THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE I THURSDAY 21 | JANUARY 2021



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Thai 8 Tithi: Ashtami Star: Ashwini Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm Yamagandam:

> 6 am to 7.30 am **PRAYERS Fajar:** 5.20 am Zohar: 12.23 pm **Asar:** 3.35 pm Maghrib: 6.01 pm

Isha: 7.17 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.05 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.36 AM MOONRISE TODAY 12.15 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 12.57 AM**

CORONA CUNT

CASES (+11,136)

1,06,07,585

1.52.827 covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+549)TN: 8,32,415

12,290

 $(+73_{-}$

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5 9,69,39,047 DEATHS 20,73,852

worldometers.info

Malayalam actor

Unnikrishnan

Namboothiri dies at 98 Kannur: Noted film actor Unnikr-

ishnan Namboothiri, known for his comedy and grandfather roles, died on Wednesday, his family sourcessaid. Namboothiri was 98. The actor had survived COVID-19 and was discharged from a hospital on Tuesday. A family friend of the actor said Namboothiri felt some uneasiness

and was admitted to a private hospi-Wednesday evening. ■ P2

Two killed in paragliding accident in MP's

Khandwa district

Khandwa (MP): Two operators of a paragliding equipment fell 100 feet to their deaths at Hanuvantia in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place around 6 pm. when the two employees of an event management company who were operating a paramotor, fell 100 feet, sub-inspector B S Mandloi of Moondi police station said.



Welcome to your office, Mr President!



STATE | 3 **CM** accuses Stalin of being 'power hungry'



Gujarat to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam'

NATION I 4

SPORT | 8 Super Kings retain Raina, release six

breathlessness,

ond opinion,

Earlier she underwent

treatment at the jail hospi-

tal but later taken to the

Bowring Hospital for a sec-

added. The expelled AIADMK leader arrived in

an ambulance and was taken inside the Bowring

and Lady Curzon Medical

College and Research

Institute, also known as

Bowring Hospital, in a

wheelchair, hospital sources said. Later, the director-cum-dean of the institute Dr Manoj Kumar

H.V. said in a statement

that the 63-year-old Ms

Sasikala, with comorbidi-

ties of hypertension, dia-betes and hypothyroidism, has been admitted with

cough and fever. He said

she was stable with sup-

portive measures and

Investigation reports are

awaited," Dr Kumar added.

Earlier, a jail official said

she was getting treated for fever and breathlessness in

the jail hospital. "Now she

will be taken to the

Bowring hospital,: the offi-

cial said. It is not confirmed

yet whether she is suffering from Covid-19. -PTI

"She will be further evalu-

monitored.

antibiotics and oxygen.

ated and

COVID- 19

sources said.



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Sasikala shifted to hospital

after complaining of fever

■ New Prez calls for unity and healing ■ Tight security in Capitol

Biden sworn in, swears by democracy

Washington, Jan. 20: Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday, declaring that "democracy has prevailed" as he took the helm of a deeply divided nation and inherited a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

Mr Biden's inauguration came at a time of national tumult and uncertainty, a ceremony of resilience as the hallowed American democratic rite unfurled at a U.S. Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks ago. The chilly Washington morn-ing was dotted with snow flurries, but the sun emerged just before Mr Biden took the oath of office, the quadrennial ceremony persevering even though it was encir-cled by security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus

pandemic.
"The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed," Mr Biden said. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

And then he pivoted to challenges acknowledging the surging virus that has claimed more than 4 lakh lives in the United States. Mr



Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Jill Biden holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday.

Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic's deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation's renewed reckoning on racial injustice. "We have much to do in

this winter of peril, and significant possibilities: much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to Mr Biden said. gain," people in our nation's history have more challenged, or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we're in now.

predecessor's absence underscored the healing that is needed. Flouting tradition, Flouting tradition, Donald Trump departed

Washington morning Wednesday ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the his successor Capitol. — AP to



Kamala Harris is sworn in as vice president by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as her husband Doug Emhoff holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in

Washington, Wednesday.

Harris takes oath as V-P, makes history

Washington, Jan 20: United Sates Vice-President Kamala Harris broke the barrier on Wednesday that has kept men at the top ranks of American power for more than two centuries when she took the oath to hold the nation's second-highest office. Ms Harris was sworn in

as the first female vice president — and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the position — in front of the U.S. Capitol by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The moment was steeped in history and significance in more ways than one. She was escorted to the podium by Capitol Police

Officer Eugene Goodman, the officer who singlehandedly took on a mob of Trump supporters as they tried to breach the Senate floor during the Capitol insurrection that sought to overturn the election results. Ms Harris was wearing clothes from two young, emerging Black designers — a deep purple dress and coat.

After taking the oath of office, a beaming Ms Harris hugged her husband, Douglas Emhoff, and gave President Joe Biden a first bump. Her rise is historic in context, another moment when a stubborn boundary falls expanding the idea of what's possible in American politics. —AP \blacksquare **P5**

Trump pardons 143 people before demitting office

Washington, Jan 20: Outgoing President Donald Trump has pardoned his former political strategist Steve Bannon, one of the key architects of his 2016 electoral victory, as he issued a wave of par-dons using the final hours of his presidency to grant clemency to 143 people. The record 73 pardons and 70 commutations came in addition to the dozens of similar actions that Trump took after he lost the November 3 presidential elections to Joe Biden of the Democratic Party. — PTI

Trump leaves White House before Biden inauguration

Washington, Jan. 20: Donald Trump on Wednesday skipped his suc-cessor Joe Biden"s inauguration and exited the White House for the last time as US president, saying he had "an amazing four years" and hop-ing that it would not be a "long goodbye." Trump left on the Marine One presidential helicopter along with his wife Melania, hours before Mr Biden"s inauguration. he, however, left a note for Mr Biden s is the practice.

Bengaluru, Jan. 20: Just days before her release from a prison here, V.K. Sasikala, close aide of for-mer Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa, **Uncertainty has** supporters was on Wednesday admitin a quandary ted to the Government Bowring Hospital after she complained of fever and

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 20

Supporters of V.K. Sasikala, who have been awaiting her arrival on the State's political scene by next Wednesday, are in a quandary on what to do next, now that there is a possibility of her release from Bengaluru jail getting delayed due to her hospitalisation.

The supporters are disappointed mainly they because planned a massive reception for her. Since it was told that Ms Sasikala, on her release from the Parappana Agrahara prison on January 27, would be escorted by the Karnataka police by road till Hosur on the State border, plans were chart-

ed out accordingly.

According to some sources about 1000 cars and vans with the supporters from all over the State were expected to reach Hosur on January 27. After a grand welcome on the borders, the vehicles, according to the plan, would move as a convoy with her vehicle to Chennai

Govt offers to put farm laws on hold for long; unions to decide

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Union government on Wednesday proposed to suspend the three contentious farm laws for one or oneand-a-half years and set up a joint committee to discuss the laws to end the stalemate, but the farmers leaders did not immediately accept the proposal and said they will respond only after they hold internal consultations, possibly hursday. The two sides will meet again Friday for the eleventh round of negotiations.

The government made this offer during the tenth round of talks with the representatives of 41 farmers' unions at Vigyan Bhavan here. "During the discussions, we said the government was ready to put on hold the farm laws for one year or one-and-a-half years," agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said after the meeting.

" I am happy the farmers' unions have taken this very seriously and said they would consider it tomorrow (Thursday) and convey their decision on January Ahead of the meeting which lasted for over five hours, Mr Tomar along with commerce minister Pivush Goyal met Union

During the meeting, agriculture minister Tomar told the union leaders the government was ready to give an undertaking in the Supreme Court that the new laws will not be implemented till the matter is fully resolved

home minister Amit Shah. The home minister has been supervising all developments related to the farmers' agitation, which has been going on for the last 56 days at the Delhi borders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently called a meeting of top agriculture ministry officials and advised them to put the three laws on hold till the matter was sorted out between the two sides.

During the meeting, Mr Tomar told the union leaders the government was ready to give an undertaking in the Supreme Court that the new laws will not be implemented till the matter is fully resolved. He also offered to set up a committee of agricultural experts, the farmers' unions and government representatives to discuss all the three laws clause by clause to

SC refuses to stop farmers' tractor rally on R-Day

PARMOD KUMAR |DC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain the Union government's plea seeking to restrain the agitating farmers from taking out a kisan tractor rally on Republic Day in Delhi and regretted that the "reputation" of the four members of the expert committee set up by it to end the deadlock was being torn to shreds"

However, it issued notice on the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lokshakti) plea for reconstitution of the expert committee formed to hear all parties to the dispute and submit a report with its recommendations.

Telling attorney-general K.K. Venugopal and solicitor-general Tushar Mehta it was for the police to take a call on allowing or not allowing the rally, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, asked them to withdraw the application seeking the restraint order, which they

I-T raids evangelist Paul Dhinakaran's offices across state

CHENNAI, JAN. 20

Tax sleuths on Income Wednesday swooped down on 28 premises across Tamil Nadu belonging to Jesus Calls, an organisation that preaches Christianity and run by Paul

According to the sources, around 200 officials of the Income Tax Department began raids on Wednesday at 6 am simultaneously at 28 places to check whether the organisation was involved in evading tax. The raids were conducted based on complaints of foreign funds irregularities against Mr Dhinakaran and his organisation.

The places that were raided include Jesus Calls headquarters at R.A. Puram in Chennai, Mr Dhinakaran's residence in Adyar and in Karunya University (deemed) located in Coimbatore. Other prayer towers located across the state are under radar. According to sources, Income Tax sleuths are also looking into the foreign direct investment that Mr Dhinakaran's organisation has received. Certain documents have reportedly already been seized. Jesus Calls Ministries and Karunya groups were founded by Paul Dhinakaran's father D.G.S. Dhinakaran. Paul Dhinakaran took over the organisation after his father passed away in 2008.

Vaccination campaign picks up across country DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

In a significant achievement in India's Covid-19 trajectory, the active caseload slipped below two lakhs (1.97 lakh) after six months and 24 days. On Wednesday, India

also registered one of the lowest daily new con-firmed Covid-19 cases per million population in the last seven days. There were 13,823 new positive cases and 162 deaths in the last one day. This decline in daily new cases has also contributed to the shrinkage in active

other hand, beneficiaries On the 7.86.842 have been vaccinated for Covid-19 in the last five days, out of which 1,12,007 persons were vaccinated on Wednesday. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Maharashtra are the few states were high number of vaccinations took place. On Wednesday, 82 cases of Adverse Effect From immunization (AEFI) were reported following the vaccination. Ten people were hospi-

talised due to AEFI out of which three are under observation — one each

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the few states were high number of vaccinations took place On Wednesday, 82

cases of Adverse **Effect From immu**nization (AEFI) were reported following the vaccination

in Delhi, Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Chitradurga (Karnataka) while others were discharged. So far four deaths of beneficiaries who took the jab have taken place ever since the vaccination drive began on Saturday. While the post mortem of a healthcare worker from Telangana is going on, officials said three others died due to other reasons not related to vaccination.

Telangana healthcare worker was inoculated on Tuesday. He later com-plained of chest pain and died early on Wednesday. Out of the four deaths, three have suffered cardiac arrest while one died due to cardio-pulmonary

Jack Ma makes iirsi public appearance in three months

Shanghai, Jan. 20: Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma made his first public appearance since October on Wednesday when he spoke to a group of teachers by video, easing concern about his unusual absence from the limelight and sending shares in the e-commerce giant surging. Speculation over Ma's

whereabouts has swirled in the wake of news this month that he was replaced in the final episode of a reality TV show he had been a judge on, and amid a regulatory clampdown by Beijing on his sprawling business empire. The billionaire, who

commands a cult-like reverence in China, had not appeared in public since Oct. 24, when he blasted China's regulatory system in a speech at a Shanghai forum.

K'taka, Maharashtra, TN top 3 states in **Niti Innovation Index** New Delhi, Jan. 20: Karn-

ataka, Maharashtra, Tamil

Telangana and Kerala have been ranked as the top five states in innovation in Niti Aayog's second Innovation Index released on Wednesday. The index, released by Niti Aayog's Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant, has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar have been ranked at the bottom of the index. Karnataka topped the index for the second year in a row. Among Union Territories, Delhi topped the chart, while in the North-Eastern and hill states category Himachal Pradesh occupied the top

of 2018 Aadhaar verdict

New Delhi, Jan. 20: The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its 2018 verdict upholding the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as con-stitutionally valid but striking down some of its provisions, including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admis-

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, by a majority of 4:1, rejected the review pleas against the apex court's

September 26, 2018 verdict. Justice D Y Chandrachud, one of the five-judges of the bench, dissented with the majority verdict and said that the review petitions be kept pending until a larger bench decides the question related to certification of a bill as a

money bill. The Aadhaar Bill was certified as a money bill which enabled the government to get it cleared without getting the assent of a majority in Rajya Sabha.

"The present review petitions have been filed against the final judgment and order dated September 26, 2018. We have perused the review petitions as well as the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion, no case for review of judgment and order dated September 26, 2018 is made out," the majority order of January 11 said.

