THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE I SUNDAY 10 | JANUARY 2021

WEATHER Max: 27°C

Min: 22°C Rainfall: 5 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Margazhi 26 Tithi: Dwadashi Star: Anusham/ Kettai Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm Yamagandam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

Fajar: 5.18 am Zohar: 12.20 pm **Asar:** 3.31 pm Maghrib: 5.57 pm Isha: 7.12 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.34 AM MOONRISE TODAY 3.30 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 3.15 PM



CASES (+18.813)

(+213)1,04,51,339 1,51,048

covid19india.org



world ometers. in fo

Veteran Congress leader Madhavsinh Solanki

passes away at 93

Ahmedabad: Former external affairs minister and Congress veteran Madhavsinh Solanki, who had also served as chief minister of Guiarat for four times, died in Gandhinagar on early Saturday morning, Congress leaders said

"The death of Madhavsinh Solanki has brought extreme grief. May God give peace to his soul. He had made place in the hearts of people by his actions and deeds," Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda, who is also a relative of Solanki tweeted

Bird flu scare: Delhi bans import of live birds

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Saturday announced a ban on import of live birds and closure of the city's biggest poultry market at Ghazipur after more avian deaths were reported in the national capital where three recreational parks and the famous Saniay Lake were shut. Addressing an online media

briefing, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said while no confirmed case has so far been registered in Delhi, his government is taking all possible measures to prevent the spread of the avian flu.



No cock left for fight due to flu, sir!

Min: India developing capabilities for

undertaking deep ocean missions



WORLD | 5 **Indo-American Sabrina** is Harris' Dy Press Secy

SPORT | 8 Pujara's slowest Test 50

derails visitors momentum



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

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO 3 CR HEALTHCARE AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

Covid vaccination drive to begin on January 16

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DEI HI, JAN, 9

Putting an end to the long wait for the Covid-19 vaccine, the Union government on Saturday announced that the nationwide inoculation drive will begin from January 16. The date has been decided keeping in mind forthcoming festivals like Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Magh Bihu etc. Priority will be given to healthcare and frontline workers, estimated to be around 3 crore in number, followed by those above 50 years of age and the under-50 population groups with co-morbidities numbering around 27 crore.

"On 16th January, India takes a landmark step forward in fighting Covid-19. Starting that day, India's nation-wide vaccination drive begins. Priority will be given to our brave doc-

CBI books Coastal

Projects Ltd in over

₹4,736 cr bank fraud

New Delhi, Jan. 9: The

CBI has booked Hyderabad-

based Coastal Projects Ltd

and its directors in connec-

tion with over ₹4,736 crore

bank fraud in a consortium

of banks led by the State

Bank of India, officials said

on Saturday.

The complaint from the

SBI. now a part of the FIR.

has alleged that the accused

construction company, dur-

ing the five year period

between 2013 and 2018, falsi-

financial statements to

show unrealisable bank

guarantee amounts as real-

isable investments, Central

Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) spokesperson RC

The company also alleged-

ly gave wrong information

on promoters' contribution,

converted receivables from

related parties to invest

ments to siphon off bank

The loan account of the

company became a Non-

Performance Asset with ret-

rospective effect from October 28, 2013 and subse-

quently declared fraud on

February 20 last year.

Besides the company and

its Chairman and Man-

aging Director Sabbineni

Surendra, the agency has

also named Managing

Director Garapati Harihara

Rao, Directors Sridhar

Chandrasekharan

Nivarthi, Sharad Kumar,

Guarantor K. Ramuli, K.

Anjamma, another compa-

ny Ravi Kailas Builders Pvt

Ltd, its directors Ramesh

Pasupuletu and Govind Kumar Irani. "Searchess

were conducted at the resi-

dential and official premis-

Hyderabad and Vijay-

awada, which led to the

recovery of several incrimi-

nating documents and

other material evidence,'

of the accused at

Joshi said.

funds, he said.



programme" tors, healthcare workers,

frontline workers including safai karamcharis," Prime Minister Narendra Mr Modi on Saturday held a meeting to review the Covid-19 situation in

the country, potential threat from the new UK mutant virus and vaccination plan. The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, principal secretary to PM, health secretary and other senior officials. The PM will have a only waiting for Indian vaccines but is also watching how India runs the world's biggest vaccination

> Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

virtual meeting with chief ministers on Monday on this issue.

India till date has over 1.04 crore cases and over 1.50 lakh fatalities due to Covid-19. In the last 24 hours, 18,222 cases and 228 deaths were recorded. The total number of people with the new mutated strain of UK virus has now reached 90. According to officials, the

vaccination exercise will be conducted utilising experience of elections

Universal Immunization Program (UIP) without compromising existing compromising existing healthcare services, especially national programs and primary healthcare.

The PM was also apprised about the Co-WIN Vaccine Delivery Management System that will provide real-time information of vaccine stocks, their storage temperature and individualised tracking of ben-eficiaries of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Emergency-use authorior accelerated approval has been granted by the Drug Controller General of India for Covishield (by SII) and Covaxin (Bharat Biotech). Central government is in the process of procuring the vaccines that will be delivered to main hubs in each zone and taken to different parts of the country

10 newborn babies die in Maharashtra hospital fire

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 9

In a shocking incident, at least 10 newborn babies died at the neonatal care unit of the district governhospital Maharashtra, in the early hours of Saturday when a major fire broke out.

The incident took place at around 2 am on Saturday at the neonatal care unit of Bhandara district hospital. due to burn injuries and suffocation after fire and smoke engulfed the building. The infants were aged between one day and one month.

health minister State Rajesh Tope said that three of the 10 infants died of burn injuries while seven suffo-

PAWAN BALI | DC

Indian army apprehended

morning in South bank of

Pangong Tso lake in

Eastern Ladakh where

India and China are

involved in a tense military

stand-off from last eight

The soldier was caught

near Gurung Hill, which is

one of the peaks in Kailash

range, which Indian Army

had pre-emptively occupied in August in tit for tat

action against Chinese

aggression on North bank

The move meant that

Indian soldiers dominated

peaks in the area and had

chocked PLA movement in

of Pangong Tso.

a Chinese soldier on Friday

NEW DELHI, JAN. 9

months.

Chinese soldier held

near LAC in Ladakh

The Maharashtra government has ordered a probe into the tragic incident. The government has also announced a compensation of Rs ₹5 lakh to the deceased's parents

cated to death because of the smoke. All the 10 infants, including eight and needed to be given oxygen, he added. District civil surgeon

Pramod Khandate said there were 17 babies in the unit and seven were rescued.

A nurse first noticed smoke coming out from the

23 Indian sailors stuck in

China to return on Jan. 14

New Delhi, Jan. 9: Twe-

nty-three Indian sailors

stuck in China will return

on January 14, Union min-

ister Mansukh Mandaviya

The cargo ship MV Jag

Anand is set to sail towards

Chiba in Japan, Mandaviya

"Our seafarers stuck in

China are coming to India. Ship MV Jag Anand, hav-

ing 23 Indian crew, stuck in

China is set to SAIL toward

Chiba, Japan, to carry out

crew change, will reach India on 14th January," the

ports, shipping and waterways minister said in a
—PTI

said on Saturday.

pital and alerted doctors and other staff who reached there in five minutes, he

Fire brigade personnel rescued seven babies from the "inbound ward" of the unit but could not save the 10 other babies, he said.

Dr Khandate said the ward where newborn babies are kept requires a continuous supply of oxy-"There were fire extin-

them while trying to douse the fire. There was too much smoke," he added. The Maharashtra govern-

ment has ordered a probe into the tragic incident. The government has also announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the deceased's



Won't be silenced, says **Trump**

Washington: utgoing US President Donald Trump has slammed Twitter for permanently suspending him, vowing that he and his support base would not be silenced.

The unprecedented move by the California based microblogging site on Friday comes after Trump tweeted that he would not attend the inauguration of his successor Joe Biden on January 20. **■ P5**

endorses EPS as CM candidate DC CORRESPONDENT

AIADMK general council meet

CHENNAI, JAN. 9

The AIADMK put up a show of unity at its executive-cum-general council meeting on Saturday to send across the message that it would not be perturbed by the release of VK Sasikala from jail or be browbeaten by the BJP, vowing to fight the elections.

The meeting, attended by around 300 delegates from all over the State, passed a resolution to accept the proposal of Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam to nominate Edappadi K. Palaniswami as its Chief Ministerial candidate.

Another resolution also endorsed the appointment of the 11-member steering committee to run the affairs of the party and it was made clear that all decisions concerning alliances and seatsharing would be taken by both Palaniswami and Panneerselvam. Whatever rift between

Palaniswami Panneerselvam was visible till very recently — particularly with Panneerselvam buying space in a Tamil newspaper to advertise his achievements — was deftly glossed over and the two top honchos presented a clear show of camaraderie each complimenting the other.

To let the party leaders and the others know what could not be pronounced through the 16 resolutions.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami with Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam at the AIADMK general council meeting at Vanagaram in Chennai on Saturday.

Vol. 11 No. 14 Established 1938 8 PAGES ₹4.00

passed at the general council, the party allowed KP Munusamy, deputy coordinator of the party, to speak

Munusamy said that someone coming out would not affect their functioning in any way, which was an indirect reference to Sasikala and gave a snub to the BJP that was trying to play Big Brother in the alliance by declaring that the national parties can only ride piggyback on the State parties.

He said the electoral fight was only between the AIADMK and DMK and the national parties had no big role to play in the State other than depending on the state parties.

Stating that he cannot be compared to leaders like CN Annadurai, MG Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa, Palaniswami said that he had done his mite for the development of the

party and that he would continue to contribute.

He used the word unity to define the course the party should take to defeat the enemies and took on DMK President M K Stalin saying that whatever it utters was a lie. Tracing his growth in the party, he said 42 years of his life were intertwined with the 48 year old history

of AIADMK.

DMK's corruption should be taken to the people, said Panneerselvam, in his speech, and urged the party leaders to strive for centing. leaders to strive for continuing the rule of Jayalalithaa as per her wishes. No one is a slave to anyone in the party, he said, adding that AIADMK was a cadre-based party.
Describing the DMK as a

political virus more deadly than the Coronavirus, Panneerselvam called upon the party leaders to remove it from the scene. He said it would happen this year.

POLITICAL LEADERS CONDEMN DEMOLITION

Memorial to Tamils destroyed in Lanka

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

Political leaders, cutting across party lines, raised their voice in unison against the demolition of a monument, dedicated to the victims of Mullivaikal massacre, inside Jaffna University in Sri Lanka on Friday night. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Leader of the Opposition M K Stalin were among those who expressed shock over the bulldozing of the memorial under cover of darkness and condemned it.

Stalin said that it was the continuation of destruction of many traditional memorials of Tamils in the island nation and urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to condemn the incident that had come after his foreign minister S Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka.

Makkal Neethi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan said that the massacre and killing of those who came to surrender in the last stage of the war in Sri Lankan itself cannot be forgotten. TMMK founder TTV

Dhinakaran said the rulers in Sri Lanka should understand that such action would have adverse effects, adding that the incident

to

BCCI

evoked a protest by the students and local people

The demolition

had happened when the inclusive growth of Tamils should be their agenda. Many other leaders too condemned the incident

with MDMK general secre-Tamilaga tarv and Valvurimai Katchi founder T Velmurugan called for a protest on January 11 to lay a siege of the Sri Lankan deputy high commission in Chennai. Tamil activists and intel-

lectuals too wanted the Indian government to condemn the demolition of the monument, sculpted by a student who lost his father when his family was trying to flee the war. Erected in 2019 inside the

Jaffna University campus, the memorial had raised the hackles of the Sri Lankan government, which is reported to have sacked the previous Vice Chancellor of the University as he had refused to demolish it.

The present governor, S Srisatkunarajah, is reported to have said that the memorial cannot stand in the university premises as permission had not been sought for its erection from the relevant ministry.

take North Pole route to Bengaluru New Delhi, Jan. 9: An all-

All-women Al crew

operate the inaugural San Francisco-Bengaluru flight on Saturday, Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said.

The Air India flight will fly on Saturday over the North Pole, taking the Atlantic route to reach Bengaluru, a senior official of the airline said.

"All women cockpit crew consisting of Capt Zoya Aggarwal, Capt Papagari Гhanmai, Capt Akansha Sonaware & Capt Shivani Manhas will operate the historic inaugural flight between Bengaluru & San Francisco," Puri said on Twitter. The aerial distance between San Francisco and Bengaluru is one of the longest in the world. 'Air India's woman power flies high around the world," Puri said. The inaugural flight AI176 will depart from San Francisco in the USA at 8.30 pm (local time) on Saturday and it land at the Kempegowda International Airport at 3.45 am (local time) on Monday.

tance between San Francisco and Bengaluru is one of the longest in the world

The aerial dis-

after losing contact in Indonesia

nesian budget airline plane with 62 people on board is suspected to have crashed into the sea shortly after the Boeing 737 took off from Jakarta airport on January 9, authorities said. Flight tracking data showed the Sriwijaya Air Boeing 737-500 plunged into a steep dive about four minutes after it left Soekarno-Hatta international airport. Sixty two passengers and crew were

on board, including 10 children, the nation's Transport Minister, Budi Karya Sumadi, told reporters. The suspected crash site is near tourist islands just off Indonesia's sprawling capital. The plane took off on January 9 afternoon and a search and rescue operation began with no official results available till the night.

"We deployed our team, boats and sea riders to the location suspected to be where it went

down after losing contact,' Bambang Suryo Aji, a senior official at the agency, told reporters after nightfall.

Śriwijaya Air flight SJ182 was bound for Pontianak on Indonesia's section of Borneo island, about 90 minutes flying time over the Java Sea.

"I have four family members on the flight — my wife and my three children," Yaman Zai said as he sobbed at Pontianak airport.

Sydney, Jan. 9: The pacers

Indian team has lodged an official complaint after the crowd at the Sydney Cricket Ground racially Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj over the second and third day of the ongoing Pink Test between India and Australia.

While the matter was brought up with the ICC match officials and the security officers at the SCG immediately after the game, the Board of Control



India bowlers Mohamed Siraj (left) and Jasprit Bumrah. Twitter

for Cricket in India (BCCI) events. is furious with the turn of According

allegedly referred to as a "monkey" by a drunk spectator in one of stands at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reliving the infa-Monkeygate episode of the Indian team's tour of Australia in 2007-08.

Sources aware of developments in the team said that the bowlers initially brought the matter up with stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane before the team went into a hudled by Ravi Shastri and decided that this sort of behaviour should not and will not be ignored. relationship

dle with the coaching staff

between the two teams has taken a turn in recent times with Queensland's Health Shadow Minister Ros Bates' comments regarding quarantine guidelines for the fourth Test in Brisbane also painting the visitors in poor light.

— Agencies

Boeing 737-500 plane feared crashed

Sydney crowd hurls racist abuse at Bumrah, Siraj



TAKES SHORT

Miscreants try to snatch chain from morning walker

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

Two bike-borne miscreants attempted to snatch a gold chain from a woman, who was out for a morning stroll in T Nagar on

The victim, Sakunthala, a resident of Rajambal street in T.Nagar, went for a walk on G.N Chetty road on Friday morning, when two men on a motorbike, came from the rear and attempted to snatch her gold chain. In a scuffle with snatchers, the woman fell on the road and also received minor injuries. The accused sped away after the victim fell. . The entire incident was caught on a CCTV camera installed nearby. Pondy Bazaar police have registered a case and started a probe in the mat-

Kanchipuram police conduct special drill on riots prevention

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

A surprise security drill on riot prevention was conducted by the Kanchipuram police on Saturday in Walajabad amongst the public to make them aware of the activities carried out by the police during the times of

unexpected riots.
Police said that to create awareness among the public about the measures conducted by the police to contain unexpected riots, the Kanchipuram police conducted a mock drill at Walajabad bus stand.

The officials used pellet guns, smoke bombs, lathi for demonstration. Water cannons were used to disperse the crowd. The people who demonstrated the protest were also taken to the Government hospital as a part

However, people residing in the area panicked at first as they were unaware of the police drill. Kanchipuram's SP D Shamnuga Priya oversaw the drill, sources said.

