

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | THURSDAY 14 | JANUARY 2021

WEATHER



Max: 26°C
Min: 21°C
Rainfall: 1.4 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Thai 1
Tithi: Prathamai/ Thuvithiyai
Star: Uthiradam/ Thiruvonam
Rahukalam:
1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam:
6 am to 7.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.18 am
Zohar: 12.20 pm
Asar: 3.31 pm
Maghrib: 5.57 pm
Isha: 7.12 pm

DECCAN Chronicle
wishes all its readers a
HAPPY PONGAL.

The offices and press of
Deccan Chronicle, Chennai
and Coimbatore will
remain closed on
January 14
(Thursday)
and there will
be no issue
dated January
15 (Friday).

COUNTER POINT



**Not drugs, he is
smuggling vaccine to
other countries!**

STATE | 2

CM medal for 3,186
uniformed personnel



NATION | 3

Mother of murdered
5-year-old moves SC

SPORT | 7

Smith gets backing
of his coach



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Vol. 11 No. 18 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹4.00

RYOTS INSIST ON COMPLETE REPEAL

Defiant farmers burn copies of farm laws

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 13

A day after the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three farm laws and formed a committee to "study" them, the agitating farmers who had declared that their protests will continue, burnt copies of the three Acts on Wednesday to mark the harvesting season of Lohri. The farmers' agitation entered its 50th day on Wednesday. With the next round of talks between farmers and the Centre scheduled for January 15, minister of

● **Farmers unions have shown willingness to attend the ninth round of talks but have insisted on a complete repeal of the farm laws**

state for agriculture Parshottam Rupala said that dialogue is the only way forward to resolve the deadlock. "It is only through dialogue that a way forward can be found," Mr Rupala said. Farmers unions have also shown willingness to attend the scheduled ninth round of talks but have insisted on a complete repeal of the farm laws. The agitating farmers' on

Wednesday received a boost as a delegation of 1,000-odd Kerala farmers aligned with the All India Kisan Sabha's Kerala unit decided to join the agitation at Delhi border on Thursday.

This will be the first delegation from Kerala to participate in the sit-in. The delegation is led by former Rajya Sabha MP and senior CPM leader K.N. Balagopal. "It is the government's propaganda that only Punjab farmers are impacted by the three laws. The truth is these laws will affect each and every farmer of the country," Mr Balagopal said.

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 13

India to acquire 83 Tejas fighter jets for ₹48,000 cr

The aircraft: Tejas Mk-1A
Type: Light Combat Aircraft
Generation: 4 plus
Total number: 83



Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
Total cost: ₹48,000 crore
Delivery to begin: in 3 years
Advanced equipment: active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar, beyond visual range (BVR) missile, electronic warfare (EW) suite, air-to-air refuelling (AAR)

Mk-1A deliveries are expected to begin in three years. The CCS approved procurement of 73 Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 Tejas Mk-1 trainer aircraft at the cost of ₹45,696 crore along with design and development of infrastructure sanctions worth ₹1,202 crore. IAF has already bought 40 Tejas Mk-1 aircraft. Tejas Mk1A cleared by Cabinet on Wednesday is more advance than Mk-1 with around 40 improvements. The LCA Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern four plus generation fighter aircraft.

Giving a major push to the Make-in-India programme, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday approved the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A fighter jets for Indian Air Force (IAF) from defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in the largest ever indigenous military aviation deal worth around ₹48,000 crore.

"The CCS chaired today approved the largest indigenous defence procurement deal worth about ₹48,000 crore to strengthen IAF's fleet of homegrown fighter

jet LCA-Tejas. This deal will be a game-changer for self-reliance in the Indian defence manufacturing," tweeted defence minister Rajnath Singh.

The defence minister said Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is going to be the backbone of the IAF

fighter fleet in the years to come. "LCA-Tejas incorporates a large number of new technologies many of which were never attempted in India. The indigenous content of LCA-Tejas is 50 per cent in Mk1A variant which will be enhanced to 60 per cent," said Mr Singh. Tejas

US puts first woman to death in 67 years

Terre Haute (US), Jan. 13: A Kansas woman was executed Wednesday for strangling an expectant mother in Missouri and cutting the baby from her womb, the first time in nearly seven decades that the US government has put to death a female inmate. Lisa Montgomery, 52, was pronounced dead at 1:31 a.m. after receiving a lethal injection at the federal prison complex in Terre Haute, Indiana. —AP

Master opens in state; theatre owner fined for violating norms

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

Chennai police on Wednesday booked the management of Kasi theatre in Ashok Nagar for violating the norm for allowing 50 per cent occupancy in theatres by filling up all the seats during the screening of the newly-released *Master*.

The image of the theatre screening the movie in full capacity was leaked on social media, after which the police booked the man-

agement under sections 188 (disobedience of order duly promulgated by a public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infectious disease and causing danger to life) of Indian Penal Code.

However, the ₹5,000 fine levied on the theatre led to the social media questioning the efficacy of the laws. The Tamil Nadu government had recently allowed 100 per cent occupancy in theatres after actors Vijay and Simbu, and theatre associations approached

the government seeking a relaxation in the norms. However, it had to be dropped after a strongly worded missive from the Union home ministry directed the government not to violate the norms that are in force nationwide.

Throwing Covid precaution to winds, hundreds of youth throng a theatre in Madurai to watch Vijay's *Master* on Wednesday. — DC



30 days' notice under Special Marriage Act violates privacy: HC

Lucknow, Jan. 13: In a judgement that is likely to bring relief to inter faith couples, the Allahabad High Court Wednesday declared as optional the mandatory publication of notice of intended marriages under the Special Marriage Act, saying it violated the Right To Privacy. —PTI



India's No.1 Dealer VASANTH & CO



PONGAL SPECIAL DISCOUNT SALE

0% Interest*
Easy Installment Scheme

BAJAJ FINSERV | HDFC BANK | ICICI BANK | SBI | KOTAK | TVS CREDIT | HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES

upto 36 Months EMI

1 EMI CASH BACK*
For purchase LED TV
(For select model only)

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED

upto ₹6000 CASH BACK VOUCHER
BAJAJ FINSERV

5% CASH BACK
To all Credit Card & Loyalty Card Customers
upto ₹2000

Exclusive Offer
5% EXTRA CASHBACK SBI card
*Min. Trans: ₹12,500; Max. Cashback: ₹2,000 per card account. Validity: 22 Dec 2020 - 31 Jan 2021. T&C Apply.

upto 20% CASH BACK*
Maximum ₹20,000
LG / SAMSUNG / WHIRLPOOL / PANASONIC / HAIER / HITACHI / BOSCH / SIEMENS / APPLE / LENOVA / 1+ / OPPO / VIVO / MI
(For select model only)

upto ₹20000 DISCOUNT VOUCHER*
IDFC FIRST Bank

5% INSTANT DISCOUNT
HDB Consumer Finance
Max ₹2000 (EMI Trans.)

BAJAJ FINSERV
MY SAMSUNG MY COMBO
32" (81.28 cm) LED TV + DC Refrigerator + Washing Machine
3 Products Fixed EMI ₹2490

KOTAK
INSTANT CASH BACK*
upto ₹2000

2021 SPECIAL COMBO OFFER

Mixie + 3 Ltrs Pressure Cooker
Price ₹3598
Vasanth Price ₹2021
SAVE ₹1577

2 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove + Tawa + SS Water Bottle
Price ₹4460
Vasanth Price ₹2021
SAVE ₹2459

Butterfly Induction Stove + Electric Kettle
Price ₹4490
Vasanth Price ₹2021
SAVE ₹2469

3 Ltrs Pressure Cooker + Iron Box + SS Hot Box + Electric Kettle + SS Water Bottle
Price ₹4067
Vasanth Price ₹2021
SAVE ₹2066

3 Ltrs Pressure Cooker + Iron Box + Rice Box
Vasanth Price ₹1001
Price ₹1798
SAVE ₹797

Microwave Oven (Grill) 20 Ltrs
Vasanth Price ₹5555
(Booking Open)

32" (81.28 cm) HD Smart Android TV
Price ₹21600
Vasanth Price ₹14990

185 Ltrs Direct Cool Refrigerator
Price ₹16390
Vasanth Price ₹10990

SMART COMBO 2021
32" (81.28 cm) Smart LED TV + 185 Ltrs DC Refrigerator + 7 KG Washing Machine
Price ₹48240
Vasanth Price ₹32990

290 Ltrs Frost Free Refrigerator
Price ₹38550
Vasanth Price ₹25990
FREE Electric Kettle worth ₹1490

1.5 Ton 4 Star Inverter AC
Price ₹53500
Vasanth Price ₹35990
FREE Standard Installation

Fully Automatic 7 Kg Washing Machine
5 Star Rating
Price ₹13990
Vasanth Price ₹13990
5 Years Warranty

FREE
Bar Speaker (or) 3 Ltrs Pressure Cooker (or) Electric Kettle
with select model LED TV / Refrigerator / Washing Machine

LEADING BRAND WATER HEATER & CHIMNEY AT LOWEST PRICE

WORLD CLASS FURNITURE AT LOWEST PRICE
VASANTH & CO Furniture
0% Interest*

COMBO OFFER
Ikon Sofa Set EMI ₹1733
Victoria Double Cot EMI ₹1325
Wooden Double Cot + Mattress + Steel Bero + 3 Seater Sofa
Vasanth Price ₹39990
EMI ₹3333

QUALITY • TRUST VASANTH & CO
Mobiles & Laptops

vivo	• V20 Pro 5g ₹1666	• V20 ₹1388	• Y51 ₹1200	• Y30 ₹1399
oppo	• RENO 3 PRO ₹1388	• F17 PRO ₹1194	• F17 ₹1132	• A 53 ₹1299
samsung	• A 71 ₹1967	• A 51 ₹1533	• A 31 ₹1267	• A 21s ₹1000
mi	• MI 10T ₹2028	• Note 9 Pro Max ₹1458	• Redmi Note 9 Pro ₹1208	

FREE Power Bank 10000 mAh Smart Phone for purchase above ₹17500/-

FREE JUICER (For select models) worth ₹1299

FREE Bluetooth Headset Smart Phone for purchase above ₹10000/- (For select models only)

hp Laptop • **acer** Laptop
₹2999 Price ₹24990

lenovo • **DELL**

Call 93335 93335

Follow us on

f /Vasanthandco

Twitter /Vasanthandco_in

Instagram /Vasanthandco_in

www.vasanthandco.in

SHORT TAKES

Boy drowns in stone quarry pond

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

A 15-year-old boy, studying class 10 at a private school in Nanganallur, drowned while taking a bath in a stone quarry pond in Madipakkam on Tuesday evening. His body was retrieved by the fire and rescue personnel on Wednesday.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as R. Mohan Kumar, son of Ramesh, of Ullagaram in Madipakkam. On Tuesday evening after attending tuition class in B.V.Nagar in Madipakkam, Mohan, and his friend had gone to a stone quarry pond. Police said Mohan Kumar ventured into deep waters and drowned. His friend immediately alerted the locals.

Palavanthangal police and Velachery fire department were informed about the incident. Despite an extensive search by the fire and rescue personnel, Mohan Kumar was not found. On Wednesday, his body was retrieved. Palavanthangal police registered a case and sent the body of the deceased to Chromepet hospital for post-mortem.

Gold, iPhones, cigarettes worth ₹85 L seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

The customs officials at the Chennai airport seized 1.42 kg gold, iPhones, cigarettes, liquor worth ₹85 lakh and arrested two persons.

According to airport sources, based on intelligence Syed Ibrahim Gani (27) and Shahul Hameed (36) both of Chennai who had arrived from Sharjah by Indigo Flight 6E 8245 were intercepted at exit.

Six gold paste bundles weighing 1.48 kg, a 60 grams gold chain and 3 gold cut bits weighing 70 grams valued at ₹6.6 lakhs were recovered from their possessions.

Total 1.42 kg gold valued at ₹72.6 lakhs was recovered. Further on searching their bags, 44 cartons of Gudang Garam cigarettes, 11 iPhone 12 Pro, 8 old laptops, and 8-liquor bottles totally valued at Rs. 12.4 lakhs were recovered and seized. Both were arrested by the officers.

