THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI I THURSDAY 28 | JANUARY 2021

WEATHER Min: 21°C Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

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

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

SUNSET TODAY 6.08 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.36 AM MOONRISE TODAY 5.50 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 6.08 AM



CASES

(+11,146)1,07,01,427

(+111)1.53.862

covid19india.org

(+512)TN: 8,36,315

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

10,11,07,251 **DEATHS** 21,75,141

AREAS WITH 219 worldometers.info

Kerala HC notice to Kohli,

actor Tamanna for online gambling ad

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

Bhatia. The celebrities are the brand ambassadors of online rummy

Malayalam actor Aju Varghese

SC offers no protection from

arrest to *Tandav* makers

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to grant interim protection from arrest to Ali Abbas Zafar, director of web series Tandav, and others seeking quashing of FIRs against them for allegedly hurting religious senti-

ments of Hindus and issued notices to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other states on their pleas. A bench was hearing petitions of Zafar, Amazon Prime India head Aparna Purohit,among others. — PTI



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



NATION I 5

RSS ideology poses danger, says Rahul Gandhi



WORLD | 5

Impeachment trial: Don likely to be acquitted

SPORT | 8 Ganguly back in hospital after chest pain



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Violence has two unions Jaya memorial opened withdraw from protests

■ But other farmers' unions say they will continue stir

SANJAY KAW IDC NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

Mr Tikait, who has been



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

THE DAY AFTER All India Kisan Sangharsh **Coordination Committee:**

The format of the protest is unacceptable. But our fight for farmers' rights will continue. We didn't come to defame January 26. Bharatiya Kisan Union

(Bhanu): Deeply pained by whatever happened in Delhi. Ending our protest. Samyuktha Kisan Morcha: Will not call off the

at the forefront of the agitation, has alleged that the violence was part of a conspiracy of certain forces to defame their "genuine" movement to protect the interests of the poor farm-

agitation until the three laws are withdrawn and a legal guarantee is assured on the minimum support price. Agitation against the agricultural laws was a

Union minister Prakash Javadekar: The government has not shut the door on further discussions with farmer leaders.

ers. Hitting out at Mr Tikait, the AIKSCC leader he neither spoke about issues faced by sugarcane farmers, nor he discussed their pain in meetings with the government.

19 ARRESTED, 50 **DETAINED FOR DELHI VIOLENCE**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

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

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

amid mega party show B. VIJAYALAKSHMI & D. SEKAR |DC CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

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

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



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

MAN DIES OF **HEART ATTACK** AT FUNCTION

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

police registered a case.

SASIKALA FREED,

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, JAN. 27

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

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

Skin-to-skin contact: SC stays HC order

ICMR: Covaxin can

neutralise UK strain

PARMOD KUMAR | DC

Wednesday stayed a judg-Court holding that grop-ing a child's breast without removing her top is no sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012.

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

New Delhi, Jan. 27: Covaxin developed by

ICMR has equivalent immunogenicity against the UK-variant and circu-

lating strains of SARS-COV-2 in India, ICMR said

The assurance has come

at a time when scepticism

is on the rise over the effi-

cacy of Covaxin as it has

not completed their third

A general feeling has

emerged among people

Bharat Biotech

on Wednesday.

phase trials.

Maharashtra government.

"In view of what is stat-The Supreme Court on ed, we permit the learned Attorney General to file an appropriate petition against the said judg-ment", the court said ordering that "In the meantime, we stay the acquittal of the accused ... in respect of the offence under section 8 of the Pocso Act.

The notice to accused Satish and state of Maharashtra is returnable in two weeks.

At the outset of the hearing on Wednesday, Attor ney General Venug opal in a mentioning described the January 19 judgment as a "disturbing conclusion" and asserted that it "sets a dangerous prece-

that the nation-wide inoculation is being done as a

trial on them and as a

result, there is a reluc-tance even within the

medical fraternity over

since a nationwide lock-

down to help curb the

Coronavirus pandemic

was implemented, there

have been 1,06,89,527 con-

firmed cases, including

getting vaccinated. Meanwhile, as India entered the 309th day

TO BE OPENED FOR ALL, THEATRES CAN ADMIT MORE

New Delhi, Jan. 27: The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Wednesday allowed cine-ma halls and theatres to operate with more people while swimming pools have been permitted for use by all in fresh Covid-19 reopening guidelines. According to these new guidelines, to be effective

Social, religious, sports, entertainment, educational, cultural, religious gatherings have already been permitted up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 people in closed spaces; and keeping of the size of the ground or space in view, in open spaces.

guidelines said.

SWIMMING POOLS

from February 1, there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of people and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries. No seppermission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements, the MHA said. All activities have been permitted outside containment zones, except a few which will be subject to strict adherence of SOPs.

"Now such gatherings will be allowed subject to SOP of the state and UT concerned. Cinema halls will be permitted to operate at higher seating capacity, for which a revised SOP will be issued by ministry of information and broadcasting in consultation with MHA," the





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Raj gang murders jeweller's wife, son SIKAZHI HEIST R. VALAYAPATHY | DC

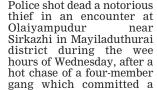
Police shot dead a notorious near

> known knocked the doors of jewel-

died due to injuries The gang fled in Dhanraj's car along with the booty. In a short while, the car developed a technical snag near Olayampudur village on the Sirkazhi bypass road near Melamathur, and the gang attempted to take cover in a nearby paddy field. But local villagers who witnessed the gang alerted the

Police kills one gang member in encounter, nabs two

1,53,724 deaths.



double murder in a jewelry

house,

Police identified three of the four-member gang, suspected to be from Rajasthan, as Manipal, Manis and Ramesh. The identity of the fourth person is yet to be

Wearing masks, the men er Dhanraj's house who owned a jewelry-cum-pawn

decamped with 16 kgs of broker shop at Sirkazhi. As soon as Dhanraj opened the door, the gang attacked him. As he swooned on the floor, the gang entered the house. broke open the steel almirahs where the jewelry was kept. Hearing the noise, Asha, wife of Dhanraj and their son Akil, rushed in and attempted to resist the gang, but were attacked with deadly weapons. Both

OTHER STORIES

CM slams Stalin for trying to stall Jaya memorial

From P1

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

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

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

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

Sasikala supporters eagerly waiting for her return

From P1

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

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

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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

An international study car-

ried out by the Indian Institute of Technology-

Madras (IIT-M) researchers has found that chloride was the highest inorganic fraction in the particulate matter

which is primarily responsi-

ble for the haze and fog for-

mation in north India, includ-

ing Delhi. The research paper in this regard has been pub-lished in the peer-reviewed international journal 'Nature

Dr. Sachin S. Gunthe, associ-

ate professor, department of civil engineering, IIT-Madras,

who led the study, claimed that though many studies had

found PM2.5 (particulate mat-

ter) was responsible for fog

Geoscience' recently.