Talks of third front return to TN politics party would field candidates

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 20

Is there a possibility of a third front, on the lines of the People's Welfare Front that was formed for the 2016 Assembly elections, coming into being this time, too? Yes, going by some developments in the political scene

One of the major indicators for the formation of a possible alliance other than the two led by the DMK and AIADMK came from Tamil

One of the major indicators for the formation of a possible alliance other than the two led by the DMK and AIADMK came from TNCC president K.S. Alagiri's repeated statements in the past two days that actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Neethi Maiam should align with them

Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president K.S. Alagiri's repeated statements in the past two days that actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Neethi Maiam (MNM) should align with them. The same statement earlier made

Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram, too. Though both the leaders have used the term 'our alliance,' it cannot mean the DMK-

Congress alliance. Recent developments in Puducherry where the DMK had openly stated that the

form a government of its own, had ruffled the feathers of Congress leaders. Though some see the DMK's assertion supremacy in Puducherry as only a ploy to browbeat the Congress in Tamil Nadu

in all the 30 constituencies

in the Union Territory and

would also win all of them to

to agree for a less number of seats, TNCC leaders are not happy about the developments and are seemingly looking for an alternative

SC rejects pleas seeking review

SHORT

TAKES

SR ferries fertiliser from Ranipet station after 25 years

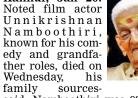
DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 20

After a gap of 25 years, the Southern Railway on Wednesday ferried fertiliser from the Ranipet railway station. One of the oldest in India, the rail line connecting Chennai with Ranipet was laid in 1858. The track between Walajah Road and Ranipet became defunct in 1995 due to poor patronage. The line was relaid as part of Tindivanam-Nagari new line project in 2012, but was not being used.

The Chennai division took upon the last mile commissioning works like welding, ballasting, packing and de-stressing and the line was made fit for goods traffic in November 2020. The first rake of 21 BCN wagons will transport 1,300 tonnes of fertilizer from Ranipet to Tadepalligudem and Dwarapudi in Andhra Pradesh.

Actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri dies at 98

Kannur, Jan 20: Noted film actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri, known for his comedy and grandfather roles, died on his



said. Namboothiri was 98. The actor had survived COVID-19 and was discharged from a hospital on Tuesday. A family friend of the actor said Namboothiri felt some uneasiness and was admitted to a private hospital on Wednesday but he passed away in the evening. He is survived by his children Devi, Bhavadas, Yamuna and P

V Kunhikrishnan. P V Kunhikrishnan is a Kerala High Court judge. Namboothiri is also the father-in-law of popular musician Kaithapram Damodaran Namboothiri. boothiri's notable outings in Tamil were Kandukondain Kandukondain and Pammal K

Sambandam. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition in the stateAssembly, Ramesh Chennithala condoled the demise of the actor. "Namboothiri was an amazing actor who excelled in playing character roles.It's a huge loss to the cultural world," Vijayan said in his condolence message. Chennithala said Namboothiri was known as the grandfather of south Indian cinema. "....with his demise, Malayalam movie indushas lost an excellent actor Chennithala said. His debut movie was 'Kaliyattam' in 1996. Later he acted in numerous movies including 'Kaikudanna Nilavu', 'Madhuranombaraka-ttu', 'Meghmalhar', 'Kalyanaraman,' 'Rappakal' and 'Pokkiri Raja'. His role as a romantic grandfather in 'Kalyanaraman' was a huge hit.



Paul Dhinakaran's 28 properties raided by I-T department.

I-T sleuths knock at Prayer Towers

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | CHENNAI, JAN 20:

Income tax officials raided 28 premises of evangelist Paul Dhinakaran's 'Jesus Calls Ministries' in Chennai, Coimbatore and other places, including the Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences over charges of alleged tax evasion.

As news of the raids spread like wildfire, a wide range of emotions exploded in social media. While followers of Jesus Ministries expressed anger over the raids, many others were delighted over the action against the controversial religious leader and his

organisation.

Many were surprised over the crackdown since Dhinakaran had prophesied before the 2019 elections that Narendera Modi would return to power as Prime Minister, saying categorically that Jesus Christ had told him that in his dreams.

Launched in Chennai by the late D. G. S. Dhinakaran in the 1970s, Jesus Calls now runs 121 'Prayer Towers' in 10 countries, a few educational institutions, a social service organization, a religious television channel Rainbow TV, and

donations, the group is tne family of D. G. S. Dhinakaran, comprising his wife Stella Dhinakaran, son Paul Dhinakaran, his wife and their children. All of them are involved in some evangelical work or the other carried out by the organization and feature prominently in the videos released by them.

As news of the raids spread like wildfire, a wide range of emotions exploded in social media. While followers of Jesus Calls Ministries expressed anger over the raids, many others were delighted over the action against the controversial religious leader and his organisation

Spearheading the group is Paul Dhinakaran, who is the richest Christian evangelist in India with an estimated net worth of over Rs 5,000 crore. He inherited the gargantuan spiritual empire after his father passed away in

D. G. S. Dhinakaran, hailing from Surandai village in the present Ten-kasi district, started his religious career as a preacher and healer while working for the State Bank of India. He became popular as a radio evangelist after he started preaching through radio in 1972 and ran a publication with his wife Stella as editor.

He came up with the concept of Prayer Towers, in which the faithful could call the organisation over phone with their prayer requests. A volunteer or an employee would pray to God on behalf of the sundry other outfits. caller. Also the senior Built entirely on public Dhinkaran came up with the Young Partners scheme in which children can be made 'partners' in the mission for a price.

Initially located in a small plot of land off Greenways Road, today the massive structure housing the headquarters of the organisation faces Greenways Road itself with the Dhinakarans buying off several plots of

land around it.

They faced the same charges of acquiring land around their Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences campus near Coimbatore. At one point the management of the educational institution was forced to close down a couple of off-campus centres in Coimbatore.

But more than that environmental and other vio-lations committed in the construction of buildings for the Karunya institute, which was started in 1986 at Mathuvarayapuram village in the foothills of the Western Ghats, marred the image of the institution granted the deemed to be university status in

Environmentalists have alleged that the institution, spread over 800 acres, was located bang on the elephant corridor that also has wetlands and water resources of river Noyyal. Several buildings were alleged to have been constructed without nec essary approval.

Though the media had highlighted the environ-mental and procedural violations by Karunya, the deemed university has been functioning without any hitch. It was in that backdrop the present raids came as a surprise for many.

Photo electoral rolls: TN has more women voters than men

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 20

Women voters continue to outnumber men in Tamil Nadu, says Election Commission of India. In the special summary revision of photo electoral rolls- 2021 released by Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo on Wednesday, the total vot-ers in Tamil Nadu stands at 6.26 crore and of this 3.18 crore are women, 3.08 are men and 7,246 are third gender.
As per the final electoral

rolls the Assembly constituency with the highest number of electors is Sholinganallur Assembly constituency in Chengalpet district with 6,94,845 electors (men 3,48,262, women 3,46,476 and third gender 107). Harbour Assembly constituency in Chennai district has the lowest num-



1,76,272 electors (men -91,936, women - 84,281 and third gender -55). A total of 47 overseas electors have also been enrolled during Special Summary Revision 2021. So far 4,62,597 differently abled persons have been flagged

in the electoral rolls.

The commission, in a release, stated that over 21.39 lakh persons were included in the rolls and over 5.09 lakh persons' entries were deleted dur-

ing the special summary revision. A total of 8,97,694 persons in the age group of 18-19 years were included, with Chennai registering 49,148 such persons, the highest in the state. As of January 15, 2021, there are a total of 72,853 service voters across the State.

Among the total voters, as on January 20, 2021 – 13.09 lakh are between the age group of 18-19 years, 1.23 crore between 20 to 29 years, 1.38 crore between 30 to 39 years, 1.32 crore between 40 to 49 years, 1.03 crore between 50 to 59 years, 67.23 lakh between 60 to 69 years, 35.33 lakh between 70 to 79 years and 12.98 lakh voters are 80 years and above. The electoral rolls are

available on the Chief Electoral Officer's website http://elections.tn.gov.in. and electors can check their names by visiting

the portal.
All eligible persons who have completed 18 years as of January 1, 2021, and who do not find their names in the electoral rolls can apply (a) by visiting the respective offices Electoral the Registration Officers and submitting Form 6 (b) By applying online through www.nvsp.in. (c) Through the 'Voter Helpline App' available on the Google Play Store, the Commission said.

District contact centres established in all the districts have been provided with the toll-free helpline number 1950 uniformly across the state. For any election-related queries, the public can call the district contact centre. The state contact centre is functioning in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer with the toll-free number 180042521950.

Food min clinical condition is improving: Hosp

Chennai, Jan. 20: Food minister R, Kamaraj, who had tested positive for Covid-19, is improv-ing and his vital parameters are stable, a hospital

said here on Wednesday.
The Minister was
admitted to MGM
Healthcare from Rajiv
Gandhi Government General Hospital on Tuesday at 8 pm and he was shifted to the private facility with ventilator support.
"After being received

in the hospital, a CT scan was done which revealed extensive Covid-19 lung changes."
"Upon his arrival, the treatment protocols were optimised and his clinical condition improving with all vital parameters being sta-ble," Assistant Director Medical Services, MGM Healthcare, Dr Anuradha Baskaran said in a bulletin. — *PTI*



ted to MGM Healthcare from Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on Tuesday at 8 pm and he was shifted to the private facility with ventilator support



Republic Day parade rehearsal held on Kamarajar Salai on Wednesday.

Plea to recover idols stolen from temples

DC CORRESPONDENT

Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Madras high court to direct the authorities to conduct an inquiry into a complaint alleging missing of property registers and idols of the temples in Tamil Nadu and hand over a report, if the idols were stolen, to the Idol Wing police for recovery of the same.

The First Bench com-Chief Justice Banerjee and prising Sanjib

the PIL filed by R.Venkataraman, a social activist, came up for hearing, adjourned it by four weeks. According to the petitioner, pursuant order of this court, the HR & CE department conducted a survey in all the temples in Tamil Nadu during the month of November 2020. During that time, he received reliable information with supporting evidences about the missing of temple properties including idols and the

Justice Senthilkumar Ra-

mamoorthy before whom

property registers. He also came to know that several ancient idols were stolen and the superstructure of some temples does not exist at all. However. suppressing the theft of ancient idols worth Rs several crores and missing of property registers, authorities were preparing new registers. Therefore, he gave representations to the authorities to take action immediately. But there was no response. Hence, he has filed the present PIL, he



Health secretary Dr J. Radhakrishnan along with Dean Dr Jayanthi welcoming first year MBBS 2020-21 batch students at Government Omandurar Medical College. The students followed

CM meeting President today to seek Bedi's replacement

Minister Puducherry V Narayanasamy has said he, along with two of his ministerial colleagues and Member Parliament

Vaithilingam, would meet President Ram Nath Kovind on January 21 to seek the replacement of Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi.

The Chief Minister told newsmen here on Wednesday after chairing a meeting of the state-level Management Authority (SDMA) that he had telephonically contacted the office of the President for the meet. The meet, he said, was to

focusing on the alleged undemocratic and atrocious manner in which Bedi has been functioning. He said she has been hindering implementation of

welfare schemes finalised by an elected government and tarnishing the image of the territorial administration. Narayanasamy said he had sought an appointment with the President as

the alleged intervention of Bedi was throwing routine governance out of gear. He further said the officials were also allegedly being threatened by the Lieutenant Governor and hence they could not find a

present a detailed petition free atmosphere to discharge their duties.

> Narayanasamy said the dharnas on his part and also on the part of the Welfare Minister M Kandasamy against Bedi in recent days were necessitated because of her alleged autocratic atti-

He charged Kiran Bedi with functioning out of ego and vanity.

The Chief Minister said there was no need for the imposition of the regulatory order under section 144 CrPC, but the district Collector Purva Garg clamped it since January 9. The regulatory order

the garb of protection to Lieutenant Governor. We are not against protection to the former IPS officer. But, covering a wider area under the order and putting barricades have been hindering movement of people," he said. Narayanasamy said the

SDMA meeting also discussed about the hardship the people have been facing because of the order.
"I have asked the police to remove the barricades in the next 24 hours₹, he

He said the Collector had imposed the order without consulting the govern-

proceedings against Bedi, he said. Narayanasamy Welfare Minister M Kandasamy, Health Minister Malladi Krishna Health Rao and the Member of Parliament Vaithilingam

explanation from the Collector so that we can go

ahead with disciplinary

would accompany him to Delhi to meet the President. "I hope my meeting with the President will bear fruit and do good for the people of Puducherry," he

said. The Welfare Minister and the MP were also present at the press meet.

Trans-persons defy Covid, raise funds online

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, JAN. 20

Despite Covid-19 still disrupting the livelihood of vulnerable communities in the society, the trans-persons in the city have achieved an encouraging target in raising funds, thanks to online fundraising

Born2Win Social Welfare Trust for transgenders, established in $\overline{2013}$ in Chennai, collected more than Rs 3 lakh during the pandemic and distributed it

Born2Win Social Welfare Trust for transgenders, established in 2013 in Chennai, collected more than Rs 3 lakh during the pandemic and distributed it to at least 3,000 needy people across the state

On January 15, they handed over Rs 25,000 to Preethisha Premkumaran, a transwoman who started a tea shop at **Ashok Pillar**

to at least 3,000 needy people 25,000 to Preethisha Premkuacross the state. On January maran, a transwoman who 15, they handed over Rs started a tea shop at Ashok

Swetha Sudhakar, founder of the trust, said they started raising funds online after lockdown affected the livelihood of the community. Though it has been a year since the pandemic hit, a large section of the community is still unable to return to work. We think it is high time to empower the community members to launch business ventures that can generate jobs for them. So we handed over a cheque for Rs 25,000 for the mobile tea

shop initiative," she said.

She said they were raising funds for trans-persons in other districts too, including Namakkal, Villupuram and Tiruchy. There are lot of transgenders who do not have the ID cards issued by the government. The online platform helped us to raise funds and

find donors, Swetha said. Preethisha Premkumaran said she initiated the business to survive the tough pandemic. "We lost our jobs. The financial support from Born2Win instilled confidence in us," she said.

Doctors save Covid+ woman with multiple fragment surgery

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 20

The city doctors conducted a life-saving multiple fragment surgery on the elbow of a 70-year-old Covid-19 positive woman with multiple co-morbidi-The patient, Ms Saraswathy, from the city fractured her elbow after a fall and was hospitalised earlier this month.