Farmers embark on Walk for iustice'

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JAN. 9

Members of various farmers' associations, including Thamizha Cauvery Vivasayigal Sangam, commenced a 'Walk for justice' (Neethi Kettu Nedum Payanam) at /edaranyam in Nagapattinam district on Saturday. Former Lok Sabha member P V Rajendran flagged off the

The farmers demanded that the Tamil Nadu Government should convene the state assembly and pass a resolution against the Union Government's farm laws, and also urged the Union Government to withdraw the laws, ₹2,500 per quintal of paddy and writing off all farm loans given by banks.

through passed Thalaignayiru, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and will reach Thanjavur on Sunday. They will distribute pamphlets explaining the reason behind their rally to the wayside villagers, especially

Test positivity rate, active cases decline in Chennai

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, JAN, 9

Even as the Covid-19 vaccination programme will be launched in the country on January 16, the test positivity rate and active cases are on a downward spiral in Chennai for over a month. But the recovery rate also went down dur-

ing the last 80 days.

According to the data provided by the state health department, 6,112 patients recovered in the last 20 days against 7,715 in the previous 20 days. The number of recoveries between October 22 and November 9 was 11,017.

The trend of daily recovery shows as 1,803 (between June 24 and July 14),1,313 (July 14 and

August 3), 1,038 (August 3 and 23), 1,220 (August 23 and September 12), 1,039 (September 12 and October 2), 1,192 (October 2 and 22), 797(October 22 and November 9), 550 (November 9 and 28), 385 (November 28 and December 18) and 305 (December 19 and January

When it comes to test positivity, 5,416 cases were reported in the last 20 days compared to 7,010 in the previous 20 days. The test positivity rate shows as 1,692 (June 24 and July 14), 1,166 (July 15 and August 3), 1,120 (August 3 and 23), 1,110 (August 23 and September 12), 1,121 (September 12 and October 2), 1,163 (October 2 and October 22), 564

Devotees urge the government to clean the algae-filled Agastheeswarar temple tank

India developing capabilities for undertaking

at Chennai Port Trust

here. On weather forecast,

he said the natural

caused a 'tragedy of a huge magnitude'. "When

we look back on how our

scientists have developed

(since Tsunami hit in

2004), we can proudly say

that we are the best nation

in the world in predicting

early warnings of tsuna-

mi.We have never issued

false warnings.My scien-

tists tell me that Japan

has issued false warnings

on tsunamis," he said.

The country's most ambi-

tious mission was to

launch a deep ocean mis-

sion which would look at

all the aspects of the

ocean as a source of min-

erals, a source of water

and strengthen the scien-

tific community, he said.

"We are already in the

deep ocean missions, says Harsh Vardhan

Chennai, Jan 9: The vessel 'Sagar Avneshika'

tists can go deep into the calamity, the country

ocean beyond three kilo-metres for taking up Tsunami of 2004 which

government was in the

process of developing a

capability in which scien-

ocean exploration, Union

Science and Technology

Vardhan said on Saturday.

Participating in a function here, he said India

was ranked at the top in

weather forecasting and

had never issued a false

cyclones were formed.

'Normally it is about six

hours of going down (in

the ocean) doing some

research activities and coming back. We are developing the capability

in which scientists can go

deep in the ocean beyond

three kilometers and they

can be there for almost 16

hours (for research purposes)," he said after dedi-

cating coastal research

whenever

warning

9). 458 (November 9 and 28), 350 (November 28 and (December 19 and January

8).
The growth of positive cases shows 1,273 from May 3 to 4,882 on May 13 to 9,364 on May 23 to 16,585 on June 3 to 45,814 on June 24 to 79,662 on July 14 to 102,985 on August 3 to 125,389 on August 23 to 147,591 on September 12 to 170,025 on October 2 to 193,299 on October 22 to 205,419 on November 9 to 214,577 on November 28.

Alarmingly, the death rate stands steady. The daily death rate has increased from 26 (between June 3 and June 24) to 31 (between June 24 and July 14) to 44 (between

process and then we will

take the help of big organ-

isations in a collaborative

way like DRDO, ISRO, people in IITs," he said. Vardhan said 'Sagar Avneshika' launched

about 15-20 scientists for

research purposes and

has laboratories similar

to research vessel 'Sagar

Thara' for taking up scien-

tific explorations. "The

state-of-the-art vessel will

transform our ocean

research activities and

boost our blue economy.

he said. The vessel is

equipped with advanced

navigation systems as

well as research and

exploration apparatus. It would boost multi-disci-

plinary research on

oceanography along the

Indian coast and will

deepen understanding of

the ocean and help har-

ness its enormous poten-

can accommodate

started between August 3 and 23 August 23 to September 12. The rate was 14 in September. But it went up to 16 in between October 2 and October 22. The deaths came down to just 4 between November 28-December December 19-January 8.
The death toll mounted from 17 cases on May 3 to 4,042 on January 8.

The health department conducted 1,46,95,106 sample tests while 1,43,89,165 individuals were tested across the state till January 8. According to the officials, most of the death cases are with comorbid conditions.

Three shops in Medavakkam burnt down

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

Three shops including a hardware shop and electrical shop were burnt down by a fire that broke out at midnight in Medavakkam, Chennai. The fire destroyed several lakhs worth goods. The fire broke out shortly after the store closed, left no casualties or damage to the store staff or

Sakthivel (46) and his brother ran a hardware and an electrical shop next to each other on Medavakkam-Mambakkam Main road. Meanwhile, on Friday, as usual, the duo had closed the shops and left for

their house.
Police sources said, at around 11: 30 pm, smoke emanated from the sho-The residents who saw the shop on fire ale-

rted the fire department. Firefighters from Medavakkam, Tambaram and Velachery rushed to the spot and tried to douse the fire. But the electrical materials in the shops were prone to fire. Paints tubs, electrical appliances and pipes kept in the shops exploded with a loud sound, which made it difficult for the firefighters to douse the fire. The fire also passed on to another shop on the row. Two more ve hicles from Tambaram and Thoraipakkam were brought to control the situation.

When the water in the three fire trucks ran out, they turned the water trucks on the road and took the water to the fire truck to put out the fire. After about 2 hours of fighting the firefighters fought and brought the fire under control

The fire department said several lakhs worth of goods were burned and damaged. A sudden fire at an electrical shop at night caused a stir in the area. Police have registered a case.



J. STALIN | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 9

state government to create the post of pharmacist for the 2,000 mini clinics established in the state to tide over the present pandemic situation, the Madras high court has said it is not necessary that all clinics should have a pharmacist and it cannot also be said that no person, including the doctor is authorized to dispense medicines, as a doctor, who ultimately examines the patients and prescribe pills, is empowered to distribute medicines also to his/her patients.

Declining to direct the

Justice S. Vaidyanathan dismissed the petition filed by two registered pharmacist Vasanthkumar D.Karthik, which sought a direction to the state government to include/create the post of pharmacist for the mini clinics established in the state in the GO dated December 5, 2020, and thereby consider them and other eligible persons for the post of pharmacist on temporary/time scale basis by suitably modifying the

GO.

The judge said the petitioners have come forward with this petition presuming that there was a lacuna in the government order to the extent that medicines, pre-scribed by a medical practitioner, would be disbursed by the staff nurse. A plain reading of section 42 of the Pharmacy Act in its entirety would make it very clear that even though it speaks about registered pharmacists, the doctor was empowered to disburse medi-



DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

The Madras high court has dismissed a petition, which sought to forbear Dharmapuram Adheenam mutt from constructing any building for non-charitable purpose so as to earn income on its land situated on South Street at Thirukkadaiyur

Nagapattinam district.
The First Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy dismissed the petition filed by S.Sundar. The bench said the peti-

tioner seeks to restrain Dharmapuram Adheenam mutt from constructing any building for non-charitable purposes.

The judge said the petitioners have come forward with this petition presuming that there was a lacuna in the government order to the extent that medicines, prescribed by a medical practitioner, would be disbursed by the staff

cines to patients. The pharmacists will have to depend on the doctor and there was no need for a doctor to depend on the pharmacist. "The government, with a vast vision to eradicate the coronavirus added.



The petitioner has neither averred nor established that mutt qualifies as "state" for the purpose of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. "As such, we find that the petition is not maintainable. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed. However, the dismissal of the petition shall not preclude the petitioner from prosecuting a civil suit before the appropriate forum", the bench added.

and to meet out the emergent situation, has decided to set up mini clinics, in order to tide over the situation and to restore the situation to normalcy. In the considered opinion of this court, it is not necessary that all clinics should have a pharmacist and it cannot also be said that no person, including ne doctor is authorized to dispense medicines, as a doctor, who ultimately examines patients and prescribe pills, is empowered to distribute medicines also to his/her patients", the



All those stories about election symbols from R K Nagar Assembly Assembly elections, in the



G. Babu Jayakumar

Just spamming

will the loss of 'bat-tery torch' lead the supporters of Makkal Needhi Maiam down a dark alley impelling them to press the wrong button on the Electronic Voting Machine? Reading about actor Kamal Haasan's political party seeking to retrieve the election symbol it was allotted in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections made one wonder if they believed that it was the 'battery torch' that won them whatever votes they polled in 2019. Or do they believe that the people have already started identifying the party with the 'battery

There is no doubt that any party has the right to seek the symbol that it wanted and what it felt it deserved

Commission and Haasan is entitled to ask for the same symbol that he was given the last time around. But how did the Election Commission come to decide on what symbol a party should get and not let the parties design their own symbols, as it should have been? And how did we come to adopt the election symbol concept that not all democracies have? Before we go into those historic details, let's look at a recent symbolrelated election story that will throw light on the arbitrary manner (or is there a pattern behind it?) in which

the symbols are allotted. When the AMMK, the breakaway faction of the AIADMK, was all set to fight its first election in 2017

constituency, it was allotted the symbol 'hat.' It was a byelection to fill the vacancy caused by the passing away of J Jayalalathaa. What the AMMK founder and the candidate for the by election, T T V Dinakaran did was to wear a hat as he went around the constituency, traversing through its nooks and crannies, evoking frenzied support. The polling was called off in the eleventh hour following allegations of cash flow and distribution of money to voters. Then when the by election was called for again, Dinakaran was denied the 'hat' symbol and allotted the 'pressure cooker' that he popularized with aplomb and won the election.

But the same 'pressure cooker' was denied to the AMMK in the next polls. When the 2019 Lok Sabha elections came, the party was given the 'gift pack' symbol, which the party popularized but did not do well in harnessing people's support. So when the 'pressure cooker' was restored to the party for the coming same Election Commission order that gave the 'battery torch' to another unknown party other than the MNM, Dinakaran's supporters were exulting, as though the symbol was part of the party's heritage. Posters were put up in the districts celebrating the retrieval of the lost symbol and the party, too, officially put the image of the 'pressure cooker' on its letter head. Though it may not be appropriate to attribute

motives to EC denying the 'hat' first and then the 'pressure cooker' to TMMK, their cadre were of the view that the EC was influenced to take those decisions by the powers that be. If it was true, it was because of the perception in political circles that people identify parties more by their symbols. Perhaps it was that belief that prompted a BJP leader, Ashwini Kumar Upadhay to file a plea in the Supreme Court in October, 2020, seeking removal of symbols from EVMs and ballot papers and replacing it with the name, age, educational qualification and photograph of the particular candidate.

Of course it will not work in India, where the symbol has been used since the first election after independence in 1951. It was then that the EC also started deciding on what symbol to allot to whom. As the story goes, when the political parties were called for a meeting to decide on the symbols by the EC, they all squabbled over one particular symbol: The Plough. With the Congress, the Socialists, Communists and Peasant and Workers Party laying claim to one symbol, the EC refused it to all and allotted symbols on its own. Since then the EC decides on symbols. Period.

But then the symbols allotted randomly become the assets of the party in course of time. One such symbol is the 'Rising Sun', which is today identified with the DMK and considered as something inseparable from the party's identity. Interestingly when M Karunanidhi first contested the Assembly elections in 1957 from Kulaithalai constituency he was allotted the 'Rising Sun' which was then earmarked as a symbol for independents. He won the seat, made history and subsequently the symbol itself came to his party and remained with it.
'Rising Sun' also has the distinction of being one of

the symbols designed for the first elections in the country itself. It was then allotted to Ram Rajya Parishad. Even the 'Two Leaves' the

endearing election symbol of the AIADMK popularized by the party founder M G Ramachandran (MGR) was also allotted to the party randomly. But it was so popular that when it was frozen in the 1989 with the Jayalalaithaa's faction getting the 'Rooster' and the Janaki Ramachandran faction 'Two Doves' many felt the DMK swept that election because the 'Two Leaves' was missing in the ballot paper. It may not be the case that voters go only by the symbol in 2021. But then, one cannot be sure and that explains the legal fight for the 'Battery Torch.'

📆 தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் செய்தித் துறை நாமக்கல் கவிஞர் மானிகை, தலைமைச் செயல

செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறையின் தென்காசி மாவட்ட செய்தி மக்க தொடர்பு அலுவலகத்தில் காலியாக உள்ள தொழில்நுட்ப உதவியாளர் மற்றும் திரைப்படக் கருவி இயக்குபவர் பணியிடங்களை நிரப்ப இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை அவர்களால் தகுதியான நபர்களிடபிருத்து விண்ணப்பங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன. பணியிடம் தொடர்பான ஷிவரம் கீழ்வருமாறு.

1 பதவியின் பெயர் : தொழில்நுட்ப திரைப்படக்	கருவி
உதவியானர் இயக்குட	ปณห์
2 ஊதிய விகிதம் : நிலை 8 நிலை	
(ரு. 19500–62000) (ரு. 19500–	62000)
3 காலிப் : 1(ஒன்று) 1 (ஒன்	ற)
பணியியங்களின்	
என்னிக்கை	
4 இனகழற்சி : ஆதி திராவிடர் பொதுப்பே	JR Lite
(முன்னூரிமை பெற்றவர்) (முன்னூரிமை	
5 பணியவர்த்தப்படும் : செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை அழ	லுவுலகம்,
இடம் தென்காசி மாவட்டம்.	-
	ectronics
தொழில்நூட்ட Engineering or;	
உதவியானர் Diploma in Electronics and Comm	unication
Engineering and	
2. Experience for a period of 2 year	s from a
reputed company, in operating LEC	
with computer hardware knowledge	
	கல் 28
வயதிற்குள் இருக்க வேண்டும்.	மற்றும்
நடைமுறையில் உள்ள ஆணைகளின்படி	
<u> </u>	
7 தகுதிகள் : 1.1Must have passed SSLC or its equival	em anu; j
திரைப்படக் கருவி 2. Must have practical experience as	
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a	
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or;	period of
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of	period of onducted
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of by the Government Board of Exam	period of onducted niners for
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have	period of onducted niners for practical
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than a	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor;	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or is	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film s Cinema
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years or Sound or in Film is Cinema one year.
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than to or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the particular of the period of not less than the	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film s Cinema
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than auusது வரம்பு 01.07.2020 அன்றுள்ளவாறு 18 மு	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years or Sound or in Film is Cinema one year.
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than auus வரம்பு 01.07.2020 அன்றுள்ளவாறு 18 முவயதிற்குள் இருக்க வேண்டும்.	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years or Sound or in Film is Cinema one year
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than auug வரம்பு வயது வரம்பு விண்ணப்பங்களை அனுப்ப வேண்டிய பெல்க்கும்,	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years or Sound or in Film is Cinema one year
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than or; வயது வரம்பு வயது வரம்பு விண்ணப்பங்களை அனுப்ப வேண்டிய (முகவரி	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film s Cinema ் one year
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination of by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than a continue of the co	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film s Cinema ் one year
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of the Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of the Cinematography or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering or in Recording with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording w	period of onducted inners for practical a Cinema two years in Film s Cinema one year 30
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering or in Recordi	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years in Sound or in Film is Cinema one year அதல் 30
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering and Sound E	period of onducted inners for practical a Cinema two years in Sound or in Film s Cinema one year அதல் 30
இயக்குபவர் Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination or by the Government Board of Exam Cinema Operators and must have experience as Cinema Operator in a Theatre for a period of not less than tor; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering of Editing with practical experience as Operator for a period of not less than 1 or; Diploma in Cinematography or in Recording and Sound Engineering or in Recordi	period of onducted niners for practical a Cinema two years n Sound or in Film s Cinema one year நல் 30

22.01.2021 மாலை 5 மணிக்குள் அனுப்ப

P. Kumaravel Pandian

nspects

Tatabad in

Coimbatore.