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

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

The labour department enforces several welfare measures for workers.

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

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

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

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

Techie ends life in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

They worked at an IT company in Siruseri and lived at Karthik's house in Chitlapakkam near Pallikaranai. Police said, the couple, however, did not get along due to some marital problems. Sources alleged that the couple did not have a child and Karthik's family had been harassing her since she was unable to

Chloride main culprit behind

"It had resulted in a hurdle to

to improve the air quality and

formulate effective policies

visibility. New findings have

enhanced the understanding

better policies for improving

the air quality and visibility in

formation, the role of PM2.5 and a detailed chemistry of

haze and fog formation over

Delhi had poorly been done in

studies. 'It had resulted in a

hurdle to formulate effective

policies to improve the air quality and visibility. New findings have enhanced the

understanding about the pre-

cise role of PM2.5 in chem-

about the precise role of

PM2.5 in chemistry of fog

formation, which will help policymakers to frame the

the national capital"

Delhi fog, says IIT-M study

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

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

and sent for post-mortem. Hemavathy's mother Shanthi lodged a com-plaint against Karthik and his family for allegedly harassing her. Selaiyur police registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. An investigation by the Tambaram RDO has also

istry of fog formation, which will help policymakers to frame the better policies for improving the air quality and

visibility in the national capi-

The study explains that

complex chemical reactions involving hydrochloric acid, which is directly emitted in the atmosphere from plastic

waste burning and few indus-

trial processes, is primarily responsible for high PM2.5

chloride and subsequent haze and fog formation over Delhi

during chilly winter nights.

The study was carried out in

collaboration with Max Planck Institute for

Chemistry, Germany, Harvard University, USA; Georgia Institute of

Technology, USA; an Manchester University, UK.

tal', he said.

Planck

Her body was recovered



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

NO PUBLIC ENTRY INTO VEDA NILAYAM

Kid dies post vaccination, dad gets ₹2 lakh compensation

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AIADMK cadre throng Chennai, choke traffic

A bird's eye view of Marina where a sea of AIADMK cadre and leaders thronged the memorial of their party leader late Jayalalithaa on

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAL JAN. 27

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

According to the police, traffic on GST road in the southern suburbs of Chennai was paralysed as people and cadres of AIADMK party were headed to the city to participate in the inauguration ceremony. Some of them work mony. Some of them were

prevented from entering by the police due to heavy disruption to the traffic

A senior police officer said road traffic was completely hit on the Tiruchy-Chennai national highway with a large number of AIADMK cadres proceedThis heavy traffic hit arterial roads as well and police personnel were busy regulating the traffic. Passengers felt a lot of inconvenience due to the heavy traffic jam. The vehicles moved at snail's pace despite many police personnel regulating the

erfolk who use both motorised and non-motorised fishing boats.

Further, those who rely on

hand picking and cast net-

ting of fish will be further

Sathish Kumar, a fisher-

man from Alamparai. The Kazhiveli lagoon,

where the project is pro-

posed, is part of a large

coastal wetland complex

comprising the Odiyur-

draining into the Bay of

lagoons.

marginalised"

Kazhiveli

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

Drop Alamparai harbour project: Greens small-scale, artisanal fish-

A. ARUL PALANI I DC

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

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

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

approach channel to the fishing harbour. The coastal erosion triggered by these breakwaters put the historical Alamparai Fort at the risk of falling into the sea. Any activity that will cause damage to archaeological sites is prohibited under the Ancient Monuments archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959.

"The proposed fishing harbour will cater primarily to largescale mechanised fisheries, which will change the fishing dynamics in the area. Increasing depth, reclaiming intertidal areas etc. will hurt

the livelihood of the

Bengal through Eedayanthittu

This brackish water body maintains an opti-

protecting the fresh water further inland. This wetland has been

identified under National Conservation unique ecological tures. Without a valid environmental planning to conduct a pub-



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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

The girl students will your kind attention that

campus, the fake circular

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

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

A message from the institute's Registrar office "This is to bring

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

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

firmly and expelled from

Management Programme by the government of India and as a key biodiversity area due to its assessment report the fisheries department is lic hearing on January 29. Hence, the activists demanded the government to halt the project immediately.

out of AIADMK ARULOLI M | DC TIRUNELVELI, JAN. 27 A Tirunelveli district functionary of the AIA-

Sasikala, thrown

Cadre hails

DMK was expelled from the primary membership of the party for putting up posters welcoming Sasikala Natarajan, released from the Parappana Agrahara jail, Bengaluru.

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

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



New stores now open at Ambattur, Cathedral Road & Chrompet in Chennai

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IN BRIEF

Padma Shri for Subburaman hailed

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JAN. 27

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

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

State should decide on opening of schools: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN, 27

Pointing out that it is for the state government and the administration to assess the feasibility of opening the schools, the Madras high court has said since the pandemic has not completely died down and the process of vaccination has only been initiated, it is for the state government to decide what would be an appropriate date for schools to
be reopened in the form as

The bench said there is
no doubt that the state

DC CORRESPONDENT

SRIRANGAM, JAN, 27

was prior to the lock-

The First Bench comprising Chief Justice Banerjee and Senthilkumar Sanjib Ramamoorthy made the observation while disposing of a petition filed by the Chengalpattu District Private Schools Association, which sought

a direction to the state government to reopen the schools at the earliest.

