmaker reviews its strategy under new CEO Thierry Bollore. McGovern would be "developing the character, distinction and personality of each" brand and the role includes leading the design function at the marques, the firm said.

■ Double-digit growth in HUL rural sales **FMCG firms sight** consumption rise

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 27

Revival of consumer sentiments, combined with festive season consumption, helped FMCG companies post impressive growth in revenues, volumes as well as profits in the third quar-ter. Health and hygiene products, food and refreshments and rural consumption supported the performance of fast moving consumer goods firms. Hindustan Unilever's

total sales grew by 20 per cent in the December quarter, while its domestic consumer business grew by 7 per cent. Sales volumes, excluding acquisition of GSK, grew 4 per cent. Health, hygiene and nutrition, which form 80 per cent of HUL's portfolio, grew in double digits. Foods and refreshments were up by 19 per cent. Rural market, which grew in double digits, also supported sales.

HUL's profit after tax for the quarter went up 19 per cent to Rs 1,921 crore against Rs 1,616 crore in the year-ago quarter. As the commodity prices had gone up, HUL made doubledigit price hike in tea and a 2.5 per cent increase in skin cleansing products

during the quarter. "With Covid cases coming down sharply and increas-ing mobility, economic activity in the country continues to improve. The rapid rollout of vaccines will give further impetus to economic growth," said Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and MD of HUL.



"Good recovery in laggard parts, 80 per cent of portfolio grew in double digits, Minimal margin compression, strong brand continue. investments which is the right strategy finds in our view," Edelweiss. Securities.

Emami reported 36.6 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 202.17 crore for the third quarter as rev-enue from operations surged by 13 per cent to Rs 845.37 crore. The company posted a strong growth of 16 per cent in its domestic business led by 13 per cent growth in volumes. 'We are witnessing a con-

sistent and all-round growth coming from all channels over the last two quarters and expect to continue with this growth tra-jectory. Most of our brands, including power brands and digital-first brands in the healthcare segment are on their growth path," said Harsha Agarwal, director,

Emami. While rural markets continued to perform better, growth in urban markets also picked up. E-commerce grew by 3.5x and

QUICK CROSSWORD

modern trade registered growth of 51 per cent during the quarter for Emami.

Marico reported a 13.04 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the third quarter while revenue from operations went up by 16.33 per cent. Revenue from operations grew on the back of a strong domestic volume growth of 15 per cent. Marico saw robust demand for more than 95 per cent of its portfolio amidst steadily improving

consumer confidence.

Jyothy Labs reported an
18.23 per cent rise in consolidated net profit. Revenue from operations of the company was up 13.26 per cent. According to Jyothy Labs, revival of the consumer sentiment reflected in the company's performance across its brand portfolio.

"The performance of FMCG companies have improved sequentially along with volume growth. Discretionary spends are also recovering. We should expect better performance in the coming quarters,' said Kaustubh Pawaskar, AVP, fundamental research

18

1.Travelled on foot (5)

2. Jockeys (6)

3. Ear part (4)

5. Sacking (9) 6. Do away with (9)

4. Zest, verve (5)

11. American state (6)

13. Cowboy show (5)

15. Prod with elbow (5)

16. Biblical garden (4)

jumble

SRAHH

ECOGK

LDIYWL

PPRAAE

Market gains of this month wiped out

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JAN 27

Profit taking ahead of the Union Budget, the outcome of US Fed meeting and monthly futures & options contracts expiry led to Nifty and Sensex falling for the fourth con-secutive session and wiping out of all the gains made this month.

The Nifty-50 closed below the 14000 level at 13967.50, down by 271.40 points or 1.91 per cent while the Sensex closed at 47409.93, down by 937.66 points, or 1.94 per cent. The Sensex lost 2382.19 points, or 4.78 per cent, in the last four sessions.

The sharp fall led to a notional loss of Rs 2.62 lakh crore of investors wealth on Wednesday and over Rs 8.07 lakh crore in the last four days.

Investors are apprehensive of US Federal Reserve's next monetary policy move which will be known only on Thursday morning. "Global cues were weak

as investors got cautious about possible roadblocks to US stimulus plan and ahead of Fed policy announcement.

Absence of FII buying over last two days too added to the nervousness. The foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs crore Wednesday, much higher

than the previous session. This is the first instance of the benchmark indices falling for four days in a since September 2020...markets have erased all gains for CY21 year to date and turned negative," said Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Govt plans ₹3 L cr spend to revive power utilities

SIDDHARTHA SINGH & DEBJIT CHAKRABORTY

The government plans to spend Rs 3 lakh crore (\$41 billion) on a new plan to revive regional electricity retailers, people with knowledge of the matter said, after a previous attempt failed to stem losses at the utilities.