70 shops gutted in Kumari fire

DC CORRESPONDENT KANYAKMARI, JAN. 9

Around 70 temporary shops near the beach area here dealing with goods worth about a crore were gutted in a fire that broke out in the wee hours on Saturday.

The fire is suspected to be caused by an electrical short circuit in one of the shops, which spread further due to coastal winds, said district fire officer, Saravanababu, adding that three cooking gas cylinders in a restaurant exploded, adding to the density of fire.

Six fire tenders from Kanyakumari, Nagercoil, Thackalay and Colachel, rushed to the spot and struggled for about five hours to put out the fire. As most of the shops on the beach have merely tarpaulin sheets as their roof, and the place was highly congested, the fire could not be contained before it turned all the shops in five rows into ashes. Fortunately, none was injured in the accident.

Don't burn waste during Bhogi: AA

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JAN. 9

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has appealed India (AAI) has appealed to people living around the Chennai Airport premises not to burn waste during the Bhogi festival, as the smoke from the residential areas might surround the airport runway affecting air

Bhogi celebration is the customary bonfire preceding Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu.

During Bhogi festival, the smoke emanating from the residential areas around the Chennai airport, caused by burning of tyre and plastics along with old materials in their homes surrounds the airport runway. As a result, flight services at the Chennai airport are severely disrupted on the morning of Bhogi festival

During Bhogi, the smoke emanating from residential areas around the Chennai airport surrounds the airport runway. As a result, flight services are severely disrupted on the morning of Bhogi every year. Nearly 73 departures and 45 arrivals were affected in 2018. However, during 2019 & 2020 Bhogi, through intense

sensitisation among

public and communities

around Chennai airport,

disruptions in air traffic.

there were only fewer

every year. In 2018, the airfield was covered with thick smoke emanating from the bonfire reducing visibility at Chennai airport which in turn led to several flights cancelled, delayed and diverted, much to the inconvenience of passengers. Nearly 73 departures and

45 arrivals were affected. However, during 2019 & 2020 Bhogi, through intense sensitisation among public and communities around Chennai Airport, there were only fewer disruptions in air

With just a few days left for Pongal this year, the public has been requested not to burn products such as tyres and plastics which can cause a lot of smoke. Residents living near the airport should also avoid burning waste in the streets.

the Chennai airport will not be affected and the environment will also protected from tion. Airport be propollution. authorities also gave pamphlets briefing concerns regarding Bhogi bonfire to the villages in proximity to Chennai airport to

T'kudi airport records dip in air traffic

ARULOLI M | DC THOOTHUKUDI, JAN. 9 The growth in air traffic This way, the services at and passenger movement at the domestic airport here drastically declined by 37.79 percent in the calendar year 2020, thanks to the pandem-

> The airport started three domestic flights to Chennai and one to Bengaluru from Thoothukudi in 2020. As many as 1,33,647 passengers used it, with a total traffic

movement of 228 aircraft. Compared to previous years, passenger movement (Pax) through the domestic airport here in 2020 decreased by 42.24 percent.

Passenger movement in the previous two years of 2018 and 2019 registered a growth rate of 46.19 percent and 29 percent respectively, said N Subramanian, Thoothukudi airport director. Similarly, aircraft movement in 2018 and 2019 increased by 105.41 percent

DC CORRESPONDENT

The PMK set a deadline

for the government to

provide 20 per cent exclusive reservation for

and 21.04 percent respectively, against the negative growth rate of 37.79 percent in 2020, incurring a huge loss, added the AAI official. But, he expressed optimism for a positive traffic growth rate, as the lockdown has

been relaxed. Thoothukudi MP, Kanimozhi, also chairman of the 15 member Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) suggested the launch of direct services to places like Cochin, Coimbatore, Mumbai, Hyderabad

She also demanded international connectivity to Colombo from Thoothukudi, and said that the AAI should concentrate on constructing state of art futuristic airport and cargo operation facilities in the airport, along with promoting tourism. Kanimozhi also recommended a land acquisition project with a longterm vision of avoiding

future air traffic congestion.

and New Delhi from here to

enhance passenger services.

Leopard found moving around in residential area creates panic

Ooty, Jan.9: A leopard spotted moving around in a residential area in this tourist town since last night created panic among the residents, who demanded on forest Saturday that

department officials trap it. The residents spotted pug marks in front of their homes and dead dogs on the street this morning. Forest department officials rushed to

the spot on being informed and tried to convince them that the dogs might have been attacked by some other animals.

However CCTV footage from some houses showed the feline moving around the area since last night. The residents then demanded that the department set a trap for the leopard and take it away from there. -PTI

Stir demanding recall of Kiran Bedi continues

Puducherry, Jan. 9: The agitation by the ruling Congress led Secular Democratic Alliance here, demanding recall of Lt Governor Kiran Bedi "impeding developmental plans and welfare measures of the elected government," entered the second day on Saturday.

Besides Chief Minister V Narayanasamy, PCC president A V Subramanian, Ministers, Congress legislators, workers and delegates of different wings of the CPI, CPI(M) and VCK participated in the agitation However, leaders and workers of the DMK, an ally of the Congress, were

absence on Saturday too. Thirumavalavan and Tamil Nadu secretary Mutharasan were among those who addressed the participants and criticised the "undemocratic style of functioning

Vanniyars before the resumption of the next Assembly session that is exempted to begin after the Pongal holidays.

A meeting of the party's managing committee on Saturday passed a resolu-

tion saying that if the 20 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions was not implemented Assembly session committee executive would meet and pass a

PMK presses for its demand

political resolution.
The meeting through video conference was attended by among others PMK founder S Ramadoss, PMK Youth Wing leader Anbumani Ramadoss prominent leaders. The resolution men-

tioned about a three-member committee of the party calling on the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam on Friday to discuss the issue. Å ministerial team would also meet Ramadoss at his Thailapuram residence

The pandemic has not only triggered fear, but has also brought immense opportunities to willing minds and entrepreneurs to turn negativity to positivity, by way for innovation. The tea industry is not an exemption. For the century-old Billimalai estates near Coonoor, which markets its tea in the brand name of 'Avataa tea', and has bagged many national and international awards for specialty tea and quality tea production, the Corona crisis helped them find ways and means to go for value addition with herbal blends to manufacture speteas of sorts that help to boost immunity.

For G Udayakumar, company CEO, specialty tea production was his dream project that began a decade ago. Indeed, very few tea makers can call themselves champions and 'Avataa' holds that honour. This Nilgiris-based grower balances timeless tradition with modern technology and was awarded the 2011 North American Tea Championship, and was showcased in the presti-



gious 'Champion Circle' at the world tea expo. Among other accolades,

'Avataa' has earned multi-ple 'Golden Leaf India' awards and bagged 'World Best Tea' award at the North American tea conference held at Bermuda in 2013 and at Canada in 2017 The tea board of India has also recognized their innovation and awarded the 'QualiTea' award for innovative adoption of technology in the south Indian tea

Udhayakumar under the current Covid 19 scenario, 'Avataa' has developed the following selective immunity boosting products, adding ancient medicinal herbs and spices with

The 'Kadha tea' ingredients include green tea, ginger, cinnamon, tuisi, per. Kadha is a traditional Îndian drink, often consumed as chai or tea and is considered to be effective against cough and cold and seasonal flu. Made with Indian herbs and spices, Kadha is a natural immunity booster, and is said to be the best remedy against fever and sore throat.

The 'Triphala tea' contains green tea, clove, tulsi pepper, bibhitaki, amalaki, haritaki and liquorice as ingredients. It is said to be great for digestion and may also provide relief from constipation. The tea is replete with antioxidants that help proone from infections and diseases by boosting immunity. 'Triphala tea' may work inside the body to properly absorb and

assimilate nutrients, keep-

ing us well-nourished. The 'Turmeric Green tea' has green tea with natural turmeric pieces. Renowned as the magic herb, turmeric magnifies the health benefits of green tea. The tea is rich in antioxidants and flavonoids which helps improve the immune system, boosts mood, helps heart and detoxifies the

The 'Tulsi Green tea' has green tea with natural tulsi (HOIY BASII). Green tea 19 enjoyed by millions world over for its beneficial properties and refreshing taste. This exotic blend thus offers the calm serenity of tulsi and the delicate flavor

of green tea. 'Ashwagandha ingredients include green tea, cinnamon, tulsi, fennel seeds and ashwagandha. Its health benefits include reducing blood sugar level, cancer management, relieving stress and aids in fertility.

'Herbal Chai' makes for a perfect health drink Bravichandran | DC OTY, JAN. 9 The pandemic has not only The pandemic has not o

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, JAN. 9

'Avataa' in its new era approach has come out with an extravagant range of dessert tea' to satisfy the sweet tooth with zero calories. Dessert tea' is any tea blend that attempts to mimic the flavour of a certain dessert. The Avataa range of 'dessert tea' consists of four flavours that include Bounty, Caramel, Red Velvet and Tiramisu.

Production executive Avataa beverages at Billimalai Estate, ENR Vejayashekara, said, "Although there might always be room for dessert, sometimes it's best to skip out on the diet-derailing post-meal indulgence. Instead of loading up on unnecessary calories, sugars and fat, opt for a sweet and decadent 'dessert tea'.'

"With tons of flavour and health benefits, they're the perfect alternative if you're looking to lose weight, reduce stress, and feel better overall. Dessert tea' ingredients includes black tea, natural flavour, licorice and added cocoa, and other such products used for dessert, with coconut flavor dominating in



Bounty, Cocoa and other flavours in Caramel and Red Velvet and an exquisite Italian flavor in Tiramisu. A kilogram of this 'dessert tea' is being sold for ₹24,000 in the market. Two gram pouches are commonly available in the market," he added.

Vejayashekara added, continuing their efforts in producing specialty tea, they already innovated teas with different colours with precious flow-

விண் ணப்பங்களை

செ.ம்.சதா, இ/28/வரைகளை/202

அனுப்ப வேண்டிய கடைச்

ers/spices to attract consumers. Addition of such flowers and spices with the specialty tea, enhances health benefits and such rainbow range of tea's includes white (white tea), green (green tea), yellow (turmeric tea), blue (virgin green tea with flower pea chamomile), violet (blue tea with citrus), red (Hibiscus green tea) and orange (saffron tea), he noted.

IndianOil new LPG plant awaits regulatory clearance ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC 120 thousand MT

ERODE, JAN. 9

crore domestic Indane customers. Supplies to customers are made through a network of 900 distributors who are supplied cylinders from IndianOil's LPG bottling plants (BP) from Ennore (Chennai), Chengalpet, Salem, Erode, Mayiladuthu-Mannargudi, Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai, Ilayangudi, Puducherry and Tirunelveli. IndianOil's Indane LPG has a market share of 57.7 percent in Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, IndianOil has 1.60

In Erode, IndianOil's Indane LPG bottling plant is located in SIP-COT industrial area, Perundurai, spread over an area of 60.93 acres, commissioned

Now, an additional LPG storage facility of 1,800 MT is being added to the bottling plant for which regulatory clearances are awaited. This plant fills around 34,000 LPG cylinders per day, translating to an annual bottling capacity of (Metric Tons).

Speaking to media persons, R Thamarai Selvan, chief plant manager, Erode LPG (BP), said that Erode LPG (BP) in line with the guidelines of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate, the whole plant is covered with fire water network to tackle emergencies with fire hydrant monitors at strategic points. Gas monitoring system with several sensors with mimic panels help in auto detection and prevention of major leakage during bottling operations, he added.

Rajasekar Rajaram, (corporate communications), IndianOil, Southern Region, said that the organic waste convertor is installed in the plant to treat the organic waste generated by the plant. The plant is well secured with an Access Control System with fingerprint readers and surveillance system with multiple across the plant's operational areas, he

Review

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

frame-by remake frame-by-frame Malayalam blockbuster Charlie, but an adaptaand debutant Kumar has stayed true to its coreessence of the original. And the film comes as a whiff of fresh air in these turbulent times. It conveys the message of hope and love selflessly in a breezy manner. The impact would have been much bigger, had we watched it on

Speaking to media marquees. Parvathy aka Paaru manager (Shraddha Srinath) is a restoration artist and a free-spirited woman. She leaves her home in the pretext of work after her mother tries to get her hitched with some guy whom she doesn't like. She comes to Kochi and stays in a house, which was previously occupied by a vagabond and happygo-lucky guy called cameras Manimaaran aka Maara (Madhavan). She comes across colorful MAARA CAST: Madhavan, Shraddha Srinath, Mouli, Sshivda, Kishore Direction: Dhilip RATING: ★★★Good

paintings and murals of the same story that she had heard as a child on the walls of Maara's dwelling. Intrigued, Paaru goes on a quest to find Maara, the mysterious man. Through various clues left behind by him, Paaru sets her journey and gets to meet many interesting people including a sex worker Selvi (Abhirami), a petty thief (Alexander Babu), a drunkard

Somasundaram), and a doctor Kani (Sshivada). Maara had left behind a deep impression in all these characters. Whether Paaru finally meets Maara or not forms the reminder of the film. Even as the film

begins and moves slowly, for quite some time, the nothing much happens and just like Paaru who is on a mission to meet prowess in a solid role. Without much diathe mysterious Maara, we also wait to get a logues, she conveys all



glimpse of (Madhavan).

Breezy entertainer enhanced by lead actors' performances

Maddy who has the innate charm perfectly fits the role of a middleaged wanderer who loves and helps people selflessly and makes a difference in someone's life. Though his screen space is somewhat less. with his terrific onscreen persona, he instantly connects with audiences. Shraddha, once again proves her acting

subtle nuances through her facial expressions. Sshivada shines in a limited scope. Mouli (effective) and others like MS Bhaskar, Guru Somasundaram, Kishore, Parvathi Rao are adequate.

It is not easy to remake a hit film as comparisons are bound to ĥappen. Moreover, Charlie is not your routine film, where you can move it with plot structure. It is more of crafting a visual splendor with the feel and emo-

tions of the characters. Dhilip could succeed to a large extent. His technical crew – Dinesh Krishnan and Karthik Muthukumar helming cinematography, Ghibran scoring the music and Ajayan in charge of art direction,

On the downside, the film moves at a slow pace in the first half and picks up momentum in the later part. the initial Also. moments were interesting, but the end seemed to be rushed.

superbly aided him.

செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறையின் திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்ட செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்பு அலுவலகத்தில் திரைப்படக் கருவி இயக்குபவர் பணியிடத்தை நிரப்ப இயக்குநர். செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை அவர்களால் தகுதியாக நபர்களிடமிருந்து விண்ணப்பங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன். பணிலிட தொடர்பான விவரம் கீழ்வருமாறு. 1 பதவியின் பெபர் திரைப்படக் கருவி இயக்குபவர் 2 ஊகிய விகிகம் நிலை 8 (ரு. 19500 62000) காலிப் பணியிடங்களின் न स्कृत्यम् विकास பொதுப்போட்டி (முன்னுரிமை அற்றவர்) இன சுழ்ந்சி முறை பணியமர்த்தப்படும் இடம் செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை அலுவலகம் திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்டம் கக்கிகள் 1. Must have passed SSLC or its equivalent and; . Must have practical experience as Cinema Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a period of not less than 2 years conducted by the Government Board of Examiners for Cinema Operators and must have practical experience as Cinema Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a period of not less than two years Diploma in Cinematography or in Sound Recording and Sound Engineering or in Film Editing with practical experience as Cinema Operator for a period of not less than one year. 01.07.2020 அன்றுள்ளவாறு 18 முதல் 30 வயது வரப்பு வபதிற்குள் இருக்க வேண்டும். இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை. விண் ணப்பங்களை அனுப்ப வேண்டிய முகலரி நாமக்கல் கவிஞர் மாளிகை, கலைமைச் செயலகம். _ புனித ஜார்ஜ் கோட்டை,

-- 600 009.

மனுகாரரின் பெயர், விலாசம், பிறந்த தேதி, கல்ஷி, அனுபவத் தகுதி

மற்றும் பிற விவரங்களுடன் கூடிய

கையொய்புமிட்டு, சான்றிதழ்களின்

நகல்களுடன் 22.01.2021 மாலை 5

மணிக்குள் அனுப்ப வேண்டும்.