Temple car festival held at Srirangam

The annual Thai car festival of Sri Ranganathaswamy

Temple, Srirangam-Tiruchy, was held at Srirangam on

Wednesday in which hundreds of devotees pulled out

the temple car by chanting "Ranga Ranga" through

Since this was the first festival after the relaxation of

the lockdown due to Covid-19, there was an additional

four Uthira streets and returned it to its base.

enthusiasm among the devotees.

government is alive to the fact that schools have remained closed for a considerable period of time. Indeed, the Class X and XII students have recently been permitted to rejoin the classes in physical form after Pongal.

"It is premature for the court to jump in at this stage without a decision being taken by the state in such regard. While it is important to reopen educational institutions, as observed in a previous order pertaining to cine-

develop

satellite for Isro

ma halls, it is better to err on the side of caution. Merely because the number of cases has gone down, an air of complacency should not develop. There is also the worry regarding the subsequent UK strain, which is more virulent as an infection", the bench added.

The bench said considering all aspects, the court feels that the state government should be left free to decide on its own without being put under any pres-

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

by chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) Dr R Sivan on January 28. The formation of the

Indian National Space

Ooty man gets 44-year jail term under Pocso Act

DC CORRESPONDENT OOTY, JAN. 27

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

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

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

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

here on Wednesday. After installing Sri Shakti Sat Ground Station in collaboration with Serbia-based Community for Space Programme

Thangavel told reporters

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

abort the foetus.
After a brief lull, he again is said to have impregnated her several times, using the ruse of marriage. On all the occasions, he had fed her tablets to abort the foetus. Sensing that Antony Vinoth was using her only for sex and trying to avoid

marrying her, the girl lodged a complaint with

viding technologies for a

distributed network of

low earth orbit satellite

Srishaktisat would be

weighing only 460 grams

ground stations.

of imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh. Government pleader (Maila court) here, Malini Prabhakar, said that the DNA analysis of the foetus helped fix the crime. As of now, this is

the All Women Police

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

The court which heard

the case sentenced Antony Vinoth to 44 years

Mahila court, Ooty.

the maximum punishment accorded to a convict under the Pocso Act,

she added.

other nano satellites weighting upto 10 kgs, he

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

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

Jail bird jumps from hosp terrace, dies

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC

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

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

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

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

On Wednesday morning, Muthuvel had gone to the restroom, and jumped down through the hospital toilet Muthuvel is said to have murdered his mother and stepmother last month, and after arrest, was lodged in the Salem Central Jail, block - 8. He was charged under the Goondas Act

Martin's Duskhawker, rare

dragonfly, spotted again

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

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



Highways department wrapping up work on vertical gardens at Tirumangalam flyover pillars. Around 70,000 saplings have been used for the beautification.

VOC port trust raises strenuous 'green' efforts

DC CORRESPONDENT

The VOC port trust here has taken strenuous efforts to improve its

green credentials.
The port has started showing positive signs of growth in container handling in its third quarter of the current fiscal. despite the slowdown in the global maritime trade, said Port trust chairman

T. K. Ramachandran.
Adding that the VOC Port trust has been implementing electricity generation by non-conventional sources, Ramachandran said that the port has 5 MW land based solar power project, 140 KW roof top solar power project, 130 KW roof top solar



power project and 5 MW onshore wind farm, to cater to part of the port's electricity require-

"In addition, for the first time among the major ports of India, VOC port is in the process of procur-ing three electric cars for

its use in the port," added Ramachandran.

The port is committed to transform itself as the transhipment hub of South India, following the approval of the ninth berth container project by the Union ministry of Shipping and Port.

Bid to smuggle condiments, cigarettes to Lanka foiled

DC CORRESPONDENT THOOTHUKUDI, JAN. 27

Sleuths of the 'Q branch' here, turmeric powder, turmeric finger and cardamom that were kept ready to be smuggled to Sri Lanka.

Acting on a tip off, cops intercepted a fully loaded lorry speeding towards the Kovalam coast near Muthaiahpuram here on Enquiries with the lorry driver revealed that the consignment was meant to be smuggled to Sri Lanka through the Kovalam shore in Thoothukudi

Wednesday, and found 1.5 tons of turmeric powder, 2.8 tons of turmeric fingers, 125 kilograms of cardamom and 125 cigarette

Enquiries with the lorry driver revealed that the consignment was meant to be smuggled to Sri Lanka through Kovalam shore in Thoothukudi. Police detained the truck and arrested four persons including the driver.

Muthaiahpuram police registered a case, and are

Anglo-Indians urge govt to ignore census fraction

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC TIRUCHY, JAN. 27

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

In a press release on Wednesday, AICUW president Dr. Howard D' Monte said that a resolution to this effect was adopted at their executive meeting held at Tiruchy on Tuesday which also pointed out that the enumerators of the census under-taken in 2011 were instructed to compile data based on 8 heads of religion and as all Anglo-Indians belong to the relithis 296 also to the four lakh **Anglo-Indians who were enumerated** under the Christianity religion in the 2011 census instead of creating a separate religion called Anglo-Indian, the resolution added

The enumerators should have added

The enumerators should have added this 296 also to the four lakh Anglo-Indians who were enumerated under Christianity religion in the 2011 census instead of creating a separate religion called Anglo-Indian, the resolution added.

gion Christianity.

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

restore the nomination of Anglo-Indian members to parliament and state assemblies beyond 26 January 2020 for a further period of 10 years till 2030 under Article 334(b) of the Constitution, Indian in the ensuing Parliament session, he emphasised.

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

HC rejects plea against details regarding reservation within MBC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 27

The Madras high court has dismissed a petition, challenging the very constitution of a Committee, headed by a retired judge of the Madras high court, ascertain certain details pertaining to reservation within the Backward

Communities.
The First Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy dismissed the petition filed by C.Raja.