Goods totally worth ₹85 lakhs were recovered and seized under Customs Act. Further investigation is under progress.

Pongal fest, shortage make flowers pricey

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

Ahead of Pongal, the price of flowers at the Koyambedu market has skyrocketed due to shortage to meet the requirements.

On Wednesday, the price of all flowers shot up by at least 40 per cent. However, the flower vendors say they get brisk business. According to the vendors, malligai (jasmine), which was selling at Rs 1,500 per kilo, was sold at Rs 2,500 while price of jaathi malli increased by Rs 400 per kilo on a single day and was sold at Rs 1,200. The price of mullai increased by Rs 900 and was sold at Rs 1,400. These flowers are delivered to Koyambedu mainly from Salem, Tiruvallur, Dindigul and Ariyalur districts.

Arul Viswasam of Koyambedu Wholesale Flower Merchants Welfare Association said the price of flowers went up due to

Pongal greetings from CM, Dy CM, Stalin

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

AIADMK top honchos Edappadi K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam and DMK President M K Stalin were among the politi-

cal leaders who greeted the people of the State on the occasion of Pongal. The festival celebrates the farmer and his toil, the AIADMK leaders said while Stalin wished the darkness to give way for light, prosperity and well-being in the people of the State.

Other political leaders too expressed their greetings to the people through statements and social media posts.

Due to Pongal that resulted in the high price," he said. The Koyambedu flower market used to get at least 30 truckloads of flower every day in the post-pandemic period. This is the first Pongal season after the market was decentralised due to the pandemic.

S. Sreenivasan of Koyambedu Wholesale Fruit Vendors Association said there was no price fluctuation for fruits these days. Compared to the last Pongal season, fruit sales came down because of the continuous rain.

On Wednesday 50-60 loads (each one with 9 tonne) of mosambi, 15-20 loads of orange and 60 loads of banana came to the market. However, he says, the sale has not yet picked up. He added that they were hoping no change in the business this year for fruits.

CM medal for 3,186 uniformed personnel

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced the awarding of Pongal medals to 3,186 uniformed personnel in the State in recognition of their outstanding devotion to duty.

According to an official press release on Wednesday, 3,000 police personnel will be awarded the 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Constabulary Medals,' and 120 fire and rescue services personnel and 60 prison and correctional services personnel will be awarded the 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals.'

The monthly medal allowance of ₹400 to recipients of these medals will be sanctioned with effect from February 1, the release said.

Besides, 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medal for Excellence in Technical and Specialised Services' will be given to 6 personnel, 2



3,000 police personnel will be awarded the 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Constabulary Medals,' and 120 fire and rescue services personnel and 60 prison and correctional services personnel will be awarded the 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals.'

Each from the police radio branch, dog squad and police photographers. The recipients will receive the lumpsum grant, depending on their ranks, it said. The medals, along with a scroll with signature of the Chief Minister, will be presented at a ceremonial medal parade later on.



DMK president M.K. Stalin with his wife Durga celebrates Pongal festival at Ponneri.

— DC

Abandoned 72-year-old man rescued in Srirangam

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRIRANGAM, JAN. 13

A group of social activists and members of the city-based Amirtham Samuga Seval Arakkattalai and Vinai Sei Arakkattalai rescued a 72-year-old man, abandoned by his family and was living on the pavement with a help of a walking stick in chilly weather and intermittent rains near the government hospital at Srirangam.

Upon information, a police

Police team led by T. Sundaramoorthy, assistant commissioner of police at Srirangam, held inquiries with the representatives of Arakkattalai and found that the Tamil-speaking septuagenarian was living penniless without anyone's support on pavement

team led by T. Sundaramoorthy, assistant commissioner of police at Srirangam, held inquiries with the representatives of Arakkattalai and found that

the Tamil-speaking septuagenarian was living penniless without anyone's support on the pavement.

Later, Mr Sundaramoorthy handed over the septuagenarian Raja to the Gangaru Karunai Illam Crawford here.

The general public appreciated Mr Sundaramoorthy and the members of the Amirtham Samuga Seval Arakkattalai, and Vinai Sei Arakkattalai for their kind gesture towards an unsupported old man.

Tamirabarani river overflows

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUNELVELI, JAN. 13

The torrential rains in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts resulted in a flashflood in the Tamirabarani river due to heavy discharge of water from the Manimutharu and Papanasam dams.

With the discharge of 30,000 cusecs from the Papanasam dam that reached its full capacity coupled with around 25,000 cusecs from the Manimutharu dam flooded the Tamirabarani river. The 55,000 cusecs discharged from the two major dams in addition to the 2449 cusecs from a smaller reservoir, the Gadana dam, and the rainwater inundated the low lying areas along the banks of the river on Tuesday mid-night.

Around 150 families from Meenakshipuram in Tirunelveli city were evacuated to a rescue centre as their houses were submerged by the flood water from the overflowing river. Similarly more than 20 families at Aladiyoor village too were evacuated by the NDRF personnel.

The discharge of surplus water from the Papanasam, Manimutharu and Gadana dams, that came down to



The Murugan temple at Karupanthurai village near Tirunelveli lies submerged in Tamirabarani on Thursday.

— DC

14,731 cusecs, 12,117 cusecs and 1,625 cusecs respectively on Thursday morning, however increased after heavy downpour since Thursday afternoon in the catchment areas of the dams in the Western Ghats.

During the last 24 hours, Tirunelveli district registered a total rainfall of 360mm. The neighbouring Tenkasi district too experienced incessant rains as a result of which all the falls at Courtallam were in spate and banned for tourists.

District collector Vishnu inspected the low-lying areas

and vulnerable villages. He said no serious damage to human lives or houses was reported in the district. The swift action by the two teams of NDRF along with the personnel of fire force, revenue and police helped the people residing in low lying areas to be shifted safely to the rescue centres.

Teams comprising officials from the departments of revenue, police, PWD, fire service and local administration have been formed to monitor the situation round the clock in all the 87 low lying places in the district.

YouTubers warned to remove abusive content

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

Chennai police commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal said strict action will be taken against the YouTubers who upload abusive and obscene content on their YouTube channel.

The top cop called for the YouTubers in the state to delete the videos containing abusive contents.

He said stringent actions will be taken if police find out about the videos. He also said the Cyber Crime Wing of the Chennai police is monitoring YouTube contents.

Enjoy Pongal holidays at home, gear up for Covid vaccine jab

B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

While Tamils will be celebrating all the three days of Pongal festival at home this year as the state government has banned public entry to popular tourist spots, the state government is gearing up for a massive inoculation exercise on Saturday with vaccine consignments having landed in Chennai.

Usually, during Pongal holidays, people flock to beaches and other recreational spots with families. This year all beaches, Vandalur zoo, Guindy national park and tourist spots in Mamallapuram have been closed to the public on January 15, 16 and 17 to stem the spread of coronavirus by preventing gathering of people in large numbers in such public places.

Till last year, thousands of police personnel have been deployed, all terrain vehicles rolled out, drone cameras put to use and special control rooms and watch towers set up to

manage the milling crowds thronging Marina and Elliot's beaches and other recreation spots on Kaanum Pongal.

However, this year, a majority of Chennaiites will be forced to stay at home due to Covid restrictions and will probably enjoy watching new movies released in television channels and OTT platforms.

It may be noted that the state successfully completed dry runs for vaccination at 200 centres involving 2,000 healthcare personnel and 510 participants. The vaccines transported to 10 storage facilities

ties in the city are being dispatched to all districts. With 2,000 vaccine centres readied, the vaccines will be administered as two doses. State health officials have said they would follow the Centre's guidelines for vaccination. It is said about 350 million frontline and healthcare workers will be covered in the first phase vaccination drive throughout the country.

As hopes rise for an end of pandemic with the ensuing vaccination drives, both the state and Central governments should ensure Covid-hit citizens are given the jab without any hassles.



Children celebrate Bhogi festival with hand drums in Chennai on Wednesday.

— DC

Bhogi air pollution levels fall this year, says TNPCB

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

The air pollution on Bhogi day was better compared to last year, according to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB).

In a press release on Wednesday, the TNPCB said its air quality survey found that the overall status of gaseous pollutants, such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide at all stations, was found within the prescribed standards of 80 ug/m3 (micrograms per cubic meter) on both

pre-Bhogi and Bhogi days. On Wednesday, the particulate matter (PM2.5) level was in the range of 52-102 as against the prescribed standard of 60 and particulate matter (PM10) was in the range of 103-256 as against 100. Based on the Air Quality Index (AQI), the minimum value observed was moderate with 113.

Meanwhile, the TNPCB claimed that it had improved air quality compared to last year. As per the National Air Monitoring Programme,

AQI between 101-200 is categorised as "moderately polluted" and may cause breathing discomfort to people with lung diseases including asthma, and discomfort to people with heart diseases, children and older adults.

As part of awareness, the Greater Chennai Corporation authorities seized plastic wastes including 2.6 tonnes of useless tyres and sent them to the common hazardous waste management facility at Gummidipoondi, it said.

Minister flags off 68,500 doses of Covishield for central TN

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, JAN. 13

Immunity will be created in the human body only 42 days after administering the Covishield vaccines, according to Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar.

The minister flagged off 68,500 doses of Covishield vaccines to the nine districts of central Tamil Nadu that come under the Tiruchy health zone at Tiruchy on Wednesday in the presence of ministers Vellamandi Natarajan, S. Valarmathi, Tiruchy Collector S. Sivarasu, Mahatma Gandhi memorial government hospital dean Dr. K. Vanitha and district medical officer (food security) Dr. Chitra.

He said the government has identified 6 lakh healthcare and frontline workers for administering the vaccine from January 16 onwards in 307 places across the state and the central government has airlifted 5,36,550 Covid-19 vaccine doses to Tamil Nadu which are stored in 10 zones across the state and 20,000 Covaxin doses are expected to reach the state shortly.

He said the authorities concerned are ready to administer the Covishield vaccine after completing its routine trial.

The vaccine will be administered to 100 persons per day and each person should be administered the vaccine twice in a gap of 14 days.

Vijay, VSP's performances save Master

MASTER—REVIEW

ANUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN

CAST: Vijay, Vijay Sethupathi, Malavika Mohanan, Arjun Das

DIRECTION: Lokesh Kanagaraj

RATING:*** Good

After a long pause involving mostly small and mid-level releases, K'town has finally woken up with a block-buster outing in Vijay's Master. There's a lot of fanfare around this Pongal special as the pent-up demand gives new hopes of theatrical revival.

JD aka John Durairaj (Vijay), a college professor



who teaches personality development, is loved by the students and is hailed as a 'Master' but is disliked by the management due to his alcoholism. Due to violence during college elections, he is transferred to an observation home in Nagercoil to teach juvenile

criminals and set things right. What he discovers is that the home is under the control of a ruthless beast called Bhavani (Vijay Sethupathi) who uses the inmates and the staff for his nefarious activities. A dreadful incident at the

home makes JD relinquish the drinks. He decides to take on Bhavani and the rest is all about the clash of titans.

Vijay for the first time has come out of his mass hero formula and kudos to him for accepting such a character that has negative connotations. He nails his flawed role JD and pulls it off with style, acting prowess with utmost ease. He is a treat to watch in dance sequences and high-octane stunts. But the action blocks looked stretched.

Vijay Sethupathi as usual hogs the limelight with his riveting performance and he is 'evil personified' in every frame. Arjun Das as a baddie continues his good act from Kaidhi. Mahendran does a

IN BRIEFS

MP hooch tragedy toll mounts to 20

Bhopal: The death toll in Tuesday's hooch tragedy in Morena district has mounted to 20 with 8 more people, who had fallen ill after consuming spurious liquor, succumbing in the hospital on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. All the 20 deceased hailed from the villages of Manpura under Baghchini police station and Pahawali under Sumaoli police station in the district, official reports reaching from Morena said on Wednesday. Preliminary police investigation has revealed that the victims had purchased liquor from an authorised person, who was also hospitalised after consuming the same liquor, at the rate of ₹50 per bottle. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who took stock of the situation at a high level official meeting here in the morning, ordered transfer of Morena district collector Anurag Verma and local superintendent of police Anurag Sujatia.