முழுமையான விண்ணப்பப் படிவத்திகை

தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் செய்தித் துறை நாமக்கல் கவிஞர் மாளிகை. தலைமைச் செயலகம்.

MP ENFORCES

'LOVE JIHAD'

ORDINANCE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 9

Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday brought into force the contentious Freedom of Religion ordinance, known in political parlance as 'Love Jihad' law, providing a maximum jail term of 10 years for forcible marriage of a girl for the purpose of changing her religion.

The ordinance was enforced 2 days after the governor Anandiben Patel gave her assent to it on Thursday.

Earlier on December 29, the state cabinet gave a nod to the ordinance in the wake of suspension of the winter session of the state assembly, scheduled to commence on December 28. The state cabinet had last

month given approval to the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020, which was scheduled to see passage in the state assembly in the now-suspended winter session.

The ordinance has provided a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment for forcible marriage of a girl for the purpose of changing her religion. It has been made mandatory

for the bride and the groom to notify the local district magistrate 2 months ahead of their conversions, failing which the marriage would be nullified.

The ordinance has provided 5 years' jail term for the religious leaders and priests involved in the forcible marriages. Onus would be on the accused to prove his or her

AIMIM'S BENGAL ACTING PREZ JOINS TMC

Kolkota, Jan. 9: Sk Abdul Kalam, the acting West Bengal unit president of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, joined the Trinamool Congress on Saturday along with several other members of the Asaduddin Owaisi-led party, months ahead of the assembly elections.

Joining the TMC at its headquarters in Kolkata, Kalam said there has been an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in West Bengal for several years and he switched sides to keep the "poisonous air" at

bay.
"We have seen that West
Bengal used to be an oasis of peace. But of late, the air has become poisonous and this be set right. That is why I decided to join the Trinamool Congress," he told

reporters.
The AIMIM leader and his followers joined the TMC in presence of senior party leader and state minister Chandrima Bhattacharya.

Kalam said AIMIM should have tried to foray into West Bengal in the past and seeking a political entry at this point of time will not be

"It will lead to unnecessary cutting into votes, which is not desired at all," he added.

FARMER ENDS LIFE AT PROTEST SITE

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN, 9

As stalemate continues over farm laws, with both government and farmer refusing to blink, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday seeking removal of farmers from protest sites on Delhi border on the grounds that the protesters were blocking roads causing inconven-

ience to people. The petitioner has also mentioned that violent protests have taken in place in some places and they have destroyed telecom towers causing inconvenience and financial loss to the public. The Supreme Court is expected to hear a bunch of petitions relating to the new Farm laws on January 11. The next round of talks between the farmers and government is

to be held on January 15. Meanwhile, a 72-year-old farmer allegedly died due to suicide at a protest site in Ghaziabad. "The deceased was found hanging at one of the mobile toilets at the protest site. He has also left behind a note which is written in Punjabi," said a police officer. Shamsher Rana of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) said that the farmer had blamed the union government for not accepting the demands of the protesters.

BJP LAUNCHES FARMERS OUTREACH DRIVE IN WB

Katwa (WB), Jan. 9: Amid ongoing protests over the new farm laws, BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday launched a new campaign to woo the farmers of West Bengal and said the BJP government at the Centre has increased the agricultural budget sixfold and the Minimum Support Price by 1.5

times.
Nadda, who launched the Krishak Suraksha Abhiyan and Ek Mutti Chawal' (a fistful of rice) to woo farmers in the poll-bound state, said the Modi government has worked more for the farmers community than the previous governments at the Centre.

He also mocked at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for agreeing to implement the PM Kisan Yojna only after realising that her party is fast losing ground among the farmers in the state.

Nadda, said it is "too late" for the TMC government to agree to implement the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

"Since coming to power, the Modi govt has increased budget on agriculture by six times. agriculture by Six times. In 2013-14, the budget on agriculture was only ₹22,000 crore. Today, it stands at ₹1,34,000 crore," Nadda said here.

Nadda said its Prime Minister Narendra Modi who implemented the S w a m i n a t h a n Committee report on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.
"MSP according to S w a m i n a t h a n

Committee has been implemented only by PM Modi, increasing it nearly by 1.5 times," he said.

Later in the afternoon Nadda launched 'Ek Muthi Chawal' (a fistful of rice), a programme under which he would collect rice from farmers' homes and brief them about the benefits of the new agri legislations, as part of efforts to blunt the opposition "anti-farmer" allegations against the BJP-led Central government fol-



Charred remains of furniture and other equipment inside the new born babies care unit of the Bhandara District

Soot and smoke telltale signs of fire that claimed 10 lives

Bhandara, Jan. 9: The families of some of the 10 infants killed in a hospital fire here had complained about power fluctuations but no action was taken, alleged a former minister, as the blackened walls and charred furniture inside the ward told their own story of the ferocity of the blaze that broke out early Saturday.

Access to the Bhandara district hospital was barricaded to keep the media away and restless crowds milled around outside, anxious for any informa-tion on the deaths of the 10 infants, aged between one and three months, Special Newborn Care unit.

The scale and nature of the incident left the people of this east Maharashtra city shaken and condolences poured in from various sections of society.

While politicians, including current and forwere ministers, allowed inside the build-

A NURSE first noticed smoke coming out from the neonatal section of the hospital and alerted doctors and other staff who reached there in five minutes

ing, scarcely anybody else was. Hospital authorities were tightlipped, refusing to divulge any informa-tion on the tragedy that had made national headlines.

As anxiety mounted, speaking to those allowed inside was the only way for reporters to get information and try and piece together a narrative.

Maharashtra Former energy minister C h a n d r a s h e k h a r Bawankule of the BJP claimed that relatives of the infants had complained about power fluctuations in the ward for

the last week. "I spoke with relatives of the deceased infants. They

ations had been happen-ing in the hospital ward since the last seven days. The relatives had asked the hospital staff to check electric switches etc, but apparently no action was taken," Bawankule said.

Demanding a high-level inquiry, he also alleged that the hospital didn't have proper fire safety and electrical equipment in place. According to him, a proposal to purchase fire safety equipment worth over ₹1 crore at the hospital sent to the principal secretary, health, and the director of health, in the

ing for approval. While most people were not allowed inside, photographs from the ward gave an indication of intensity of the fire and its after-

state government is pend-

math of soot and smoke. The walls were blackened, only the occasional patch of yellow showing through, the floor was thick with ash and dust was charred. The metal stretchers and a few other accoutrements of a special hospital care unit such as the drip stand survived the fire, which broke out around 1.30 am.

In the midst of the gloom shone a bright blue and white sign saying LED.

State health minister Rajesh Tope told reporters that at least three of the 10 infants died of burn injuries while seven were suffocated to death because of the smoke.

District civil surgeon Pramod Khandate said there were 17 babies in the unit and seven were rescued. A nurse first noticed

smoke coming out from the neonatal section of the hospital and alerted doctors and other staff who reached there in five minutes, he said. Fire brigade personnel rescued seven babies from the 'inbound ward' of the unit but could not save the 10 other

India's vaccines ready to save humanity: PM

India delivering essential medicines to every needy in the world, says Modi

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DEI HI, JAN, 9

India is ready to protect

humanity with not just one but "two Made in India Corona Vaccines' and the world "is also eyeing how India runs the world's largest Vaccination program", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a Virtual format on Saturday while addressing the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention---the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that pro-vides an important platform to engage and connect with "the 31 million strong Indian Diaspora have established themselves in all corners of

the globe".

PM Modi said, "Today,
India is ready to protect
humanity with not one but two Made in India Corona Vaccines. Being the pharmacy of the world, India has done the work of delivering essential medicines to every needy in the world and is still doing it today. Today, the world is not only waiting for India's vaccine, but it is also eyeing how India runs the world's largest Vaccination program.

He also said, "In this era of Pandemic, India again showed what our potential is. ... Be it PPE Kits, Masks, Ventilators, Testing Kits, all these were (earlier) sought from outside India. India has today not only become self-reliant in them but has started exporting many of these products as well. Today India is one of the countries with the lowest Fatality Rate and Fastest Recovery Rate in the

The PBD Convention the theme of which was 'Contributing Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India)—was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and featured a keynote address by the President



India has today not only become self-reliant in them but has started exporting PPE Kits, Masks, Ventilators, Testing Kits.

of the Carribean nation Suriname Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi who was the chief Guest at the event. PM Modi hailed the contributions of Suriname President Mr. Santokhi as 'a shining example" of the service of the Indian Diaspora to the world.

On the occasion, 30 individuals and organisations conferred the were Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)--the highest honour for overseas Indians/persons of Indian origin--- by President Ram Nath Kovind in recognition of outstanding their achievements both in India and abroad in various fields. The awardees included Ms. Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Zealand's Minister for Youth, Community and Voluntary Sector, and Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities.

Quoting the wisdom of ancient Tamil sage Thiruvalluvar who had said, "the best land in the world is that which does not learn evils from its opponents and which, if ever in trouble, does not decrease the welfare of others", PM Modi announced that the next PBD will be "associated with the celebration of the 75th year of independ-

PDP leader released on bail Idea of forming anti-BJP

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN.9

People's Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader Waheed Ur Rehman Parra was on Saturday released from over six week long detection after a special court of National Investigation Agency (NIA) at Jammu granted him bail.

The NIA had arrested Mr. Parra on November 25 for his alleged "close links" with Kashmiri lawyer Irfan Shafi Mir, who was arrested by the police along with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu, another militant Asif Ahmed Rather and tainted J&K police officer Davinder Singh in January last

Since the arrest had come merely two days after Mr. Parra's filing his nomination papers for J&K's maiden District Development Council (DDC) elections, the PDP

THE NIA HAD arrested Parra on November 25 for his alleged "close links" with Kashmiri lawyer Irfan Shafi Mir, who was arrested by the police along with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Syed Naveed Mushtag. another militant Asif Ahmed Rather and tainted J&K police officer Davinder Singh.

had termed the NIA's action as a political blackmail of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr. Parra subsequently won this election with a significant margin of votes from a segment of home district Pulwama while still in NIA custody. However, he allowed to take the oath as a member even via online mode despite a directive from the court.

The NIA had, however, maintained that Mr. Parra was arrested by it "in connection with the Naveed Babu-Davinder Singh case for supporting Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in conspiracy with the other accused persons.'

Mr. Parra was on December 20 sent to a 30day judicial remand by a special judge of the NIA. team of Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), a wing of J&K police, carried out a raid at his home in Pulwama on December 30.

Late Saturday night, PDP president and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, informed that Mr. Parra has been detained by an Intelligence wing of the J&K police now and while questioning it's legality she sought Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha's intervention in the

She tweeted, "Despite NIA Court granting bail to @parawahid after thorough court proceedings. he has now been detained by CIK in Jammu. Under

has he been arrested? This is brazen contempt of court. Request @manojsinha_ ji to intervene so that justice is served."

Earlier this week, the NIA had sought the details of his properties in Srinagar from the J&K police.

According to the agency, during the investigations into Singh's association with the Hizb militants, it came across phone records of Mir which came showed that he was in close contact with Mr. Parra. The NIA sources had added that Mir had claimed during questioning that Mr. Parra sought his support during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for his party candidate Mehbooba Mufti.

Singh who last served as Deputy Superintendent of Police at the Anti-Hijacking Squad at the Srinagar International Airport is facing charges under various anti terror laws for helping separatist

alliance in Assam fades

MANOJ ANAND | DC

The idea of forming a grand alliance of anti-BJP parties by Congress in Assam has started fading with two newly formed regional parties rejecting the offer and a month after contesting the Bodoland Territorial Council elections together the Congress has denied having any tie up with the All India United Democratic Front for assembly polls in April.

Confusion over the proposed alliance between Congress and AIUDF started after AICC general secretary and party's state in-charge Jitendra Singh said that the Congress high command will not bypass the opinion of ground level workers before finalising an alliance with AIUDF for the 2021 Assam elections.

regarding the alliance. I have not met Mr Badruddin Ajmal and nobody is in touch (regarding the alliance with AIUDF)," Mr Singh told reporters. "I don't think there have been any talks between Congress high command and AIUDF leaders. Any discussion on alliance politics has to go through the general secretary in-charge for the state," said

Mr Singh
The remarks of the AICC general secretary came soon after AIUDF supremo Badruddin Ajmal said that an alliance between the two parties was going to be finalized soon.

"Talks on Congress and AIUDF ties are at the final stage," said Mr Ajmal. In fact the idea of forming a grand alliance of all the anti-CAA forces was floated and stitched by late chief minister Tarun

newly regional political parties Assam Jativa Parishad and Raijor Dal have also rejected the idea of grand alliance Congress party.

"Since the beginning, our stand is clear. We will try to unite all regional forces and maintain distance from the national parties. We are firm on this and so we have decided to form an alliance with Raijor Dal. An agreement in this regard will be signed very soon," AJP Lurinjyoti president, Gogoi told reporters.

Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) led by Lurinjyoti Gogoi, former All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader and Raijor Dal led by jailed farmers' leader Akhil Gogoi came into being following the anti-CAA agitation in December 2019, which turned violent.

SECURITY | MATTERS Army says the apprehended soldier is being dealt with as per laid down procedures

Amidst stand-off, Chinese soldier captured in Ladakh

FROM PG 1

The Indian Army move had caught Chinese by surprise and they had made several unsuccessful attempts to occupy these peaks. The area had also witnessed firing incident for the first time in four decades between the two armies as tensions had esca-

"The PLA soldier had transgressed across the LAC and was taken into custody by Indian troops deployed in this area," said Indian Army on Saturday.

In a strong statement Indian Army said that troops from either side are deployed along the LAC since friction erupted

last year due to unprecedented mobilisation and forward concentration by Chinese

troops.
"The PLA soldier is being dealt with as per laid down procedures and circumstances under which he had crossed the LAC are being investigated," said Indian Armv.

Sources said the Chinese soldier is being questioned to know whether he accidentally crossed over or was trying to

py. Earlier in October Indian Army had apprehended a Chinese soldier in Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh, who was returned.

Chinese state owned media

Global Times said that China has called for an immediate return of the soldier, who it claimed went missing due to "darkness and complicated geography'

It further claimed that China had informed India as soon as the incident occurred, and sought help from the Indian side.

The incident has happened at a time when there has been no breakthrough in talks on disengagement between India and China despite eight round of Corps Commanders meeting between the two sides. Due to differences there has been no further rounds of Corps Commanders meeting since November 6.

23 SAILORS STUCK IN CHINA

New Delhi, Jan. 9: Twentythree Indian sailors stuck in China will return on January 14, Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday.

The cargo ship MV Jag Anand is set to sail towards Chiba in Japan, Mandaviya said.

"Our seafarers stuck in China are coming to India. Ship MV Jag Anand, having 23 Indian crew, stuck in China is set to SAIL toward Chiba, Japan, to carry out crew change, will reach India on 14th January,' ports, shipping and waterways minister said in a

He said this could be made possible only due to the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mandaviya also acknowledged "the humanitarian approach of the Great Eastern Shipping Company towards the seafarers and standing by them in this crucial time!

On December 30, 2020, he had said that Indian sailors stuck in China will be brought back soon as diplomatic talks are on with the neighbouring country.

Kerala govt permits reopening of spas, ayurvedic resorts

Thiruvananthapuram: The spas, ayurvedic resorts and other such facilities in Kerala, which were closed months ago due to COVID-19 pandemic, are all set to welcome visitors again as the state government has issued orders for reopening them by adhering to safety norms. The spas and ayurvedic resorts used to welcome a large number of tourists both domestic and international holidayers in the southern state, popularly known as the God's own country, every year.

The state Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said the order was issued to reopen the spas and Ayurvedic resorts in the state which were closed in the wake of outbreak of coronavirus.

Donald Trump, his lawyer

Rudy Giuliani and others

The department unveiled the cases against 13 people, including Richard

Barnett, a Trump support-er who invaded the office

of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Lonnie Coffm-

an of Alabama, who was found carrying two hand-

guns and had 11 Styrofo-

am-enhanced Molotov

Others whose charges were unsealed include Ch-

ristopher Albert of Maryl-

and, who allegedly enter-

ed the US Capitol with a

loaded handgun; and

Mark Leffingwell, charged with punching an officer. Most of the 13 were

charged with illegal entry

into restricted buildings

of Congress, and violent

or disorderly conduct.
They were also charged

with impeding governme-

nt functions after forcing

the shutdown of a joint

meeting of Congress to officially certify that Tru-mp rival Joe Biden had

won the November 3 elec-

tion, which Trump had

until Thursday refused to

accept. Barnett, famously

photographed with his feet on a desk in Pelosi's

office, was charged with

of the US Capitol building

was an attack against one

of our nation's greatest institutions," said Acting

US Attorney Michael Sherwin in a statement.