The spending would be spread over a few years and is likely to be unveiled on February 1 as part of the government's budget for the year starting April 1, the people said, asking not to be identified as the proposal isn't public. The plan for carrying out reforms for reducing losses of state distribu-tion utilities was sought by the power ministry

and is under discussion.

The government is focusing on turning around electricity distributors to ensure reliable power supplies, improving the financial health of generators and making the sector more attractive to foreign investors. The combined loss at the power distribution companies, mostly controlled by state administrations, jumped 69 per cent to Rs 49,620 crore in the year ended March 2019, the lat-

est available data. The spending would focus on upgrading infrastructure and technology of the ailing utilities to make them more efficient and reduce financial losses, according to the people. Under the plan, the central government would provide annual grants to states that meet targets set by



BUDGET MAY ADDRESS INVERTED DUTY STRUCTURE FOR STEEL GOODS

New Delhi, Jan. 27: The government is likely to address the issue of inverted duty structure for certain steel prod-ucts in the Budget to boost domestic manufacturing, sources said.

Inverted duty structure refers to taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products that results in build-up of credits and cascading costs. Sources said the

Centre may consider removing duties on raw materials used for manufacturing certain flat-rolled prod-ucts of stainless steel. The import duty on

key inputs for stainless steel flat products— ferro nickel and SS scrap—is now higher than the import duty on final goods coming in from Free Trade Agreement partners. —PTI

the Centre. The plan could include some specific measures

such as separating power feeder grids for farmers and residential users, and installation of prepaid smart meters to stop pilferage and encourage timely payment, they said. It also plans to replace overhead cables with special insulated

wires to prevent theft. Electricity retailers are the weakest link in the country's power supply chain, losing on an average about a fifth of their

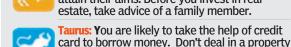
revenue because of technical and commercial reasons, including loss of power supplies through theft, poor transmission infrastructure and inefficient billing and collec-

The plan will be a modified version of an earlier programme unveiled in 2015 to revive power distributors through restructuring of their debt. That attempt remained unsuccessful in making retailers profitable by March

—Bloomberg

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Students may have to put in more efforts to attain their aims. Before you invest in real estate, take advice of a family member. Faurus: You are likely to take the help of credit

Aries: Working people may have good time.



Gemini: Know your calories and stay positive, eat healthy to get that fit body. Don't allow your personal problems to ruin

which is crime ridden. Ego problem is likely

cause some stress.

your mental joy.



Cancer: Whichever loan you finally decide on, make sure you have a plan to repay. The emotion of anger is neither good nor bad.

It's important to know how to deal with anger.



Leo: Avoid passive smoking. It could lead to serious diseases. Couples make adjustments to make the relationship work. Anger is likely to show negative effects on body.



Virgo: Your health needs utmost attention as eating out might be bad for your health. Overeating can lead to unwanted weight gain. Feel with your heart and think with your mind.

Shruti Haasan is an Indian film actress.



She is best known for her roles in the films like Oh My friend, Luck, Gabbar Singh, Srimanthudu, Welcome back, Gabbar Is Back amongst others.

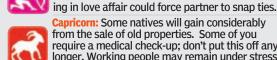


Libra: Students will excel in competitions. Growing a business means taking many decisions. Creating a strategic plan will help you prepare a realistic vision.



rpio: Your contribution to a project may not appear adequate to your higher authorities. Those struggling on the education front will need agittarius: Having better understanding will have

a reflection on love affair. A little misunderstand-

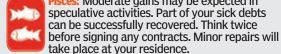


from the sale of old properties. Some of you require a medical check-up; don't put this off any longer. Working people may remain under stress due to the work pressures.



arius: You will handle increased workloads and additional responsibilities with great sincerity and win appreciation from everyone. Spiritual activities may be there in the family.

sces: Moderate gains may be expected in



take place at your residence.