Major blaze in Kolkata

Kolkata: A major fire broke out at a slum in Kolkata's Bagbazar area on Wednesday evening. At least 24 fire tenders were pressed into service as the blaze engulfed several houses in the slum on Kshirode Vidyavinode Avenue beside the Bagbazar Women's College near the Chitapore Lock Gate Bridge. Blasts were heard in the slum which police suspect to be of gas cylinders at the houses on fire, officials said. There were no reports of any casualty as most of the people were evacuated on time, they said. The blaze also spread to the adjacent Sarada Mayer Bari as the firefighters escorted the saints out, an officer of the fire department said. "The reason for the fire is not yet known" an officer of the Kolkata Police said.

150-m cross-border tunnel found in J&K**This is the 3rd tunnel unearthed by alert BSF guards**

Jammu, Jan. 13: A 150-metre tunnel constructed along the International Border (IB) to facilitate infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan was detected by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district on Wednesday, officials said.

This is the third tunnel unearthed by alert border guards along the IB in the twin districts of Samba and Kathua in Jammu region over the past six months and ninth in the past decade.

"A nearly 150-metre-long tunnel was detected by a BSF patrol party during an anti-tunnelling operation in Bobiyaan village of Hiranagar sector on Wednesday morning," Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, N.S. Jamwal told reporters at the scene. He along with other senior officers rushed to Bobiyaan soon after the detection of the tunnel.

"The opposite of this side is Pakistan's Shakergarh which is notorious for having launch pads and bases of terrorists. We have inputs available with us as a result of that we are sensitive to whatever is happening here," the BSF officer said, assuring that all necessary measures are in place to counter Pakistani designs.

He said sand bags with Pakistani markings are evidence of the hand of Pakistani establishment in the construction of this tunnel, which is identical to the previously detected tunnels hav-



Security officers investigate near the mouth of a 150-metre underground tunnel, constructed allegedly by Pakistan beneath IB, at Hiranagar sector of Kathua district on Wednesday.

— PTI

ing a depth of 25 to 30 metre with two to three feet diameter.

Asked whether this tunnel was recently dug or it's an old one, the BSF officer said it is a matter of investigation.

However, he said some of the sand bags recovered from the tunnel have 2016-17 year of manufacture which suggest that it is an old tunnel.

"We were searching for this tunnel for a long time and its detection was the effort of the anti-tunnelling operation which is underway all along the IB. Whether any infiltration had taken place through this tunnel in the past can be said after completion of

our investigation," he said.

Jamwal, however, said the BSF is sure that no infiltration had taken place through this tunnel in the recent past.

"We are undertaking some development works here and have strengthened the security in view of the anti-tunnelling drive, he said.

Referring to the killing of two Pakistani infiltrators in Surankote area of Poonch district and an encounter in Srinagar last month, the IG said Pakistan is always looking for an opportunity to push terrorists into Jammu Kashmir, whether it is through Line of Control (LoC) or

IB. "They are continuing with the attempts but we are fully alert to the situation. Our alertness resulted in detection of underground tunnels and shooting down of a Hexa-copter loaded with a huge cache of arms and ammunition," he said, adding the border protection grid comprising army, BSF and police are working jointly to scuttle Pakistan's attempts to push terrorists and weapons into this side.

Last year, the BSF detected two such tunnels in Samba district on August 28 and November 22 following successful infiltration by two groups of terrorists who were subsequently neutralised in separate encounters along Jammu-Srinagar national highway while they were enroute to Kashmir in trucks.

While three Pakistani terrorists affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) were eliminated in a gunfight in Nagrota area near Jammu after they were intercepted aboard a Kashmir-bound truck in January last year, another group of Pakistani terrorists armed with weapons and a large quantity of grenades were killed at the same spot on November 19.

Investigations suggested both the groups infiltrated into this side through underground tunnels.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Rangers violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages in the Border Outpost area of Gurnam in Hiranagar sector, the officials said. — PTI

HC: Mandate of 30 days notice under Spl Marriage Act optional

Lucknow, Jan. 13: In a judgement that is likely to bring relief to inter faith couples, the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday declared as optional the mandatory publication of notice of intended marriages under the Special Marriage Act, saying it violated the right to privacy.

Making such publication mandatory would invade in the fundamental rights of liberty and privacy, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court said.

It would also affect the couple's freedom to choose

marriage "without interference from state and non-state actors", Justice Vivek Chaudhary said.

He said it shall be optional for the parties to the intended marriage to make a request in writing to the marriage officer to publish or not to publish such a notice.

If the couple did not intend so, the marriage officer has to solemnise their marriage forthwith without publication of 30 days notice, the court said.

A section of the Special Marriage Act, 1954, requires

an inter-faith couple to give written notice of the marriage to the district marriage officer.

The court was considering a habeas corpus petition alleging that an adult girl is being detained against her wishes to marry her lover who belongs to a different religion.

The judgement comes against the backdrop of a recent controversial law enacted by the Uttar Pradesh government which prohibits forcible conversion for the sake of marriage. — PTI

Mother of murdered 5-year-old moves SC

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 13

In a development in the case involving the brutal murder of a five-year-old girl from Jadupur village in Odisha's Nayagarh district, the mother of the victim on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court seeking Central Bureau of Investigation CBI investigation.

Admitting the petition, the apex Court sent notices to the Odisha government and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to put forth their views.

Saudamini Sahoo, the mother of the victim filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India in exercise of her right to Constitutional remedies.

Soudamini has been opposing the investigation into the case launched by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Odisha Crime Branch apprehending a shoddy probe on account of the alleged involvement of influential politicians belonging to the ruling party in the crime.

She had earlier raised doubts over the veracity of the probe, especially when

● **ADMITTING THE** petition, the apex Court sent notices to the Odisha government and the CBI to put forth their views.

● **SAUDAMINI SAHOO**, the mother of the victim, has been opposing the investigation into the case launched by a SIT of the Odisha Crime Branch apprehending a shoddy probe on account of the alleged involvement of influential politicians.

the sleuths overlooked her complaint in bringing the "main accused" under the ambit of the investigation. She had identified Babuli Nayak, a close associate of Minister Arun Sahoo as the "main accused" behind the crime who, she said, was not properly investigated by the SIT. She had repeatedly punched holes in the findings of the SIT and alleged that the probe team had falsely implicated a juvenile in the case while the real culprits were moving scot-free.

The little girl, daughter of Ashok Sahoo and Soudamini Sahoo, was allegedly kidnapped on July 14 while playing in front of her house in the afternoon.

NCB SUMMONS MAHA MIN'S SON-IN-LAW

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 13

In a major embarrassment for the senior NCP minister Nawab Malik, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) summoned his son-in-law Samir Khan on Wednesday in connection with an alleged drugs case. The NCB's action came after its arrest of one of the co-owners of the Mucchad Panwala shop in Mumbai.

Samir Khan is the husband of Nilofer, the daughter Malik, who is a minister of minority affairs and skill development in the MVA government in Maharashtra. He is also the chief spokesperson of the NCP.

According to the NCB sources, the agency summoned Khan for questioning in an alleged drug procurement case and recorded his statement. Khan's name came up during the interrogation of British national and drug peddler Karan Sajjani.

There is an online transaction of ₹20,000 between Sajjani and Khan.

Treat adultery in armed forces a crime, Centre tells SC

PARMOD KUMAR IDC NEW DELHI, JAN. 13

The Centre on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court seeking to exclude from the ambit of its 2018 order decriminalising adultery of all personnel of the armed forces, who can be cashiered from service on the grounds of "unbecoming conduct" for committing adultery with a col-

league's wife.

A five-judge Constitution bench, in a landmark ruling on September 27, 2018, had unanimously decriminalised adultery after striking down a British-era provision, Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, terming it as "unconstitutional, archaic and manifestly arbitrary". Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman had said women can't be treated as "chattel".

Issuing notice on the Centre's application seeking clarification, Justice Nariman, heading a bench that included Justices Navin Sinha and K.M. Joseph, said as the clarification sought by the Centre was on an order by a Constitution bench, it should go before a five-judge bench. The court directed the registry to place this before Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde for

appropriate orders.

The Centre said the order decriminalising adultery should not apply to the armed forces, where such acts amount to "unbecoming conduct". Under Army rules, adultery is a ground for court martial for unbecoming conduct.

The Supreme Court had in its 2018 judgment said Section 497 is a denial of the constitutional guarantees

of dignity, liberty, privacy and sexual autonomy that are intrinsic to Article 21 of the Constitution. "Mere adultery can't be a criminal offence. It is a matter of privacy. A husband is not the master of a wife. Women should be treated with equality along with men," then Chief Justice Dipak Misra said in the judgment, also speaking for Justice A.M. Khanwilkar.

Airline official's murder in Patna raises political heat

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, JAN. 13

Nitish Kumar led NDA government facing attack over rising crime graph in Bihar was in for another setback when a private airline official Rupesh Kumar Singh was gunned down in Patna Tuesday evening.

The incident occurred out-

side his residential complex in Patna's crowded Punaichak area under Shastri Nagar police station.

According to the police, he had returned from the airport after duty and was entering into his residential building when criminals started firing indiscriminately and pumped at least

six bullets from the window of the car.

He was rushed to a hospital for treatment where doctors declared him brought dead.

While investigating the case police found that CCTV of the building was not working and the security guard was not present when the incident occurred.





SYNC WITH STYLE

with Connected X, a full-touch smartwatch by Titan.

A handsome timepiece with smart features that keeps you active and productive. Strap on the perfect crossover of smart and stylish. Available in Jet Black, Khaki Green and Copper Brown.






Download World of Titan App

TITAN.CO.IN



Available at: WORLD OF TITAN | Authorised dealers | HELIOS | SHOPPERS STOP | LIFESTYLE | CENTRAL

and all leading departmental stores | Shop online: TATA CLIQ | amazon.in | 1800-266-0123

DECCAN Chronicle

14 JANUARY 2021

Election fever grips TN as early hustings begin

It is a bit early for Tamil Nadu to go into election mode with at least four more months left for the AIADMK to relinquish power. But it has happened as the principal contender to the throne, the DMK, launched an all-out war to storm Fort St George quite early, forcing the ruling dispensation to quickly respond. Thus, the battle lines have been drawn between the two traditional rivals, who have been ruling the state alternately since 1967, after that indistinct threat that loomed for about a year in the form of actor Rajinikanth dissipated and the other actor, Kamal Haasan, is not expected to play a big role.

Of course, Mr Haasan is around and has already started going around spouting rhetoric and another actor, Seeman, with his Naam Tamilar Katchi is, as usual, spewing chauvinistic vitriol. But there is no scope for a third front to take on the might of the DMK and AIADMK as a plethora of smaller parties in the state, which include the BJP and Congress that are otherwise political giants at the national level, have started rallying around the Dravidian majors, in the run-up to the state Assembly elections. But the same small parties are now promising to provide scope

Another thorn in the flesh of the AIADMK is the PMK bargaining for an assurance to provide 20 per cent exclusive reservation for the Vanniyar community that it represents to remain in the alliance

for some political drama. The rumblings of discontent in the two coalitions, forged during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, are signs of potential wrangling, triggered by the overt ambitions of the two lead parties that want to rule the state. Both DMK and AIADMK are keen on contesting in an extremely high number of seats, as both are averse to sharing power with allies. For them, alliances are for winning elections and not ruling the state and hence they expect at least a simple majority to form the government on their own. And the fallout is allies not getting the desired number of seats.

In the past, as it happened in 2016, disillusionment over seat allocation had united small parties to form alternative alliances. But this time there is no sign of such rebellions as the small parties seem to be prepared to accept whatever is given, though they have started asserting themselves in a different way. Almost all the parties want to retain their individual identity by contesting in their own symbols and names. Since that goes against the wishes of both the alliance leaders, who want smaller allies to opt for their popular election symbols, thus marking ally candidates, at least in Election Commission records, as their representative, there is bound to be friction and action.