Kohl said that not all the

charges filed over Wedne-

sday's violence had been

unsealed, and that more

were in the pipeline as the

"This investigation has the highest priority," he said, with "hundreds" of

Justice Department inves-

tigators working the case.

arrested and charged by

Around 40 people were Kohl said.

FBI investigates.

'The lawless destruction

theft of stationery.

cocktails in his truck.

for encouraging it.

SHORT TAKES

EASTER ATTACKS: U.S. CHARGES 3 SRI LANKANS

Washington, Jan. 9: The US has charged three Sri Lankan nationals for allegedly being part of a group of ISIS supporters responsible for the 2019 Easter attacks. Mohamed Naufar, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Riskan and Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Moahmed are currently in custody in Sri Lanka.

The criminal case was filed on December 11, in the US District Court in Los Angeles Naufar, the "second emir" for the group of ISIS supporters that called itself "ISIS in Sri Lanka" who allegedly led the group's propaganda efforts, recruited others to join ISIS and led a series of multi-day military-type trainings. Riskan allegedly helped man-

ufacture the IEDs used in the Easter Attacks; and Moahmed allegedly executed a police officer in order to obtain the officer's firearm, shot a suspected informant, and scouted a location for a separate ter-

INTEL OFFICIAL 'HURT' AFTER OUSTER BY DON

Washington, Jan. 9: The ousted inspector general of the intelligence community says he is "disappointed and saddened" that President Donald Trump fired him, but he also encouraged other inspectors general to continue to speak out when they are aware of wrongdoing.

Trump notified Congress late Friday evening that he intended to fire Michael Atkinson because he had lost confidence in him. On Saturday, Trump made it clear that the move had been retaliatory, telling reporters that Atkinson was a "disgrace" and had done "a terrible job" because he had provided an anonymous whistleblower complaint to Congress — a move that was required by law.

Atkinson was required by

law to notify Congress of the complaint, which was written by an anonymous intelligence official and detailed Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investi-

GOOGLE BANS PARLER FROM PLAY STORE

Washington, Jan. 9: Internet giant Google has suspended US-based microblogging platform Parler — where most of the supporters of outgoing resident Donaid Trump are shifting their base — from its app store, citing posts inciting violence and demanding "robust" moderation for "egregious" content from the social networking service.

Simultaneously, Apple also warned Parler on Friday that it will ban the service from its app store if it doesn't start to moderate its content better.

The move by the two Silicon Valley companies came the day when Twitter permanently suspended Trump's account due to "risk of further incitement of violence".

"In order to protect user safety on Google Play, our longstanding policies require that apps displaying user-generated content have moderation policies and enforcement that removes egregious content like spots that incite violence, Google said in a statement.

FBI SEARCHES LAWMAKERS' **OFFICES, HOMES**

Nashville, Jan. 9: Federal prosecutors in Tennessee have said that FBI agents have searched the homes and offices of several state lawmakers.

US Attorney's Office of Middle Tennessee spokesman David Boling on Friday confirmed the searches included the homes of former GOP House Speaker Glen Casada, state Rep. Robin Smith and Casada's for-mer chief of staff, Cade Cothren. The office of Republican Rep. Todd Warner also was searched, according to House

Speaker Cameron Sexton.
Boling declined to provide any further information regarding the nature of the search es and how many lawmakers were involved.

A spokesman for the FBI referred all questions to the Attorney's Republican Gov. Bill Lee told reporters Friday that he had spoken to Sexton, a Republican from Crossville, about the searches, describing them as "FBI raids."

"It's certainly very concerning. I know very little about that. There's been no FBI outreach to us," Lee said

15 charged over **Capitol violence**

Legal action against Trump demanded

Don impeachment US Justice Department announced Friday that it has charged 15 people involved in the assault on Congress, including one is for Congress to man accused of possessdecide: Biden ing bombs made to act like "homemade napalm." But Ken Kohl, a federal prosecutor with the Washington US attorney's office, Wilmington, Jan. 9: said they did not expect to President-elect Joe Biden charge anyone with "incon Friday strongly indicaitement" or "insurrecti-on" in Wednesday's viole-nce, amid calls for legal ted he does not back moves to impeach President action against President

Donald Trump, saying the quickest way to get him out of office is through the transition in two weeks. "The quickest way that will happen is us being sworn in on the 20th," said Biden, who will take the oath of office on January 20.

"What actually happens before or after, that is a judgment for the Congress to make. But that's what I am looking forward to: him leaving office."

The President-elect was addressing reporters in his hometown of Wilmington two days after Trump encouraged a mob of supporters to march on Congress.

Democratic leaders in Congress have growing momentum for attempting to impeach Trump for the second time in his

ing was an attack against

one of our nation's greatest

Washington police, mostly

for curfew violations, weapons offences and unl-

awful entry. But the cha-

rges announced by Kohl

Friday were on the federal

level and potentially carry

He said the FBI was not

investigating anyone on

possible "incitement" or

Some people have called

insurrection" charges.

for Trump, Giuliani, Trump's son Donald Jr. and

others to be charged with

incitement for openly enc-

ouraging the president's

supporters to take action

just hours before the mob

"We don't expect any

tnat nature,

stormed the Capitol.

heftier punishment.

- MICHAEL SHERWIN

Acting US Attorney

There is little support so far among Republicans, although they too have loudly condemned Trump's behaviour.

This was Biden's first extended reaction to the impeaching Trump or trying to persuade Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th amendment removing the president from

Biden's hesitancy to sup-port his party on impeachment reflects the fact that he already faces a mammoth task in working to heal divisions in US

society.
"We're going to do our job and Congress can decide how to proceed," Biden said.

"The idea that I think he shouldn't be out of office yesterday is not an issue. The question is what happens with 14 days to go, 13 days left to go?

The lawless destruction of the US Capitol build-**POLICE UNION HEAD SORRY FOR DEFENDING MOB**

Chicago, Jan. 9: The president of the Chicago Police officers' union apologised for defending the pro-Trump mob that stor-med the US Capitol and downplaying this week's violence that left four people dead. In a statement posted on Facebook on Friday, John Catanzara, called his "poorly word-ed" comments made during an interview with WBEZ, Chicago's public radio station, a lapse in judgment. "I certainly wo-uld never justify any attacks on citizens, democracy or law enforcement,'

In the initial comments, he characterised participants as supporters of the president who believed that the election had been stolen.

Indo-American Sabrina is Harris' Dy Press Secy

Washington, Jan. 9: Communications Director Indian-American Sabrina Singh would serve as Depresidential campaign.

Communications Director Into as Policy Advisor to the Vice President.

Deanne Millison has puty Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House, according to an announcement made by the Biden-Harris Transition. Singh was Press Secretary to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the Biden-Harris campaign. Prior to her role on the campaign, she served as senior spokesperson for Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign and National Press Secretary for Cory Booker's presidential campaign.

She previously served as deputy communications director for the Democratic National Committee, spokesperson for American Bridge's Trump War Room and Regional Singh has also worked at

SKDKnickerbocker, served as Communications Director for Representative Jan Schakowsky and worked at various Democratic committees, said the Biden-Harris Transition as it announced additional members of the Vice President's Office at the White House.

Prominent among them being Yael Belkind, Assistant to the Chief of Staff to the Vice President; Vincent Evans as Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs; Michael Fuchs as Deputy Chief of Staff; Kate Childs Graham as Director of Speech Writing and Dr Ike

been named Deputy Policy Director to the Vice President; Rachel Palermo as Assistant Press Secretary; Mike Pyle as Chief Economic Advisor; Peter Velz as Director of Press Operations; and Herbie Ziskend as Deputy Communications Director.

These diverse, experienced, and talented individuals will join the Office of the Vice President. The appointments demonstrate that the president and vice president-elect are building an administration that looks like America and is ready to deliver results for the American people on day one, the transition said.

Twitter permanently bans Don

San Francisco, Jan. 9: Twitter said Friday it has permanently suspended President Donald Trump's account, citing the risk of further violence following the assault on the US Capitol by his supporters.

"After close review of recent Tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account," Twitter said in a blog post explaining its decision, "we have perma-nently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence." Twitter — Trump's favourite megaphone — blocked him for 12 hours after the deadly attack on the US Capitol on Wednesday and tĥreatened permanent suspension if he continued breaking its rules.

Trump returned to Twitter late Thursday, posting a video message that seemed aimed at calming tensions after the mayhem

MY SUPPORT BASE, MYSELF WON'T **BE SILENCED: TRUMP AFTER BAN**

Washington, Jan. 9: Outgoing US President Do-nald Trump has slammed Twitter for permanently suspending him, vowing that he and his support base would not be silenced. The unprecedented move by the California-based microblogging site on Friday comes after Trump tweeted that he would not attend the inauguration of his successor Joe Biden on January 20.

At the time of suspension, Trump had 88.7 million followers and followed 51 people. In a statement

caused by his supporters. He acknowledged his presidency was ending and

after he was banned, Trump said: "I predicted this would happen. We have been negotiating with various other sites, and will have a big announcement soon, while we also look at the possibilities of build-ing out our own platform in the near future. We will not be SILENCED!"

freely.

promised a smooth transi-

"Twitter is not about FREE SPEECH. They are all about promoting a Radical Left platform where some of the most vicious people in the world are allowed to speak

tion to Joe Biden, although he did not go so far as to congratulate or even say the name of his successor.

Twitter said at the time it was continuing to watch Trump's social media activity to determine whether further action was needed.

The decision to suspend Trump's account came after a pair of tweets on Friday, according to the one-to-many messaging platform. In one of the tweets, Trump vowed that none of his supporters would be "disrespected," and in another, he said he would not be attending Biden's inauguration on January 20, as is customary. "These two Tweets must be read in the context of broader events in the country and the ways in which the President's statements can be mobilised by different audiences, including to incite violence, as well as in the context of the pattern of behaviour from this account in recent weeks,' Twitter said.

People queue for being tested for Covid-19 outside a municipal building on Saturday in Bagneux, a southern suburb of Paris, where a risk cluster of the mutant Coronavirus variant have been detected. -AFP

China WHO trip: No timeline

said on Saturday, but gave no specific timeline for the visit.

The exact time on when the WHO expert team will arrive in Wuhan, where the virus emerged in December last, and investigate into the Coronavirus origin is still under negotiation, Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, said. China and the World Health Organisation have reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation with four video conferences, Zeng was quoted as saying by state-run Global Times.

Chinese experts are waiting for their WHO countarts, ne said. Once the WHO experts complete their procedures and finalise the schedule, Chinese experts will go to Wuhan with them to conduct the probe, Zeng was quoted as saying by the state-

run Xinhua news agency. Zeng stressed that China's position on the WHO investigation is positive, open and supportive, and the country hopes such joint efforts would help deepen the understanding of the virus and better prevent infectious diseases in the future. In a rare instance of criticism from the global body, WHO chief

Beijing, Jan. 9: China is ready to receive a WHO expert team to probe the origin of Covid-19 and has reached a consensus with the UN's top health agency, a senior Chinese official said on Saturday but gave UK PM Boris Johnson

took to social media to

urge people to strictly fol-

low the stay-at-home lock-

down as the disease continues to spread at an "alarming rate". "Our

hospitals are under more

pressure than at any other

time since the start of the

pandemic, and infection

rates continue to soar at

an alarming rate," he said

in a Twitter statement. "The vaccine rollout has

given us renewed hope,

but it's critical for now we

stay at home, protect the

NHS and save lives," he

said. The warnings come

a day after London Mayor

Sadiq Khan declared a

UK capital because the

coronavirus cases are

"out of control" as latest

figures revealed the infec-

tion rate in London has

exceeded 1,000 per 100,000

two members had already

najor incident" in

London, Jan. 9: The UK government on Saturday began rolling out a series of stark advertisements as part of a new awareness drive that warns people to "Act like you've got it" because anyone can spread Coronavirus, especially the new highly transmissible variant that has seen hospitals being overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients. The campaign — made up of television, radio and

newspaper adverts as well as a social media blitz comes as the latest daily death toll from the deadly virus hit a new peak of 1,325 deaths and infections rose to 68.053 cases. Around one in three people infected with the virus do not have any symptoms and could therefore be passing it on without realising, according to the government's messaging.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, often accused of being pro-China, in a meddisappointment

necessary permissions for the experts team's arrival. with this news, given that

China not finalising the "I'm very disappointed

ia conference in Geneva on Tuesday had expressed

begun their journeys and others were not able to travel at the last minute, but had been in contact with senior Chinese officials," he said. Tedros said he "made it clear" that the mission was a priority for the UN health agency.

people.

U.S. RECORD: **NEARLY 2.9 LAKH CASES IN 24 HRS**

Washington, Jan. 9: The United States hit a new record for Coronavirus cases Friday, notching nearly 290,000 in a span of 24 hours, according to a realtime tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The country, the hardest-hit in the world by the Covid-19 pandemic, also recorded 3,676 virus deaths in the same day, the Baltim-

ore-based university said.

The day before, the US had recorded a record of nearly 4,000 deaths in 24 hours. Some 131,000 people are currently hospitalized in the US for Covid-19. according to the Covid Tracking Project.

The world's larg omy has recorded 21.8 million Coronavirus cases and more than 368,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

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

But the effort is running behind, with just under six million people having received the first of two injections in the country of 330 million.

Court: Nab Masood Azhar by Jan. 18

ignated global terrorist Masood Azhar, chief of Jaish-ethe banned Mohammad (JeM), should be arrested by January 18 in connection with a terror financing case, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has asked the Punjab Police, a court official said on Saturday.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Gujranwala issued an arrest warrant against Azhar in the ter-

Lahore, Jan. 9: UN des- ror financing case instituted by the CTD in the previous hearing on Thursday. Gujranwala judge Natasha Naseem Supra during the case hearing on Friday directed the CTD to arrest JeM chief Masood Azhar by January 18 and present him in the court. In case of failure (to arrest him), the court may begin proceedings to declare him a

proclaimed offender.

1 பதவியின் பெயர் : |திரைப்படக் கருவி இயக்குபவர் 2 ஊதிய விகிதம் நிலை 8 *(*ரு. 19500 - 62000) (ஒன்று) என்ணிக்கை 4 இன சுழற்சி முறை பணியமர்த்தப்படும் இடம் அலுவலகம், 6 தகுதிகள்

பணியிடம் தொடர்பான விவரம் கீழ்வருமாறு.

பொதுப்போட்டி (முன்னுரிமை அற்றவர்) செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை நிருஷ்ணகிரி பாவட்டம். Must have passed SSLC or its equivalent and;
 Must have practical experience as Cinema Operator in a Ginema Theatre for a period of not less than 2 years or; Must have passed the examination conducted by the Government Board of Examiners for Cinema Operators and must have practical experience as Cinema Operator in a Cinema Theatre for a period of not less than two years Diploma in Cinematography or in Sound Recording and Sound Diploma in Cinematography or in Sound Recording and Sound Engineering or in film Editing with practical experience as Cinema Operator for a period of not less than 01.07.2020 அன்றுள்ளவாறு 18 முதல் 30 வயது லரம்பு வயதிற்குள் இகுக்க வேண்டும். விண்ணாப்பங்களை இயக்குநா. செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை, அனுப்பு வேண்டிய முகவரி நாமக்கல் கவிஞர் மாளிகை தலைமைச் செயலகம், புனித ஜார்ஜ் கோட்டை சென்னை 600 009. மனுதாரரின் பெயர், விலாசம், பிறந்த 8 விண்ணப்பங்களை அனுப்ப வேண்டிய தேதி, கல்வி, அனுபவத் தகுதி டைசி நாள் மற்றும் பிற விவரங்களுடன் கூடிய முழுமையான விண்ணப்பப் படிவத்தினை கையெயப்பு இட்டு, சான்றிதழ்களின் நகல்களுடன் 22.01.2021 மாலை 5 மணிக்குள் அனுப்ப வேண்டும் சே.ம்.தொ.தி.28/வரைசலை/2023

🗥 தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் செய்தித் துறை

செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறையின் கிருஷ்ணகிரி மாவட்ட செய்தி மக்கள்

தொடர்பு அலுவலகத்தில் காலியாக உள்ள திரைப்படக் கருவி இயக்குபவ

பணியிடத்தை நிரப்ப இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை அவர்களால்

தகுதியான தபர்களிடமிகுந்து லிண்ணப்பங்கள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றள

நாமக்கல் கவிஞர் மானிகை, தலைமைச் செயலக

புனித ஜார்ஜ் கோட்டை, சென்னை – 600 009.