Nandkumar Sundaram, who led the surgery at Fortis Malar

breathlessness. She was put on high-pressure support in order to sustain her normal breathing. It took three weeks of intensive care to make her fit for the complicated multiple-fragment surgery," Dr Sundaram said.

"The surgery was done with the help of a tourniquet of the upper arm to cut the blood supply and help us operate with a clear vision. Due to the

Hospital, said the patent Covid-19 situation, the had high fever and acute patient was placed face patient was placed face down, ulna bone was divided and reflected back with the muscle to expose the elbow joint from the back without damaging the nerves and vessels. The bone was carefully fixed on both sides with a plate without creating any further fractures. Though it is difficult to operate an elbow joint, we were lable to successfully fix the fracture', he said.

CM accuses Stalin of being 'power hungry'

Wednesday challenged DMK president M. K. Stalin again to have a debate with him on his allegations of corruption against the government and accused him of being power

In his campaign at nearby Sriperumbudur for the Assembly polls, Palanisw-ami said the leader of the opposition was not ready to accept his challenge. "You accept his challenge. "You (Stalin) should come without a paper slip to debate. You must not read out from a

Thulasenthirapuram

of Kamala Harris

DC CORRESPONDENT

MANNARGUDI, JAN. 20

celebrates swearing-in

The villagers of Thulasenthira-puram, near Mannargudi in

Tiruvarur district, the birthplace

of the ancestors of new US Vice-

President Kamala Harris, on

Wednesday celebrated her assum-

ing office, with lot of enthusiasm.

origin woman elected to the coveted post in the US, was

sworn in, the people of Thulasenthirapuram designed snacks like murukku vadagam

etc with the name of Ms. Harris.

villagers

special poojas at Sri Dharmashasta Temple in the vil-

lage and burst crackers to express

their happiness. They also organ-

ised a mass sadya to mark the

event.The villagers said Ms.

Harris should visit their village

As Ms. Harris, the first Indian-

Chennai, Jan. 20: AIADMK top leader and Chief else. List out your claims of Minister K. Palaniswami on corruption and I will answer," he said.
The AIADMK has often

mocked Stalin for 'depending' on paper slips to address people. Dismissing as 'lies', the charges of corruption levelled by Stalin in a petition to Governor Banwarilal Purohit, the Chief Minister said he was ready to face the DMK leader and debate at any place to refute his allega-

The Chief Minister said though he had already (earlier this month) asked Stalin

to turn up for an open debate, the DMK chief was not coming forward to accept his challenge.

"A tender for a road work in Tirunelveli was cancelled about a year and a half ago. Even without knowing that, Stalin has made a false claim of ₹700 crore corruption," he

In December, DMK had submitted a petition to Purohit, seeking action under the Prevention of Corruption Act and Palaniswami had then too said these were lies and defamatory in nature.

Palaniswami said he con-

Minister," and the job of a Chief Minister is to execute the orders of the people.

The DMK chief was however 'power-hungry' and irritated in his bid to become the Chief Minister and does not 'know' anything about the country, he alleged.

Listing out his government's 'achievements', including bagging national awards in local administration, water management and education, he exhorted the neaves' symbol of AIADMK. people to vote for the 'two-

Stalin wants woman to retract words against OPS

DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, JAN. 20

president M.K. Stalin on Wednesday insisted a woman participant of his 'Makkal Gramasabha', held at Aranmanaiputhur in Theni district, to retract her 'nasty' words against Deputy Chief Minister Bodinayakanur MLA O. Panneerselvam.

The woman, Lakshmi of Boothipuram while Bodinayakanur, complaining about the bad shape of roads in the constituency, said she would even murder the Bodinayakanur MLA as he had not done anything good for the development

of the constituency.

An aghast Stalin said though he could

understand the woman's anger against the Deputy Chief Minister, insisted her to retract the words. As the woman refused to apologise, the DMK president did not allow her to continue. Mr Stalin cautioned the woman that such verbal attacks on leaders had no place in a democracy.
Earlier, the DMK presi-

addressing the Gramasabha, came down heavily on Mr Panneerselvam for not doing anything for the state or for his own constituency despite becoming the chief minister

45 injured in Suriyur jallikattu

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JAN. 20

As many as 45 persons, including three very seriously, were injured in event at Suriyur village Tiruchy

Wednesday.
Sources said that 589 bulls and 369 bull tamers from different parts of the state took part in the

event.
All the injured were given first aid at the camp hospital and them referred to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Tiruchy.

H. Jayaraman Inspector General of Police, Tiruchy central zone, gave away



or through phone

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Vigilance arrests cop while taking bribe

DC CORRESPONDENT

at least once in a year.

inspector at the Cherambadi police station on the Nilgiris border with Kerala was arrested by the

sleuths on Tuesday evening rying building materials while taking ₹10,000 as

Vigilance Anandavelu demanded Rs 40,000 every month from one ₹10,000 to Anadavelu as the Elias to allow his trucks carfirst instalment, he was

sand from Kerala and construction sites department in Chermapadi. Elias that apprised the vigilance officials and when he paid ₹10,000 to Anadavelu as the

caught red handed. This is the second such incident recently related to corruption involving police at Nilgiris border and the hill residents wanted the west zone police administra-

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SHORT TAKES

MUMBAI POLICE FILE FIR AGAINST 'TANDAV' TEAM

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 20

Mumbai police on Wednesday registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by BJP MLA Ram Kadam about web series Tandav. Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh said that action will be taken in the case as per law. Meanwhile, a four-member team of Uttar Pradesh Police arrived in Mumbai to conduct a probe into a case registered in Lucknow against the web series.

In a related development, the Bombay high court granted transit anticipatory bail for three weeks to Ali Abbas Zafar, the director of Tandav. He has been granted bail in connection with the FIR registered in the UP. The transit pre-arrest bail has been granted to enable him to approach the appropriate court for regular anticipatory bail.

The said FIR was registered at Hazratganj Police Station in Lucknow. Several people are named in the FIR and the team of cops from Lucknow intend to interrogate all those who were named in the FIR, before taking any action.

The UP police team, which has already reached the city, will first approach the Mumbai police for local assistance.

While several FIRs were filed across the country against the makers, Amazon Prime Video and the actors, the makers had also issued an unconditional apology on Tuesday for unintentionally hurting anyone's religious sentiments.

IS A THIRD FRONT, A REPEAT OF **2016, BREWING?**

FROM PAGE 1

Mr Alagiri himself said that the party was prepared to face the elections alone in Puducherry even while expressing a wish to maintain a cordial relationship with 'friends.' It means that the Congress would like to save the alliance with the DMK but

would not mind losing it, too. Some top Congress leaders are also said to be piqued over the way in which the DMK has started treating its major ally. It is not just the bargaining for allotting less number of seats but also the DMK's demand to know in advance the name of candidates that the Congress would field from the con-

stituencies allotted to them. While some Congress leaders feel that there was no harm in ing more seats to the DMK in Puducherry, they are very particular that they get a substantial number of seats in Tamil Nadu. In the event of the DMK trying to shortchange the Congress by offering less seats in Tamil Nadu, they would like to break away from the alliance

It is in this backdrop the call to MNM assumes significance. Haasan, too, on his part has kept the alliance question open, saying often that there would be a churning and some parties might go to him for a tie-up.

Since the VCK, too, is said to be in close touch with the Congress, it might also move over to the alternative alliance if it shapes up, say Congress functionaries, who have been alerted about a possible breaking of its present ties with DMK. While there are no indications of a party breaking away from the AIADMK alliance now, seat sharing talks could result in the snapping of ties of parties and they, too, might drift towards the third front if it evolves into an electorally viable alter-

Final checks



Indian Air Force Rafale jet and Jaguar aircraft fly past Rajpath during the rehearsals for Republic Day Parade 2021 in New Delhi on Monday.

others were absconding,

On January 10, a widow

was raped by three youths in the village of Umilia in Sidhi district.

The three accused had

then inserted an iron rod

She was battling for life

in a hospital in Rewa. Two accused, Lalu kol and Bhailal Patel were

arrested, while another

accused was absconding,

On Tuesday night, a girl was waylaid by two

motorcycle-borne youths

in Indore and then taken

to nearby railway track

where she was allegedly raped by them. Three other people who were waiting there also

They then bundled her

She managed to free

herself and called her

the hospital. The girl has

identified one of the accused as Akshyaya. All the five accused were

absconding, police said.

and former chief minis-

ter Kamal Nath slammed

Chouhan government

for having failed to check

growing incidents of rape in the state.

Shivraj Singh

Senior Congress leader

in a jute sack and threw

her on the railway track.

allegedly raped her.

police said.

in her private parts.

police said.

police said.

MP rocked by 4

rapes in 10 days

Cong slams Shivraj govt for having failed

IN A SHOCKING

days by nine people.

to check growing incidents of rape in state

incident, a 13-year-old girl, resident of Umaria,

had been raped for three

was abducted and taken to Chhatan jungle in Umaria district by two

youths, identified as Rahul Kushwaha and Akash Singh, where they

She was later taken to a

nearby eatery where she

was allegedly raped by the 'dhaba' owner Paras

Soni and four of his asso-

ciates, according to a complaint lodged by the

victim in the local police

She was later taken to Chhatan jungle by them where she was gangraped, she alleged.

According to her com-

plaint, she was then bun-

dled in a Katni-bound

truck on January 12 by

raped her and then

dropped her at Kala Badbara check gate. Later, she got a lift in a

Umaria-bound truck in

which she was raped by

The victim along with

her family members filed FIR in the Umaria

accused were arrested, 2

January 15. While

the truck driver.

police station

The truck driver had

the accused.

allegedly raped her.

Leaking secrets of military ops is treason: Cong

New Delhi, Jan. 20: are members of the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against them and against the second of the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against them and second of the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Cabinet Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Security of violating the Official Secrets Act and demanded that action be taken against the Cabinet Committee on Sec said on Wednesday on the purported WhatsApp chats of *Republic TV* editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and demanded

that the Prime Minister must come clean.
The party said those involved in the "anti-national act" deserve no mercy and the government should immediately order on incuiving into the er an inquiry into the "information leak" ab-

out the 2019 air strikes.
The Congress fielded its top leaders — former defence minister A.K. Antony, leader of opposi-tion in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former home minister Sushilkumar Shinde and former law and external affairs minister Salman Khurshid to launch a scathing attack on the government at a joint

press conference. Congress said it would raise the issue in a big way in Parliament during the budget session starting January 29 and garner support of other parties for a joint offensive against the government including a joint parliamentary committee probe.

It also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top ministers who ascertain who leaked the

SP TO HOLD JOINT

RALLY WITH SENA,

NCP IN MUMBAI

SONU SHRIVASTAVA |

In a bid to stop the BJP from coming to power in

the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Samajwadi Party (SP) is planning to

organise a grand public rally of north Indians in

alliance with the Shiv Sena and NCP. SP leader

Ram Charitra Nishad

met Shiv Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in this regard.

The proposed meeting will be addressed by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Thackeray and SP national

president Akhilesh Yadav. Nishad said that the mega rally is likely to be held in Mumbai after

Holi in March.

The BMC polls will be held along with UP Assembly elections in early 2022. Around 24 lakes votors are north.

lakhs voters are north

Indian in Mumbai.

MUMBAI, JAN. 20

sensitive information.
"Leaking of official secrets is a criminal act. Leaking official secrets about military operation, national security matters, sensitive military operations especially military strike is treason, anti-national. They have to be punished for anti-national activities,

for treason. They deserve no mercy," Antony said. Referring to the WhatsApp chats between Goswami and ex-BARC CEO Partho Dasgupta, he said India's national security has never been compromised in such a way and never have the high offices of the prime minister, home minister and others been "brazenly compromised".
"Does the PM, Union

home minister, in fact the entire government h ave any moral, political, Constitutional right to continue in office after such damning revelations? We demand that the PM should come clean on these accusations immediately in order to restore the severely damaged credibility of the highest office of the country," a joint statement by the leaders said.

India, EU hold online talks on maritime security

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

India and the European Union (EU) held their firstever maritime security dialogue in a virtual format on Wednesday during which "developments in maritime security environment, regional cooperation activi-ties, developments of mutu-al interest and opportunities for cooperation between India and the EU" were dis-

It may be recalled that India and the EU had — dur-ing their 15th bilateral Summit in July last year — agreed to strengthen military-to-military relations and naval cooperation and establish a maritime securiestablish a maritime securi-ty dialogue to preserve safe-ty and stability in the Indian Ocean, in what was seen as a veiled but clear

signal to China. In a statement on Wednesday, the ministry of external affairs said, "India and the EU held their first maritime security dialogue in a virtual format on 20 January 2021. The consultations involved exchanges on

developments in maritime

regional cooperation activities, developments of mutu-al interest and opportunities for cooperation between India and the EU." The ministry of external affairs added, "The EU-

India Maritime Dialogue was chaired by Director Joanneke Balfoort on the EEAS side and Joint Secretary Sandeep Arya on the Indian side. The dia-logue seeks to develop mutual understanding and cooperation opportunities between India and the EU in the maritime security domain as another factor of the strategic partnership between the two sides consistent with the India-EU

Roadmap to 2025."

It may be recalled that India, along with the United States, Japan and Australia, is a member of the four nation Quad, an arrangement that aims to preserve a "rules-based order" in the Indo-Pacific region. In a major move, EU-member nation France had on Tuesday announced that there would be a "strategic triangle" along with India and Japan "committed to a rules-based Indo-Pacific"

BARC ex-CEO's bail rejected in TRP scam

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC

MUMBAI, JAN. 20

A Sessions court in Mumbai on Wednesday dismissed a bail application filed by Parto Dasgupta, former CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), who has been arrested in connection with the alleged Television Rating Points (TRP) scam case December last year.