Another thorn in the flesh of the AIADMK is the PMK bargaining for an assurance to provide 20 per cent exclusive reservation for the Vanniyar community that it represents to remain in the alliance. How the AIADMK deals with the belligerent PMK and how both the lead partners coax allies to settle for low numbers of seats would form the next act of the long drawn electoral drama, whose climax is, as said earlier, four months away.

Policy not court's domain

The value of the committee of four experts appointed by the Supreme Court in arbitrary fashion in an effort to defuse the national political crisis caused by the prolonged agitation by tens of thousands farmers is questionable.

The farmers are knocking on Delhi's gates to protest three farm laws recently passed by the Narendra Modi government. In such haste was the regime that it first brought the legislations in the form of ordinance — or executive fiat — in mid-June and then rushed these through Parliament in three days flat by the end of September, short-circuiting and bypassing norms and procedures.

The top court waded into the delicate situation caused by the agitation, which has attracted world attention, when neither the government nor the farmers called for its help, although during negotiations the government's ministers did tell the farmers' representatives to try their luck in the Supreme Court if they weren't satisfied with what the government was offering. The farmers didn't take the bait. But the court stepped in anyway.

It has held the three laws in abeyance. Maybe, this is in order to appear even-handed. But this is not cutting ice outside government circles. The farmers' demand is the repeal of the laws, which they see as bad policy, adversely impacting their lives. Evidently, the top court does not understand this. Nor does the SC see that it has no role in determining policy, which is the exclusive domain of the executive.

As per the court, the committee it has brought into being will hear all sides and help the apex court understand whether the farm laws are in the "public interest". This self-given assignment is outside the top court's remit. The SC's job is to determine the constitutionality or otherwise of a legislation, not whether it is in the public interest. That is for the people to decide. When court-appointed experts seek to do so, it is the ayatollah syndrome that looms.

For the sake of record, all the four experts in the committee are strongly pro-government on the agri-laws, and yet the Chief Justice of India expects farmers' representatives to appear before this committee. Instead of seeming the honest broker, the CJI may be courting disdain. What a pity!

DECCAN CHRONICLE

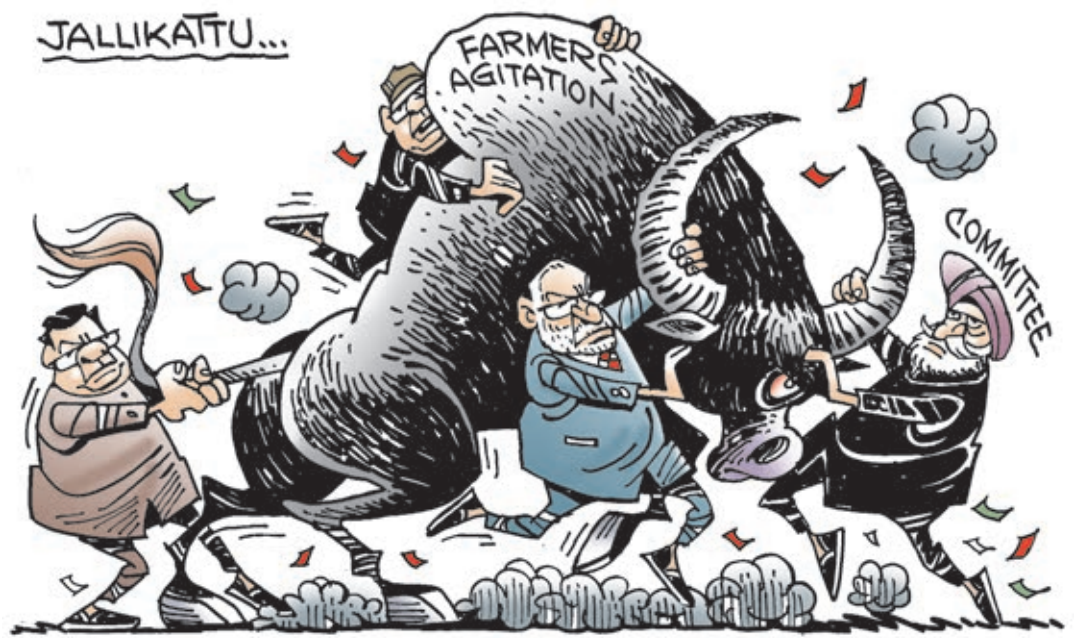
KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

R. MOHAN
Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:
Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748
Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256
Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256
Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460800. Fax: 080-2296051/52/55
Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Roadway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334. Fax: (0891) 2755285
Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/ 2555287. Fax: (0866) 2555234
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618
Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904
Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82. Telefax: (0861) 2348580
Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilalpally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax: (0878) 2220433
Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001
Fax: 0495-4019018
Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph Press Thycad post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14. Ph: 0471-2735105/67. Fax: 0471-4016112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-088s

Subhani



Is 'new normal' really a return to the old ways?



Patralekha Chatterjee
Dev 360

Poverty. Inequality. Precarity. Vulnerability. These are mere words, until they hit us directly or confront us in a way which makes it difficult to look away.

A flood of images of migrant workers walking down national highways burst into middle class India's living rooms following the nationwide lockdown announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March last year. The lockdown came into effect with barely four hours' notice. All economic activity came to a grinding halt; and there was no transport.

Those searing images of migrant workers — men and women reduced to collateral damage for the State in its battle against the coronavirus — jolted many people.

Suddenly, everyone was talking about the heart-breaking conditions in which all daily wage earners — the face of the country's vast informal sector — lived and worked.

For a fleeting while, optimists wondered if the Covid-19 pandemic had sledgehammered some fundamental lessons about the need for solidarity between the "formal" and "informal" sectors, if not for anything else but enlightened self-interest.

Almost a year down the line, as we get ready for the vaccine rollout and for the economy to recover fully, what really has changed?

Are we trying to do science and fix the economy in a way that factors in the needs and rights of our most vulnerable? Or is our "new normal" really going back to the old ways?

Last week, once again, images of precarity and poverty came together through the testimonies of desperately poor people who had volunteered to participate in the ongoing clinical trial of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, Covaxin, in Bhopal.

Covaxin, as everyone knows by now, has been cleared by India's drugs controller for restricted emergency use. This means, along with Covishield, the Serum Institute of India's coronavirus vaccine, it is part of the vaccine rollout.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech has given safety and immunogenicity data. But there is no efficacy data yet. This data is expected in a couple of months.

Meanwhile, the ongoing trial has attracted a lot of public attention after the allegations of irregularities and violations of ethics. Many questions are being asked about the manner in which People's Hospital in Bhopal, one of the trial sites, enrolled participants for the Covaxin trial.

Once again, we are face to face with stark images of vulnerability.

The video testimonies arranged by a Bhopal-based human rights group in the wake of the death of a participant in the trial made it clear that those who had signed up to participate in the trial had little idea of what it entailed. Bharat Biotech says the post-mortem analysis has revealed that the death was not related to the vaccine. The family of the deceased feel differently.

Most of those who offered their testimonies on camera are victims of the horrific Bhopal gas tragedy, the world's largest industrial disaster in December 1984; and many said that they could not read or write.

What leaps out from among the many statements they made is the stark reality of "informed consent" when it comes to poor people with no education and little bargaining power.

As is widely known, there are four key parts of informed consent in a clinical trial — information, comprehension, voluntariness and documentation. "Giving information does not mean it

has been comprehended. According to the new clinical trial rules in India, there should be an 'impartial witness' while informed consent is being taken from an illiterate participant," says Dr Anant Bhan, a well-known researcher in global health and bioethics.

Additionally, for vulnerable participants, there is a requirement for audio-visual documentation of the process, Dr Bhan points out.

"The recent testimonies of volunteers, many of whom are illiterate and poor, for a Covaxin trial site in Bhopal, show big gaps in oversight in the regulatory process," he adds.

Doing science must not mean playing with the basic human rights of vulnerable people, says Dr Bhan emphatically. Clearly, this is in no one's interest and will also raise questions on the quality of data coming out of such trials.

"The seriousness of the allegations made by some volunteers in public in full view of the national media raises a question about whether audio-visual recordings of the informed consent process were done in line with the protocol laid down by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)," says Amar Jesani, another leading expert on ethics, rights and health systems and editor, *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*.

"This is not filming a wedding party," says Jesani acerbically. "There is a specific protocol on how these situations need to be filmed. Many of the volunteers are from highly vulnerable groups who did not know their rights. But just because someone does not know his/her rights does not mean rights don't exist."

There are many legitimate questions. Do audio-

visual recordings of the informed consent process exist for all trial participants from vulnerable groups? Or was it done for only a few? Why?

"This also raises questions about the role of the local ethics committees. Have they investigated whether the audio-visual recordings were done and according to protocol? If such video recordings exist, they can be made public by blurring the face and identity of participants who have not on their own publicly identified as participants," Jesani adds.

The face of vulnerability is equally stark when it comes to the green shoots of economic recovery.

"There are reasons to fear that economic recovery from the pandemic, like the 'growth story', will be shouldered by precarious labour. An already deep employment crisis is worsening further," wrote SOAS academic Dr Subir Sinha in a recent essay in *Open Democracy*, a website covering international affairs.

So, is there any reason for hope?

Mukta Naik, an architect and urban planner working with the Centre for Policy Research, acknowledges that many informal workers face "worse terms" as the Indian economy seeks to recover. The images of the long march of migrant workers, she says, sensitised many among India's middle class, but sadly, the lockdown months made them retreat into their individual bubbles.

However, she points out, many states are now talking about social protection for the vulnerable. There is an appetite for discussion on the subject.

But pathways and mechanisms to operationalise this vision are still not clear, Ms Naik says.

That much-needed clarity could make all the difference.

India doesn't have to let millions lead a precarious existence. It could use its resources to build back better.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS

BACK TO SCHOOL

The decision of the Tamil Nadu government to start classes for students of X and XII from January 19 across the State is welcome. It is imperative that schools strictly follow the standard guidelines prescribed for the safety of students and staff, as a little lapse anywhere will result in closure of schools again putting students' lives in jeopardy. One hopes that the political parties in the State do not throw a spanner in the works in the matter of reopening schools in the name of cautioning the government.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

ALARMING THREAT

APROPPOS REPORT *Armed protests planned at all Capitols, Washington: FBI* (Jan. 13). It is alarming that there is a threat perception to all 50 State Capitols and Washington DC. What baffles is Mr Trump, in his first appearance after the Capitol Hill attack, brazenly blabbered that "his instigated statement is appropriate and the Dems are dividing the nation." As one gets what he or she deserves, Mr Trump gets his impeachment. In fact, the incitement of insurrection is nothing but a declaration of war on American democracy. Had it happened in India he would have been booked as anti-national under Sedition Act and imprisoned. The moot question is could there be a 'foreign hand' which may have covertly interfered, indoctrinated, financed the natives who are renegades, like the Antifa infiltrated the Trump followers' protest march to destabilise the US with a vengeance. It was alleged earlier that the Russians and Chinese had helped Mr Trump to win the 2016 polls. Hence the CIA and FBI should probe whether there is any 'foreign hand' behind the Capitol Hill attack.

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

INJURY PROBLEM

THE GAME of cricket is a tough one and physical fitness plays a pivotal role in playing international cricket. But we find that the Indian players have been facing injury problems throughout the tour Down Under and the playing XI is reduced to the minimum for the Brisbane Test. The Gabba wicket is a tricky proposition and we need to have an experienced side the bank upon for the crucial match. The tough quarantine rules hit India on the tour's final leg. With Jasprit Bumrah ruled out, the pace bowling attack is weakened and skipper Rahane may have to play any 11 fit players. We hope Ashwin is fit enough to lead the attack and play a sheet anchor role as a batsman as well.

C.K. Ramanathan, Chennai

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



K'taka home secy shunted out for calling Safe City 'scam'

IPS officer D. Roopa, who was the first woman home secretary of Karnataka has been transferred as the managing director of Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation amid her public spat with another IPS officer Hemant Nimbalkar, who, too, was transferred. Mr Nimbalkar was the additional commissioner (administration) in Bengaluru before being transferred to the internal security department.