WINTRY | WEATHER

Storm Filomena leaves many areas under a white blanket

Spain sees heaviest snowfall in 50 yrs

Madrid, Jan. 9: Heavy snow continued to fall across much of Spain on Friday, causing chaos on the roads, particularly in the centre of the country, with the capital Madrid seeing its heaviest snowfall in 50 years.

By nightfall, the extreme weather brought by Storm Filomena had left many areas under a deep blanket of white in a rare bout of wintry weather not seen in decades to the

Iberian peninsula. As the snow showed no signs of letting up, Madri-

d's Barajas airport halted all incoming and outgoing flights. "For safety reasons, operations have been stopped at #Airport AS #Madrid-#Barajas, until visibility is improved. The work to clear the runways continues in order to resume operations as soon as possible #BorrascaFilomena," it tweeted.

The blizzard also caused havoc on the roads, with nearly 400 affected across Spain and hundreds of vehicles stranded in the snow and ice. The worst-hit regions

were Castilla La Mancha, Valencia and Madrid, with the capital seeing its heaviest snowfall since 1971, Spain's public television said. Hours of intense snow which was still falling by 2100 GMT cut off the city's two main ringroads, the M30 and the M40, and a red alert was declared in the city centre where police struggled to help people stranded in vehicles.

The transport authority said the snow had disrupted traffic on almost 400 main roads, where in

many cases lorries and heavy goods vehicles were unable to pass, while many roads were only passable with snow chains. On the secondary road network, more than 50 roads were impassable and

lorry drivers were held up across the country. The AEMET weather agency described the situation as "exceptional and most likely historic".

Earlier in the day, children in Madrid could be seen hurling snowballs or

playing under snow-covered palm trees, while others snapped photos of the rare whiteout which beg an in earnest the day after Spain celebrated King's Day — or Epiphany.

AEMET had earlier warned another 20 centimearound 170 roads required tres (eight inches) of snow chains. And hundreds of was expected in Madrid, the high central plains and the nearby mountain ranges, which could rise to 50 centimetres in higher areas. High-speed trains between Madrid and Vale-

ncia were cancelled.

LETTERS

WELCOME DECISION It is heartening to

know that the Tamil

in theatres following a direction from the Central government

as also the Madras high court. At the same time, it is great

that the Union minister for health & family

welfare has lauded Tamil Nadu Covid management, which is a feather in our

Chief Minister's cap.

Likewise, the high

Nadu government has withdrawn its order on 100% occupancy

Chronicle **10 JANUARY 2021**



C-virus funk? Relax, and respect the kids

arenting is a thankless job except when your child flashes you an admiring look of appreciation and love or envelopes you in a warm, spontaneous hug. But most of the time, you — the parent — are under scrutiny, by your children, your parents and relatives, society and

indeed the law — with everyone expecting you to trip up.

The job comes with perks. You get to make the rules — mostly. But more commonly parents are running up the down escalator — coping with their own personal disasters and ghosts, pretending to be in control of the situation or just making do with paying the daily bills.

The most challenging scenario is when "special children" are born. So steeped are most of us in the quicksand of the "norm" that anything out of that spectrum imposes extreme stress. The wonder is that most parents do eventually cope with the daunting task of loving and serving unconditionally.

But parenting is never easy. Nor does one fall automatically into it—at least not well enough. It is fairly straightforward to make babies. Sadly, it is never straightforward to nudge them to grow up to be humane, empathetic, caring siblings, mothers or fathers, responsible citizens and productive members of

Even in ordinary times, parenting is a formidable task. It becomes much harder in extraordinary times. Think long wars or extended violence — there are fifty-five such events happening across the globe. Add to that periodic drought, famine, economic distress or the pandemic we are struggling

What should parents do if carefully formulated plans collapse into mere physical survival? Look back to the "hunter-gatherer" age for role models? Is it even sensible to bring up a child believing in the "nice" social lessons of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, learnt over the last century, when society itself seems to be hurtling back to where we began?

More than 90,000 people died in 2020 in continuing conflicts across the globe — some of these started as early as 1947 and continue glowing like the embers of a major fire. Covid-19 has devastated human life and social norms more decisively than any other calamity and more confusingly so since there is no one to blame but ourselves. Perhaps there is a lesson there for us and

our children. An old one. Just one rotten apple destroys an entire pile. We should change our rotten ways if our children are to identify and shun rot. The maxim of survival of the fittest is the "learnt knowledge" born out of uncaring times. If society thrives so do, we. The impending disaster from climate change illustrates this truism.

The difficult part is how to embed these noble notions into a workable social ethic which preserves the spirit of competition without impeding collaboration; recognises the human impetus for acquisition but tempers it with a notion of relative equality; acknowledges that humans are not saints

but nor are they Hobbesian creatures of dystopia. When faced with a conundrum, parents assume that role modeling will do the trick — being the person you want your child to be. This is an honest way to go — you can't expect your child to be honest, fair and just if you aren't. But even this doesn't guarantee success. No child is a clone of their parents. And

Parenting is a high-risk

venture. There are so

pitch the game against

the parent or the child.

Covid-19 is one such.

many moving parts,

any of which could

force fitting them into narrow roles has an even chance of success or disaster. Parenting is a high-risk venture. There are so many moving parts, any of which could pitch the game against the parent or the child. Covid-19 is one such. It has also taken away the relief that external actors — teachers, friends, extended family — gave hard pressed parents via "me time". "Family time" is all we have for those working from home. This is what most parents wished for. Many might now be having second thoughts. Possibly children too feel similarly. Too much of a good thing is never as good as when it is rationed out

Here are three survival strategies to get you through Covid-19 with your san-

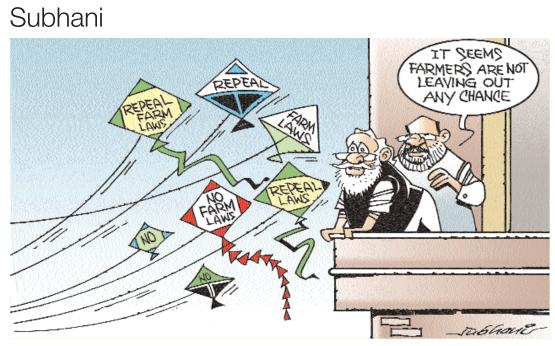
First, quit role modeling. It's stressful to keep up an act 24X7. Being yourself can bring surprisingly good results. Children are very resilient. They know that adults are fallible and can be surprisingly responsible when asked for help. It is we, adults, who force them into infantile irresponsibility well

beyond the initial years when this assumption is valid. Second, imagine what you always wanted your boss to do — to quit micromanaging you. Become your ideal boss. Lay out fair rules on how your lives will run. Encourage your children to become equal partners in fleshing out what this means in practice — who does what, when and why. Things will probably not work like clockwork. The house will become messy. The kids may need time to discipline themselves about homework or time spent on social media. Your spouse might resent the change just as much as the kids. But in the end, there is a good chance everyone will sort themselves out per

their natural inclinations and capacities. Third, avoid dreaming of the future. "Que sera sera" remains the motto. The only thing real is the present — remain in it. This doesn't mean that planning should be junked. But a future directed by you is as dead as the Planning Commission. Shape your children into commandos — street smart but equipped with the attributes for happiness and success — good health, a head for languages and code, music and art, digital capability and high social and human capacity. The rest will unfold as challenges and opportunities present

Children are born pure and unsullied. It is we who contaminate them with backward looking limitations. Now is a good time to shed the patrimonial legacy of parenthood and discover the joy of surviving together — the good news being — no one is watching, excepting you.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation



Why J. Khanna dissented from Central Vista ruling



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

he Supreme Court (SC) has in a twoagainst-one judgment given a conditional green signal to the government's plans to massively rebuild the central core of the capital of the Republic. We have no option but to accept the view of the highest court of the land, but the dissenting judgment of Justice Sanjiv Khanna raises issues which, if brushed under the car-pet, would sanctify the government's predilection to rule by law rather

than that by rule of law. The old saying, the way to hell is paved with good intentions, has a new res-onance to the manner in which our current government acts. The end goal is often good, but the manner in which it is sought to be achieved is sorely wanting. The recent farm laws provide an illustrative example. No one can question the proposition that the agrireforms. But there is something inherently undemocratic if the are pushed through without adequate consultations.

The farm bills were passed by blatantly violating every procedure protocol Parliament; they were hurriedly cleared on a Sunday, without suffi-cient discussion, by a voice vote, and without referring them to a Select Committee where the views of stakeholders could be taken on board in an organized and transparent manner. The farmers massed on the borders of Delhi are basically saying that there was no conversation with them.

This is precisely what a great many concerned citizens, members of civil society, architects, town planners, environmental experts, landscapists, conservationists, and heritage specialists are saying about the rebuilding of New Delhi. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, in his dissenting judgment, used a very telling expression to describe the undemocratic opacity of the government. He said that there was a lack of "adequate and intelligible disclosure". A project of this nature, he went on to elaborate, must involve the public as they are the real stakeholders of national heritage; the public must be given an informed voice; it should have had "fair participation" in deliber-ations, and given appro-priate information and

This was especially important, Justice Khanna said, because the proposed changes to the heart of New Delhi's heritage core are not only massive, but irreversible. Physical construction or demolitions cannot be undone and have permanent consequences. The argument, it must be reiterated, is not against change. Cites are not fossilised in the past. The government is within its rights to make changes. Nor is Lutyens' legacy writ in stone. In any case, as a person,

design competition not held? On what criteria did the government's in-house committee decide that a Gujarat based firm, which may have done the redevelopment of the Sabarmati river front, had the best design even when its bid was the most expensive?

Why was an open

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, in his dissenting judgment, used a very telling expression to describe the undemocratic opacity of the government. He said that there was a lack of 'adequate and intelligible disclosure'.

Lutyens was an incorri-

gible racist, with a deep

sense of contempt for

Indians and all things Indian. But the city he designed with Herbert

Baker has been part of

tive selection not been

made public even now?

Why was the permission

Conservation Committee

not obtained? Why was

the environment clear-

ance granted by the

Heritage

Appraisal

the

Expert

our history for the last of transparency, can be seven decades and more. If we wish to change our dispensed with. When governments behave as if they know best what is architectural should not that process good for the people, and be fully transparent, and treat the views of the peoinformed by adequate and intelligible informaple themselves as unimportant, the consequences lack credibility tion put out in the public and legitimacy. On a TV realm? debate the other day, Mohandas Pai said that The answer, of course, is yes. But was this done? Many questions hang unanswered in the air. Why was the original brief for the project marked by such uncomdemocracy cannot mean checking out every decision with all the people. My only response to him is not to trivialise the municative brevity? Why democratic process. Obviously, not everyone were all the drawings, can be consulted. but layout plans and explanathere are standard and tory memoranda, invitinstitutionalised ways in objections, not put on a public website? Why was which the government can attempt to gauge an open design competiwhat is best for the people. When this is not done tion not held? Why was a through intelligent and public jury of wellknown non-governmenadequate disclosure, and a transparent process of tal experts along with government nominees consultations, the result is contentious and counter-productive. This not constituted to decide the best bid? On what criis what the angry farmteria did the governers are saying, and this is ment's in-house committee decide that a Gujarat what those who are distressed at manner of the based firm, which may have done the redevelopremaking of New Delhi, are reiterating. Their views are best summed ment of the Sabarmati river front, had the best up in this couplet: Yun design even when its bid was the most expensive? dikhata hai aankhen Why have the criteria for mujhe baaghbaan, jaise this subjective and secregulshan pe kuch haq har-mara nahin: The caretak-

> The writer, an author and a diplomat, is in politics

er of the garden looks at

me such, as though I

have no say in the well-

being of the garden.

court should also pass an order to rein in political leaders who flout coronavirus rules of wearing masks and following social distancing during their meetings. No doubt the vaccines are available

Committee not a speak-

ing order, clearly giving

reasons, and as Justice

Sanjiv Khanna observed, showing application of mind? Why was a detailed report showing

why our current Parliament needs to be

junked, and is beyond all retrofitting to suit future needs, not made public?

Since the changes involved building a new

Parliament, could not there have been a discus-sion in Parliament,

rather than merely brief-

ing representatives of

The BJP may have an

absolute majority in Parliament, but that does

not mean that the process of democratic consulta-

tion, and the imperative

political parties?

is better than cure. N. Mahadevan, Chennai

ECONOMIC SURVEY

now, but prevention

IN THE backdrop of a discernible uptick in economy activity following the easing of restrictions, the pace of economic recovery appears to have been gathering momentum to the cheer of many. The first estimates of national income for the current financial year released by NSO (National Statistical Office) gave an indication that Indian economy is likely to contract by 7.7 per cent in 2020-21. Indian economy had contracted by 15.7 per cent in the first half of the year with Covid-19 induced lockdown inflicting substantial damage to almost all the sectors of the economy barring agriculture. But in the second half of the year, the economic contraction was pegged to be minimal and almost at the same level as it was last year. With the imminent roll-out of vaccine likely to provide a much needed fillip to economic activity, especially in the high contact services sector, growth in the fourth quarter will be stronger than expect-

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

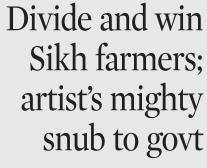
NEW FARM LAWS

THE AGRI reforms bill that were brought to Parliament and subsequently became laws have cism by Congress-ruled states. Rahul Gandhi went to the extent of describing them as a death sentence passed on the farmers. It is to be noted that the agitation is in full steam only in Punjab and no other top leaders seem to be actively involved in the street fights inspired by Rahul Gandhi, who too has discontinued it and vanished from the venue of dharnas in Delhi. With his constant and never ending nitpicking of anything done by Modi government he has made people believe that if any act of Modi is opposed with this much of vehemence and force by Rahul then it would be for the benefit of the people. Except a handful of states where the protests are symbolic there is no notable opposition in other places in the country.