The bench said according to petitioner, the exercise was unnecessary particularly since there was a constitutional framework for undertaking such a study under Article 340 of the Constitution. The petitioner also suggests that the parameters of any study have been delineated in Supreme Court judgments and the Committee should adhere to the same. Advocate general pointed out that by an order dated August 27, 2020, the Supreme Court has referred the

issue as to whether there can be further reservation within a reserved class to a seven-judge Bench and the matter has not been taken up by the larger bench, the bench

The bench said it appears that the petition may be premature. Though the underlying submission was that there must be some mischief afoot in forming this Commission at this stage and mandating six months for the Commission to return its report, it will be open to petitioner to challenge the report that the Commission files upon the acceptance thereof and at the stage of implementation if any. "A quia timet action in the pres-ent form in the field of administrative law may not be permissible, particularly since there is no certainty as to what the Committee or Commission may report. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed as premature without prejudicing the rights of the petitioner to canvass all available grounds at the appropriate

MANIPAL KILLED **IN FIGHT** WITH COPS

From P1

Following this, a police team rushed to the spot. When they tried to nab them, the gang started attacking the police. In retaliation, the police team opened fire in which Manipal was killed. They secured Manis and Ramesh; the fourth person managed to escape.

Police removed the bodies of Asha and Akil to the government hospital, Sirkazhi, for postmortem. Top police officials including inspec-tor-general of police, Tiruchy zone, H. Jayaram, inspected the spot.

A special police team has been formed to nab the absconding per-

Top police officials including inspector-general of police, Tiruchy zone, H. Jayaram, inspected the spot

Pondy adds 24 new cases to Covid tally

Twenty four fresh cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday in Puducherry, raising the total infection count

An 87-year-old person hailing from Sooramangalam village in Puducherry region died of the infection, taking the toll to 646 The new



cases were identified after examination of 1,979 samples in the last While Puducherry saw 21 new cases, Mahe recorded three.

Karaikal and Yanam regions did not register any new case of infec-tion, Director of Health and Family Welfare Department S Mohan Kumar said in a release.

respectively. So far 5.65 lakh samples were tested and it was found that 5.22 lakh out of

He also said 36 patients emia. were discharged after recovery from hospitals during last twenty four

The fatality and recovery rates were 1.66 per-stood at 38,934 while cent and 97.62 percent there were 282 active

severe covid pneumonia

The patient had coronary heart disease as co-morbidity, the Director said.

The Covid-19 aggregate cases and as many as The person who suc- 38,006 patients recovered cumbed to the virus had and were discharged so



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

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC

Naturalists belonging to the

Coonoor-based Wynter-Blyth Association (WBA) and Travancore Nature History

Society (TNHS) Trivandrum,

rediscovered a rare dragonfly

known as 'Martin's Duskhawker' in the Western

It was on the Odonates of

'Western Ghats Facebook'

group discussion between Dr

Kalesh Sadasivan, an avid naturalist from the TNHS,

and Manoj Sethumadhavan from the WBA at Coonoor,

that this species which was

described in 1922, had not

been sighted in south India

ever since, has sprung to

light. The last record of this species was by F.C. Fraser in

OOTY, JAN .27

Ghats.

During a field walk in

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

September 2014 in Coonoor

region by WBA members and

during a similar nature expe-

dition by TNHS members in

June 2019 in Munnar region

in Kerala, this dragonfly was

After further study of the

photographed.

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

No SC relief in 'Tanday' case

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

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

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

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

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN. 27

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

The soldiers belonging to the Army's 24 Rashtriya Rifles were part of a road opening and area dominance party targeted by suspected separatist militants in Kulgam's Subhanpora area. Meanwhile, a Srinagar resident shot and wounded by suspected militants last month died in a city hospital early Wednesday. The police sources say the IED had been planted by militants in the premises of a roadside school at Subhanpora.

Farmers cancel Budget Day march

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

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

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

The tractor parade was hit by a government conspiracy. Deep Sidhu is an RSS man. Police let him go after he hoisted a religious flag at Red Fort," farmer leader Darshan Pal, who has been accused

by police of making inflammatory speeches, alleged at a press confer-

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

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

Meanwhile, blaming the

Congress, in particular its

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

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

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

Farmer who died had returned from Oz to celebrate his wedding

He had returned from Australia to his hometown in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur to celebrate his recent wedding. And there was a gathering indeed at his home at Dibdiba village Bilaspur on Wednesday. But no celebration.

Navreet Singh's family and friends were mourning his death a day earli-

er.
The 27-year-old farmer got crushed underneath the tractor he was driving after it toppled on the road when he tried to break through a police barricade at central Delhi's ITO during a farmers' tractor parade, police have said.

A police officer said on Wednesday the body reached Rampur Tuesday night and post-mortem

Navreet had come to his native place from Australia to throw a wedding party after he tied the knot abroad some

time back, his family

members said.

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

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

Violence has two unions withdraw from protests

We didn't come to defame January 26. We supported their agitation

but what happened yester-day?" he asked.

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

pened in Delhi and am ending our protest.

Even after the two farmer unions withdrew from over two-month long protests, the Samyuktha Kisan Morcha, an umbrella organisation of the agitating groups, made it clear that they will not call off their agitation until the three laws are withdrawn and a legal guarantee is assured on the MSP.

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION 1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ-211001 FAX No. 0532-2407892, www.core.indiaarailways.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work: Carry out the Sanitation works of the Office of GM/CORE, RE Officer Club including sports complex and the work of House Keeping (including sanitatio work) of Officers Rest House (City side) and VIP ORH at Civil lines side (In REOC Complex) of CORE at Prayagraj for two years.

: 24 Months 1. Completion Period 2. Approximate Cost of the work : Rs. 11445185.02

3. Tender Cost : Rs. 0.00

LEarnest money to be deposited : Rs. 0.00 5. Submission/Opening of tender: 22.02.2021 up to 13.30 for submission of tender

through www.ireps.gov.in and the Tender shall be opened online using IREPS porta any time after closing of lender. i. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in (Where details have been uploaded).

Office address: Office of PCE/CORE, 1 Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagra NOTE: Only e-Bid shall be accepted against above tender

DY. CHIEF ENGINEER/CORE/PRAYAGRAJ No.: PR/663/21 (Kaka) FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Serving Customers with a Smile

RSS ideology poses danger, says Rahul

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN.