Public spats are rarely pretty and the one between these two senior IPS officers of Karnataka over the tender process to procure CCTVs has brought out in the open the intense rivalries in the service. The two IPS officers locked horns after Ms Roopa accused Mr Nimbalkar of irregularities in the tender process of the ₹619 crore Bengaluru Safe City project under the Nirbhaya scheme. Mr Nimbalkar, on the other hand, accused Ms Roopa of interfering with the tender process without jurisdiction.

Ms Roopa had written to state chief secretary T.M. Vijaya Bhaskar alleging that Mr Nimbalkar was trying to favour a private company in the Bengaluru Safe City Project and demanded a probe against Mr Nimbalkar, alleging, in turn, that while the Home Department has started an enquiry against her, it has hesitated to do the same against Mr Nimbalkar, even after months since the CBI sought sanction for his prosecution.

According to sources, Ms Roopa wrote to the chief secretary after media reports that suggested she was under investigation by the chief secretary for allegedly "impersonating" the home secretary and interfering with the tendering process for the multi-crore project. It is unclear where the question of impersonation arises, as Ms Roopa was the home secretary of Karnataka! The content of the report is on the lines of a complaint written by Mr Nimbalkar to

the Karnataka chief secretary.

As the two trade charges, sources say that the government has started an inquiry in the matter. Expect more salvos in the days ahead!

KHEMKA DIGS IN HIS HEELS

Haryana IAS officer and whistleblower Ashok Khemka never gives up on his first principles.

Now principal secretary in the state's archaeological department, the indefatigable Mr Khemka continues to pursue the case which brought him into the national limelight. Last year, Mr Khemka had appealed to the Haryana State Information Commission under the Right to Information Act.

He had sought information relating to the inquiry commission that probed the grant of land use licences in Gurugram during the Congress government's tenure, including the alleged role of Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. He informed the information com-

mission that the complete information sought had not been provided to him.

The commission has now issued notice to the office of chief secretary (political department) and the town and country planning department to give their response to the rejoinders filed by Mr Khemka. Sources say that the IAS officer has sought "penal action" under Section 20 of the RTI Act against those who failed to provide the information he had sought, claiming there is a "cover-up attempt". This, too, is the letter of the law.

J&K BABUS DEFY INSTRUCTIONS

The government has taken serious note of several IAS officers of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre openly flouting instructions on the online filing of immovable property returns (IPRs). Non-compliance can lead to disciplinary proceedings and denial of vigilance clearance.

According to sources, online fil-

ing of IPRs was introduced in 2017. In terms of the extant rules, the babus have to necessarily file IPRs electronically as there is no provision for manual submission.

But much to the disappointment of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) and the general administration department (GAD), several IAS officers have not acted on the instructions issued repeatedly since 2017. Now, sources say, the commissioner secretary of GAD, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, has issued a circular stating that failure to comply would "constitute good and sufficient reason for the institution of disciplinary proceedings". The IAS officers have been advised to follow the instructions in letter and spirit or face the consequences. The government has clearly decided that it will not give further leeway to the defaulters.

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

SHORT TAKES

FLOYD CASE:
EX-COP'S TRIAL
IN MARCH

Washington, Jan. 13: The trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin — charged with murdering African American man George Floyd — will begin as scheduled March 8, but his co-defendants will appear separately in late August, a judge ordered in a decision made public Tuesday. Both the prosecution and defence had requested to postpone the start of the trial in Minnesota due to the Covid-19.

Even in the largest courtroom in the county, it would be “impossible to comply with Covid-19 physical restrictions in a joint trial involving all four defendants,” Judge Peter Cahill said in his decision.

He ordered the court maintain the original trial date for Chauvin, the 44-year-old white former officer who on May 25, 2020 knelt on Floyd's neck for eight minutes while Floyd protested that he couldn't breathe.

SIX NIGERIAN
TROOPS KILLED
BY JIHADIST

Kano, Jan. 13: Six Nigerian soldiers were killed when a jihadist rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into them during a clash in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, two military sources said Tuesday.

The suicide bombing by a member of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group occurred Monday as the soldiers were conducting a raid of the group's stronghold in the village of Talala.

They said scores of jihadists have been killed in the operation launched last week on ISWAP's second largest camp.

“Our men dominated the terrorists, killing dozens, and out of frustration they sent a suicide bomber who killed six soldiers,” one of the officers said.

They said the troops overran the Talala camp despite the bombing. On Saturday 13 soldiers were killed in an ISWAP ambush near the town of Gujba in the neighbouring state of Yobe.

ISRAELI RAIDS
IN SYRIA KILL
16: MONITOR

Beirut, Jan. 13: Israeli night raids targeting arms depots and military positions in eastern Syria killed at least five soldiers and 11 allied fighters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Wednesday. The Israeli air force carried out more than 18 strikes against multiple targets in an area stretching from the eastern town of Deir Ezzor to the Boukamal desert at the Syrian-Iraqi border, according to the Britain-based war monitor.

The raids killed five Syrian soldiers and 11 allied fighters belonging to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Lebanese Hezbollah and the Fatimid Brigade, which includes pro-Iranian Afghan fighters, the Observatory said, although their nationalities and a precise breakdown were not immediately known.

The Syrian state news agency SANA reported the strikes but without giving details. “At 1:10 am, the Israeli enemy carried out an aerial assault on the town of Deir Ezzor and the Boukamal region,” it said.

POMPEO, U.S.' UN
AMBASSADOR
SCRAP TRIPS

Washington, Jan. 13: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cancelled his final official visit to Europe, while Washington's UN envoy scrapped a trip to Taiwan, officials said Tuesday, as President Donald Trump faces an impeachment vote in Congress.

The two-day stay in Europe would have been Pompeo's last foreign trip as Washington's top diplomat before Democrat Joe Biden takes the oath of office on January 20.

The State Department said Pompeo was staying in Washington ensure a “smooth and orderly” transition to the new administration.

The United States' UN ambassador Kelly Craft cancelled her planned trip to Taiwan, due to start Wednesday, in line with the State Department cancelling trips abroad ahead of Biden's inauguration, a US official said.

Last week Chinese officials expressed strong opposition to Craft's trip, as Beijing claims Taiwan as an inviolable part of its territory to be reclaimed, by force if necessary, and opposes any diplomatic recognition of the democratic island.

Pence refuses to invoke 25th
Amendment to oust Trump

House of Representatives passes resolution urging VP to remove Don

Washington, Jan. 13: US Vice President Mike Pence told House leaders Tuesday he does not support invoking the 25th Amendment process to remove Donald Trump, all but guaranteeing an impeachment vote against the besieged president. “With just eight days left in the President's term, you and the Democratic Caucus are demanding that the Cabinet and I invoke the 25th Amendment,” Pence wrote to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, referring to the process that would declare Trump unable to fulfill his duties and install Pence as acting president for the remainder of the term. “I do not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our nation or consistent with our Constitution,” he said.

Democrats mobilised rapidly to begin the process to have Trump removed after he encouraged his supporters last Wednesday to “march” to the US Capitol and “fight.” In a violent insurrection, the rioters stormed past outnumbered police, rampaged through and ransacked the building, and interrupted Congress as it was certifying Joe Biden's election victory.

The Democratic-controlled US House of Representatives, which is rushing ahead towards impeaching Trump over the unprecedented Capitol Hill attack, has passed a resolution urging Vice President Mike Pence to invoke 25th Amendment to remove him from office. The resolution was voted by 223 to 205 votes on Tuesday night. The voting was mostly on party lines, with one Republican voting in favour of the resolution and five abstaining.

Earlier in the day Trump said the 25th Amendment was of “zero risk” to him.

— Agencies



Members of the US National Guard deployed around the US Capitol in Washington, DC. The Pentagon is deploying 15,000 National Guard troops to protect Biden's inauguration on January 20, amid fears of new violence.

— AFP

160 FBI investigations
against Capitol rioters

Washington, Jan. 13: The FBI has opened more than 160 investigations against the January 6 Capitol Hill rioters, officials said here, and asserted this is just the tip of the iceberg. The agency has worked hand-in-hand with the United States Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners in DC and across the country to arrest and charge multiple individuals who took part in last week's breach of the US Capitol, FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director In-Charge Steven M D'Antuono said.

In six days, we have

opened over 160 case files, and that's just the tip of the iceberg,” he said, adding the FBI has received more than 100,000 pieces of digital media. D'Antuono said the FBI will be knocking on the doors of the people who participated in the attack on the Capitol. “But before we do this, this is your opportunity to come forward as several individuals involved in Wednesday's riots have done,” he added.

In the weeks leading up to the January 6 rally, the FBI, D'Antuono said, developed some intelligence that a number of individ-

uals were planning to travel to the DC area with intentions to cause violence.

This was immediately shared and action was taken as demonstrated by the arrest of Enrique Tarrio by the Metropolitan Police Department the night before the rally. Other individuals were identified in other parts of the country and their travel subsequently disrupted, D'Antuono noted. Acting US Attorney for the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, said the scope and scale of the investigation in these cases are really unprecedented. — PTI

IMPEACHMENT
MANAGERS FOR
TRIAL NAMED

Washington, Jan. 13: Speaker Nancy Pelosi has named a Maryland Democrat grieving his son's recent death as leader of the nine House Democrats who would prosecute US President Donald Trump during his expected Senate impeachment trial.

The team includes three women, four people of colour and lawmakers from states stretching from Rhode Island to California. Rep. Jamie Raskin will be lead manager. The 58-year-old has often been an energetic presence during floor debates. — AP

YouTube suspends Trump channel

Washington, Jan. 13: Google-owned YouTube on Tuesday temporarily suspended President Donald Trump's channel and removed a video for violating its policy against inciting violence, joining other social media platforms in banning his accounts after last week's Capitol riot.

Trump's access to the social media platforms he

has used as a megaphone during his presidency has been largely cut off since a violent mob of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington DC last week. Operators say the embittered leader could use his accounts to foment more unrest in the run-up to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

“In light of concerns ab-

out the ongoing potential for violence, we removed new content uploaded to Donald J. Trump's channel for violating our policies,” YouTube said in a statement. The channel is now “temporarily prevented from uploading new content for a ‘minimum’ of 7 days,” the statement read.

The video-sharing platform also said it will be

“indefinitely disabling comments” on Trump's channel because of safety concerns. Facebook last week suspended Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts following the violent invasion of the US Capitol, which temporarily disrupted the certification of Biden's election victory.

In announcing the suspension last week, Facebook

chief Mark Zuckerberg said Trump used the platform to incite violent and was concerned he would continue to do so.

Twitter went a step further by deleting Trump's account, depriving him of his favorite platform. It was already marking his tweets disputing the election outcome with warnings. — AFP

In spite of threats,
Navalny to fly home

Moscow, Jan. 13: Top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny said Wednesday he would go home to Russia over the weekend despite the Russian prison service's latest motion to put him behind bars for allegedly breaching the terms of his suspended sentence and probation.

Navalny, who has been convalescing in Germany from an August poisoning with a nerve agent that he has blamed on the Kremlin, charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was now trying to deter him from coming home

with new legal motions.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied a role in the opposition leader's poisoning. Putin is stamping his feet demanding to do everything so that that I don't return home,” Navalny said on Instagram, pointing at the Federal Penitentiary Service's appeal to court to replace his suspended sentence with a real one. He said he will fly home from Germany on Sunday. Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on August 20. — AP

After door attack, NZ
to review Parl security

Wellington, Jan. 13: Officials plan to review security at New Zealand's Parliament after a man armed with an axe smashed the main glass entrance doors early Wednesday.

Police said they were called to the Parliament complex in Wellington just before 5:30 a.m. after getting reports that a man with an axe was on the grounds. Police said that after smashing the doors, the 31-year-old man didn't try to enter the building and was arrested within minutes

without further incident. New Zealand's 120 lawmakers are currently on a summer break, and there were few people in the building at the time of the attack.