V. Rahul Venkatasubramanian,

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

Anita Katyal Political Gup-Shup



Akali Dal-controlled he Akali Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee has announced that it will not be inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Sikh centenary events in protest against the Centre's "anti-farmer" stand but it has not stopped informal contacts between the government and Akali Dal leaders as both sides attempt to resolve the ongoing farmers' stir. Akali Dal's Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Gujral is said to have called up urban development minister Hardeep Puri recently to draw his attention to the number of Sikh farmers who have died in the last month and urged him to find an early solution to the protests. Mr Puri apparently showed no remorse and instead asked the Akali MP to ensure that the Leftists are kept out of the picture. The BJP is convinced that the protests are being led and managed by Left-leaning activists and cannot countenance dealing with or yielding to their demands In any case, Mr Puri is also said to have told Mr Gujral that the Modi government has no intention of

repealing the farm laws but is willing to tweak certain clauses to provide a face-saver to the farmers.

s the only Sikh minister in the Modi government, Hardeep Puri has been fielded in the media regularly after farmers from Punjab and Haryana began their protest at the Delhi border. On his part, Mr Puri is doing his bit to appease and mollify the angry Sikh community. It was, therefore, not surprising that the minister made time last week, despite his hectic schedule, to release a coffee table book on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, authored by Harminder Kaur. Mr Puri later posted photographs of the release function held in his office with a short message mentioning the author's name and that the paintings in the book were by artist Arpana Caur. However, Arpana Caur was missing from Mr Puri's photographs. According to the grapevine, Ms Caur refused to attend in protest against the Modi government's Central Vista redevelopment plans. Arpana Caur is among the large number of artists, architects and conservationists who have petitioned the Centre against the demolition of the buildings housing the National Museum and the Indira Gandhi Centre National Centre for the

tand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui, who was arrested recently in Indore for allegedly making indecent remarks against Hindu deities, seems to have fallen victim to longstanding rivalry between BJP leaders. Mr Faruqui was taken into custody following a complaint by Eklavya Singh Gaur, son of local BJP legislator Malini Laxman Singh Gaur, who is a camp follower of Sumitra Mahajan, former Lok Sabha Speaker and former Indore MP. Ms Mahajan is known to be a long-time rival of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, also from Indore. According to reports from Madhya Pradesh Eklavya Gaur had been chafing ever since Kailash Vijayvargiya's son and BJP legislator Akash grabbed headlines last year when he beat up a civic body officer with a cricket bat, Not only did he get away with it but the incident enhanced Akash's political profile. Eklavya Gaur is hoping Mr Faruqui's arrest will win him brownie points with the BJP bosses

t would seem that the BJP is playing a cat-and-mouse game with former Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who joined the saffron party last March. After making him wait for nearly two months, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan finally expanded his Cabinet last week and re-inducted two Scindia loyalists -Tulsiram Silawat and Govinď Raju in the ministry. While appeasing Mr Scindia, the chief minister was also quick to send out a message that the former Congress leader cannot dictate terms to him. Two days after the Cabinet expansion, the Chouhan government ordered the transfer of Commissioner, Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Sandeep Makin, known to be close to Mr Scindia. In fact, Mr Scindia has been so protective about Mr Makin that even Kamal Nath could not touch the officer despite several

attempts to move him out.

hough the election for the Congress president's post is yet to be announced and there is no formal word from Rahul Gandhi about his future plans, it is being assumed that the Nehru-Gandhi scion will return as party chief again. Word to this effect is doing the rounds in the Congress. Consequently, everyone, including senior Congress leaders, has started courting Rahul Gandhi's team members. There is no "Ahmed Patel" in his office but Kaushal Vidyarthee is among those who is said to be a member of the Congress leader's core team. It is, therefore, not surprising that he is much in demand with the Congress leaders who vie to get a word with him. One leader went as far as to suggest that Mr Vidyarthee's role in Rahul Gandhi's office can be compared to that of R.K. Dhawan and V. George in the offices of Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi,

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based

KAUSHIK MITTER Editor, R. MOHAN Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at: Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748 Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (042) 2231255, 2231256 Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256. Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55 Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/2555287, Fax: (0891) 2755285

Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/2555284, Fax: (0891) 2755285

Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/2555284, Fax: (0891) 2755285

Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/255284/238524, Fax: (0891) 2552332/252334, Fax: (0891) 2552332/25234, Fax: (0891) 2552332/252334, Fax: (0891) 255233

OUR CRITIC'S RATING Outstanding ★★★★★ Great ★★★★ Good ★★★ Okay ★★ Poor ★ Truly Terrible TT

Soul joins mid-life crisis, jazz fantasia

AST: Jamie Foxx, Tina Fey, Juestlove, Phylicia Rashad, aveed Diggs, Angela Bassett, raham Norton, Rachel House, Alice Braga, Richard Ayoade R: Peter Docter NG: ★★★★ Streaming on: Disney + Hotstar

eter Docter's "Soul" eatures stairway-toheaven visions of the afterlife, a pre-birth "before" realm where souls are glowing turquoise orbs and an in-between spiritual realm trafficked by some kind of psychedelic pirate. And yet, kind of magically, it's about "just reg-ular old living."

Pixar may have started simple with talking toys, but their concepts have grown increasingly elaborate over the years, giving abstract shape to interior consciousness ("Inside Out"), brightening a peopled world of the dead ("Coco") and conjuring a mythical suburban land with a father's half-resurrected body ("Onward"). "Soul" is a step further, again: a grand metaphysical whatsit — a mid-life crisis movie, a New York jazz fantasia and a body-swap comedy, all in

Part of the fun, of late, with Pixar's more ambitious movies is following a plate-spinning act that juggles animation whimsy, kids-movie imperatives and the meaning of life in some seemingly impossible combination that nevertheless in the end makes us cry. You can imagine a Pixar Mad Libs coming up with a movie about hamsters in space that's really about graduating high school, or one with unicorn cousins who learn to cope with

But part of what's refreshing about "Soul," which debuts Friday on Disney+, is its uniqueness. It's a deliberate and over-



due new direction for Pixar. The animation giant's 23rd film, "Soul" is its first to feature a Black protagonist. Kemp Powers, the screenwriter of the upcoming "One Night in Miami," is also Pixar's first African American co-director. The film is lushly set in a sun-dappled Manhattan. You will even hear, for a moment, A Tribe Called Quest playing in the background of a barbershop. For an animation world that has almost always been colored white, this borders on radical. It's also joy-

Joe (Jamie Foxx) is a middleschool music teacher who has long pined for his own career as a jazz pianist. On the day his big shot finally comes — a chance to sit in with the revered saxophonist Dorothea Williams (Angela Bassett) and her quartet stray step into an open manhole robs him of his dream. With his body laying comatose in a hospital, Joe's soul lands in a netherworld — and Pixar's animating ingenuity goes into overdrive. Faced with an escalator to The Great Beyond reminiscent of Powell and Pressburger's magnif-"A Matter of Life and Death," Joe runs the other way and drops into The Great Before a soft, pastel-colored purgatory where nascent souls find their 'spark" before plunging to Earth. It's a rolling, blue-hued land of mentorship, overseen by benevolent figures elegantly outlined in

Picasso-like two-dimension. Not everything is perfect in The Great Before. Some souls struggle to find their spark. Joe, posing as a Swedish psychologist to elude capture, is assigned to mentor number 22 (Tina Fey), a problem child who's already cycled through everyone from Mother Teresa to Muhammad Ali looking for her spark, her

It's the elusiveness of purpose that "Soul" swirls around, ten-

derly examining what gives life meaning. For some, it might come as easily as the notes that pour out of Dorothea's sax. (The jazz scenes, curtesy of Jon Batiste, are brilliantly transportive, part of the film's rich musical life, as scored by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.) But even as "Soul" rhapsodizes the beauty of artistic creation, it ponders the value of life for souls of less premeditated determination. "Soul," a celebration of those less certain of their path in life, is a kind of corollary to Pixar's "Ratatouille," a portrait of a very purposeful young This comes through not just in

22's journey but Joe's too, as he tries desperately to return to his life and realize his long-held ambition. In the end, Joe may remind some of Lancaster's Archibald
"Moonlight" Graham in "Field of Dreams," another who returns from beyond to get another swing at an unrealized dream — and in doing so only realizes how good he had it, in the first place.

But the meaning of "Soul" also comes through in the pointillist realism of Pixar. As delightful as its imagery of the afterlife is, the best stuff might be back on Earth. It would spoil things to say too much, but Joe and 22 land back in New York in a bodyswap twist that includes a therapy cat. Not all of this works, in the end; "Soul" is seeking such a high plane of sublimity that it's sometimes forcing Pixar-styled

transcendence a little too much. But the landscapes of "Soul" are full of life. City streets teem with it. This is, undoubtedly, the best the Manhattan subway has ever looked. Little joys — pepperoni pizza, lollipops, helicopter seeds spiraling to the ground

steadily accumulate. And "Soul" turns out to be not an exploration of the afterlife but a wondrous whirligig of daily life.



The Dissident is essential viewing

t's hard to decide what's most shocking in "The Dissident," Bryan Fogel's urgent, gripping new documentary about the horrific murder of Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Of course, there are the terrifying details of the killing itself, chillingly recounted here through transcripts of recordings from the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, where Khashoggi was suffocated and dismembered with a bone saw. A few examples: The transcripts note laughter as the murderers strategized in advance how they'd dismember the body, pondering whether the hips would fit into a bag. And later, a Turkish official tells us, the killers ordered 70 pounds of meat from a well-known Istanbul restaurant, presumably "to mask the smell of a burning corpse.

Then there are the detailed revelations from Omar Abdulaziz, a young associate of Khashoggi's, about the extent of the regime's efforts to silence its critics, including the torture of his own younger brother and the arrest of more than 20 of his friends back in Saudi Arabia. And the descriptions of extensive Saudi hacking efforts, including the infiltration of the cellphone of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

Then there's this stark statement at the end of the film: "To date there have been no global concious or punish

sanctions or punishment against Saudi Arabia for the murder of

Jamal Khashoggi." If "The Dissident" were a fictional thriller rather than a documentary, one can imagine a studio head asking the screenwriters to perhaps tone down the grisly details, for the sake of

plausibility.
But it's all too real, and Fogel, who won an Oscar for his previous film, "Icarus," about sports doping in Russia, does n't hesitate to go bold. This is not a dry film: Fogel employs pounding music at tense moments, and uses lively graphics and dramatic flourishes like a CGI battle between flies and bees to illus-

RATING: *** Available online, on demand

The Dissident

CTOR: Bryan Fogel

trate a Twitter propaganda war. But it does not feel superfluous.
Rather, it feels passionate: Fogel is dedicated to making sure the world remains focused on Khashoggi's story. Unfortunately, his task is harder than it should be. Despite deserved rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival, the major streaming services did not step forward to acquire the film — including Netflix, for which Fogel won the Oscar. It was eventually acquired last spring by independent distributor Briarcliff

Entertainment, and is available on demand this week. The film operates on several simultaneous tracks as it unfurls the tragic tale. One track follows Abdulaziz, the young Saudi dissident who serves almost as a narrator and moral conscience — to the story.

We learn not only about Abdulaziz's risky public campaign against the Saudi regime and the repercussions he's already suffered, but about his secret collaboration with Khashoggi and how their work together may have sealed the elder man's fate. We learn that in the days preceding the murder, the two men were collaborating on an elaborate social media campaign to fight Saudi propa-

Another track traces the event itself, starting with poignant security footage of Khashoggi leaving his apartment building hand in hand with his fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, and hailing a cab to the consulate. We then see him stride into the building, never to depart again. We

soon hear from those shocking transcripts. Fogel brings in a wide array of voices, from Khashoggi's fellow journalists and friends to prosecutors, intelligence officials and technology experts. Agnes Callamard, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the case, doesn't hide her shock when she describes listening to recordings of the killings, and demands an investigation into the role of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the powerful Saudi heir widely accused of directing the assassination, which he denies.

Then there's the most emotional voice: Cengiz, who waited for a dozen hours outside the consulate on the fateful day. She shares affectionate voice mails and smiling selfies documenting her courtship with the Washington Post columnist who, when she met him at a conference in May 2018, struck her with "how lonely he looked." (Khashoggi, a former regime insider, had been forced to leave his homeland and his family behind as he became a target of the regime.)

Cengiz shows us the La-Z-Boy chair Khashoggi bought to furnish their home, a chair that made him inordinately happy. Later, when she returns to the apartment after his death, she sits quietly in that chair, stroking its arm. She asks police where his belongings are. They apologize that they needed them for the investigation. It all feels

very immediate and raw.
"I still wonder when all of this will end, when I will be a normal person again," she says. "I don't know."

Cengiz said this week that she hopes this film "will keep alive Jamal's name and Jamal's life and his values. Filmgoers can help by simply finding and watching the movie. It should be required viewing for anyone who cares about free speech and democracy.

A spirited drama of abuse and resilience

Molly McCann, Clare Phyllida Lloyd Streaming on: Amazon Prime

hyllida Lloyd's "Herself," an Irish drama of spousal abuse set against Dublin's housing crisis, has some narrative weak spots but its foundation of resilience and heart is strong.

Previous forays into film by

Lloyd, a veteran theater director, have been more elaborate, starrier affairs ("Mamma Mia!" "The Iron Lady"). But "Herself" is a smaller, neo-realistic and often stirring story about Sandra (Clare Dunne, who co-wrote the script with Malcolm Campbell), a mother of two daughters (Molly McCann, Ruby Rose O'Hara) and the wife of a monstrous brute, Gary (Ian Lloyd Anderson).

— both of whom are far more natural than most children seen in movies



is the abiding through line of "Herself," as is Sandra's determi-



comes up with a novel pitch: If she builds her own house from a kit costing about \$50,000, she'll actually cost the government less money Sandra, a waitress at a pub, finds an unlikely benefactor in a physician she helps care for (a very good Harriet Walter) who offers a backyard as a plot. Through pluck and community, Sandra assembles a small, improvising crew of neipers, led by a reluctant but kindly contractor named Aido (Conleth Hill, also very fine). A warm spirit of neighborly goodwill grows as everyone pitches in, which Aido attributes to the Irish the

old Irish term of "meitheal." That may sound like a feel-good, made-for-the-movies tale, and "Herself" does indeed conjure an air of fable. But the film, earthy and sober, refuses to be carried aloft by sentiment, instead navigating a diffi-cult and painful path toward self-preservation

Vanessa Kirby is raw, dynamic

Pieces of a Woman

Vanessa Kirby, Shia LaBeouf, Molly R: Kornel Mundruczo RATING: ★★★★ Streaming on: Netflix

Pieces of a Woman " begins with a tragedy. Martha (Vanessa Kirby) is expecting her first child with her partner Sean (Shia LaBeouf). For a few minutes, we see them in the final stages of preparation for life with a baby: She's saying farewell to her co-workers and pack-ing up her things; Her mother is signing the papers on a practical minivan; And they're hanging the final photos up in the well-stocked and tastefully neutral nurs-

ery.
Then, suddenly, Martha is in labor and for almost 30 minutes the audience is given a front row seat to the most realistic and graphic depiction of a home birth ever put on film. It's a difficult labor -Martha is almost drunk with pain — and it's made even more stressful by the fact that their midwife is unavailable and a replacement is sent. Then it ends in

It is a brutal and harrowing start to a film that is committed to telling the ugly truth about a loss so devastating that it's almost taboo. And it's just one of many deeply unpleasant occurrences to come. Like Martha and Sean, you are left somewhat paralyzed and drained after the events of the beginning and have no



choice but to continue this emotionally wrenching and hauntingly visceral journev with them.

Martha attempts to go about her life but is constantly being reminded of what happened, whether it's seeing children out in the wild, running into her mother's friend at the grocery store or all the physical postpartum changes that one's body endures regardless of whether or not the child has survived. She's also navigating her own family's grief, arguments over burials and epitaphs and a legal battle against the substitute midwife (Molly

Parker), which is thankfully relegated to

the backdrop.
Kirby, the English actor who portrayed Princess Margaret in the first seasons of "The Crown," plays Martha not as a wilting flower but as a kind of steely, determined robot alternating between utterly detached and aggressively angry. It is

fiercely unguarded. If the gutting discomfort feels more authentic than you're used to, it's because the story is personal for the writer and director couple. Kata Wéber wrote the script based on her own experience losing

a child with director Kornél Mundruczó during pregnancy. And "Pieces of a Woman" goes places that many films wouldn't dare. The first half hour will likely get most of the attention but there are a few other jaw-dropping scenes of grief and anger that you must see to believe including a late film argument between Martha and her mother, who is

played by Ellen Burstyn.

Aside from the revelatory moments, however, the film unravels a bit as it goes on. The focus turns too often to Sean, a construction worker whose relationship with Martha, an educated professional from a wealthy family, never makes a lot of sense.

His descent is a bundle of clichés and distracts from the uniqueness of Martha's story. He also has a moment of sexual aggression with Martha that is even made even more troublesome to watch in light of the recent allegations against LaBeouf.

But it doesn't detract from Kirby's achievement here. Hers is an unforgettably vulnerable performance that deserves attention and consideration this awards season. The same also goes for Burstyn in a difficult supporting role that she commands.

This movie will not be for everyone, but it is important not least because it continues to advance the discourse around miscarriages which is a trauma that couples, but mainly women, have been expected to shoulder in secret for far too long. The ending won't be satisfying either, but that's probably the point. There is often no satisfying end to tragic loss, just survival.