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

Gandhi was addressing Congress-led UDF's pre-election preparation meeting in Malappuram district of Kerala. "Of course the Prime Minister is incompetent. But

hatred that RSS is spreading in the country" he said while accusing Modi of ruining the economy through demonetisation and flawed implementation of the GST.

At the two meetings that he

addressed in Malappuram,

Gandhi did not say anything on the farmers agitation or the violence that was witnessed in Delhi on Tuesday. "You would remember the Prime Minister said he has a 56 inches chest. I am wondering what happened to 56 inches chest when Chinese troops entered kilometres

inside our territory? I have

been watching for the last six

PIO LAWMAKERS

COMMITTEES

IN CONGRESSIONAL

Washington, Jan. 27: Indian-origin US lawmakers Pramila Jayapal and

have been named to key

congressional committees

on budget and the Covid-

19 pandemic by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

While Congresswoman

Jayapal, 55, was named to

the powerful budget com-

mittee, Congressman Kri-

shnamoorthi, 47, was app-

pandemic and rebuild our

economy," said Krishnam-

oorthi, serving as the US

Representative for Illino-

is's 8th congressional dis-

Krishnamoorthi

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

added. Gandhi said the Prime Minister insisted on doing things for five or six of his corporate friends. "You look at every single sector, it is handed over to his close cor-

able to counter them," he

porate friends. The mobile phone sector,

ports, airports, power and now agriculture all are being given away one by one to them," he alleged.

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

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) 2018-19 Roc. No. 9989/2019/H3 E-Tender Notice

Dated :25.01.2021 For and on-behalf of Kancheepuram Municipal Council, bids are invited by the Commissioner, Kancheepuram Municipality for National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) 2018-19 from the eligible contractors through Online or Offline bids.

Construction of Shelter for 16.02.2021 16.02.2021 90.00 90,000.00 Urban Homeless at Rajaji upto 3.00 p.m.

KANCHEEPURAM MUNICIPALITY

Bidders who fulfill the eligibility criteria, as set out in the tender document are eligible to tender for this work. The tender schedule shall be downloaded at free of cost from the website http://tntenders.gov.in/.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

DIPR/560/TENDER/2021 Commissioner, Kancheepuram Municipality

Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy – 20.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 19 / 2029 – 2021 / 101 / MCBC / Trichy / Dated 25.91.2021

For and ab behalf of Governor of Tamil Nactu: the Superintending Engineer, WRD. Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy invite sociated tender as per line tender system noted below for the following works from the experienced relavant class in PWD contractors. The tender will be opened as mentioned below by the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Middle Cauvery Bosin Circle, Trichy increasing of the Tenderson chair authority about 5.

Lumpsum Contract - Percentage Tender System River Conservany Division, Tricky 12 Construction New Generator room in the RB of Cauwery River for supplying Electricity Service to Cauvery Barrage at Upper Anno of Elamanur Villago in Strangam Tatus of Trichy District

Ariyaru Bastin Division, Trichy
2) Construction of Drainage Intel arrangements and providing Demarcation Stones in Ornandhur Tank Surplus Course in Ornandhur and Shuguid Villages and Peromangalam Tank Surplus Course in Shugarur village of Manachanathur Tatuk in Trichy Distinct.
Liss Date for Receipt of Tender
16.02.2021 a.3.0 PM.
Details of Tender
16.02.2021 a.3.0 PM.
The tender schedule can also be downloaded at free of cost from the web site upto 1.16.02.2021 a.3.0 PM.
Details of EMD, remittance of EMD and other details can also be available from this Government Designated website (http://www.tenders.in.gov.in) and in the office of the Superintending Engineer. WRO, Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy, AND
Corrections / Extension / Corrigendumifany will be issued in the above web site only
Superintending Engineer,
MRO,
Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy
Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy
Middle Cauvery Basin Circle, Trichy

மாவட்ட பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டோர் மற்றும் சிறுபான்மையினர் நல அலுவலகம், தஞ்சாவூர் ந்.க எஸ் F1/22083/2020 ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி அறினிப்பு எண் 01/2020-2021 நாள்: 25.01.2021 இடுதி கல்லூரி மாணவர்களைவியரின் பயன்பாட்டிற்கு இரண்டு அடுக்கு இரும்பு கட்டிங்கள் கொள்முதல் நமித்த ஆஞ்தருக்காகவும் மற்றும் ஆளுநின் என்போகவும் நுடந்தும் எனி ஆவணங்களில் விளக்கப்பட்டுள்ளம நம்முத்தப்பட்டோர். மிகப்பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டேன் விடுதிகளில் தங்கிப் பயிலும் வாணவர்மாணவியரின் பயன்பட்டிற்ற oti கொள்ளுகள் கெட் ஒப்பத்தப்புள்ளிகள் வண்பறுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி படிவத்தில் உற்பத்தி செய்யும் நிறுவனங்களிடமிருந்தும் அங்களிக்கட்டட்ட விதிலோகஸ்தாரர்களிட மிருந்துல்லாவேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

28,000/--(ரூப்ரம் விடுதி கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணலியசின் பமன்பாட்டிற்கு 215 இரண்டு அடுக்கு இரும்பு கட்டில்கள் கொள்முதல் 12.02.2021 பிற்பகல் 3.00 மணி வரை 12.62.2021 பிள்பகல் 3.30 மணி

துகத்தக்கள்ளி படிவங்களை தேரிவ் பெற கஞ்சாலூல் வாற்றத்தக்க வளையில் பாலக்.. பிற்குடுத்தக்கல், ரா மற்றும் சிறுகான்மையினர் நல அலுவலர். அஞ்சாலூர் என்ற பெயதுக்கு குத 540/-க்கான பமாகோலை செலுத்தி அரச கேலை நாட்களில் குழ்ந்பகல் 10.00 பணி முதல் பிறுகல் 550 பணிக்குள் 11.02.2021 வரை நேரிவ் செல்றுக் கொள்ளவர். ஆஞ்சல் முகல் ஓப்கத்தக்குள்ளி பதகம் பெறு விரும்புவேள் 08.02.2021-க்குள் கு.672/-க்கான வரைகோலை அனுப்பி செற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம் பேறும் விக்கங்களுக்கு https://thanjavur.nic.in/notice category/announcements/என்ற முகவரியில் காண்களம். செ.கதோ இ:+693 (தயந்தப்சின்/2021) மாவட்ட பிற்படுத்தப்பட்டேக் மற்றும் சிறுமகிகையினர் நம அதுவண், தஞ்சாவூர்

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

TENDER NOTICE Supply and Delivery of Manhole cleaning Robot -2 Nos.