ALDER

SLINGS AND ARROWS OF FORTUNE RULE George Chapman, an English dramatist who died in 1634, wrote, "Fortune, the great com-mandress of the world, / Hath divers ways to advance her followers: / To some she gives honour without suit fits. However, 10 tricks are the limit in hearts because the trumps break 5-0. In spades, 11 tricks can be

won.
When this deal was played at Bridge Base Online, one North-South pair got a fortugives honour without deserving, / To other some, deserving without honour." There are bridge deals in which the luck -- or misforitous result. First, South upgraded his hand to a strong no-trump because of ace-king, ace-king and the good five-card suit. (The Kaplan-Rubens method valtune -- seems random. Today's is one example. North-South have two almost-identical 5-3 majorues that hand at 16.15 points.) Then, over West's

19

1.Art of clock-making (8)

8. Aromatic herb (5)

18. Accounts inspection (5)

Word Mine

В

GOOD; 40 OUTSTANDIN

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at less tone nine letter word.

at least one nine letter word Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

19. Sailor's dance (8)

9. Up-to-date (6)

10. Standard (4)

12. Villein (4)

14. Big gun (6)

17. Assisted (5)

7. Vexed (5)

Across

Sorth ::\P &\P Pass

Unusual No-trump, showing at least 5-5 in the minors, North used a transfer bid, which resulted in South's declaring at four spades.
West led a spade.
Declarer drew trumps ending on the board, learning that West had started with three. What did South do next? West was marked with 3=0=5=5 distribution. So

lumbles MONTH

discarding a club from the dummy, and played a diamond to the king.

Plus 450 turned out to be a top. Of the other eight pairs in game, one made four spades and one made four

CHORD

hearts, both exactly, and six went down in four hearts. declarer led dummy's heart six and won the trick with that card! Then came the

heart queen and another heart to the 10 and king. South cashed the heart ace,

EXCESS POETRY

THE ENERGY HARNESSED FROM THE SUN COMES FROM A ---

Now arrange the circled letters

Across: 1. Tendered, 6. Orca, 7. Umpire, 9. Harsh, 11. Asked, 12. Issue, 13. Steer, 16. Kennel, 18. Kiln, 19. Kamikaze.

Down: 1. Toothpick, 2. Nicer, 3. Rout, 4. Deposit, 5. For, 8. Endurance, 10.

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CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson



YOU CAN PUT MY BODY TO BED, BUT MY SPIRIT'S GOING ID STAY RIGHT HERE, SO WHY BOTHER? WHY SHOWLDN'T













ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall







ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe







TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs







Sindhu, Srikanth

lose in openers

hearts out before suffering

A week after a demoralis-

ing defeat at the Toyota

Thailand Open quarterfi-nals, World champion Sindhu produced a much-improved performance but

still lost to world number

one Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan 21-19, 12-21, 17-21.

"It was a good match, there were no easy points. In the third game I came back and it was just one

point difference at one

stage. I broke my racket strings twice (during ral-lies) and that made a differ-ence," Sindhu said.

"It's a tough group. I have to give 100 per cent," she added.

It was Sindhu's 16th defeat to Tzu Ying in 21

Former world number

one Srikanth too squan-

dered an opening game

advantage, losing 21-15, 16-21, 18-21 to world number

three Anders Antonsen of

Denmark in a gruelling 77-

Olympic silver medallist

Sindhu, who had won the prestigious title in 2018,

will next play home

Intanon, who had handed

her a humiliating defeat

last week, while Srikanth, ranked 14th, will face

Ratchanok

minute contest.

favourites

meetings.

SHORT TAKES

Paine remains Oz captain, Wade out

Sydney: Matthew Wade was axed Wednesday for Australia's Test series in South Africa after failing to fire against India, while under-pressure Tim Paine retained the captaincy. Wade played all four games in the tense 2-1 home summer series loss to India, including two as makeshift opener in place of the injured David Warner. But he managed just 173 from his eight innings, with some rash shots ultimately costing him his place in the side and seeing him replaced by Alex Carey as back-up wicketkeeper. Instead, Wade will join

Australia's Twenty20 squad on their tour of New Zealand as vice-captain to the out-of-form Aaron Finch. Australia are due to play three Tests in South Africa. The tour was originally scheduled for February and March, but the dates have yet to be locked in due to concerns over Coronavirus. - AFF

Stranded Bopanna waits for freedom

New Delhi: The hotel room wall is helping him get some practice and an online course keeping boredom at bay. Rohan Bopanna's build-up to the season-opening Australian Open has been far from ideal so far as he waits for his day of free-

The 40-year-old was on one of the three flights out of a total of 17 Tennis Australia-arranged chartered planes, that landed in Melbourne with positive cases on board. He is in his 10th straight day of hard 'quarantine'

ever since — confined to his room. "If you test positive, you would be in hard quarantine but what we did not know that if someone on your flight tests positive then everyone also had to be in hard quarantine. That's what happened," Bopanna said from Melbourne. — PTI