A graduate from IIM Calcutta, Partho Dasgupta was the CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council ("BARC") between June 2013 and November 2019. He had moved the bail application after he was remanded to judicial custody. The Crime Branch has charged him under sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal

He had filed the bail applitnrougn advocate Shardul Singh and Arjun Singh on the grounds that there was nothing more left to be recovered from him. The chats were not authenticated by a 65B certificate under the Indian Evidence Act hence it could not be considered as evidence. Moreover, an Oversight Committee has certified by their own report that TRPs cannot be tampered with already on bail.

India to despatch 20L

vaccine doses to B'desh

Special public prosecutor Shishir Hire had vehemently opposed the bail application filed by Dasgupta on behalf of police.

He had read out several

WhasApp chats between Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and the applicant to show their proximity. He had also contended that as an ex-BARC CEO the accused has good resources and if released on bail he could influence witnesses in the case. He had pointed out that in one of the chats, which are part of the supplementary charge sheet, Goswami allegedly offered to mediate with the PMO's office on behalf of Dasgupta, while in another chat they speak about manipulating the TRPs of Republic to surpass Times

Advocate Hirey argued that Dasgupta, in his capacity as the CEO of BARC, was supposed to be a neutral party and that the rise in TRPs of a channel was directly proportional to its ad-revenue. Dasgupta's lawyer Singh

had also sought bail on the ground of parity. He had argued that the co-accused who was allegedly directly involved in manipulation, according to the report, is

6 parties form 'alliance' in Assam

the

on

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 20

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

Madhya Pradesh has wit-

nessed barbaric rape of four girls in the last 10 days, triggering public

In a shocking incident, a 13-year-old girl was raped in her family's farmland in Jangda vil-lage under Ghodadangar

police limits in Betul dis-

trict by a local villager late on Monday evening.

The victim had gone to the farm to switch off

On finding her alone, the accused Sushil Verma (45) raped her and

then buried her under a heap of stones, Betul dis-

trict superintendent of

police Shimla Prasad

said on Wednesday. The

victim's sisters who

came to the farm while

searching her late on

Monday night, had found

ner buried in a pit and

alerted their father, who

carried her to Ghodadangar hospital. She was later referred to

Nagpur Medical College

hospital. The accused

In another incident, a

13-year-old girl, resident of Umaria, had been raped for three days by

On January 11, the girl

has been arrested.

nine people.

BHOPAL, JAN. 20

outcry.

the motor.

In what is set to give a formidable challenge to the ruling BJP-led alliance in forthcoming Assembly polls, six opposition political parties, led by the Congress, have formally announced the formation of a 'grand alliance' to take on the BJP-led NDA government in Assam.

Besides the principal opposition Congress, the All India

CPI(M), the Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) Liberation, and the Anchalik Gana Morcha (AGM) led by Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan are the part of the grand

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who is the senior observer of the All India Congress Committee

United Democratic Front (AIUDF), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the eral rounds of consultation with all the partners.

Among others present on the occasion were Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Ripun Bora, AICC general secretary in-charge for Assam Jitendra Singh, AICC general secretary and former Union min-ister Mukul Wasnik, senior Congress leader and AICC observer Shakeel Ahmed

Khan, leader of the state Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Debabrata Saikia, APCC vice-presidents Prodyut Bordoloi and Rakibul Hussain, AIUDF leaders Aminul Islam and Hafiz Bashir Ahmed Kasimi, AGM president Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, CPI state secretary Munin Mahanta, CPI(M) state secretary Deben Bhattacharya, and CPI(ML) Liberation State secretary Rubul Sarma,

Covishield (Oxford-AstraZeneca) vaccine to the Maldives and 1.5 lakh Covishield doses

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC

After delivering one lakh doses of the

Indian-manufactured

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

to Bhutan on Wednesday, India will step up its powerful display of neighbourhood vaccine diplomacy by despatching a massive 20 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine to Bangladesh and 10 lakh doses of the Covishield vaccine to Nepal on Thursday. The vaccines supplied have been manufactured by the Serum Institute of India at Pune. All four nations lie in India's immedineighbourhood and the consignments are being seen as India's "gift" to these nations.

A consignment containing 20 lakh doses of the Covishield vaccine will reach Bangladesh's Capital Dhaka on Thursday. The vaccine delivery fulfils the assurance given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh

 THE VACCINE delivery fulfils the assurance given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the bilateral Virtual Summit last month that India would facilitate supply of vaccines as and when ready.

 10 LAKH doses of the Covishield vaccine will be despatched to Nepal.

Minister Sheikh Hasina during the bilateral Virtual Summit last month that India would facilitate supply of vac-cines as and when ready.

It is also being seen as reflective of India's strong commitment to "Neighbourhood First" Policy and Policy and Bangladesh's special place in it. A consignment of 10 lakh doses of the Covishield vaccine will also reach Nepalese Capital Kathmandu Thursday.

The Nepalese Government had earlier requested for supply of Indian manufactured vaccines and the request was reiterated during the recent visit India by the Nepalese Minister.

Meanwhile, a consignment containing

Covishield vaccine Bhutan's reached Thimphu on Wednesday. "#VaccineMaitri begins. Consignment arrives in Bhutan. Another example #NeighbourhoodFirst ," External Affairs Minister (EAM) S.

1.5 lakh doses of the

Jaishankar tweeted. Also, a consignment containing one lakh doses Covishield vaccine reached the Maldivian Capital Male Wednesday.

"Indian vaccines Maldives, reach reflects our special friendship," External Affairs Jaishankar tweeted. Bhutan and the Maldives were the first two foreign countries to receive the Covishield vaccines, highlighting close strategic proximity to India.

Gujarat govt applies for a patent to change nomenclature of dragon fruit NAME CHANGE

Guj to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam'

Gujarat government has decided to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam', Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has said.

The state government has applied for a patent to change the nomenclature of dragon fruit, which is largely grown in Kutch, Navsari and different parts of Saurashtra, to 'Kamalam', Rupani told reporters on Tuesday.

The name dragon fruit is not proper, and due to its name one thinks of China. So we have given it the name 'Kamalam'," he said.

Asked why the name 'Kamalam' has been given to fruit, Rupani said, "Farmers say it looks like lotus and that is the reason we



Vijay Rupani

have named it 'Kamalam'." Notably, 'Kamal', or lotus, is the poll symbol of the BJP and Gujarat party unit headquarters is named Shri Kamalam. There is nothing political

Rupani said, "the name dragon fruit is not proper, and due to its name one thinks of China. So we have given it the name 'Kamalam'.

• THE FRUIT is found in arid areas of the state and it is known for its nutritional value, like it also helps in increasing the hemoglobin, Rupani said in reply to question on the need to rename it.

behind renaming of the fruit, Rupani said.

The fruit is found in arid areas of the state and it is known for its nutritional value, like it also helps in

Kutch have largely taken up farming of this fruit. increasing the hemoglobin, Rupani said in reply to question on the need to rename it.

The CM also said it is the most expensive fruit available in the market at this time. The change in nomenclature of the fruit is yet to find its way among the masses and farm-

Ahmedabad-based housewife Gayatri Vyas, who regularly eats the fruit for its nutritional value, said she is not aware that it has been changed as it is available as 'dragon fruit' only in markets. The fruit comes from several

different cactus species and is recommended to be eaten as it can boost immunity.

Lately, cultivators from some of the state's arid regions like

geted the BJP over the Gujarat government's decision rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam', saying the time may not be far when the saffron party would start calling the country "Kamalastan".

The NCP on Wednesday tar-

The BJP has now started "branding itself on fruits also," NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said in a state-Tapase said, "The BJP has

now started branding itself on fruits also. We fear that the time may be not far when they start addressing would start Hindustan as Kamalastan." -PTI

SHORT TAKES

BIDEN SWORN IN, SWEARS BY DEMOCRACY

FROM PAGE 1

Though three other former presidents — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama - gathered to watch the ceremonial transfer of power, Mr Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, instead flew to Florida after stoking grievance among his supporters with the lie that Mr Biden's win was illegitimate.

Mr Biden, in his third run for the presidency, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Mr Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. Mr Biden did not mention Mr Trump by name in the early moments of his inaugural address but alluded to the rifts his predecessor had

helped create.
"I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we all are created equal and the harsh, ugly reality of racism, nativism, fear, demonisation that have long torn us apart," Mr Biden said. "This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward and we must meet this moment as the United States of America."

Mr Biden came to office with a well of empathy and resolve born by personal tragedy as well as a depth of experience forged from more than four decades in Washington. At age 78, he was the oldest president

HARRIS TAKES OATH AS V-P. **MAKES HISTORY**

FROM PAGE 1

But it's particularly meaningful because Ms Harris is tak-ing office at a moment of deep consequence, with Americans grappling over the role of institutional racism and confronting a pandemic that has disproportionately devastated Black and brown communities. Those close to Ms Harris say she'll bring an important — and often missing — per-spective in the debates on how to overcome the many hurdles

Harris, 56, moves into the vice presidency just four years she first came to Washington as a senator from California, where she'd served as attorney general and as San Francisco's district attorney. nad expected to wor White House run by Hillary Clinton, but President Donald Trump's victory quickly scrambled the nation's capital and set the stage for the rise of a new class of Democratic

facing the new administration.

After Harris' own presidential bid fizzled, her rise contin-ued when Biden chose her as his running mate last August. Harris had been a close friend of Beau Biden, the elder son of Joe Biden and a former Delaware attorney general who died in 2015 of cancer.

The inauguration activities included nods to her historymaking role and her personal story. Harris used two Bibles to take the oath, one that belonged to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the late civil rights icon whom Harris often cites as inspiration, and Regina Shelton, who helped raise Harris during her childhood in the San Francisco Bay Area. The drumline Howard University, joined the presidential escort. To mark the occasion, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the nation's oldest sorority for Black women declared Wednesday as Soror Kamala D. Harris Day.

INDIAN JAILED FOR MOLESTING S'PORE WOMAN

Singapore, Jan. 20: A 26-year-old Indian painter in Singapore was sentenced to nine months in prison on Wednesday for molesting a pregnant woman after following her to a lift lobby, accord ing to a media report.

Kota Durga Prasad molested the three-month pregnant woman who was visiting her husband in Singapore on the night of September 5 last year, reported the *Channel News* Asia. Kota thought that the victim "looked pretty" and decided to follow her on seeing her crossing a traffic junction in the Jurong West residential area. He cycled behind her to a lift lobby of a housing block, where he approached her and asked for her phone number, the prosecution told the court.

DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED: BIDEN

Newly inaugurated US Prez, in maiden speech, calls on Americans 'to defend the truth and defeat the lies'

Washington, Jan. 20: "Democracy has prevailed," newly inaugurated US President Joe Biden said on Wednesday in his maiden speech as he called on Americans "to defend the truth and defeat the lies". Speaking shortly after taking oath as the 46th President of the United States, 78-yearold Biden also pledged to repair America's global allies, which suffered during his predecessor Donald Trump's four-year reg-

ime. "This is America's day..democracy has prevailed," Biden said, apparently referring to his Trump's efforts to deny him victory in the November 3 election won "With unity we can do great things," he said referring to the challenges ahead of him from fighting the Coronavirus to addressing racial injustice. "Unity is the path for-

ward," he asserted, laying out his vision to defeat the pandemic, build back better, and unify and heal the nation. Biden asserted that he will be the president for all Americans, all those who voted for him and those who did not vote for him. In his speech that lasted for 21 minutes, Biden praised Americans for rising to the challenge and reclaiming democra-cy. He mentioned the attempt to undo it at that exact location two weeks ago, and renewed his campaign goals of overcoming the pandemic, bringing racial justice and fighting climate change.

those who have stoked anger and division, and asked those who opposed him to "hear me out." He called out those who lie for political power and profit. "There is truth, and there are lies," he added. In a message to the international community, rebuild the alliances frayed over the past four years. "We can make America once again the leading force of good in the world." "We will "---"We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again, not to meet yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's challenges," he said. "We will lead by the power of our example," he said in his message to the international community.

Biden also criticised

The 78-year-old veteran ratic leader sald "We'll be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress and security" "America has been tested. and we have come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again. "We'll lead, not merely by the exam-

READY TO SERVE, SAYS KAMALA IN 1ST TWEET AFTER TAKING OATH

Washington, Jan. 20: Kamala Harris was on Wednesday sworn in as America's first woman Vice President during a historic inauguration at the West Front of the Capitol. Harris, 56, the 49th US Vice President, will serve as the deputy of President Joe Biden, 78. who also took the oath of office, becoming the 46th US President.

Harris took over the office of the US Vice President from 61-year-old Mike Pence. Biden succeeded President Donald Trump, 74. In her first tweet as Vice President from her official Twitter handle, she said: "Ready to serve.

Harris, the daughter of an Indian immigrant from Chennai, scripted history by becoming the first-ever woman Vice President of the United States. She is also the first female, first Black and first South Asian American vice president. Her husband Douglas Emhoff, 56, is the first 'Second Gentleman' — the first male spouse of a vice president in the US. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the Supreme Court, administered the oath of office to Harris. She was sworn in on two Bibles one that belonged to a close family friend named Regina Shelton and another that belonged to Thurgood Marshall — the country's first African American Supreme Court justice. -PTI

ple of our power, but by the power of our example. We'll be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress and security," Biden said. Many world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have tweeted their congratulations to the new administration expressed their optimism at working together. "My warmest congratulations to Joe Biden on his assumption of office as President of the United States of America. I look orward to working him to strengthen India US strategic partnership," Modi said. "My best wishes for a successful term in leading USA as we stand addressing common challenges and advancing global peace and security," he said. — PTI



Vice President-elect Kamala Harris greets former US President Barack Obama ahead of Joe Biden's inauguration as the 46th President of the United States on the West Front of the US Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday.