(Bandicoot) With Transit Vehicles- 2 Nos. at an Estimate Cost of Bid document and other information available at (free of cost)

www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.salemcorporation.gov.in "e-submission" is also permitted. Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures.

Submission of bids - 29.01.2021 upto 16.02.2021 3.00 P.M.

Opening of bids - 16.02.2021 at 3.30 P.M.

Commissioner, Salem Corporation



Government of India

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

National Awards for e-Governance 2020-21

NOTICE INVITING NOMINATIONS

With a view to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the Government of India presents National Awards for e-Governance every

Nominations are invited from Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Central and State PSUs, Academic and Research Institutions (whether government or non-government) for consideration in 6 categories as per eligibility criteria detailed in the Award Scheme.

Modalities for sending nomination along with Guidelines and other details of the Award Scheme are available on the Department's website www.darpg.gov.in / www.nceg.gov.in. All nominations are to be submitted online as per details given in the Award Scheme. Nominations sent by email/ hand/post/ courier/fax or any other form of hard copy shall not be taken into cognizance.

Last date for submission of Nominations: -26.02.2021

Contact Details: Ms. VibhutiPanjiyar, Under Secretary (e-Gov), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, SansadMarg, New Delhi - 110001.email: vibhuti.panjiyar@nic.in; Tel. +91-11-23367966 Davp:32101/11/0002/2021

Impeachment trial: Don likely to be acquitted

Democrats fail to get enough support from Republicans

Democrats failed to garner enough support required from Republican Senators. The Democrats who have impeached Trump in the House charging him with "incitement of insurrection," needs two-thirds of the

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

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

Washington, Jan. 27: Former US President Donald Trump is likely to be acquitted in his impeachment trial as the Democrate failed to gor for racial equity

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

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

strations across the country. Biden called the killing "the knee on the neck of justice," and said that because of it, "the ground has shifted.

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

YouTube suspends Trump indefinitely

YouTube has suspended Donald Trump indefinitely from the platform and said it will also prevent the former president's la-wyer Rudy Giuliani from being able to monetize his clips, US media reported.

It comes a week after the

social media giant con-firmed it would extend a

we did, this is not the time

San Francisco, Jan. 27: three million subscribers -- joining other social media platforms in banning his accounts following the deadly January 6

Capitol riot.

The Google-owned firm has faced some criticism over its slow response following the violence in Washington, as well as the proliferation of conspirapan on Trump's channel - cy theories on the platwhich has just under form. — AFP

Republican Senator Kevto use it. As I have said in Cramer said the Senate should not be wasting its time holding another impeachment trial. "We do not have solid constitutional standing to impeach a former president, and even if

repeatedly, President Trump's comments on January 6 were rash and ill-advised but I do not believe they meet the constitutional standard for impeachment," he said.

trict since 2017. "I look forward to working with members of both parties as we ensure that the trillions of dollars in taxpayer funds dedicated to our country's response to this pandemic and its economic impacts are used as efficiently, transparently and effectively as

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

COVID DRAWS SKEPTICS IRE Caracas, Jan. 27: ing he needed to pro-Venezuela's President tect them. Scientists Nicolás Maduro appears to be countremained skeptical. The local National

MADURO 'MIRACLE' CURE FOR

ing on yet another "miracle" to save his citizens from Covid-19. promoting a secretive solution with no published scientific evidence he claims will conquer the new Coronavirus.

"Ten drops under the tongue every four hours and the miracle is done," Maduro said in a televised appear-ance on Sunday. "It's a powerful antiviral, very powerful, that neutralises Coronavirus." But his government has released no evidence. He even kept secret the name of the "bril-Venezuelan

mind" behind it, say-

In October, he notified the American Health Organisation that the

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

Academy of Medicine

said it appeared be

derived from the com

mon herb thyme. It's

not the first time the

Venezuelan leader has promoted a cure.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. SWR/W/CS/2021/01/E Dated 22-01-2021 The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders

for the following works. ointed to a key congressional committee on the Co-SI. Name of Work Approx. Value ronavirus crisis on Tues-1 (A) Manufacture and Rs. 24,63,615/day. The Select Subcommsupply of 60 Kg wide base sleepers fo tevel crossing confirming to RDSO Drg. No. T-8671. (E-Tender No. SWRCS-0120218671) ittee on the Coronavirus Crisis was established to provide oversight of the (B) Manufacture and Rs. 29,44,189/federal Covid-19 pandem-

supply of 60 Kg wide base sleepers for bridge confirming to RDSO Drg. No. T-8672. (E-Tender No. SWRCS-"I am honoured to join Chairman Clyburn and our colleagues on this 0120218671) (C) Manufacture and Rs. 12,98,462/panel to provide vital oversight of the federal supply of 60 Kg wide base sleepers fo bridge approaches confirming to RDSO Drg. No. T-8673 - T-8680. (E-Tender No. SWRCS-0120218671) Coronavirus response to protect the health and safety of the American people as we defeat the (D) Manufacture and Rs. 2,20,23,718/supply of 60 Kg sleepers for wide

base slack gauge confirming to RDSO Drg. No. T-8621 to T-8624. (E-Tender No. SWRCS-0120218671 2 Manufacture and Rs. 2,96,77,309/supply of 60 Kg slack gauge sleeper on curves, confirming to RDSO Drg. No. T-4183-4186. (E-Tender No SWRCS-0220214183) 3 (A) Manufacture and Rs. 5,62,44,780/

supply of 60 Kg PSC sleepers for 1 in

12 turnouts confirming to RDSO Drg No. T-4218. (E-Tender No. SWRCS 0320214218) (B) Manufacture and Rs. 2,05,89,750/ supply of 60 Kg PSC sleepers for 1 in Rs. 2,05,89,750/-8.5 turnouts confirming to RDSO Drg No. T-4865. (E-Tender No. SWRCS