Young scores in Atlanta victory

Los Angeles: The short-handed Los Angeles Clippers couldn't overcome the loss of stars Kawhi Leonard and Paul George on Tuesday as they sur-rendered a first half lead and were beaten by Atlanta, snapping their seven-game NBA win

Atlanta all-star Trae Young scored 38 points in his return as the Hawks rallied to defeat the Clippers 108-99 at the State Farm Arena. Hawks top scorer Young, who sat out one game with a back problem, shot 12of-23 from the field and scored 26 points of his 38 in the first haif. He finished a perfect 11 of 11 from the free-throw line. George and Leonard were ruled out of the contest but the club did not release any details other than to say they were sidelined due to Covid-19 "health and safety protocols". Capela had 13 points and 19 rebounds, his third consecutive game with at least 19 rebounds for the Hawks, who have won

Gill sets sights on FMSCI Rally lead

four of their last five. - AFP

Coimbatore: After tasting victories in the first two rounds of the 4 round FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship, the boys in vellow of JK Tyre. are all set to take over in the Rally of Coimbatore scheduled from Jan 30-31. Gaurav Gill reigned in the first two rounds of Rally of

Arunachal, is now all geared up in hope to seal his championship title in the third round in Coimbatore itself.

Live on TV

BWF World Tour Finals: Group

matches from 9.30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

CRICKET

Pakistan vs South Africa: First Test, Day 3 from 10.30 am on Sony Ten 2

Indian Super League: Hyderabad FC vs Bengaluru from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

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English test on card

Root & Co. arrive in Chennai to challenge India

Members of the England cricket team including captain Joe Root arrived in the city on Wednesday for the four-match series against India with the first two Tests to be played

Some of the Indian players and members of the support staff also landed in this southern city, airport sources said.

Root and Co flew in from Sri Lanka at around 10.30 am and headed to the hotel where members of the two teams will be put up as part of the bio-bubble, a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association official said.

The England team had on Monday completed a 2-0 series sweep of the Tests against Sri Lanka with Root slamming two big centuries. Star all-rounder Ben

Stokes and Jofra Archer had arrived in the city on Sunday and are in quaran-

While a few Indian players including star bats-man Rohit Sharma and Test vice-captain Ajinkya arrived Rahane arrived on Tuesday night, some others like Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant, star of the series clinching victory in the Brisbane Test, reached on Wednesday morning.

Team coach Ravi Shastri flew in from Mumbai as did several other players from destinations across

the country.
Skipper Virat Kohli is scheduled to arrive later on Wednesday.

The players of the two teams will be staying at Hotel Leela Palace in a bio-bubble as part of quarantine protocols and will undergo testing for Covid-19, the TNCA official said.

"They will be in quarantine for six days and are set to start practising from February 2," the TNCA official further

The first Test will be played at the M A Chidambaram stadium from February 5 and the second from February 13. Chennai had last hosted

a Test match in December 2016 against England.



England team arrive at Chennai airport.

Virat, Rohit top ODI rankings

Dubai, Jan. 27: India captain Virat Kohli and senior batsman Rohit Sharma retained their number one and two position respectively in the ICC rankings for ODI batsmen, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained at the third spot in the bowler's

Kohli, who had scored 89 and 63 against Australia in his last two ODI appearance, has 870 points to his

Rohit, who missed the tour of Australia due to an injury and has not featured in any one-day game since the Covid-19 pandemic began, remained at the second spot, five points ahead of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (837). Zealand's Ross



Virat Kohli (right) and Rohit Sharma in this file photo.

skipper Aaron Finch (791) round up the top five in the batsmen's list.

Ireland's Paul Stirling gained eight slots to reach 20th place after scoring runs against Afghanistan which incl-Taylor (818) and Australia uded centuries in the second and third matches. Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi (70th to 66th), Rashid Khan (96th to 89th) and Javed Ahmadi (103rd to 99th) have also gained in the rankings for

Bumrah

batsmen. Among

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (722) and Afghan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (701) occupy the top two spots.

remained the best placed

Indian, occupying the third spot with 700 points.

Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who was the most successful bowler in the recently concluded series against the West Indies, has progressed nine spots to take fourth position after grabseven wickets, including a haul of four for 25 in the second ODI that won him the player of

the match award. Bangladesh Mustafizur Rahman's six wickets in the series has lifted him from 19th to eighth position.