12 Guard troops pulled out

Washington, Jan. 20: Twelve US National Guard troops have been pulled from duty protecting the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden, partly due to an investigation of extremist sympathies in the ranks, the Pentagon said Tuesday. Two of the 12 were removed from duty for making "inappropriate comments or texts," said National Guard Commander General Daniel

The two were sent home, he said, declining to explain what was said in

Hokanson.

the comments. They were pulled from **REOPEN ASYLUM FOR MIGRANTS** Washington, Jan. 20: President-elect Joe Bideduran migrants now

BIDEN HOMELAND SECURITY PICK TO

n's Homeland Security secretary nominee Alejandro Mayorkas promised Tuesday to apply US asylum laws to undocumented immigrants but did not say how he would deal with a caravan of Hon-

the force "out of an abundance of caution," he said. The removal of the other

Mayorkas told a Senate committee vetting his nomination that the government would roll back departing President Donald Trump's tough measures to seal the southern US border.

ained, but was "unrelated to the events taking place have noted on extremism," said Pentagon spoke-sman Jonathan Hoffman. The actions against the

12 came amid concerns that the far-right extremists who took a part in the assault on the US Capitol on January 6 have associates or sympathisers in

the US military. Concerned about a possible threat to Biden or others, the FBI has investigated whether there were extremists among the up 25,000 National Guard troops being deployed in Washington to keep security for the inauguration. -AFP

FROM GAGA TO GARTH, MIRANDA TO MORENO: **CELEBS JOIN**

Washington, Jan. 20: Like so much this past bration will be like no other: pared down, dis-tanced, much of it virtual. But for actor Christopher Jackson - the original George Washington in Broadway's "Hamilton" — performing in a virtual "ball" is a way of participating in an essential rite of American

democracy.
"I'm glad to play a part in it," says Jackson, who will perform at the quadrennial ball for the Creative Coalition, a fundraiser for arts education and one of the more prominent unofficial events surrounding Joe Biden's inauguration. "It's a great honour, and I'm very grateful that we have allowed our system to continue to work in the way it was intended." Jackson -- not star and "Hamilton" creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda — joins a slew of celebrities descending on Washington, virtually or in person, for entertainment surrounding the inauguration of Biden and Kamala Harris. Although the festivi-

ties have been radically scaled down due to the raging Coronavirus pandemic and security threats, a steady stream of A-list names have signed on, headlined by Lady Gaga singing the national anthem on the West Front of the Capitol, with Jennifer Lopez and Garth Brooks contributing musical performanc-

'Aggressive stance' against China: Spy chief

Washington, Jan. 20: lligence on Tuesday US Asserting that China is a President-elect Joe Biden "challenge" to the security and prosperity of the US, spy chief nominee Avril Haines has said she supports an "aggressive stance" to deal with the challenges that the country is

now facing from Beijing. America's approach to China has to evolve and essentially meet the reality of the particularly assertive and aggressive China that is being experienced now, Haines told lawmakers during her confirmation hearing for the post of Director of National Inte-

has nominated Haines, who had served as White House Deputy National Security Advisor in the Obama administration, as his next spymaster.

If confirmed by the Sen-Haines would be the first woman to occupy this position. In this capacity she would oversee as many as 18 American intelligence agencies, including CIA and FBI. "China is a challenge to our security, to our prosperity to our values across a range of issues, and I do

support an aggressive stance, in a sense, to deal with the challenge that we're facing. So I think that's the place that we are now, and one that is more assertive than where we had been in the Obama/Biden administration. I'm confirmed, think frankly the intelligence community can do a lot to help in that respect," she said. "Providing, keeping our focus, putting our resources and effort in making sure that we understand the intentions and capabilities of China," she said. — *PTI*

APPROACH CHINA FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH, NOT WEAKNESS: BLINKEN Washington, Jan. 20: Id- state to the United States

entifying a rising and assertive China as a major national security threat to in terms of our interests, the interests of the American people," Blinken told the United States, the in coming US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has said that America needs to approach the challenge from a "position of strength, not weakness". "As we look at China,

there is no doubt that it poses the most significant challenge of any nation Blinken added.

members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing. "There are rising adverse aerial aspects to the relationship. Certainly competitive ones and still some cooperative ones when it is in our mutual interest.

Kamala brings in new style of dressing

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' understated and elegant signature style of blazers combined with sneakers signals a new way of power dressing. Harris, 56, made history as the first female, first Person of Colour and first South Asian American vice president on Wednesday.

Emerging as a woman of conviction and dedicated towards her work, Harris makes sure her approach- her; she wears the clothes,

US media outlets reported. Her no-nonsense wardrobe often features sharp blazers, skinny pants, pearls and Converse sneakers. Her style is understated, tailored, elegant, businesslike, with a touch of whimsy, said Susan E. Kelley, who runs the blog What Kamala Wore, in a report in the New York Post. The clothes don't wear

That professional polish mixed with West Coast nonchalance signals a new way of dressing for the corridors of power, it said. Harris opted to wear a

dress designed by two Black designers for her historic inauguration as the US Vice-president. In opting to wear the dress designed by Christopher John Rogers and Sergio Hudson, Harris has sent her own message to the

ers have arrived on the scene. Rogers is a young Black designer, from Baton Rouge, and lives in New York City. Hudson is a Black designer from South Carolina. Rogers has sold made-to-order designs from his Brooklyn studio since 2016, according to

Harris' fashion sense dates back to the days when she was a lawyer in San Francisco. She had a ers in neutral tones along with accessories like boldly patterned scarves, colourful Converse or the jangly bangles she wears alongside a Cartier watch, the report said.

Harris has always maintained a simple yet graceful look, whether it is her debut as the vice presidential candidate or her victory speech when the Democrats won the November 3 presidential election.

SOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU / DINDIGUL CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned an Special Road Programme for Corporations for the year 2020 2021. Under this scheme the Commissioner, Dindigul City Municipal Corporation invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified contractors for the following works as detailed in the table given below.

No.of Packages: 11rd Call 1 to VIII - Road Improvement

Value put into tender (Rs. in lakh) Ranging from Rs.167.00 lakh and Rs.199.00 lakh Tender document available from : 22.01.2021 to10.02.2021 afternoon 3.00 PM ender opening: 11.02.2021@3.30 P.M.

Tender document and schedule available in http://tntenders.gov.in and http://municipalify.tn.gov.in. tenders can be downloaded at free of cost from 22.01.2021. The Bidding document will be received by the Corporation Commissioner, Dindigul City Municipal Corporation by way of off-line and e-submission also in 2 cover system up to 10.02.2021 - 3.00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit, 1(one)% of the value o isso in 2 cover system by to 10.02221 * 3.00 Pm. Latinss, wholey belost, in line where water or york should be submitted along with the tender by means of DD in favour of Commissioner, Dindigu City Municipal Corporation to a drawal at Dindigul. If e-tender, the EMD should be dropped in the tende look before closure time, it is at 3.00 PM on 10.02.2021. Evaluation of bids will be done as per Tende ansparency Act 1998 of Government of Tamil Nadu and rules there us. If the said tender date happer to be a holiday, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. The Commissioner, Dindigul City Municipal Corporation reserves the rights to accept or reject any bidding document at any time withou assigning any reason there of. Eligibility criteria and other details can be had from the Bidding document For other details contact e-mail address: commr.dindigul@tn.gov.in Contact No. 0451-2427428 Commissioner, Dindigul City Municipal Corporation

Don's last-minute pardons include Bannon, 73 others

Washington, Jan. 20: Outgoing President Outgoing President Donald Trump has par-doned his former politi-cal strategist Steve Bannon, one of the key architects of his 2016 electoral victory, as he issued a wave of par-dons using the final hours of his presidency to grant clemency to 143

The record 73 pardons and 70 commutations came in addition to the dozens of similar actions that Trump took after he lost the November 3 presidential elections to Joe Biden of the Democratic Party. Biden, 78, will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday.

The White House in a statement issued on Wednesday said that Trump granted a full pardon to Bannon, who was in charge of the final months of his 2016 presidential campaign. Bannon was indicted

in August when New Trump's

York federal prosecutors charged him and three others with defrauding donors of more than a million dollars as part of an online fundraising campaign purportedly aimed at supporting border wall.

The White House in its statement said Bannon has been an important leader in the conservative movement and is known for his political

acumen. Besides Bannon, other pardon recipients included Elliott Broidy,

a former top fundraiser for Trump's campaign who pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy relating to a secret lobbying campaign to influence the Trump administration on behalf of a foreign billionaire in exchange for millions of dollars. and Ken Kurson, a friend of son-in-law Trump's Jared Kushner who was charged last October with cyberstalking during a heated divorce.

Trump also granted a full pardon to rapper Lil Wayne who had pleaded guilty to a gun possession charge in Miami.

Vogue's new Harris cover after row

Vogue will publish a limited edition of its latest issue featuring a different photo Vice-Presidentelect Kamala Harris after the original cover image sparked controversy, said magazine Tuesday.

Critics slammed the photo that graced the hard copy of the February issue, saying it was poorly composed diminished Harris's achievements as the first Black woman to be elected vice presi-

Social media users criticised the lighting of the photo — in

New York, Jan. 20: which Harris wears a blazer, jeans and sneakers — and also questioned whether the magazine had lightened her skin.

ightened Following the Vogue backlash, Vogue announced it would release some copies with a more formal portrait of Harris wearing a light blue Michael Kors pa-

ntsuit.
"In recognition of the enormous interest in the digital cover, and in celebration of this historic moment, we will be publishing a limited number of special edition inaugural issues," a Vogue spokesperson said

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED TENDER NOTICE Bid Notice No.12792/2020/MCE4

Bid Notice No.12/92/2020/MCE4

TENDETY TO Date 1.1. Dated.18.01.2021

Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 09.02.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through https://tntenders.gov.in by using E. Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 08.02.2021 up that signature Cards on the Corporation Executive Engineer. Thanjavur 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

	SI. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Earnest Money (Rs.in)	Contractor Class
	1.	Development of Street Vendors Infrastructure in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	83.00	83,000/-	l Class
Commissioner 9 Consist Officer Therefore City Marsin Inc.					

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED Bid Notice No.12756/2020/MCE4 TENDER NOTICE Sealed Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thaniavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto 3.00 PM on 09.02.2021. The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at 3.30 PM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may down load the Tender documents through https://intenders.gov.in by using E-Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before 08.02.2021 up to 3.00 P.M. Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in year of Administrative reasons.

SI.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money	Contractor
No.		(Rs.in Crore)	(Rs.in Lakhs)	Class
1.	Development of Land, Approach Road, Internal Paver Block Road, Solar Street Lights, Security Room & Toilet Facilities for Proposed 3 MWP Solar Power Plant at Sirajudeen Nagar Sewerage Water Treatment Plant in Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation	2.00	2.00	l Class



Chronicle

21 JANUARY 2021

When Team India staged mother of all comebacks

eam India staged the mother of all comebacks to win an away Test series in one of the most difficult terrains to conquer while overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds. This win in Australia will go down in Indian cricket history as the greatest achievement, perhaps outranking the 1971 twin series wins in the West Indies and England and the 2001 win at home against Ricky Ponting's Australians in which too they had come back from a Test down to win the series. The team had similarly beaten Australia in the 2018-19 series Down Under but the home team then were without Steve Smith and David Warner.

This is indeed the dawn of a new era as the touring India squad laid to rest many conservative theories about experienced players and a settled XI being the key to success. The remarkable story of this triumph was shaped by fringe players who were pushed on to centrestage and who flourished beyond imagination in the limelight. Only Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara played all four Tests. And when India went into the decider at the Woolloongabba arena in Brisbane, India's combined bowling attack had fewer Test wickets in their bag than Australia's occasional leg spinner Marnus Labuschagne. It is

the deeds of such unlikely heroes that makes folk-

Rahane at the helm was as if Buddha were put in charge of a cricket team as opposed to the demonstrative Kohli, which just goes to show there are many ways to play the great game

The saga of raw physical courage starring Pujara at the Gabba and before him that of Hanuma Vihari and Ashwin who salvaged the draw in Sydney will be spoken of for a long time to come. But nothing made all this seem like a fairytale than the transformation of young Rishabh Pant who went from impulsive striker to matchwinner in the space of two Tests, his 97 in Sydney turning the series on its head as it gave a glimpse of victory from counterat-tacking cricket before his decisive 89 not out in Brisbane which cemented the balletic 91 of opener Shubman Gill who had shown that the Australian

pace bowlers could be taken on even in their Gabba. Who would have imagined that the mother of all turnarounds would come from the very depths of despair of 36 all out in Adelaide and that the matchwinners would come from diverse backgrounds as the son of autorickshaw driver, Siraj being the only Indian bowler with a five-for in the series, the son of street vendor, Natarajan who went from net bowler to Test performer and Test benchwarmers Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur would star with bat and ball. It was cheeky of netizens to suggest that the series verdict means Virat Kohli is free to seek more paternal leave because he as the skipper had assiduously built not only this team but also instilled in it this positive attitude.

It is time then for Indian cricket to bury old shibboleths and reshape the future with an open and all-inclusive approach recognising the fact that today's youngsters, exposed to big team atmosphere and subject to expert international coaching and conditioning in the IPL, are equally adept at playing to win. Rahane at the helm was as if Buddha were put in charge of a cricket team as opposed to the demonstrative Kohli, which just goes to show there are many ways to play the

Vaccine aid for neighbours

ed to live up to the claim. By the time these lines are printed, lakhs of doses of made-in-India vaccines against the novel coronavirus would have landed in our neighbouring countries, and more will do so in the coming days. While six nations — Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles — will get the Indian vaccines in the first tranche, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will get them once "necessary regulatory clearances" are given. It is noteworthy that the Indian vaccines would be the first to arrive in most of these nations.