0320214218)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in Deputy Chief Engineer/Track Supply PUB/245/AAS/PRB/SWR/2020-21 Hubball

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Chronicle

28 JANUARY 2021

China playing long game, be vigilant and prepared

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala must step up Covid fight

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

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

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

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER Editor

K. Sudhakar

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As farmers lose ground, govt will take tough line



Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

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

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

the trouble and violence that erupted on the

ing the protesters to

agitators. peaceful Shaheen in dealing with the agi-

streets, but they cannot

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

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

tation now. Behind this political grandstanding by the government following

is the troubling fact that the Delhi police has lost the ability to tackle agitations and protests. It has been argued by wellincluding those who have a sneaking sympathy for the Narendra Modi government and a correspondantipathy for Punjab's "pampered farmers", that the Delhi police could not have deployed sufficient forces at all points of the tractor parade's route

due to the constraints of numbers. That the police officers could not but trust the farmer unions leaders, and the police was caught offguard by the over-whelming numbers of angry protesters with their speeding tractors, swords, rods, etc. This lament of betrayal by police officials is as naïve as that of the farm

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

confrontation

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

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

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

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

leagues exhibit self-

righteousness.

LETTERS

SHOCKING ORDER The groping of a minor cannot be considered sexual assault without 'skin-to-skin contact' or if clothes were not removed, is a Bombay High Court order. It is highly shocking if not surprising too. The Supreme Court has put the order on hold. It is welcome from the ladies point of view. It is surprising

that the Bombav High Court ruling has come from a lady Judge. This order was highly disturbing. Any act to malign the modesty of women amounts to sexual harassment and needs severe punishment to the perpetrators. Groping a minor's breast without removing the clothes is no doubt a sexual assault on the minor. Or for what else is it done? A wrong has been corrected or

would have been created. Sravana Ramachandran,

else a dangerous precedent

IN TROUBLED WATERS

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

P.G. Menon,

PERFECT PLAN

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

R. Sivakumar



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

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

director-general ranked income tax

officers, and depending on how

these units are grouped, they will also have directors, additional directors and sufficient support

staff to perform their mandated job. All these units will be directly monitored by the CBDT, though it is unclear at this stage how this will be achieved.

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

DON'T KEEP VIGILANCE CASES PENDING, SAYS CVC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHARMA TO SPEARHEAD

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

Speculation is rife that Mr

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

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

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















E FINANCIAL Chronicle

THURSDAY | 28 JANUARY 2021 | CHENNAI

quick

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	47,409.93	-1.94
Nifty 50	13,967.50	-1.91
S&P 500*	3,775.91	-1.91
Dollar (₹)	72.91	0.05
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.07	-0.43
Euro (₹)	88.60	0.02
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,421 ▼ 231	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.30	0.70
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.954	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.003	-0.037
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

JLR appoints creative chief to board

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

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

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 27

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

QUICK CROSSWORD

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

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

consumer confidence.

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

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

18

1.Travelled on foot (5)

2. Jockeys (6)

3. Ear part (4)

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

4. Zest, verve (5)

11. American state (6)

13. Cowboy show (5)

15. Prod with elbow (5)

16. Biblical garden (4)

jumble

SRAHH

ECOGK

LDIYWL

PPRAAE

Market gains of this month wiped out

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JAN 27

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

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

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

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

"Global cues were weak as investors got cautious about possible roadblocks to US stimulus plan and ahead of Fed policy announcement.

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

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

Govt plans ₹3 L cr spend to revive power utilities

SIDDHARTHA SINGH & DEBJIT CHAKRABORTY

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

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

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

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



BUDGET MAY ADDRESS INVERTED DUTY STRUCTURE FOR STEEL GOODS

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

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

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

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

the Centre. The plan could include

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

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

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

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

—Bloomberg

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam Aries: Working people may have good time.



Faurus: You are likely to take the help of credit card to borrow money. Don't deal in a property which is crime ridden. Ego problem is likely cause some stress.

Students may have to put in more efforts to attain their aims. Before you invest in real estate, take advice of a family member.



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



Cancer: Whichever loan you finally decide on, make sure you have a plan to repay. The emotion of anger is neither good nor bad. It's important to know how to deal with anger.



serious diseases. Couples make adjustments to make the relationship work. Anger is likely to show negative effects on body. **Virgo:** Your health needs utmost attention as eating out might be bad for your health.

Overeating can lead to unwanted weight gain. Feel with your heart and think with your mind.

Leo: Avoid passive smoking. It could lead to



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

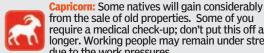


Libra: Students will excel in competitions. Growing a business means taking many decisions. Creating a strategic plan will help you prepare a realistic vision.

rpio: Your contribution to a project may not appear adequate to your higher authorities.



Those struggling on the education front will need agittarius: Having better understanding will have a reflection on love affair. A little misunderstanding in love affair could force partner to snap ties.



require a medical check-up; don't put this off any longer. Working people may remain under stress due to the work pressures. arius: You will handle increased workloads and additional responsibilities with great sincerity and win appreciation from everyone.



sces: Moderate gains may be expected in speculative activities. Part of your sick debts can be successfully recovered. Think twice before signing any contracts. Minor repairs will take place at your residence.

Spiritual activities may be there in the family.



ALDER

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

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



19

1.Art of clock-making (8)

8. Aromatic herb (5)

18. Accounts inspection (5)

19. Sailor's dance (8)

9. Up-to-date (6)

10. Standard (4)

12. Villein (4)

14. Big gun (6)

17. Assisted (5)

7. Vexed (5)

Across

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at less tone nine letter word. at least one nine letter word Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

Sorth ::\P &\P Pass

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

lumbles MONTH

heart queen and another heart to the 10 and king. South cashed the heart ace, discarding a club from the dummy, and played a diamond to the king.