The man has been charged with intentional damage and possession of an offensive weapon. If found guilty, he could face up to seven years in prison. A judge temporarily suppressed the man's name, a common practice in New Zealand's justice system. It was not immediately

clear whether the recent attacks at the US Capitol in Washington played any role in inspiring the New Zealand attack. Rafael Gonzalez-Montero, the chief executive of Parliamentary Service, said it was important to maintain a balance between security and accessibility. “I am proud that the New Zealand Parliament is one of the most open, accessible parliaments in the world and I very much hope that this continues,” he said. — AP

US Covid-19 toll
hits new daily
record of 4.5K

Washington, Jan. 13: The US death toll from Covid-19 hit a new daily record of nearly 4,500, Johns Hopkins University said Tuesday evening.

As the health crisis rages out of control in the US, this was the first time the toll in the country hardest hit by the pandemic surpassed 4,000 in 24 hours. The US recorded more than 235,000 new cases of Coronavirus infection and 4,470 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins tally as of 8:30 pm (0130 GMT).

Around 131,000 people are now hospitalised in the US with Covid-19, said the Covid Tracking Project. The weekly average of fatalities is at its highest level since the pandemic started, it said.

Faced with these grim numbers and the presence of the new, more contagious Covid variant, authorities announced Tuesday that people wishing to fly to the US must show proof of a negative Covid test prior to departure.

The country, where health restrictions vary drastically between states and compliance can be spotty, is ultimately counting on a massive vaccination campaign begun in mid-December to bring the health crisis to an end.

But the effort is running behind, with just 9.3 million people having received the first of two injections of the two vaccines authorized in America. That is less than 10 percent of the population.

The nation with the world's largest economy has now recorded 22.8 million Coronavirus cases and more than 380,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. — AFP

Voice recorder:
Search still on

Jakarta, Jan. 13: Divers searching for a crashed jet's cockpit voice recorder were sifting through mud and plane debris on the seabed between Indonesian islands on Wednesday to retrieve information key to learning why the Sriwijaya Air jet nosedived into the Java Sea over the weekend.

Indonesian navy divers on Tuesday recovered the flight data recorder from the jet that disappeared on Saturday, minutes after taking off from Jakarta with 62 people aboard. The information on both black boxes will be key to the crash investigation.

The 26-year-old Boeing 737-500 had resumed commercial flights last month after almost nine months out of service because of flight cutbacks caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The US Federal Aviation Administration sent an airworthiness directive requiring operators of various Boeing 737 aircraft models, including the 737-500, to carry out engine checks before they can be flown again after being out of service.

The order followed reports of engines shutting down in mid-flight because of corrosion in a key valve. Director General of Air Transportation Novie Riyanto said the plane was inspected on December 2, including checks for engine corrosion, and

VIRUS TEST FOR
PASSENGERS
ARRIVING IN U.S.

New York, Jan. 13: Anyone flying to the US will soon need to show proof of a negative test for Covid-19, health officials have announced. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requirement expands on a similar one announced late last month for passengers coming from the United Kingdom.

Covid is already widespread in the US, with more than 22 million cases reported to date, including more than 375,000 deaths. The new measures are designed to try to prevent travellers from bringing in newer forms of the virus that scientists say can spread more easily.

The CDC order is to take effect in about two weeks, on January 26. It requires air passengers to get a Covid-19 test within three days before their flight departs to the US, and to provide written proof of the test result to the airline. Travellers can also provide documentation that they had the infection in the past and recovered.

Airlines are ordered to stop passengers from boarding if they don't have proof of a negative test or a prior infection. “Testing does not eliminate all risk,” CDC Director Robert R. Redfield said. “But when combined with a period of staying at home and everyday precautions like wearing masks and social distancing, it can make travel safer,” he added. — AFP

TERROR | FINANCING

Action amidst global pressure on Pak to bring to justice ultras roaming free in the country

Hafiz Saeed's 2 aides sentenced to 15- plus yrs in jail

Lahore, Jan. 13: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has handed down more than 15 years jail term each to two close aides of Mumbai terror attack mastermind and banned Jamat-ud Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, including the outfit's media face Yahya Mujahid, in a terror financing case.

The anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Tuesday also sentenced Saeed's brother-in-law Abdul Rehman Makki to six-month in jail. Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta awarded 15-and-

half-year imprisonment each to Yahya Mujahid and Zafar Iqbal, and six-month term to Prof Abdul Rehman Makki in a case registered by the Counter Terrorism Department of Punjab Police.

Earlier, the court had handed down a 47-year jail term to Mujahid in three terror financing cases. Similarly, Iqbal was sentenced 26 years' imprisonment in three such cases. Both Mujahid and Iqbal will be kept in jail for about 15 years as their sentences will

● JUDGE ARSHAD Hussain Bhutta awarded 15-and-half-year imprisonment each to Yahya Mujahid and Zafar Iqbal, and six-month term to Prof Abdul Rehman Makki in a case registered by the Counter Terrorism Department of Punjab Police

● EARLIER, THE court had handed down a 47-year jail term to Mujahid in three terror financing cases. Similarly, Iqbal was sentenced 26 years' imprisonment in three such cases.

run concurrently.

The official said the three convicts were present in the court when the judge announced the verdict. Strict security meas-

ures were taken during the appearance of the JuD leaders in the court.

Last week, Mumbai attack mastermind and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operation

commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi was sentenced to 5 years in jail in a terror financing case, amidst mounting international pressure on Islamabad to bring to justice terrorists roaming free in the country. Lakhvi was sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment each on three counts with a fine of PKR 100,000 (approximately \$620) each on three counts. His punishment will run concurrently. The CTD had registered as many as 41 FIRs against the leaders, including Hafiz Saeed,

in different cities.

The anti-terrorism court has sentenced Saeed for a collective imprisonment of 36 years on terror finance charges in five cases so far. The 70-year-old radical cleric's punishment will run concurrently in these cases. There are reports that he is given “VIP protocol” in the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore. Saeed, a UN-designated terrorist on whom the US has placed a \$10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17 last year in the terror financing cases. Saeed-led JuD is the fro-

nt organisation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

The global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India. — PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS

		%
Sensex	49,492.32	-0.05
Nifty 50	14,564.90	0.01
S&P 500*	3,809.67	0.22
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.13	-0.49
Euro (₹)	89.16	-0.10
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,877.108	0.22
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.24	-0.60
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.947	0.27
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.107	-2.72

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Adani Green's promoter sells ₹1,840-cr shares



Adani Trading Services LLP, a promoter entity of Adani Green, sold 2 crore shares of Adani Green Energy Ltd worth over Rs 1,840 through open market transactions. Block deal data with the BSE shows Adani Trading Services had divested 2,00,96,000 scrips in the price range of Rs 906 to 916.15, amounting to Rs 1,840.20 crore. The shares were purchased by Acme Trade and Investment Ltd.

■ Q3 net profit rises 17% to ₹5,200 cr Infy raises FY21 revenue outlook

New Delhi, Jan. 13: Infosys on Wednesday posted a 16.6 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 5,197 crore for the December 2020 quarter, and increased its revenue growth guidance for FY21 to 4.5-5 per cent on the back of large project wins and strong deal pipeline.

The Bengaluru-based company, whose large deal total contract value rose to an all-time high of \$7.13 billion in the quarter under review, had registered a net profit (after minority interest) of Rs 4,457 crore in the year-ago period.

Infosys' revenue grew 12.3 per cent to Rs 25,927 crore in the quarter ended December 2020 from Rs 23,092 crore in the year-ago period.

Buoyed by the strong performance, Infosys increased its FY21 revenue growth forecast to 4.5-5 per cent in constant currency terms from its previous guidance of 2-3 per cent growth.

"We have had an exceptionally strong quarter across multiple dimensions... We achieved the highest large deals win in our history with the deal value of \$7.1 billion. This includes the largest deal in our history and what we believe is the largest deal in the history of the Indian IT services industry,"

Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh told reporters in a virtual conference. He added that overall large deal value for the nine-month period of this financial year was at more



WIPRO Q3 NET PROFIT UP 20.8%

New Delhi, Jan. 13: IT services major Wipro on Wednesday posted an about 21 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,968 crore for the December 2020 quarter. The net profit attributable to shareholders in the year-ago period was at Rs 2,455.9 crore.

Its revenue from operations grew nearly 1.3 per cent to Rs 15,670 crore from Rs 15,470.5 crore.

Wipro, which gets a bulk of its topline from IT services, said it expects revenues from that business to be in the range of \$2.102 billion to \$2.143 billion in the March 2021 quarter. This translates into a sequen-

tial growth of 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent for the March quarter.

For the December quarter, IT services revenue grew 3.9 per cent sequentially to \$2,071 million, exceeding the forecast of 1.5-3.5 per cent that had been given by the company in October.

"Wipro has delivered a second consecutive quarter of strong performance on order booking, revenue and margins. Five of our sectors grew over 4 per cent sequentially. We closed our largest ever deal win in Continental Europe," Wipro CEO & MD Thierry Delaporte said in a statement. —PTI

than \$12 billion, and the net new large deal value for the same period was over \$8 billion which positioned the company "very strongly" for the quarters ahead.

"Looking ahead, we continue to see momentum in our business, strong mar-

ket share gain and increased speed of digital transformation for our clients...for next year, we remain extremely confident, we clearly see that we will have double-digit growth in the next financial year," he added. —PTI

TEXTILE SALES RECOVERING EVEN AFTER FESTIVE SEASON

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

The domestic textile sector, which started recovering during the festive season, is keeping up the momentum even in Q4. "People are buying on e-commerce platforms and they have started going out also. Vaccine is acting as a feel-good factor. The recovery momentum would continue till the end of the fiscal," said Sidharth Rajagopal, executive director of Texprocil.

Rating firm Icria too finds that the recovery will be supported by the opening up of economies and markets, improved consumer confidence levels and continued pick up in discretionary spending. This builds on the growth seen in the recent months due to pent-up demand and festive buying.

However, the growth in some segments involving discretionary spends or aspirational buying such as formal, party wear and mid to high-value casual wear, is likely to remain lower compared to other essential product categories such as active/lounge wear and affordable-to-medium value casual apparels, given the shift witnessed in consumer usage and preferences. Within fabrics, the cotton knitted fabric segment as well as blended fabrics are likely to perform better, given their higher usage in casual or lounge wear.

Sebi bans CNBC Awaaz show host from market

New Delhi, Jan. 13: Regulator Sebi on Wednesday barred CNBC Awaaz show host Hemant Ghai, his wife and mother from the capital markets for indulging in fraudulent trading practices.

Hemant Ghai had the advance information about the recommendation to be made on the "stock 20-20" show, co-hosted by him, and that he directly or indirectly used it to his advantage, Sebi said in an interim order.

The show features recommendations on certain stocks to be bought and sold during the day.

In addition, he has been directed to cease and desist from undertaking any activity related to giving investment advice, publishing of research reports related to the securities market, till fur-



Hemant Ghai

ther directions.

Further, the Sebi has also directed to impound the proceeds of Rs 2.95 crore generated by fraudulent trades.

Sebi, prima facie, found that Hemant along with his wife Jaya Hemant Ghai and mother Shyam Mohini Ghai employed a scheme to conduct fraudulent or unfair trading based on the advance information pertaining to recommendations to be

made in the show "stock 20-20".

On analysis of the trading pattern in the trading account of Jaya Hemant Ghai and Shyam Mohini Ghai for the period between January 1, 2019, and May 31, 2020, high correlation of their trades was observed with the stocks recommended in the show. It thereby generated the proceeds of Rs 2.95 crore by carrying out fraudulent trading in respect of recommended stocks.

The regulator found that shares were consistently purchased in the trading accounts of Hemant Ghai's wife and mother, one day prior to the day of recommendation on the show.

Hemant was prima facie using the trading accounts of his wife and mother. —PTI

Global export growth seen at -5.6%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

The United Nation's trade body has upwardly revised its projection of global merchandise trade for 2020 from a double-digit decline to a single-digit drop. However, it would still be the lowest growth for merchandise export volumes since the 2008 financial crisis.

In June, Unctad had predicted that merchandise trade would see an annual decline of 20 per cent in 2020. In the second quarter, trade had dropped by 27

per cent. However, there has been a recovery in the third quarter and the fourth quarter over the previous quarters. Taking this recovery into account, Unctad now predicts that global merchandise export values and volumes for 2020 are expected to be -5.6 and -8.7 per cent lower than levels seen in 2019.