HC NOTICE FOR VIRAT IN PLEA TO BAN GAMBLING

Kochi, Jan. 27: The Kerala High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Virat Kohli and the state government in a seeking ban on online gambling in the

Besides Kohli, a division bench, headed by Chief Justice S. Manikumar, also issued notices to Malayalam actor Aju Varghese and South Indian actress Tamanna Bhatia. The celebrities are the brand ambassadors of online rummy

Petitioner Pauly Vadakkan alleged online gambling is now a growing menace in the state and the primary targets will be middle to low income group people who will be enticed to make easy money.

"People who fall to the fraud platforms often use what is left in their life savings. There have been many reported cases across the state in which people have got scammed," he said.

eventful first day.

Archer 2/33, Rabada 2/45).

BCCI prez Sourav back IPL AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 18 IN CHENNAI

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, JAN. 27

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who had suffered a 'mild' cardiac arrest earlier this month and underwent a stent implantation in one of his three arteries with blockages, took admission to Apollo Gleneagles Hospital on Wednesday afternoon after he reportedly felt a minor chest pain and dizziness again at home in the morning.

Wearing a blue jacket, the 48-year-old former Indian cricket team captain was however seen walking into the private hospital off EM Bypass near the Salt Lake stadium steadily after getting down from his car in the convoy which brought him through a Green Corridor, created by the Kolkata Police, from his Behala residence in South Kolkata. His wife Dona accompanied him.

Sourav "has come for a check up of his cardiac

ALAM'S TON LEADS PAK

AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Karachi, Jan. 27: Fawad Alam's third test century

put Pakistan in charge on the second day of the first

The 35-year-old Alam hit nine fours and two sixes in

Faheem Ashraf also scored a fluent 64 off 84 balls as

a patient 109 off 245 balls, compiled in just under six

Pakistan opened up a first-innings lead of 88 runs on a

slow wicket. He and Alam shared a stand of 102 for the

seventh wicket. Alam was out in the last session when

he flicked a ball from Lungi Ngidi (2-55) straight to

mid-wicket. Pakistan was in trouble overnight on 33-4 after South Africa had been skittled out for 220 on an

Brief scores: South Africa 220 in 69.2 overs vs

Pakistan 308/8 in 107 overs (F. Alam 109, F. Ashraf 64;

test against South Africa on Wednesday.

hours, to help his team reach 308-8 at stumps



Sourav Ganguly

condition. There is no charge in his parameters since his last hospitalisation and his vital parameters are stable," the private hospital stated, vate hospital st according to sources.

The BCCI chief has been kept under observation in a cabin under cardiologists Dr Aftab Khan and Dr Saroj Mondal and family friend Dr Saptarshi Basu. This is the second time, Souray, who have a history ischemic heart disease,

Ahmedabad, Jan. 27:

Vishnu Solanki helped Baroda pull off a last-

over heist against Haryana with a sensa-

tional 71, which included

a six off the game's final

ball, to fire his team into

the semifinals of the

Baroda first restricted

Haryana to 148/7 in the third quarterfinal, and

then it was Solanki, who

hammered four fours

and five sixes in his 46-

ball unbeaten knock to

get his team over the line

Sved

Ttophy

Wednesday.

Mushtaq Ali

on

here

fell ill in less than a month. On January 2 he admitted Woodlands Hospital after a mild heart attack struck him leading to a black out during a fitness session on the treadmill at the gym of his residence.

On January 7 Sourav was discharged from the hospital after he underwent angiography and angioplasty in one artery as the doctors including cardiac surgeons: Devi Shetty and Ramakant Panda prescribed the decision for the removal of the remaining blockages in two other arteries to be taken at least after a gap of two-three weeks.

Like the last time, Union home minister Amit Shah inquired about Sourav's health from BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya also. Later CAB chief Avishek Dalmiya and his elder sister and Bally MLA Baishali visited Sourav. Baishali said, "Sourav is keeping well. His medical

Baroda win with last-ball six

after 18 runs were need-

Haryana had brought

down the equation to 23

off 12 balls for Baroda

and their skipper Mohit

Sharma (0/30) conceded

only five runs in the

penultimate over to make the equation

However, 28-year-old

Solanki had other plans

and took on medium pacer Sumit Kumar

(1/37) in the final over,

hitting two sixes and a

four, to script an eight-

wicket win for his team.

In another quarterfinal

tougher for Baroda.

ed off the final over.