Vaccine, all said and done, is a knowledge product: it calls for the use of the knowledge humankind has created and every single tool it has made till now for its successful rollout. India's soft move, peppered with diplomatic quotients, will earn a lot of goodwill for the country. It will also prove to the neighbours, and the world at large, that India becoming a

superpower will benefit all. The only exception as of now is Pakistan. The Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan has cleared the use of Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India, and the government there is reportedly exploring ways to get it through Covax, an alliance set up by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and World Health Organisation or directly. Both the routes are fine but India should positively decide should a request come from the n neighbour It wil nave no dramatic consequences but will be the stating of the obvious — the real challenges the two now-estranged nations

face are similar, and the ways to overcome them will be more successful if

they are adopted together. Should it happen, the vaccine could produce

some antibodies against ultra-nationalism and religious bigotry, too. The

government should seize this chance.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER

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science (or political leaning). In the most recent instance, the "love jihad" law legislated by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has triggered a "let-ter war" between former bureauthe state government. The ranks of the ex-babus have been joined by

Earlier, a group of 104 retired bureaucrats wrote to Yogi Adityanath, expressing "deep disapproval" and concern at the use of the "love jihad" law. Noted signatories included retired bureaucrats

like former NSA Shiv Shankar Menon, former chief of R&AW A.S. Dulat, former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former principal secretary in PMO T.K.A. Nair and former Union health secretary K. Sujatha Rao

among other notables. Now, a Forum of Concerned Citizens, comprising of over 250 retired officers has written to the chief minister endorsing the 'Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020' and the motive behind it. In their letter, the group of former babus and ex-Army officers said that the legislation rightly provides that marriages done for sole purpose of unlawful conversion can be declared unlawful by family courts. They termed the letter by anti-love jihad babus a "politically motivated pressure group" and said that they don't represent thousands of civil servants who believe in New India cies of the world.

battles being fought by proxy! **CADRE MERGER**

More than a year after the Centre abrogated Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated the state into Union territories, the J&K cadre of IAS, IPS and IFoS has been merged with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. This allows officers posted in these states and UTs to work in J&K

made in the corresponding cadre allocation rules by the Centre. The notification issued by the government states that officers allocated to AGMUT cadre shall function following the rules framed by the Centre.

Observers see in the move a message of total integration of J&K with

Centre's problem of the reluctance

of J&K cadre officers to serve in Ladakh, as it now creates a larger pool of UT cadre officers. Ladakh, they say, suffers from a paucity of officers. Due to its harsh climate officers are reluctant to serve there. But with the Chinese threat looming, the Centre wishes to focus on Ladakh's development. So, clearly, it is as much a political move as an administrative one.

MAMATA'S BIG PROMOTION **PUSH IN BENGAL**

Political or administrative compulsion? West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has promoted 31 IAS officers as secretary and additional secretary in one big push to bolster the state government's administration ahead of the

tive machinery, which has come under fire from various quarters. Among the 19 officers promoted as secretaries are additional secretaries Smita Pandey, Vijay Bharti, Shubhanjan Das, Samir Kumar Bhattacharya, C.C. Guha, Rajat Bose, Kaushik Halder, N.C. Sarar

The new additional secretaries include V. Lalithalakshmi, Sourav Pahari, Mukta Arya, Devi Prasad Karanam, Shakeel Ahmed, Uttam Patra, Santanu Saha, Nirmalya Ghosh, Anindya Narayan Biswas and Dipankar Chowdhury.

But this is early in the poll cam-paigning and chances of further changes in the state administration cannot be ruled out as the CM seeks to stave off the BJP's onslaught to dislodge her party from power. Watch this space for updates.

> dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.



DON'T WORRY WE WILL RENAME

THE VILLAGE AS ARUNAPURI

India, world must gear up as Biden era begins not a first step in curbing the zeal of UP chief minis-ter Yogi Adityanath in



K.C. Singh

Subhani

esident takes iden over America's presidency under unprecedented circumstances. It is only the fourth time in US history that the outgoing leader refused to attend his successor's inauguration, all earlier examples being from the nineteenth century. The transition has been disorderly, to say the least, despite the US facing a serious spike in Covid-19 cases, with over 400,000 dead and the economy slowing down. Domestic challenges are rivalled by those abroad as the Trumpian foreign policy equally

fractious

While Mr Biden's nominees to head the state and defence departments and the CIA are all wellknown individuals, their depositions before Senate committees a day before the inauguration give an insight into the new administration's thinking. Antony Blinken, the state, began with his personal story as the descendant of those who either fled Soviet pogroms or Nazi concentration camps. He ended with the touching tale about his late stepfather, hiding in a bush as disarray descended with Allied troops advancing into Germany in 1945, stepped out on seeing a tank with a five-pointed white star and told the African-American GI emerging from its turret the only three English words his mother taught him: "God

bless America". These anecdotes bol-stered Mr Blinken's argument that the US must lead the world "not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example". He listed the most pressing challenges as rising nationalism, receding democracy, growing rivalry from "China, and Russia and authoritarian states, mounting a threat to a stable and open international system". He also noted "a technological

revolution" was reshaping our lives. If the US doesn't lead, he said, "there can be only two outcomes: another nation will step in or none will, and chaos shall ensue".

On specifics, Mr Blinken argued the US must defeat Covid-19, outcompete China and take the lead in tackling cli-mate change. President Biden is likely to take action on all three fronts the very first day. The US will rejoin the Paris climate agreement, return to the World Health Organisation, reverse travel bans on select Muslim nations and reach out to alienated allies. But he singled out China as the most significhallenge

Therefore, President Trump was right in the direction of his China policy, but wrong in the means he chose.

The defence secretarydesignate, Gen. Lloyd Austin (Retd), talked about India's near westneighbourhood. he reiterated the US resolve to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, he qualified it, as Mr Trump avoided doing, by saying safeguarding the gains in women's rights, etc, must be a precondition to a final settlement. On Pakistan, he seemed to regress to old formulations like underscoring its importance to Afghan and regional peace

out democracy and human rights as central to the Biden administration's global outreach Thus overall, while India would be happy with the tone and tenor on China, though what the new China containment strategy will be is still unclear, would be cautious about Pakistan again getting more wriggle room. But New Delhi can't take the talk about human rights lightly. It was speculated whether the sudden early retirement of a bureaucrat close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his induction into Uttar Pradesh politics is

Mr Blinken also singled

pursuing a majoritarian agenda and intolerance towards anyone criticising him. Å comedian's being detained for perceived insult raises questions about freedom of speech being curbed. The four-year free pass the government got on this count is now over. This is happening as the BJP prepares for a no-holds-barred electoral fight in West Bengal, and when the farmers' protests at

Delhi's main entry points is nearing two months. In Britain, the farmers' protests led to 100 MPs, across party lines, raising concern. A similar move can't be ruled out in Washington, with Democrats now controlling both Houses. External minister Jaishankar had earlier drawn the ire of a congressional committee by illogically seeking the exclusion of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal from a meeting he was to attend as she had been critical of the government's actions including Kashmir, Article 370's abrogation. She has been re-elected and may revisit that issue and now new ones like

the farmers' protests. Trump's administration poisoned US foreign policy well before departure by ramping up sanctions against Iran, raising the level of ties with Taiwan, declaring China's actions against Üighurs as genocide, etc. The aim was possibly to reduce Mr Biden's strategic space to re-balance ties with those nations, or if he did so make him vulnerable to attacks over being soft on perceived antagonists. Interestingly, like the debate over Mr Modi having gone overboard with

The key question is whether Mr Biden can return the US and the world to its pre-pandemic, pre-Trump order. That seems unlikely because of China's rise and also as Mr Biden has a domestic right-wing insurgency on his hands.

his Houston rally with

seeds of distrust amongst Democrats, Australian PM Scott Morrison is being similarly excoriated. He attended a rally with Mr Trump in Ohio and Opposition leader Anthony Albanese is calling it a foolish alignment

with a losing candidate. But the key question is whether Mr Biden, with eight years as President Barack Obama's deputy and decades in the US Senate, can return the US and the world to its prepandemic, pre-Trump order. That seems unlikely both because China's rise, if anything, has been accelerated by the current global crises and also as Mr Biden has a domestic right-wing insurgency on his hands, which Mr Trump may continue to pour fuel on from his perch in Florida. Liberal internationalism needs re-invention. A post-Brexit and weakened British PM Boris Johnson has proposed a 'D-10", a grouping of the G-7 plus three other democracies: India, South Korea and Australia. The US must reassess how to counter China's success in getting two groups off the ground after Mr Trump's defeat: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Europe-China investment agreement. Will Mr Biden re-engage

membership to push for UNSC reforms and curb the rising penetration of China in UN bodies. None of this is possible unless the BJP takes a hard look at its domestic politics since Mr Modi's 2019 re-election. Peace at home, constitutionalism, rule of law and respect for human rights is a precondition to any genuine partnership abroad with major democracies recovering from the right-wing

with the new version of

Trans-Facinc
Partnership, which Mr
Trump walked out of.
India just joined the UN
Security Council for a

two-year term. Will the

Biden administration's

revived interest in inter-

enable India to use its

national

Trans-Pacific

institutions

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

onslaught on

institutions.

LETTERS

CHINA BUILDS VILLAGE IN ARUNACHAL

SHANTA, A HUMANIST DOCTOR

The passing of Dr V.Shanta a name synonymous with cancer care who worked tirelessly towards providing qualitative and affordable health care services and treatment to cancer afflicted patients in the country till the end came, is an irreparable loss to both medical fraternity and common man alike. As chairperson of Adyar Cancer Institute, Dr Shanta had opened its gates to people from all strata of society and ensured no cancer patients went untreated because of their crippling poverty and impecunious circumstances. At a time when profitability has emerged as a sole driving force for private hospitals, Dr Shanta and her Adyar Cancer Institute remained an exception.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

THE PASSING of Dr V. Shanta, the world renowned and the most loved oncologist who dedicated her entire life to the treatment of cancer patients is a great loss to thousands of her cancer patients and the cured. She was an embodiment of selfless service to the cancer

afflicted, particularly the poor. At a time when cancer was considered a killer disease, she made the world realise that cancer is not only curable but preventable too. There are only a few who could match the yeoman service renv her to humanity and it would be very difficult to fill the vacuum she has left. We now hear loud cries that the country's tallest civilian award Bharat Ratna should be conferred on her in recognition of her achievement in the control and treatment of cancer. Why were they waiting till she died to make this appeal? We never recognise dedicated souls like Dr Shanta during their life-

Tharcious S. Fernando, Chennai

time but only honour them posthu-

PHENOMENAL WIN

IMPOSSIBLE, THEY say, is often untried. Winning a Test series Down Under is never easy. But then it is not impossible if a team is committed to win and has a great leadership. Rahane and his boys have exemplified it in the series, winning it 2-1. Especially, chasing successfully a target of 328 runs in the fourth Test on a difficult pitch in Brisbane without the services of run-machine Kohli is something incredible. Every member of the team deserves accolades for their remarkable performance in the last

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Mail vour letters to editor@deccanmail.com





Free to air views, ex-babus square up in 'letters war' on 'love jihad' law

erhaps service rules stopped them from airing their views but after retirement bureaucrats are not bound anymore and can voice their thoughts freely. This has led to the formation of proand anti-government groups among retired babus who jump into the fray at the behest of their con-

crats, those who criticise the law and those who have rallied behind retired Army officers, members of the judiciary and others.

emerging as the greatest democra-

One may be tempted to believe that this is an instance of political

and vice-versa. Necessary modifications may be

the Centre. It also solves the

Assembly elections. With the BJP making a determined effort to breach her stronghold, the Trinamul leader is taking steps to strengthen the administra-

Share a babu experience! Follow

FINANCIAL

Chronicle

THURSDAY | 21 JANUARY 2021 | COIMBATORE

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	49,792.12	0.80
Nifty 50	14,644.70	0.85
S&P 500*	3,840.12	1.08
Dollar (₹)	73.02	0.20
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.92	-0.36
Euro (₹)	88.74	-0.07
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,758▼ 347	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.42	0.93
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.942	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	* 1.101	0.009
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

Dumping duty on newsprint for 5 yrs recommended



The DGTR has recommended the imposition of antidumping duty on newsprint-used in printing newspapers—from Australia, Canada, EU, Russia. Singapore and the UAE, for five years. Its probe concluded that 'newsprint in rolls or sheets, excluding glazed newsprint' from these countries have been exported at dumped prices into India. The duty suggested is \$5.15-\$98.6 per tonne. FinMIn takes the final call on duties.

■ Hiring may surge in new academic year

Education sector sheds 6 mn jobs

CHENNAI, JAN. 20

While most services sectors have been recovering in the past two quarters, the education sector has been witnessing a different trend. The sector has rather lost 5.4 million jobs by the end of the December quarter. Inter-estingly, the job losses had started even before the lockdown.

However, a silver lining is that once the schools reopen, Covid-19 restrictions may mandate schools to have fewer students in a classroom and this might raise the need for teachers.

The education sector, which had employed 15 million people in 2018 and 2019, had started showing weakness towards the end of 2019, according to a study by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Employment fell to 14.5 million in the March quarter of 2020, even before lockdown hit all sectors. It further fell to 9.7 million in the June-September 2020 quarters. In the December 2020 quarter employment in education was down to 9.1 million.

From the 2019 levels, the sector has lost close to 6 million jobs.