The third quarter saw a robust recovery in values, which grew by 20.1 per cent from the bleak second quarter. Third quarter official statistics have not yet been released for merchandise export volumes, for

which growth is nowcast by Unctad at 8.1 per cent quarter-over-quarter.

The recovery in merchandise export values and volumes is likely to continue in the fourth quarter, though not at quite the same pace. Values and volumes are nowcast to grow in the fourth quarter by 11.6 and 3.3 per cent quarter-over-quarter, respectively. This growth comes despite the continuing spread of Covid-19, especially in the US and Europe, which has necessitated the reinstatement of lockdown measures.

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Special efforts will be needed on the romantic front. A temporary separation from your beloved is likely. An opportune time for investing in select stocks.



Taurus: Senior colleagues will motivate you. Spending time with your spouse will revive marital bonds. Financial transactions are likely to be profitable.



Gemini: Explore travel opportunities. Monetary position will improve. Wise investments will bring profits. Analysis and planning may not bring desired results.



Cancer: Understanding your partner's feelings will bring happiness. Hasty decisions may mar professional success. Make sure you control your rash behaviour.



Leo: You may miss good a chance to join a new organisation. Avoid creating friction in romantic relationships. Professional life will be disappointing.



Virgo: Developing new contacts may bring professional success. Sharpen your sense of humour. Business colleagues will help you achieve results but influential people may be reactionary.

You share your b'day with

Jason Bateman is an American actor. He starred in the films like *The Break-Up*, *Juno*, *The Switch*, *Horrible Bosses*, *Game Night*, *The Gift Office Christmas Party* amongst others.



Libra: Today you might feel depressed. You need to coordinate with others at work. You will reap benefits of team work and partnerships.



Scorpio: Refrain from nagging. An enjoyable evening with friends is likely. A short journey is indicated for some, but this isn't the time to seek adventure.



Sagittarius: Play a major role in partnerships and joint ventures. New ventures and plans will get implemented. Be positive and don't allow any hindrances to progress.



Capricorn: Those who are eligible are likely to receive a marriage proposal. Be careful about money deals. An excellent day for bargain hunting. A new opportunity comes your way.



Aquarius: Money prospects are not encouraging. Borrowing is inadvisable, whether from friends or family. Possibility of getting good news. Adjusting to a new routine will be hard. Professionally, you will gain.



Pisces: Stay away from anything improper. The domestic scene is not peaceful. An important person will influence you to change your thoughts. Emotional support from relatives sees you through a tiring day.

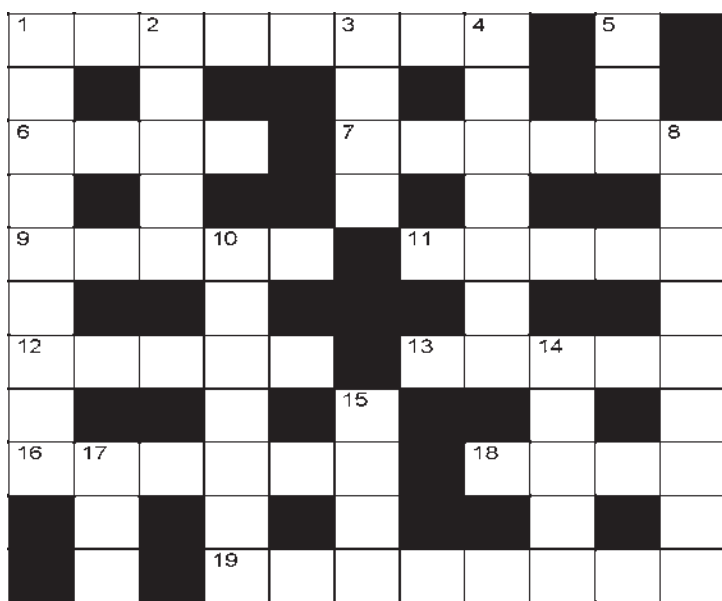


SOME DEALS ARE DECEPTIVELY DIFFICULT

John Burroughs, who was a naturalist, opined: "The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are." Today's deal does not look so difficult as long as West finds the best opening lead, but it proved deceptive at Bridge Base Online. Only one pair defeated four hearts, and 14 failed. How did the pair succeed after West led the club four?

South's three-spade rebid was a splinter, but it was a waste of time. For a slam to be makeable, North needed to have three first-round controls, which was impossible for a single raise. Why give the defenders free information? Given that, though, South still had a choice. He could have jumped straight to four hearts. That would have been fine if everyone passed. But what if West

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- Burn slowly (8)
- Surprise attack (4)
- Soldiers' guns (6)
- Short, brusque (5)
- Aggressively manly (5)
- Auctioneer's hammer (5)
- Particular skill (5)
- Be of importance (6)
- Mongolian desert (4)
- Cure none (anag) (8)

Down

- Scheme contrived to deceive or evade (9)
- Willow for basketwork (5)
- Highlander's dagger (4)
- Song chorus (7)
- Cereal crop (3)
- Accumulated stores (9)
- Take cover (7)
- Garnish (5)
- Metal with symbol Fe (4)
- Pretend (3)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

- Across:** 6. Irritation, 8. Enemy, 10. Adore, 13. Bellbottoms, 14. Crash, 17. Comic, 19. Diagonally.
- Down:** 1. Free, 2. Wily, 3. Gala, 4. Silo, 5. Intersect, 7. Herbicide, 9. Miles, 11. Ditto, 12. Zoo, 15. Away, 16. Hood, 17. Coax, 18. Mill.

Word Mine

P
A B O
K T L O E

TODAY'S RATINGS: 25 AVERAGE: 27
GOOD: 29 OUTSTANDING

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

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ 100
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ 100
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♥ 100
7 ♠ Pass 8 ♥ 100
9 ♠ Pass 10 ♥ 100
11 ♠ Pass 12 ♥ 100
13 ♠ Pass 14 ♥ 100
15 ♠ Pass 16 ♥ 100
17 ♠ Pass 18 ♥ 100
19 ♠ Pass 20 ♥ 100
21 ♠ Pass 22 ♥ 100
23 ♠ Pass 24 ♥ 100
25 ♠ Pass 26 ♥ 100
27 ♠ Pass 28 ♥ 100
29 ♠ Pass 30 ♥ 100
31 ♠ Pass 32 ♥ 100
33 ♠ Pass 34 ♥ 100
35 ♠ Pass 36 ♥ 100
37 ♠ Pass 38 ♥ 100
39 ♠ Pass 40 ♥ 100
41 ♠ Pass 42 ♥ 100
43 ♠ Pass 44 ♥ 100
45 ♠ Pass 46 ♥ 100
47 ♠ Pass 48 ♥ 100
49 ♠ Pass 50 ♥ 100
51 ♠ Pass 52 ♥ 100
53 ♠ Pass 54 ♥ 100
55 ♠ Pass 56 ♥ 100
57 ♠ Pass 58 ♥ 100
59 ♠ Pass 60 ♥ 100
61 ♠ Pass 62 ♥ 100
63 ♠ Pass 64 ♥ 100
65 ♠ Pass 66 ♥ 100
67 ♠ Pass 68 ♥ 100
69 ♠ Pass 70 ♥ 100
71 ♠ Pass 72 ♥ 100
73 ♠ Pass 74 ♥ 100
75 ♠ Pass 76 ♥ 100
77 ♠ Pass 78 ♥ 100
79 ♠ Pass 80 ♥ 100
81 ♠ Pass 82 ♥ 100
83 ♠ Pass 84 ♥ 100
85 ♠ Pass 86 ♥ 100
87 ♠ Pass 88 ♥ 100
89 ♠ Pass 90 ♥ 100
91 ♠ Pass 92 ♥ 100
93 ♠ Pass 94 ♥ 100
95 ♠ Pass 96 ♥ 100
97 ♠ Pass 98 ♥ 100
99 ♠ Pass 100 ♥ 100

jumble

MEEEC
COTTE
LCASLU
NROOBC



Yesterday's Jumble: FLEET PLUNK BELLOW LAWYER
Answer: When it comes to Thanksgiving turkey, he tended to eat a lot, which he KNEW! ULL WLLL

competed with four spades? Should South double or bid five hearts? He would not be sure. So he should show his club suit, then lead the decision to his partner. I would rebid four clubs to announce at least 5-5 in the rounded suits. I think this length-showing rebid is much more useful than a splinter.

East took the first trick with his club ace and returned the club three, a suit-preference signal for diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's 10 and played a trump to the king, but West took the trick and shifted, as requested, to a diamond. East won with his other ace and gave his partner a club ruff to defeat the contract. West just needed a heart higher than dummy's seven.

Copyright United Feature Syndicate (Asia Features)

CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



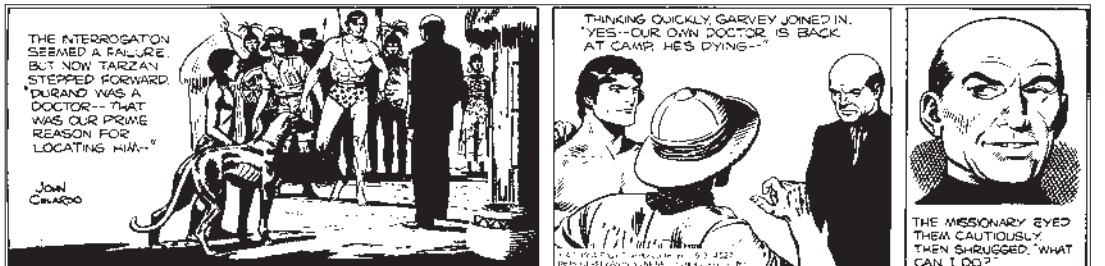
BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



SHORT TAKES

Ankita out of Oz Open qualifiers

Melbourne: Ankita Raina's bid to qualify for a Grand Slam singles main draw failed yet again when she lost the final round of the Australian Open qualifying event to Serbian Olga Danilovic on Wednesday.

In the women's singles qualifiers being held in Dubai, Ankita lost the third and final round 2-6, 6-3, 1-6 to her Serbian opponent in almost two hours. Not being able to win points on her first serve hurt Ankita. It was the Indian's sixth attempt to qualify for a competition at the grand stage.

Her defeat means that Sumit Nagal will be the only Indian to compete in the singles event of the first Grand Slam of the season. Nagal has been awarded a wild card entry into the men's singles. Ramkumar Ramanathan had lost in the first round of the men's singles event while Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost in the second round. — PTI

Boxers ready for European tour

New Delhi: Their Olympic preparations back on track after the disruption caused by Covid-19, Indian boxers will be travelling extensively to compete in various European tournaments in the next couple of months starting with the prestigious Strandja Memorial in Bulgaria. Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nievea revealed that apart from an international schedule, he would also like to see the national championships take place some time before the Olympic Games. "This year, we are starting with the Strandja Memorial in Bulgaria, then hopefully a tournament in Hungary and one more after that. Apart from this, we will be staying put at Bengaluru for the national camp," Nievea said giving a low-down of the plans for the next six months. — PTI

Leverkusen keep Frankfurt at bay

Leverkusen, Germany: Bayer Leverkusen shrugged off Jonathan Tah's sending off to beat Eintracht Frankfurt 4-1 in their rescheduled German Cup game. Leverkusen was leading 3-1 when Tah was sent off in the 73rd minute. The Germany defender hauled down Andr Silva, who would have been through on goal with a chance to pull one back for Frankfurt. Leverkusen's 10 men managed to keep the visitors at bay and Moussa Diaby sealed the home side's win with his second goal in the 87th. Amin Younes had put Frankfurt ahead in the sixth, but Lucas Alario equalized with a penalty in the 27th and Edmond Tapsoba scored Leverkusen's second in 40th with a goal that looked offside. — AP

Durant propels Nets past Nuggets

Los Angeles: Kevin Durant poured in 34 points and handed out 13 assists as the Brooklyn Nets rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat the Denver Nuggets 122-116 in the NBA on Tuesday. Durant added nine rebounds and Bruce Brown chipped in 16 points.