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

CHORD

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

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

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

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

Now arrange the circled letters

EXCESS POETRY

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson



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









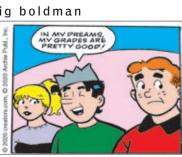




ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall





ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe







TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs







CHUDT

HORT IAKE

IPL auction in city on February 18

Chennai: The 2021 IPL player auction will be held on February 18 in Chennai, the league announced with a tweet on Wednesday. The announcement comes after the IPL Governing Council meeting on January 6, where it was decided that the 2021 edition of the tournament would remain an eight-team event. With the second Test of the India-England series scheduled to end on February 17 — the first two Tests are in

end on February 17 — the first two Tests are in Chennai and the last two in Ahmedabad — February 18 presents the organisers with a day-long window to conduct the auction. The eight franchises had announced their list of retained and released players by the deadline of January 20. It is, however, not yet certain if the tournament would be held in India. The three-member Governing

It is, however, not yet certain if the tournament would be held in India. The three-member Governing Council, headed by Brijesh Patel, deliberated on the matter in that meeting at the start of the year, and kept their options open. With the pandemic continuing to surge in India, the UAE remained as one of the options.

English test on card

Head coach Silverwood happy with England's rotation policy

London, Jan. 27: England head coach Chris Silverwood said that he is happy with the rotation policy they currently have in place. England faced criticism from former players for resting wicketkeeperbatsman Jonny Bairstow, all-rounder Sam Curran and fast bowler Mark Wood for their first two Tests against India.

"I'm perfectly happy with the system we're using at the moment. I stand by it," England head coach Silverwood told a conference call with reporters.

"We've got to look after our people. We're spending a lot of time locked in hotel rooms inside bio-secure bubbles and it's not easy," he said.

"It's good that we're being proactive and looking after people... They can't be with me all the time, that's not the world we live in. I'd just ask them (England fans) to understand why we do what we do," said Silverwood.

England had rested all-rounder and Test vice-captain Ben Stokes and fast bowler Jofra Archer for their recently concluded two-Test series in Sri Lanka. Their four-match Test series in India starts on February 5 in Chennai.

"We're resting in the best interests of the player and equally to get the best out of them long term... I do



England team arrive at Chennai airport.

believe we have to be proactive in looking after them, rather than wait until there's a problem," said Silverwood.

Ashwin, Natarajan nominated for ICC Player of the Month

India off-spinner R. Ashwin and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant were on Wednesday nominated for the player of the month awards by the International Cricket Council. Two other Indians — Mohammed Siraj and T. Natarajan — are also in the fray.

All four cricketers played a role in India's recent Test series win against Australia.

The ICC said the awards will recognise the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.

Other players named for the awards for January are England captain Joe Root, star Australia batsman Steve Smith, Rahmanullah Gurbaz of Afghanistan, Marizanne Kapp and Nadine de Klerk of South Africa and Nida Dar of Pakistan.

BCCI prez Sourav back in hosp with chest pain

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, JAN. 27

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

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

accompanied him.
Sourav "has come for a check up of his cardiac condition. There is no charge in his parameters



Sourav Ganguly

since his last hospitalisation and his vital parameters are stable," the private hospital stated, according to sources.

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

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

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

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

Solanki seals win with six for Baroda

Ahmedabad, Jan. 27: Vishnu Solanki helped Baroda pull off a last-over heist against Haryana with a sensational 71, which included a six off the game's final ball, to fire his team into the semifinals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Ttophy here on Wednesday.

Baroda first restricted Haryana to 148/7 in the third quarterfinal, and then it was Solanki, who hammered four fours and five sixes in his 46-ball unbeaten knock to get his team over the line after 18 runs were needed off the final over.

Haryana had brought down the equation to 23 off 12 balls for Baroda and their skipper Mohit Sharma (0/30) conceded only five runs in the penultimate over to make the equation tougher for Baroda.

However, 28-year-old Solanki had other plans and took on medium pacer Sumit Kumar (1/37) in the final over, hitting two sixes and a four, to script an eight-wicket win for his team. In another quarterfinal match, Rajasthan got better of Bihar by 16 runs, riding on Mahipal Lomror's unbeaten 78

BRIEF SCORES

■ Haryana 148/7 in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 49; K. Kakade 2/7 lost to Baroda 150/2 in 20 overs (Vishnu Solanki 71 not out; Yuzvendra Chahal 1/15).

Rajasthan 164/5 in 20 overs (Mahipal Lomror 78 not out; S. Kashyap 2/28) bt Bihar 148/4 in 20 overs (Mangal Mahrour 68 not out; Chandrapal Singh 1/21).



Sindhu, Srikanth lose in openers

Bangkok, Jan. 27: Star Indian shuttlers P. V. Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth fought their hearts out before suffering close defeats in their respective group 'B' openers at the \$1.5 million HSBC BWF World Tour Finals here on Wednesday.

Wednesday.

A week after a demoralising defeat at the Toyota Thailand Open quarterfinals, World champion Sindhu produced a much-improved performance but still lost to world number one Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan 21-19, 12-21, 17-21.

"It was a good match, there were no easy points. In the third game I came back and it was just one point difference at one stage. I broke my racket strings twice (during rallies) and that made a difference," Sindhu said.

"It's a tough group. I have to give 100 per cent," she added. It was Sindhu's 16th defeat to Tzu Ying in 21 meetings.

Former world number one Srikanth too squandered an opening game advantage, losing 21-15, 16-21, 18-21 to world number three Anders Antonsen of Denmark in a gruelling 77-minute contest.

Olympic silver medallist Sindhu, who had won the

prestigious title in 2018, will next play home favourites Ratchanok Intanon, who had handed her a humiliating defeat last week, while Srikanth, ranked 14th, will face fourth seed Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

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

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

again led 6-3 but she stumbled

to defensive errors as Sindhu levelled the score with a smash.

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

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

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

— PTI

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