"In 2019-20, the industry has been witnessing a disruption with the adoption of technology. While new edtech start-ups have been emerging on the one hand, regular institutions have been increasingly embracing technology on the other, which led to lesser demand for manpower. Even the job forecasts for the sector had predicted



Sector bucks the recovery trend in

services sector Education sector had employed 15 million in 2018 and 2019

▶ This came down to 9.1 million in the

also ramp up hiring in new academic year

teachers in 2021

December 2020

quarter

lesser hiring," said Shantanu Rooj, founder & CEO,

Schoolguru Eduserve.
According to him, it was perceived that personalised care would increase the requirement of teachers by edtech start-ups. But artificial intelligence tools took care of this requirement. Further, AI-based assessments too reduced the need for manpower. "The lock-down further

legitimised online learning, as a shift in mindsets in favour of online happened among the student community. Educational institutions went online during the lockdown and most of them have not started functioning physically yet. Online reduced the requirement of teachers, leading to the decline in jobs," he said.

According to Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive vice presi-

OUICK CROSSWORD

19

1.Withered, reduced in size (8)

7. Military pageant (6)

11. Mark on cattle (5)

13. Undecorated (5)

18. Knock senseless (4)

19. Trounces (anag) (8)

Word Mine

W

GOOD; 13 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only.

Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid.
There should be at least one
nine letter word. Plurals, foreign
words and proper names are
not allowed.

ANSWEKS: NICWIT, WINCH, WING, WITCH, WITCH, WITCHING, Whit, WINCH, WING WITH, WITHIN

6. Probability (4)

9. Last (5)

12. Warn (5)

16. Hire (6)

12

institutions in smaller cities have not been operating as earlier since the lockdown. This has impacted jobs of both

▶ Smaller-sized classes

▶ Tech platforms could

may raise demand for

teachers and support staff. "Even the contract staff in government institutions were out of job," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services.

The situation is expected to continue in the March quarter. The ongoing vaccination drive may help education institutions reopen in the next academic year.

"Then we would probably see a surge in hiring. When institutions reopen, they will have to split students into smaller-sized groups. This will increase the requirement of teachers. Hence we expect the jobs in the sector to bounce back to 2019-20 levels by next academic year. Tech platforms also would be ramping up hiring," said Rooj.

SUNDARAM FINANCE TO GET NEW MD FROM APRIL

Chennai, Jan. 20: Nonbanking finance compa-Sundaram Finance ced that it has made key changes in its manage

The changes include the appointment of Rajiv Lochan as managing director, succeeding T. T Srinivasaraghavan with effect from April 1, 2021, the company said. T. T. Srinivasaragh-

avan, fondly called as "TT" among close circles, would retire after serving the organisation for over 38 years as of March 31, 2021.

It was during his tenure the balance-sheet of the city-based company grew from Rs 800 crore to over Rs 30,000 crore today. Srinivasaraghavan,

during the last two decades, also led the group's diversification into a multi-product financial services provider, a company statement said.

Lochan, who is the current director (strategy), has over 25 years of experience in financial services and was a part ner in the consulting firm McKinsey and Company. Recently, he served Kasturi and Sons as its managing director.

Commenting on the enure of Srinivasaraghavan, Sundaram Finance chairman S. Viji said, "Under his leader the company ship, demonstrated its traditional focus on asset quality and most importantly its adherence to values of prudence and customer focus.'

Southern states top Niti Innovation Index

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala have been ranked as top five states in innovation in the Niti Aayog's second Innovation released Wednesday.

The index, released by Aayog's vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant, has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index.

Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the index.

Karnataka topped the index for the second year. Among Union territories Delhi topped the chart, while in the North-Eastern and Hill States category Himachal Pradesh occupied the top spot. "Amongst major states,

the average innovation score is 25.35. Karnataka tops at 42.5, which is attributable to its strong number of venture capital

deals, registered GIs (geo-

communication technolo-

gy) exports. Karnataka's

high FDI inflow has also

enhanced the innovation

capabilities of the state," the India Innovation Index

ranked second with an

2020 said.

at 14.5.

Maharashtra

(information and

four of them occupy the top-five spots within the major states," the release According to the index, the North-Eastern and

Hill states achieved an average innovation score of 17.89, with Himachal Pradesh as the best performer with a score of 25, followed by Manipur (22.77) and Sikkim (22.28), respectively.
"With 31.9 per cent of its

graphical indications) and ICT (information and total employment generated being knowledge-intensive, Himachal Pradesh benefits from a high number of knowledge workers," it said.

The index noted that the innovation score of UTs and city states averages at 26.01. Delhi was the best performer among all groups.

innovation score of 38, while Bihar finished last Tamil Nadu has a score The India Innovation 37.91, followed by Telengana at 33.23 and Kerala at 30.58. "The case

Index 2020, ranks the states and UTs based on their relative performance of supporting innovation.

Schneider asked to list or give exit option

for the southern states as

the top performers has

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Markets regulator Sebi has asked Schneider Electric President Systems to either list on a stock exchange within six months or provide exit to its investors under the delisting norms.

If the company opts for de-listing, the reference date for computing the floor price would be the date on which the company made the public announcement for the exit offer, the regulator said.

Further, the shareholders who had tendered their

shares in exit offer would be given an opportunity by the company for buying back the shares at the exit price, the Sebi said in an order passed on Tuesday.

Schneider Electric President Systems, a designer, manufacturer and supplier of standard and customised enclosure systems in India, was earlier listed on the Banga-lore Stock Exchange (BgSE) and Pune Stock Exchange (PSE).

Following the de-recognition of BgSE and PSE in 2014 and 2015, respectively, the company moved to the

dissemination board (DB) of the NSE in July 2016

Prior to being moved to the DB, the 2012 and 2014 circulars issued by Sebi had cast an obligation on the company to migrate to a nationwide exchange or provide an exit option to the shareholders in terms of the delisting norms.

Also, exclusively listed companies (ELCs) of derecognised bourse were required to exercise one of the options prior to the exit of the stock exchanges where they were listed.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam Aries: You will have the proper skill and



aurus: Health needs attention. Follow a balanced diet and try meditation to lead a will need to watch your back.

capacity to balance life. Your emphasis will mainly lie on spirituality and intellect, rather

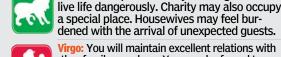


Gemini: Today communication will be your strongest ally. It will be your only means to reconcile any misunderstandings with friends and family.

ncer: Today you are hit by not just the



realization, but also the conviction that it's high time you paid utmost attention to your career. Carelessness may prove disastrous. eo: You are possessed by a strong desire to

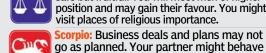


dened with the arrival of unexpected guests. /irgo: You will maintain excellent relations with other family members. You may be forced to go for a last minute cancellation of a deal due to paucity of funds. At your work place, you may

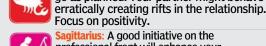


Stuart Little franchise, Commander in Chief, Accidents Happen and Marjorie Prime amongst others. Libra: Long distance travels will not only be safe but fruitful. You will meet men of higher

You share your b'day with



position and may gain their favour. You might visit places of religious importance. corpio: Business deals and plans may not



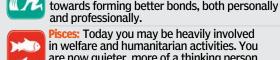
gittarius: A good initiative on the professional front will enhance your reputation in your social circle. Increase and decrease in finance is indicated for a few.



your house. Do not over indulge in other matters. Today you also need to control your language to avoid any sort of controversy at work. Aquarius: Today unwanted expenses as well as journeys can emerge that will be taxing, but you

will find spiritual comfort. You work relentlessly

apricorn: You may buy something expensive for



Pisces: Today you may be heavily involved in welfare and humanitarian activities. You are now quieter, more of a thinking person. Working with children, sporty pastimes, yoga and meditation will be rejuvenating.



PHILLIP ALDER ONE **PEEK IS WORTH ALL**

OF YOUR

FINESSES

enry Bromel wrote in a "Northern Exposure" script, "They say dreams are the windows of the soul — take a peek, and you can see the inner workings, the nuts and bolts."

So, today, let's look at a deal's nuts and bolts. What will happen in three nowill happen in three no-trump if all 52 cards are face up on the table? In the auction, South's opening bid was borderline, but at least she had a good suit, one she would have

liked her partner to lead should they end on defense. When North responded one heart, I agree with South's neart, I agree With South's one no-trump. Never rebid in a five-card suit unless there is nothing else even semi-sensible to do. Then North used New Minor Forcing, hoping his partner had three-card heart sup-nort.

port.
At first glance, it looks as though declarer will benefit from the lucky distribution – clubs 3-3, and the dia-

North 1♥ 2♦ 3NT

1.Winter crystal (9) 2. French sculptor (5)

10. Paint type (7)

14. In search of (5)

jumble

3. Flying device (4) 4. Without affectation (7) 5. Muck (3) 8. Authoritative order (9)

Down: 1. Luge, 2. Mind, 3. Lava, 4. Silo, 5. Agreement, 7. Steadfast, 9. Niece, 11. Beech, 12. Ate, 15. Debt, 16. Date, 17. Sate, 18. Oats. 15. Church song (4) 17. Encountered (3)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 6. Fumigating, 8. Trend, 10. Abode, 13. Absenteeism, 14. Faded, 17. Shown, 19. Substitute.

OBRNI NKRAC TURIMA THE ICE SKATER HADN'T QUITE MASTERED A FIGURE EIGHT YET, BUT SHE WAS ON THE ---**RFDIBO** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Print your answer here:

five and heart four, and three no-trump is cold!) At the table, though, West, not benefiting from seeing the other hands, led the heart three. If declarer had played low from the board, she would have made mond ace and spade jack onside. But West was psy-chic. Despite dummy being known to have five hearts, West still led a heart. If she had selected the 10, East would have taken dummy's jack with his queen and shifted to a spade or dia-

Jumbles: SCOUR

mond. West would have won

with her ace and pushed through another heart. The defensive spots would have been just good enough to build up three tricks in the suit. (Exchange the heart

TEMPO EFFECT

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board, she would have made it home, but she put up the jack. Now the contract had

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson















ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall







THEY'VE

ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe





TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs







SHORT TAKES

Nadella, Pichai hail Indian team

Washington: Top Indian American CEOs Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella on Tuesday congratulated the Indian cricket team on their historic test series win in Australia. A fearless Indian team, driven by its courageous youngsters, pulled off an exhilarating threewicket win over Australia in the fourth and final test of the the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane on Tuesday. "One of the greatest test series wins ever. Congrats India and well played Australia, what a series #INDvsAUS, tweeted Pichai, chief executive officer of Google

and Alphabet.
"Last hour of the last day of the last test. Test series for the ages. Congrats to Team India!", Microsoft CEO Nadella wrote on the microblogging site. Both Nadelaa and Pichai are self-confessed cricket enthusi-asts and closely follow the Indian team, making interesting observations at the end of important tournaments.

More Covid cases linked to Oz Open

Melbourne: Three more people linked to the Australian Open have tested positive for Covid-19 in Melbourne, increasing to 10 those associated with the Grand Slam tennis tournament which begins on February 8. Victoria state Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville confirmed the new cases had been detected on Wednesday, adding that authorities are "very confident" one of the cases is a tennis player who is shedding the virus and is not infectious. The player is already in hard lockdown as they were on board a flight into Melbourne with another positive case. The other two cases are a player and their support person. Those 10 positive cases mean a total of 72 players remain in hard lockdown after being deemed close contacts of

those positives on three charter flights into Melbourne from Abu Dhabi, Doha and Los Angeles. There were 17 tournament charter flights which arrived into Australia over three days last week so players and their entourages could undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Australian Open director Craig Tiley said 3,200 tests have been conducted on the more than 1.200 players, support staff and tournament officials.

Leicester City humble Chelsea

Leicester, UK: Leicester moved to the top of the Premier League at the midway point of its campaign after a dominant 2-0 victory over Chelsea. Wilfred Ndidi and James Maddison scored in the first half on Tuesday to lift Leicester above Manchester United and Manchester City into first place. Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers has been happy for his players to go under the radar in the title race, but his bright and energetic team continues to show its credentials and is now unbeaten in six league games. Even with Vardy's goal drought extending to five games, Leicester had enough quality to beat Chelsea that has now lost five of its last eight league games to pile pressure on man-

Shakib shines in Bangla win vs WI

ager Frank Lampard. - AP

Dhaka: Shakib Al Hasan took four wickets for just eight runs in a stunning international comeback Wednesday as Bangladesh beat the West Indies by six wickets in their the first one-day international in Dhaka. Shakib, playing his first ODI after a one-year ban, helped Bangladesh bowl out a weakened West Indies for 122 in just 32.2 overs. In reply, the home side reached 125-4 in 33.5 overs, with skipper Tamim Iqbal hitting 44 off 69 balls. — AFP Brief scores: West Indies 122 in 32.2 overs (K. Mayers 40; Shakib Al Hasan 4/8) lost to Bangladesh 125/4 in 33.5 overs

Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

(T. Iqbal 44; A. Hosein 3/26).

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HEAT'S ON KOHLI Super Kings retain Raina, release six

Victory under Rahane puts Virat in focus

things first. There is no imminent threat to Virat Kohli's captaincy in any format and neither is BCCI even remotely thinking on those lines.

But that's the news part of the story. When it comes to views, there are many — some are quite open about the theory of split captaincy and some are speaking about it in hushed tones

Ajinkya Rahane's calm demeanour in India's biggest overseas series win has opened up a debate but to disappoint the fans of the Test vicecaptain, there is little chance of a permanent anointment for him in the immediate future.

However, there could be a paradigm shift in how the leadership group in the Indian cricket team works when Kohli reenters that dressing room after a month-long pater-

When Kohli left, it was a team that was down in the dumps — dismissed for its lowest Test score of 36. But a lot has changed since that fateful afternoon in Adelaide.