New Delhi, Jan. 27: The IPL players' auction ahead of the 2021 edition will be held in Chennai on February 18, the league organisers announced on Wednesday.

The announcement was made via IPL's Twitter handle. 2021

Auction February," read part of the post.

The "mini auction" will

take place following the first two Tests between India and England in Chennai. The series begins on February 5 while the second Test will be played from February 13 to 17. The BCCI is also yet to decide whether the IPL will happen in India even though Sourav Ganguly has repeatedly asserted that everything possible would be done to keep the glitzy event at its home. The player reten-tion deadline ended on January 20 and the trad-

ing window closes on

match, Rajasthan got better of Bihar by 16 runs, riding on Mahipal

BRIEF SCORES

■ Haryana 148/7 in 20

overs (Himanshu Rana

49: K. Kakade 2/7 lost to

Baroda 150/2 in 20 overs

(Vishnu Solanki 71 not

out; Yuzvendra Chahal

Rajasthan 164/5 in 20

overs (Mahipal Lomror 78

not out; S. Kashyap 2/28)

bt Bihar 148/4 in 20 overs

(Mangal Mahrour 68 not

out; Chandrapal Singh

1/15).

Lomror's unbeaten 78.

The West Brom defence was distracted by a wrongly raised offside flag before the Portuguese full-back found the net, but the goal

Bangkok, Jan. 27: Star Indian shuttlers P. V. Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth fought their there were no easy points. In the third game I came back and it was just one point difference close defeats in their respective group 'B' open-ers at the \$1.5 million HSBC BWF World Tour Finals here on Wednesday. at one stage. I broke my racket strings twice (during rallies) and that made a difference.

— P. V. SINDHU after going down to Tai Tzu Ying 21-19, 12-21, 17-21

fourth seed Wang Tzu Wei Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

In the women's singles, the opening game was a close fight as Sindhu and Tzu Ying engaged in an enticing battle.

Tzu Ying led 5-3 early on before grabbing a 11-8 advantage at the interval as Sindhu lost a few points on the net.

In the decider, Tzu Ying again led 6-3 but she stumbled to defensive errors as Sindhu levelled the score with a smash.

However, the second seed Taiwanese held a 11-9 lead at the break after Sindhu made another error at the backline.

After the change of sides, Sindhu managed to keep the two-point difference till 13-15 before a lucky net cord and a weak return at the net by Sindhu gave Tzu Ying a 17-13 lead.

Sindhu narrowed it to 16-18 and then 17-19 before Tzu Ying sealed the contest with the Indian going to the net twice. -PTIthe net twice.



P. V. Sindhu hits a shot against Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying during their women's singles first round match at the World Tour Finals badminton tournament in Bangkok on Wednesday. Tai won 19-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Gundogan brace boosts Man City

London, Manchester City thrashed West Brom 5-0 to move back top of the Premier League on Tuesday as Arsenal aided their push towards the European places with a 3-1 win at Southampton.

City have now won 11 consecutive games since West Brom earned a shock 1-1 draw at the Etihad last City have hit top form

since and did not miss the presence of the injured Kevin De Bruyne in blowing away the Baggies by scoring four goals before

half-time.

Ilkay Gundogan opened the floodgates by curling home from the edge of the box before Joao Cancelo's controversial strike doubled City's lead.

stood after a VAR review. Gundogan then took his

tally to seven goals in his last eight league games before Riyad Mahrez and Raheem Sterling rounded off the scoring.

THE RESULTS

Manchester City (Gundogan 6, 30, Cancelo 20, Mahrez 45, Raheem Sterling 57) **West Bromwich**

Arsenal (Pepe 8, Saka 39, Lacazette 73) Southampton (Armstrong 3)

West Brom have now conceded 17 goals in Sam Allardyce's four home games in charge as they remain second bottom of the table, six points off

safety. Mikel Arteta is also enjoying a fine run of form as Arsenal have taken 16 from the last possible 18 points. Arsenal avenged their FA Cup to Southampton at the week-end despite falling behind after three minutes to Stuart Armstrong's strike.

Nicolas Pepe quickly levelled before Saka rounded McCarthy and slotted home to give the visitors at half-time lead. Lacazette sealed a vital three points 18 minutes.



teammate Phil Foden after scoring his side's third goal against West Bromwich during their English Premier League match at the Hawthorns stadium in West

Ilkay Gundogan (left) of Manchester City celebrates with

Bromwich, England, on Tuesday. City won 5-0.