Live on TV

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Pre-quarterfinal matches from 7.30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

CRICKET

Sri Lanka vs England: First Test, Day 1 from 10 am on Sony Ten 2

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament: Odisha vs Tamil Nadu from 11.55 am; Hyderabad vs Bengal from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Melbourne Renegades from 1.45 pm on Sony Six, HD

Australia vs India: Fourth Test Day 1 from 5.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: FC Goa vs Jamshedpur from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings
Limited and Printed at
Deccan Chronicle Press situated at
No 2/22, Sengalipalayam Road,
N.G.G.O Colony Post,
Kurudampalayam Village,
Coimbatore - 641 022. RNI
Registration No: TNENG/2010/35692
Ph No : 2231252, 253, 255, 257 & 358
Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

BLAME IT ON IPL

Oz coach says 2020 edition cause for growing injury list

Brisbane, Jan. 13: He loves the IPL but Australia coach Justin Langer on Wednesday questioned the timing of the last year's edition, which he believes could have been a contributing factor in the injury setbacks that both his and the Indian team have endured in the ongoing series.

The IPL was held in the September-November window in 2020 in the United Arab Emirates due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The lucrative tournament is usually held in India during the April-May window. India have had a spate of injuries since the IPL and also in the current Australia series. Australia too had its share of injuries.

"It is really interesting how many injuries (it) has been throughout this summer. I can't help and think that the IPL this year (2020) was in really, probably wasn't ideal timing for anyone, certainly for such a big series like this," Langer said.

The latest addition to the Indian injury list is Ravindra Jadeja and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. For Australia, David Warner was a big blow but he recovered in time for the last two Tests.

Langer was all praise for the IPL saying it helps in development of young players but was critical of the previous edition's timing. "I love the IPL, I look at IPL now like I used to look at county cricket for our young players. They go and play county cricket and it helps them (in) their cricket development enormously, I think it is the same with the IPL, helps their white-ball develop-

SMITH GETS BACKING OF HIS COACH

Brisbane, Jan 13: Australia coach Justin Langer cannot believe the "absolute load of rubbish" that Steve Smith was trying to scuff up Rishabh Pant's guard in the drawn Sydney Test, and has called the criticism of his "quirks" way out of line and ludicrous.

Smith was accused of scuffing up the batsman's guard during the drinks break in the first session on Monday in the drawn Test. But Langer backed Smith to the hilt, coming down heavily on the criticism, mostly driven by fans online and some former players like Michael Vaughan.

"...I literally cannot believe some of the rubbish I read about Steve Smith. Absolute load of rubbish. I mean, if anyone knows Steve Smith, he is a bit quirky and he does some weird (stuff) and we have laughed about it for the last couple of years," Langer said. — PTI

ment. But the timing of it... because of what happened with Covid... probably wasn't ideal, and I just wonder whether that is having an impact on the injuries that we are seeing for both teams throughout the summer, so I'm sure they'll review that." — PTI



Australia's David Warner (left) and coach Justin Langer attend a training session at the Sydney Cricket Ground in this file photo. — AFP

Limping India train at Gabba

Brisbane, Jan. 13: The injury-ravaged Indian team on Wednesday underwent their first training session at the Gabba here, hoping to field 11 fit players in the series-deciding fourth Test against Australia.

Ruled out of the last Test with an abdominal strain, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah still accompanied the visiting team for their training session.

The likes of Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, skipper Ajinkya Rahane

and others were seen in their training kits.

Bumrah, though, was not in his training outfit as he got involved in a discussion with bowling coach Bharat Arun.

"After an epic fightback in Sydney, it is time to regroup. We have begun our preparations for the final Test at the Gabba!" the BCCI posted on its twitter handle.

Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav was seen bowling at the nets and there is a chance that he could be picked for the

match with influential all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja ruled out due to a fractured thumb.

Also part of the session were seamer Shardul Thakur and all-rounder Washington Sundar. Either T. Natarajan or Shardul is likely to replace Bumrah in the playing XI at Gabba, forming a new-look pace attack alongside Mohammed Siraj and Bhuvneshwar Kumar ruled out even before the start of the Test series. — PTI

Head coach Ravi Shastri, who was keeping a tab on the proceedings, addressed the team huddle. He was also seen having a discussion with the rest of the support staff, which includes batting coach Vikram Rahtour and fielding coach R. Sridhar, apart from Arun. India have been plagued by a series of injuries on their tour of Australia with Ishant Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar ruled out even before the start of the Test series. — PTI



Members of the Indian team are all ears as coach Ravi Shastri speaks during a practice session at the Gabba Stadium in Brisbane on Wednesday. — BCCI

Manchester United on English table top

London, Jan. 13: Paul Pogba took Manchester United top of the Premier League for the first time in three years as his deflected winner saw off a dogged Burnley 1-0 at Turf Moor on Tuesday.

United now lead defending champions Liverpool by three points ahead of a top-of-the-table clash between the two most successful sides in English football history at Anfield on Sunday. Despite continued speculation over his future, Pogba has played an increasingly important role in United's first serious title challenge since legendary former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's

men have now taken 29 from the last possible 33 points to recover from just two wins in their opening six games of the season.

EVERTON WIN AT WOLVERHAMPTON

Everton moved back into the top four and within four points of United as they overcame an injury crisis to beat Wolves 2-1 at Molineux.

The Toffees took an early lead when Alex Iwobi converted Lucas Digne's cross but were pegged back when Ruben Neves levelled for Wolves.

Michael Keane's towering header won the game 13 minutes from time to bolster the Blues' European ambitions.

THE RESULTS			
PREMIER LEAGUE		ITALIAN CUP LAST 16	
Burnley	0	AC Milan	0
Manchester United (Pogba 77)	1	Torino	0
		(Milan win 5-4 on penalties)	
Sheffield United (Sharp 73-pen)	1		
Newcastle	0	SPANISH LEAGUE	
		Granada (Suarez 22, Herrera 46-og)	2
Wolverhampton (Neves 14)	1	Osasuna	0
Everton (Iwobi 6, Keane 77)	2	Atletico Madrid (Correa 17, Saul Niguez 76)	2
		Sevilla	0

Later, Sheffield United ended a 20-game winless league run as Billy Sharp's penalty earned a 1-0 win over Newcastle.

AC MILAN REACH ITALIAN CUP LAST 8
In Milan, Zlatan

Ibrahimovic got his first start in over seven weeks but AC Milan had to battle into the Italian Cup quarter-finals with a 5-4 win on penalties over Torino after Tuesday's match ended 0-0 after extra time. Hakan Calhanoglu slot-

ted in the winning penalty with Tomas Rincon missing from the spot for Torino in the San Siro after a stalemate following 120 minutes of play.

ATLETICO STRETCH LA LIGA LEAD

In Madrid, Atletico Madrid extended their lead at the top of La Liga to four points on Tuesday after a 2-0 win over Sevilla that strengthened their title credentials.

Goals in each half from Angel Correa and Saul Niguez on a freezing night following historic snowfall in the Spanish capital allowed Diego Simeone's side to increase the gap between themselves and Real Madrid. — AFP

THAILAND | OPEN

Saina, Srikanth off to fine start

Bangkok, Jan. 13: Star shuttler Saina Nehwal and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth entered the second rounds of their respective events but Parupalli Kashyap made an early exit from the Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament, here on Wednesday.

Saina got the better of Selvaduray Kisona of Malaysia 21-15, 21-15 in the women's singles opening round to set up a clash with Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan.

Saina, who was first forced to withdraw from the event for positive Covid-19 results on Tuesday but later returned a negative test, thanked the Badminton World Federation officials and doctors for allowing her to participate.

"Yesterday, I was given a positive Covid-19 result after my PCR test but I already told them that I had Covid last November, so I have antibodies. I tried to explain this to the doctor and after my blood tests and chest X-rays the doctor said I was OK and I don't have Covid-19," Saina said after her win.

"I am thankful to the doctors, the BWF and everyone who made the decision for me to play. It was a tiring day but I am happy I could comeback and play my match."

Earlier in the day, Srikanth took just 31 minutes to prevail over compatriot Sourabh Verma 21-12, 21-11 in the men's singles, but Kashyap was forced to retire midway in his opening-round match against Jason Anthony Ho-Shue of Canada.

Kashyap was trailing 8-14 in the third game when he chose to retire after pulling his calf muscle.

He had lost the first game 9-21 before making a come-

● **Parupalli Kashyap was trailing 8-14 in the third game when he chose to retire after pulling his calf muscle.**

back to take the second 21-13.

Srikanth will next play eight seed Zii Jia Lee of Malaysia, who defeated another Indian H.S. Prannoy 13-21, 21-14, 21-8.

Sameer Verma too made a first round exit after losing 15-21, 17-21 to Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

BWF ADDRESSES SRIKANTH COMPLAINT

Badminton World Federation on Wednesday said it is working with Thailand Open organisers to ensure "comfortable" Covid-19 testing conditions during the tournament after Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was left with a bloodied nose following a test.

The BWF said the Badminton Association of Thailand explained the reasons behind the bleeding.

"Kidambi Srikanth got a bloodied nose after undergoing multiple Covid-19 tests. The athlete had been swabbed three times earlier with the most recent one possibly causing irritation and fragility of the capillaries," the BWF said in a statement.

"Therefore, when the swab was repeated on Tuesday, and factoring in the athlete's tense nature, the position of the stick in the nasal passage was misaligned, which caused the slight bleeding noticed from the tip of the swab."

The world body said Srikanth had no complaints at the time of testing. — PTI



NATIONAL | KARTING

NK Racing rule the roost

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 13

Narain Karthikeyan's NK Racing Academy (NKRA) clinched both, the teams' title as well as the drivers' title in the 2020 FMSCI NK Rotax Max Karting Championship.

NKRA's Arjun Maini emerged on top in the Senior Max category as the team dominated the field on their debut season. The Indian factory team of CRG founded and operated by India's first Formula One driver ran five KT2 karts in the Senior MAX category.

The final weekend began with Kush Maini re-entering the Championship battle on Round 3, bagging pole position and the win

closely followed by his brother Arjun Maini. The academy rookie drivers Divy Nandan from Delhi and David Ryan from Chennai also displayed strong pace as well, finishing P10 and P11 respectively with Sohil Shah was yet again, the reserve driver for the team running the fifth kart finishing P8 in the race with some strong moves in the race.

Narain was pleased with the team's performance: "We achieved what we set out to do, most importantly in the development of young drivers from India. Also it was a great effort from CRG in giving us a dominant chassis specially made for our Indian track conditions," he added.



NK Racing's Arjun Maini in action.



This Pongal, Exchange Last year for a Healthy 2021.



Flat 30% off* on MRP
on exchange of any old mattress with select models



Free premium pillows



Germ protection with 



Offer valid upto 31st January 2021

Visit your nearest Sleepwell store,
or call 85 88 88 88 86 to locate a store near you.

A **Sheela Foam** Product

Toll Free: 1800 103 6664
www.mysleepwell.com



Mattresses | Bed Sheets | Pillows | Comforters | Blankets | Mattress Protectors | Furniture Cushioning

Exclusive Outlets: Coimbatore: Trichy Road: 9976359666, Saravanampatty: 8220555991, 0422-4273030, Poomarket: 9363201415, R.S. Puram: 9171733333, Saibaba Colony: 9894377360, P.N Palayam: 04224392322, 9489377777, 9842217242, 9976199900, 9143233333, Tirupur: Avinasi Road: 9500780961, 9842274701, 9842174701, Kangayem Road: 9842241876, Palladam Road: 9943964446, Coonoor: Upasi: 9790482607, 7708572467, Dharapuram: Main Bazar: 9443732410, Gandhipuram: 9994506786, 9994507786, Town Hall: 9790336555, Palladam: 9965518282, Coonoor: Aravangadu: 9443113854, Bed Ford Circle: 2231101, Mettupalayam: Karamadai Road: 9842222069, Udumelpet: Near Bus Stand: 9443024036.

*T&C Apply (to check the T&C, visit www.mysleepwell.com).
Scheme is not applicable on purchase from CSD Canteen.