While head coach Ravi Shastri is absolutely right in saying that this team bears Kohli's "stamp and character" but from December 19 in Adelaide to January 19 in Brisbane, a few senior cricketers will be perceived a bit dif-

Rohit Sharma, Ravich-andran Ashwin, Chetes-hwar Pujara and certainly Rahane, in their own little way, have created a legacy but post Brisbane, that legacy will need proper

acknowledgement.
These four will not ask for it as they have now earned it after quite literally putting their bodies

So when Kohli enters that Indian dressing room, he will remain the "first" but "among equals" in a leadership group that possibly will be

more inclusive.
On Friday, when a question was put forth on this to stand-in skipper Rahane after the match got over but expectedly, his tight defence couldn't be breached.

"I don't want to think bout all these things. This is a victory that we all need to enjoy and I will think about England series once I am back in India," Rahane dodged the



Indian coach Ravi Shastri (right) talks to players in the dressing room with captain Ajinkya Rahane by his side after India beat Australia to clinch the Border-Gavaskar Test series 2-1 at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Pant is best keeper-batsman

Dubai, Jan. 20: India's Rishabh Pant became the top-ranked wicket-keeper batsman in the world after his sensational series-winning 89-run knock in the Brisbane match pushed him to a careerbest 13th spot in the ICC Test batting rankings,

issued on Wednesday.
Pant, who won many admirers for his fearless and mature batting, has 691 points in his kitty. South Africa's Quinton de Kock (677) is the next best wicket-keeper batsman in the list in the 15th posi-

Australia batsman Marnus Labuschagne's first-innings century in Brisbane took him past India skipper Virat Kohli (862 points) to third position with a career-best 878 rating points. Kohli missed the action as he was on paternity leave.

Young India opener Shubman Gill continued his upward trajectory, moving up from 68th to 47th spot after a crucial 91 in the second innings of the fourth Test, which India won by three wick-

ets on Tuesday. Middle-order mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara moved



India's Rishabh Pant hits a six during his match winning knock against Australia on the final day of the fourth Test at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Thakur

jumped 32 places to 45th after taking six wickets in rankings following their the match, including a five-wicket haul in the sec-

ooth bat and ball. six places to 47th) and Washington entered the medium pacer Asitha both bat and ball. up one place to seventh after his dogged effort, Obebutant Washington washington entered the rankings in 82nd (batting)

useful contributions with

gained in

captain after the Australian batsman and some other under-performing stars were released by their respective IPL franchises even as Chennai Super Kings retained veteran Suresh Raina for the upcoming 14th edition of

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Sanju

Samson replaced Steve Smith as Rajasthan Royals

the league.

The deadline for the eight franchises to submit the lists of retained and released players for the next season ended on Wednesday.

Samson was appointed to the top job after RR decided against renewing former skipper Steve Smith's con-

Smith's contract ended in

October 2020.

The Australians, smarting from a Test series loss to an injury-plagued India, took a hit as the likes of the explosive Glenn Maxwell and opener Aaron Finch too were released by Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore respectively.

Also released by KXIP were West Indies all-rounder Sheldon Cottrell, Afghanistan's Mujeeb-ur-



Suresh Raina

Zealand's Neesham, who underwent a surgery recently to treat an injured finger.

CSK's Harbhajan Singh and Mumbai Indians' Lasith Malinga were among the other big names to be released by their respective sides ahead of next month's auction. Harbhajan was joined by

the likes of Kedar Jadhav, Piyush Chawla and Murali Vijay who were also let go by CSK.

Also released by MI was Sherfane Rutherford, while Delhi Capitals decided to enter the next edition without English batsman Jason Roy, wicketkeeper Alex Carey, leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane and seamer Mohit Sharma.

WHO'S IN & OUT

■ Chennal Super Kings — Players retained: MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Narayan Jagadeesan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KM Asif, Josh Hazlewood, Karn Sharma, Ambati Rayudu, Suresh Raina, Imran Tahir, Deepak Chahar, Faf du Plessis, Shardul Thakur, Mitchell Santner, Dwayne Bravo, Lungi Ngidi, Sam Curran, Sai Kishore. Released (6): Harbhajan Singh, Shane Watson, Piyush Chawla, Kedar Jadhav, M. Vijay, Monu Kumar Singh.

Delhi Capitals — Players retained: Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Marcus Stoinis, Daniel Sams, Shimron Hetmyer, Chris Woakes, Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, Amit Mishra, Ishant Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Harshal Patel, Lalit Yadav, Pravin Dubey, Avesh Khan. Released (6): Mohit Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Keemo Paul, Sandeep Lamichhane, Alex Carey, Jason Roy.

Kings XI Punjab — Players retained: K. L. Rahul, Chris Gayle, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mandeep Singh, Sarfaraz Khan, Deepak Hooda, Prabhsimran Singh, Mohammed Shami, Chris Jordan, Darshan Nalkande, Ravi Bishnoi, Murugan Ashwin, Arshdeep Singh, Harpreet Brar, Ishan Porel. Released (9): Glenn Maxwell, Karun Nair, Hardus Viljoen, Jagadeesha Suchith, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Sheldon Cottrell, Jimmy Neesham, Krishnappa Gowtham, Talinder, Singh

Molkata Knight Riders — Players retained: Eoin Morgan, Dinesh Karthik, Nitish Rana, Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Rahul Tripathi, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yaday, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Prasidh Krishna, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Varun Chakaravarthy, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Tim Seifert. Released (6): Nikhil Naik, Siddhesh Lad, M. Siddharth, Tom Banton, Chris Green, Harry Gurney.

Mumbal Indians — Players retained: Rohit Sharma, Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Chris Lynn, Anmolpreet Singh, Saurabh Tiwary, Aditya Tare, Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Anukul Roy, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult, Rahul Chahar, Jayant Yadav, Dhawal Kulkarni, Mohsin Khan. Released (7): Lasith Malinga, Mitch McClenaghan, James Pattinson, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Sherfane Rutherford, Prince Balwant Rai, Digivijay Deshmukh.

■ Rajasthan Royals — Players retained: Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Riyan Parag, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Mahipal Lomror, Kartik Tyagi, Andrew Tye, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, David Miller, Manan Vohra, Robin Uthappa. Released (8): Steve Smith, Ankit Rajpoot, Oshane Thomas, Akash Singh, Varun Aaron, Tom Curran, Anirudha Joshi, Shashank Singh.

Royal Challengers Bangalore — Players retained: Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Yuzvendra Chahal, Devdutt Padikkal, Navdeep Saini, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Kane Richardson, Adam Zampa, Josh Philippe, Shahbaz Ahmed and Pavan Deshpande. Released (10): Aaron Finch, Chris Morris, Isuru Udana, Moeen Ali, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Shivam Dube, Dale Steyn, Parthiv Patel, Umesh Yadav.

■ Sunrisers Hyderabad — Players retained: David Warner, Kane Williamson Rashid Khan, T. Natarajan, Abhishek Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jonny Bairstow, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, Vijay Shankar, Wriddhiman Saha, Abdul Samad, Mitchell Marsh, Jason Holder, Priyam Garg, Virat Singh. Released (5): Sanjay Yadav, B. Sandeep, Billy Stanlake, Fabian Allen, Yarra Prithviraj.

CA lauds India, BCCI for sacrifices

Cricket Australia on Wednesday saluted the Indian team's "resilience, courage and skill" during its historic Test series win over the hosts and expressed gratitude to the BCCI for the "sacrifices" it made to ensure a smooth conduct of the A second-string Indian

team, led by Ajinkya Rahane, braved all odds to defeat a full-strength Australia by three wickets at the Gabba here to win

retain the Bo Gavaskar Trophy Border-Tuesday in Brisbane.

"On behalf of everyone

at Cricket Australia, we congratulate Team India their resilience. courage and skill demonstrated in retaining the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in a series that will be talked about for generations to come," CA wrote in a Thank You note to the BCCI.

the four-Test series 2-1 and Hockley and Chair Earl Eddings, was addressed to "friends in Indian cricket", the BCCI, acknowledging the role played by the Sourav Ganguly-led board in successfully completing the tour amid the

Covid-19 pandemic. "Australian cricket will forever be grateful to the BCCI for their friendship, trust and commitment in helping to deliver a series that has brought joy to many millions of people The note, written by CA around the world at a time they needed it most," the

letter read.

"The unique challenges of international touring during a global pandemic are considerable and we thank India's players, coaches and support staff for all they have given.

"Over the past nine weeks, the Indian and Australian men's teams completed outstanding One-Day International and Twenty20 International series, followed by one of the greatest Border-Gavaskar Test Border-Gavaskar Test series ever competed," it

added. The CA officials said that the BCCI's cooperation was crucial to making the tour a hit. The series gave the financially struggling CA a major boost with an expected revenue of 300 million Australian dollars.

tions, while Thakur re-entered the batting list in 113th position and bowl-

ing list in 65th position.

Australia captain Tim
Paine moved up three
spots to 42nd after scores

of 50 and 27 while fast

bowler Josh Hazlewood

leapfrogged New Zealand's Tim Southee to

the fourth spot after grab-bing six wickets in the

match, including a haul of

five for 57 in the first

England's Joe Root has returned to the top five with his highest rating

points tally (738) in two

years after scoring a first-

innings 228 to help his

team win the first Test against Sri Lanka by

Root has advanced six

places, overtaking the likes of Pakistan's Babar

Azam and Pujara in the

Jonny Bairstow (up five

places to 58th in batting) and Sam Curran (up two

places to 39th in bowling)

For Sri Lanka, Lahiru

places to 87th position

Thirimanne's progressed

while left-arm spinner

Lasith Embuldeniya (up

Fernando (up 11 places to

also gained.

seven wickets in Galle.

"Despite the many public health and logistical engaged with a spirit of befitting cooperation their status as one of international sport's greatest ambassadors," CA further added. — PTI

Laszlo backs CFC strikers to perform

NEHA SURANA | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 20

After blowing away their chance to climb up the points table by settling for a goalless draw against a 10-man SC East Bengal, Chennaiyin FC have another opportunity to move into the top-four when they face ATK Mohun Bagan on Thursday.

CFC coach Csaba Laszlo said he is trying to bring the best out of the team. 'We know that we didn't score many goals and we must be more clinical in the front. If you see how fast the games are coming, you don't have too much time to show the players many tactical elements. But we are trying to work with the time that has been given us," he said.

Having scored only 10 goals so far this season, CFC's attacking side has often come under the scanner. "Honestly, we are fighting with injuries and also some kind of luck but we are not complaining. I can

take every critic positively and make sure one learns from the criticism.

'In the last game (against East Bengal), if I analyse the game, I think we were not so powerful in the midfield, we were not creative and the goal position was not the best. We know what our problems are and where we have to work more. People have to understand that every coach and every single person behind the team are working every minute of every hour in a day to make the team better," he

Speaking in support of his strikers, Laszlo said, "It is a very difficult job to score goals, you must be not just confident but should have the skills too. I am hundred per cent sure that our strikers are skilled but sometimes the luck is not there. I am encouraging them and I believe in my players. Because I see them on a daily basis how they are working hard.

IBRAHIM CROWNED CHAMPION

Chennai, Jan. 20: Pune's Muhammad Ibrahim was crowned champion in the Pro Class, while Gurgaon's Amitesh Rao bagged the Junior Class Title in the Mumbai Falcons Indian eRacing Championship in association with Volkswagen Motorsport India.

More than 300 registrations from over 40 cities were received for Season 4 of the Mumbai Falcons IeRC. The introduction of new classes, were a big boost to participation. Delhi's Muskaan Jubbal won the Women's class while Akunuri Sri Abilash from Chennai, and Kollam's Steve George won a race each in the Amateur Class.

Warne predicts Ponting in awe of rookie huge Oz fallout Indian team's super win

Brisbane, Jan. 20: The legendary Shane Warne believes the embarrassing Test series loss to an under-strength India will result in a "huge fallout" in the Australian team and said a few heads could

roll in the coming days. India recorded one of their most memorable wins on Tuesday when defeated a fullstrength Australia by three wickets in the fourth Test here to pocket the four-match series 2-1 and retain the Border-

Gavaskar Trophy. "I think there'll be a huge fallout from this (defeat). There's not too many times that you lose to the second or third (choice) side," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox

"Their (Australia) tactics will come into question, and they have to. Bowlers will come into question, people's spot in the team will come into question. It has to. You can't just deflect it and flick it off and say India were too good for us," he

added. Warne was, however, effusive in his praise for the Indian team which braved injuries to its key players and absence of Virat Kohli after the first Test on paternity leave to

emerge triumphant. "That's not taking anything away from those Indian guys that played but their first selection side, there's probably only two or three players in that side who would play, Warne added.

Brisbane, Jan. 20: A "shocked" Ricky Ponting is struggling to comprehend how India's "A team" overwhelmed Australia in the Test series in their own back-

"I'm quite shocked that Australia weren't quite good enough to win this series. The cold hard facts of it are pretty much that was the India 'A' team that played this Test match and still won," Ponting told *cricket.com.au*.

"Considering every-thing the Indian team has been through in the last five or six weeks, with the captain leaving, all the injuries they've had they've been through 20 players (Australia) have been at full-strength, bar Davey (Warner) missing

I'm quite shocked that Australia weren't quite good enough to win this series. The cold hard facts of it are pretty much that was the India 'A' team that played this Test match and still won.

— RICKY PONTING former Australia captain

early on, so it's really hard to comprehend.

"It's probably not even (India's) second-picked team because you think of Bhuvneshwar and Ishant Sharma and those guys who didn't even make it out here. Rohit Sharma turns up for the last two Test matches only," he added. Ponting said India



won all the key moments throughout the series.

"They've played really good, tough, hard Test match cricket day-in and day-out. India have won all the big moments in every Test match and Australia have fallen short. That's been the difference between the two teams," he added. -PTI