SHORT TAKES

Liverpool survive scare in FA Cup

Birmingham: They were given pre-match odds of 90-1 by some British bookmakers Some of them were dropped off at the stadium ahead of the game by their mothers and fathers. A bunch of new jerseys needed to be printed before kickoff on Friday, adding rarely seen squad numbers up to 76 for the teenagers who, at late notice, were about to play for Aston Villa against the superstars of English champions Liverpool in the FA Cup. Imagine the widespread disbe-lief, then, when Villa's kids

defied grim predictions by reaching halftime of the supposed third-round mismatch at 1-1 against the best team in the country. As expected, Liverpool pulled clear in the second half, but there was little to really celempty Villa Park. - AP

Karlovic 2nd oldest

to win on ATP Tour

Miami: Ivo Karlovic of Croatia became the oldest player to win an ATP Tour match in a quarter-century, hitting 27 aces night to beat No. 7-seeded Pablo Andujar of Spain 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in the first round of the Delray Beach Open. Karlovic, who turns 42 next month, is the oldest to win on the top men's tour since Jimmy Connors at age 42 in 1995. The victory was the veteran's first since last February No. 8 seed Frances Tiafoe defeated fellow American Donald Young 6-3, 6-4. Qualifier Roberto Quiroz overcame a shaky stretch in the first set to beat American Noah Rubin 7-6 (1), 6-3. Quiroz led 5-3, lost serve twice and then rallied, dominating the

East Bengal add to BFC's misery

Margao: Matti Steinmann's firsthalf strike proved to be the difference as SC East Bengal beat Bengaluru FC 1-0 to record their second win of the Indian Super League here on Saturday. The Kolkata team are now unbeaten in their last five games, while BFC's misery continued with their fourth consecutive defeat this season.

Mohammedan off to winning start

Kolkata: Ali Faisal's second-half strike helped newly-promoted Mohammedan Sporting beat debutants Sudeva Delhi FC 1-0 as the I-League season got underway here on Saturday. Faisal's 58th-minute goal proved to be the difference between the two sides in a match that could have gone either way. In a cagey first half, both teams appeared to be gauging each other's strengths without exposing themselves to counter-attacks. Sudeva Delhi, the first club from the national capital to play in the I-League, had the first shot on target in the seventh minute when Kean Lewis cut inside from the left flank only to force the opposition custodian into an

Live on TV

easy save. - PTI

CRICKET

Australia vs India: Third Test — Day Five from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

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

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Chennaiyin from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

FA Cup: Chelsea vs Morecambe from 7 pm on Sony Ten 1; Manchester City vs Birmingham City from 7 pm; Marine vs Tottenham Hotspur from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2.

Italian League: Roma vs Inter Milan from 5 pm on Sony Ten 2; Juventus vs Sassuolo from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

PGA Tour: Sentry Tournament of Champions from 2.30 am (Monday) on Eurosport, HD

Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

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

SLOW & UNSTEADY Domestic season finally underway

Pujara's slowest Test 50 derails visitors momentum

Cheteshwar Pujara's singular lack of intent pushed an injury-ravaged India into a deep hole as Australia tightened the noose with a substantial 197-run lead on a forgettable Saturday for the visitors in the third Test

Pujara's slowest Test half-century, a painstak-ing 50 off 176 balls, was soon followed by India being bowled out for 244 on the third day with the other batsmen feeling tremendous pressure of a dormant scoreboard.

A first-innings lead of 94 runs provided by the bowlers and some good fielding did Australia's cause.

By stumps, Steve Smith (29 batting) and Marnus Labuschagne (47 batting) gave an exhibition of how to bat on slow tracks with Australia reaching 103/2. Labuschagne, in particu**SCORECARD**

Australia 1st Innings 338 India 1st Innings (overnight 96/2): Rohit Sharma c and b Hazlewood 26, Shubman Gill c Green b Cummins 50, Cheteshwar Pujara c Paine b Cummins 50, Ajinkya Rahane b Cummins 22, Hanuma Vihari run out 4, Rishabh Pant c Warner b Hazlewood 36, Ravindra Jadeja not out 28, R. Ashwin run out 1, Navdeep Saini c Wade b Starc 3, Bumrah run out 0, Mohammed Siraj c Paine b Cummins 6. Extras (lb-2, w-5, nb-2) 9. **Total (in 100.4 overs) 244. FoW:** 70-1, 85-2, 117-3, 142-4, 195-5, 195-6, 206-7, 210-8, 216-9. **Bowling:** Starc 19-76-1-1, Hazlewood 21-10-43-2, Cummins 21.4-10-29-4, Lyon 31-88-70-0, Labuschagne 3-0-11-0, Green 5-1-11-0. Australia 2nd Innings: David Warner Ibw Ashwin 13, Will Pucovski c (sub)W Saha b Siraj 10, Marnus Labuschagne batting 47, Steven Smith batting 29. Extras (lb-1, nb-3) 4. Total (For 2 wkts, in 29

FoW: 1-16, 2-35. Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 8-1-26-0, Mohammed Siraj 8-2-20-1, Navdeep Saini 7-1-28-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 6-0-28-1.

itively on a dead track hitting six boundaries in 67 balls.

As Shane Warne pointed out during commentary, it would be very difficult to chase any score in excess of 250 with variable bounce and the odd balls keeping low.

Pat Cummins (4/29 in

lar, showed how to bat pos- 21.4 overs) was brilliant on an unresponsive track with some effective shortpitched bowling and got good support from Josh Hazlewood (2/43 in 21 overs) and Mitchell Starc (1/61 in 19 overs), having

set up a leg-side trap.

To make matters worse for India, there were runouts and two batsmen -

India's Jasprit Bumrah (right) is run out as Australia's Will Pucovski watches on Day Three of the third Test in Sydney on Saturday.

INJURES HIS

THUMB, OUT

Sydney, Jan. 9: Depleted India's injury

woes worsened on Saturday with senior all-rounder Ravindra

Jadeja sustaining a left

thumb dislocation and

fracture which is likely

to rule him out of the

final Test in Brisbane,

some good news for

India as wicketkeeper-

Pant's elbow injury is

not serious and he will

probably be available

when India bat to save

the Test match. Both

players underwent scans after being hit by

short balls from Australian pacers on

third day of the Test

"Pant will be able to

bat as his injury isn't that serious," a senior

BCCI source said on

Rishabh

-PTI

hatsman

match.

starting January 15. However, there is

JADEJA

Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja — were hit on the left elbow and left thumb respectively. Earlier, Pujara's ultra

defensive approach put tremendous pressure on his colleagues and India never quite got the momentum going as Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc continuously attacked the batsmen first with a leg-side field and short-ball strategy and then on the corridor

of uncertainty. Pujara doesn't play the pull or hook shot well and he wasn't allowed room to either cut or drive.

"I don't think it was the right approach (by Pujara), I think he needed to be a bit more proactive with his scoring rate because I felt it was putting too much pressure on his batting partners," former Australian captain Ricky Ponting wrote on

FOR THE RECORD

Hanuma Vihari , R. Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah were run out in the first innings on the third day of the third Test at Sydney on Saturday, It provides the seventh such occasion of three Indian batsmen dismissed run out in an innings and the first such occasion against Australia in Tests. Overall, it was the 37th

occasion of three or more batsmen dismissed run out in an innings in the annals of the Test cricket. Shubhman Gill and Cheteshwar Pujara scored

50 runs in India's first innings to provide the first occasion of two Indian batsmen scoring exact 50 runs in the same innings. It also provides the 12th such occasion of two batsmen scoring exact 50 runs in the same innings in Tests.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

Mumbai, Jan. 9: India will witness its first major cricket tournament in the country since the Covid-19 disruption when the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy begins the much-delayed domestic season from Sunday, presenting a plat-form for the hopefuls to impress before IPL auc-

The presence of seasoned campaigners such as Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina and Ishant Sharma will add sheen to the tournament but one of the biggest talking points in the lead-up has been S. Sreesanth's comeback to top-flight cricket after serving a ban for his alleged involvement in the 2013 IPL corruption scan-

Sreesanth, 37, will turn out for Kerala in the national T20 championship from January 10-31

But the focus, mostly, will be on domestic uncapped players with the IPL auc-tions scheduled in February.

The tournament also assumes significance as it is an opportunity for the new senior selection committee to draw up a wider pool of players for the T20 World Cup, which will be played in India later this

The presence of seasoned campaigners such as Shikhar Dhawan, **Suresh Raina and Ishant Sharma will** add sheen to the

T20 tournament.

No cricketing activity had happened since mid-March last year and after meticulous planning, the BCCI decided to conduct the tournament at six different venues with as many bio bubbles.

The teams have been divided into six groups five Elite and one Plate and the league stage matches will be played at Mumbai, Vadodara, Indore, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru with the knockouts scheduled in Ahmedabad.

The lead-up had its share of controversies with many players lodging a complaint after being served poor quality food in a posh South Mumbai

Then, staff members of a hotel in Chennai, where players of three Plate Group teams were staying, were found Covid-19 posi-

Oldest living Oly champ turns 100

Agnes Keleti, the oldest living Olympic champion, the fondest memory of her remarkable 100 years is simply that she has lived through it all.

The Holocaust survivor and winner of 10 Olympic medals in gymnastics including five golds cele-brates her 100th birthday on Saturday in her native Budapest, punctuating a life of achievement, adventure, tragedy and perseverance which, she says, passed by in a flash.
"These 100 years felt to

"These 100 years felt to me like 60," she said at a celebration in Budapest on the eve of her birthday.

Leafing through a copy of a new book about her life The Queen of Gymnastics: 100 Years of Agnes Keleti her trademark modesty was on full display.

The queen of gymnastics," she said, switching to English. And in Hungarian: "That's an exaggeration."

Keleti, who was born Agnes Klein in 1921, had her illustrious career interrupted by World War II and the subsequent can-cellation of the 1940 and 1944 Olympics. Forced off her gymnas-

tics team in 1941 because of her Jewish ancestry, Keleti went into hiding in the Hungarian countryside where she survived the Holocaust by assuming a false identity and working as a maid.

Her mother and sister survived the war with the help of famed Swedish diplomat Wallenberg, but her father

and other relatives perished at Auschwitz, among the more than half a million Hungarian Jews killed in Nazi death camps and by Hungarian Nazi collabora-

Resuming her career after the war, Keleti was set to compete at the 1948 London Olympics but a last-minute ankle injury dashed her hopes.

Four years later, she made her Olympic debut at the 1952 Helsinki Games at the age of 31, winning a gold medal in the floor exercise as well as a silver and two bronzes.



Agnes Keleti, former Olympic gold medal winning gymnast, is jubilant in front of her birthday cake in Budapest,

want to change too much because I think this worked," said CFC head thorn in Australia's Superb fielding makes Jadeja an all-round package

Injured Crivellaro

ruled out of ISL-7

Crivellaro's absence

will be a big setback

Laszlo believes that it is

"We have good players and

enough resources to replace

players. This is football life;

you will always have injuries and other prob-lems. But I don't like talking

about problems; we have to

talk about solutions and

said.Laszlo owned up to the

mistakes that led to CFC's

1-4 defeat at the hands of Hyderabad FC in the previ-

"It was very bad. In that

game, from the first minute

and until the last we were

not really on the pitch. My team and I have to just go

back and think about the

past eight games where we

played really good football

and created good chances,

ous game.

on them,"

not right to hide in the shad-

for Chennaiyin

coach Csaba Laszlo.

ow of the injuries.

NEHA SURANA | DC

Chennaiyin FC's woes

worsened on Saturday after

Crivellaro was ruled out of

the rest of the season due to

a ligament injury on his left

The Brazilian will be

heading home leaving the

two-time champions' season

in limbo. Crivellaro's absence will be a big setback as Chennaiyin look to

arrest their slide when they

take on Odisha FC on

"I don't want to talk about

Rafa's position; everybody

knows that he is not just our

captain and that he is also a

very important player for

us and now we have to

replace him in a different

way, Also, tactically I will

have to work again a little

bit differently because we

played 4-2-3-1 and I don't

Sunday.

captain Rafael

CHENNAI, JAN. 9



Ayaz Memon

Over The Top

CUMMINS REVEALS OZ'S

PLANS AGAINST PUJARA

Syaney

Jan.

Australia entered the

four-match Test series

against India deter-

mined to make it "as hard as possible" for

Cheteshwar Pujara to

score, the home team's

pace spearhead Pat

Cummins said after his

terrific display in the third Test on Saturday.

Pujara has been criti-

cised for his ultra-

defensive approach in

the series so far and

instead of propping up

his team's response to

innings total of 338, his

slow 50 off 176 balls on

the third day of the

third Test derailed

assistance from the

pitch. But he (Pujara)

is someone you know

you are going to have to

The world's No. 1

Pujara, who had been a

Cummins said.

lot at."

dismissed

Today I got a bit of

India's momentum.

Australia's

bowl

9: flesh during the 2018-19

rubber.

series, for the fourth

time in the ongoing

around that this series,

for him to score runs,

we are going to make it

as hard as possible, and

whether he bats for

200-300 balls, we would just try and bowl good

ball after good ball,

challenge both sides of

his bat, and fortunate-

ly, so far it has worked."

Cummins was asked

"It's one of those

things. You know he

(Pujara) is going to hang around. At one

stage he had been out

there for 200 balls or

150 balls and I looked

up there thinking they

are still 200 away from

our first-innings total.

way away and if we

continue bowling well,

you're not overly both-

"So, that fell a long

about Pujara's slow

scoring rate.

"We got our head

avindra Jadeja running out Steve Smith in the first innings has been a major highlight of the Hazlewood getting rid of Hanuma Vihari with a splendid diving stop fol-

ongoing Sydney Test. Josh lowed by a direct hit at the sprawled on the ground was another stellar fielding effort so far in the match, but all things considered, Jadeja's was a

He had to cover 25-30 yards, all the while keeping one eye on the ball, the other on the batsmen trying to complete the second. Haring in from the deep, Jadeja picked up the ball on the run, then found the bullseye with only one stump to aim at, leaving Smith inches short of the crease. It made for one of the most dazzling pieces of fielding action seen in recent times anywhere.

This was not an isolated instance of Jadeja's brilliant fielding. In the 8-9 years since he has been part of the Indian team, he's made a huge impact

he covers ground, his sure catching, and direct hits from very difficult angles. All of these put pressure on rival batsmen who are loath to take any risk against him.

How would Jadeja rate as a fielder in Indian cricket? From those I've seen he is certainly among the best 5, the others being Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Eknath Solkar, Kapil Dev and Mohamed Azharuddin. For sustained excellence over many matches and many years, this cluster moves ahead of the likes of Abid Ali, Brijesh Patel, Yuvraj Singh, Mohamed Kaif,

Robin Singh, Virat Kohli. Electric-heeled Pataudi earned the sobriquet of 'Tiger' for his prowling presence and speed in the covers. In fact, he was the fielding after becoming captain in 1962. With a predominantly spin attack at his disposal, Pataudi structured the legendary closein trap for Bedi, Prasanna, Chandrashekhar Venkataraghavan which proved so rewarding from the 1960s through the

Solkar was one of those brought in by Pataudi into the Indian team and earned immortality for his exploits standing at forward short-leg. Apart from his quicksilver reflexes and clean catching, Solkar was courage personified. Remember, in his time, there were no helmets. Fielding at short-leg carried huge risk which

Solkar bore heroically. Kapil Dev was a natural athlete and with great ball

sense. Strong legs made many players see it as him cover big distances on chore and a necessary evil, the field speedily, and his catching was brilliant because of fine anticipation which got him into position early. His throws to the wicket-keeper from the deep came in like missiles. Late in his career, he fielded in the slips with success too.

Azharuddin is arguably the best all-round fielder India's had, equally good in the deep and close-in, either at silly point or in the slips/gully/leg trap. He was also big-hearted like Solkar, taking many knocks at silly point. Unlike in Solkar's time, however, there were helmets around when Azhar was playing.

common factor between these five is their love for fielding. Where so

Pataudi, Solkar, Kapil, Azhar and Jadeja were passionate about Pataudi once told me that the runs saved/given away should be factored into averages to get a player's true worth. Historically,

Indian cricketers haven't been renowned for their fielding. Speed and athleticism in players were not given too much significance. The essential demand used to be for 'safe' rather than spectacular fielding. That situation has changed dramatically in the last two decades.

Fielding standards in the country have improved because of better grounds, more scientific training methods, proper diet and sports medicine, increased

and within) and, of course, livelihood. attached to cricket is extremely high today. Nobody wants a 'passenger' in the field.

Jadeja is the modern exemplar for brilliant fielding and an inspiration for budding cricketers. In fact, his fielding prowess has been a big factor in why he is now a regular member of the Indian team in all three formats. Breaking into the side essentially as a left-arm spinner, Jadeja's batting has also improved by leaps and bounds — especially in the five-day format — in the past couple of years. But it is his superb fielding that makes him a complete 'all-round' package which selectors and team man management can't ignore.