

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | MONDAY 25 | JANUARY 2021

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 20°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Thai 12
Tithi: Dwadashi
Star: Mrigashirsham
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
Yamagandam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

PRAYERS

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

Soldier succumbs to injuries caused in Pak firing

New Delhi: An Army soldier, who was critically injured in Pakistani firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district last week, succumbed to injuries in the command hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Sunday, a defence spokesperson said.He is the third Army personnel to have died in the ceasefire violations by Pakistan this month.

Nepal PM Oli expelled from ruling party

Kathmandu: he ruling Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Sunday expelled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli from the party's general membership, according to media reports. The decision was taken at the Standing Committee meeting of the faction led by former prime ministers Prachanda and Madhav Kumar Nepal after Oli failed to produce explanation to his recent moves as sought by party leadership.

COUNTER POINT



Not prison cells of freedom fighters... they want to see where current leaders are lodged!

A special discount for a special celebration

— Grand Republic Offer —

₹72 Off Per Gram
(On current Gold Rate)

HURRY! ONLY 2 DAYS

EXCHANGE YOUR OLD GOLD JEWELLERY FROM ANY JEWELLER FOR BRAND NEW 916 BIS GOLD JEWELLERY BY JOYALUKKAS

30% DISCOUNT ON MAKING CHARGES FOR SILVER

ONE YEAR FREE INSURANCE | CASH BACK ON OLD GOLD JEWELLERY | LIFELONG FREE MAINTENANCE | BEST PRICE GUARANTEED

For corporate enquiries, mail us at b2bindia@joyalukkas.com

SHOP ONLINE @ joyalukkas.com

Joyalukkas
World's favourite jeweller

CHENNAI : NORTH USMAN ROAD, T. NAGAR | PRASHANTH GOLD TOWER, T. NAGAR | CHROMEPET | VELACHERY
COIMBATORE : CROSS CUT ROAD | PERIYA KADAI VEETHI | 100 FEET ROAD • ERODE • SALEM • TIRUPPUR
MADURAI : NETHAJI ROAD | WEST VELU STREET • VELLORÉ • TIRUNELVELI • VILUPPURAM • THANJAVUR • NAGERCOIL
KUMBakonam • TIRUVANNAMALAI • RAMANATHAPURAM • TRICHY • KANCHIPEURAM • CUDALORE • PUDUCHERRY



STATE | 3
Modi's charm will work this time, says Tada Periyasamy



NATION | 4
Ram temple in 3 years; to cost ₹1,100cr: Trust

SPORT | 8

Ashwin says it's a start over, again & again



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

Vol. 16 No. 300 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES| ₹3.00

Defeat lies, rumours on vaccine, PM tells youth

■ Step forward and assist in Covid vaccination: Modi

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Indian scientists have done their duty by developing Covid-19 vaccine and “now we have to fulfill ours” by defeating through the right information every network spreading lies and rumours.

Addressing NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and artists who would be participating in the Republic Day parade, the Prime Minister said such organisations have always played their role in dealing with challenging times.

Mr Modi said the youths should now step forward to assist in the Covid-19 vaccination programme by providing the right information to the people.



“You need to take it to the next level now. Your reach is in all parts of society. I request you to come forward to help the country with the Covid-19 vaccination programme. You have to provide the right information on vaccines to the poor and general public,” he said. “India will not become ‘aatmanirbhar’ (self-reliant) just by somebody saying so, it will become so by actions of youths like you. You will be able to do this

We have to defeat through right information every network spreading lies and rumours.

— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

better when you will have the necessary skill set.”

Realising the importance of this, the ministry of skill development was formed when his government came in 2014 and more than 5.5 crore youths have been given training for different skills till now, Mr Modi said.

Under this skill development programme, not just training is being given, help is being provided for getting employment, the Mr Modi said.

— PTI

16 LAKH PEOPLE VACCINATED TILL NOW: CENTRE

New Delhi, Jan. 24: India took only 6 days to administer one million Covid-19 vaccine doses, a count which is higher than that of countries like the US and the UK, the Union health ministry said on Sunday as the number of beneficiaries who have received the anti-coronavirus shots inched close to 16 lakh. The UK took 18 days whereas the US took 10 days to reach the one million mark, it said.

As on January 24, till 8 am, 15,82,201 beneficiaries have received Covid-19 vaccination.

PTI

JUMBO DEATH:

Activist sends legal notice to Collector, SP

■ REPORT ON PAGE 3

Stalin found ‘vel’ before poll: EPS

Coimbatore, Jan. 24: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday accused DMK president M.K. Stalin of deception for posing with ‘vel’, Lord Muruga’s spear like weapon, and said the divine symbol has come to leader of opposition’s notice since Assembly elections were round the corner.

On the second day of his campaign here, the AIADMK leader referred to a photograph of the DMK chief holding the ‘vel’ alleging it was an act of deceit. The AIADMK respected all religions equally, but it was not the case with the DMK which involved in ‘deception’ in such matters, he alleged.

The Chief Minister claimed Mr Stalin spoke one thing for the outside world but in his heart of hearts he knew it was not his conviction. “The god will not grant you boon if you only receive Lord Muruga’s ‘vel’. The boon will be only for the AIADMK.”

The DMK has for a long time been accused of offending Hindu beliefs and sentiments by the BJP and Hindu Munnani, a noted Sangh Parivar outfit in Tamil Nadu. Recently, Mr Stalin had slammed the BJP and the



Since elections are round the corner, the ‘vel’ is visible to Mr Stalin’s eyes only now.

— Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Chief Minister

Munnani for trying to build a perception that his party was against the Hindus. “It is not the truth,” the DMK chief had said.

Mr Palaniswami alleged, “Since elections are round the corner, the ‘vel’ is visible to his (Mr Stalin’s) eyes only now and till now it was not visible to him.” “The god will give you (DMK) appropriate punishment through the elections,” he said.

On Saturday, DMK workers had presented a glittering ‘vel’ made of silver to Mr Stalin at a party’s rural outreach programme in Tiruvallur district.

■ P2

TRACTOR RALLY AFTER R-DAY PARADE: POLICE

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Delhi Police on Sunday claimed that over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan to disrupt the tractor rally proposed by protesting farmers on Republic Day.

Detailing the plan for the tractor parade, Deependra Pathak, special commissioner of police (intelligence) said the rally on Tuesday will be conducted amid tight security after the Republic Day celebrations conclude.

“Over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan during January 13 to 18 to disrupt the tractor rally by farmers only by misleading people. There are inputs about the same from different agencies too. It will be a challenging task for us but the rally will be conducted amid tight security after the Republic Day parade is over,” Mr Pathak said.

“We have given them around 170 kilometres of distance in three routes,” Mr Pathak said.

— PTI

INDIA, CHINA HOLD 9TH ROUND OF TALKS ON BORDER

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 24

India and China on Sunday held the ninth round of Corps commanders level talks to resolve the nine-month-long military stand-off in eastern Ladakh. The meeting started at around 11 am in Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control. The Indian delegation was led by 14 Corps Commander Lt-General P.G.K. Menon and included a joint secretary from the external affairs ministry.

GRT
G.R.Thanga Mailgal
JEWELLERS
Since 1984



Diamond Mogappu Chain
A timeless classic

A little modern. A little traditional. A lot like you.

The Forevermark Traditional Setting Collection

Experience the timeless classic Mogappu chain made even more beautiful with Forevermark diamonds. Less than 1% of the world’s diamonds are eligible to become Forevermark. We go beyond cut, clarity and carat to bring you diamonds that are amongst the world’s most beautiful.



FOREVERMARK

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

DE BEERS GROUP

FOREVERMARK.COM

FLAGSHIP SHOWROOMS:

CHENNAI: T.Nagar: Usman Road (044-2434 5062); Coats Road (044-2346 1515)

Adyar | Tambaram | Anna Nagar-Tirumangalam | Anna Nagar-Roundtana

www.grtjewels.com | Email : mail@grtjewels.com

OTHER STORIES

Ration rice seized

DC CORRESPONDENT,
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

The City police, on Saturday night, seized 2,375 kilograms of ration rice smuggled and stocked in Tondiarpet. A press release said that based on a tip-off that a huge quantity of ration rice stocked in T.H road in Tondiarpet, a police team raided the place and found 2,375 kilograms rice in 50 gunny bags. Four persons - E. Nandhagopal (42), N. Ajith (22), A. Linges (48) of Tondiarpet and M. Vijayakumar (34) of Kasimedu were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

No need of vaccine hesitancy among diabetics: Experts

DC CORRESPONDENT,
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

A panel of diabetes experts from around the country asserted on Sunday that there had been no proven major impact of Covid19 vaccines among diabetes patients and that was an encouraging result to avert vaccine hesitancy.

They were answering questions raised by viewers on the Webinar on 'Living longer with Diabetes' organised by the South India Mice Association (SIMA) in collaboration with USV Pvt. Ltd., an Indian multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company.

Attending the conclave Dr. Mala Dharamalingam, Professor and HOD, department of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, Bengaluru highlighted the role of oral medications, combination drugs, and insulin in maintaining target glucose levels. She also reiterated that regular walking and aerobic exercises are vital for fitness in patients with diabetes.

Dr Ambarish Mithal, chairman and head of endocrinology and diabetes at Max Healthcare, New Delhi emphasised the importance of patient awareness, affordability, and accessibility of medications. He also highlighted diet modification, addition of vitamin D to prevent bone loss and tips for diabetes patients during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The mantra is of blood pressure, lipids, and weight regulation along with sugar control to prevent the complication of diabetes. Common drugs like metformin, modern sulfonylureas, and gliptins are economical, but patient motivation is the key to taking medications, self-monitoring, and follow-up", said Dr. V Mohan, chairman and chief of diabetes at Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre, Chennai.

Currently, India has an estimated 77 million people with diabetes, which makes it the second most affected country in the world after China. As per the International Diabetes Federation, this number is projected to grow to 134 million by 2045.

Central funds could have lifted Pondy higher, says CM

Puducherry, Jan. 24: Chief Minister of Puducherry V Narayanasamy on Sunday said if the Centre earmarked sufficient funds and supported the territorial budget, the performance of the Congress government here could have been better.

Declaring open a Rs 22-crore flyover across the Sankarabarani river in Tirukanchi village in Villianoor commune panchayat limits, the Chief Minister said the Centre is not showing interest in the development of Puducherry.

While bigger states are getting 41 per cent of their budgetary estimates



through Central grant, Puducherry is getting only 20 per cent, he said. "In spite of lack of support from the Centre and the negative attitude of the Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi towards giving her nod to our proposals for infrastructure development and welfare schemes, our scale of per-

formance is appreciated by the people," he said.

He said the employees of major industrial undertakings like AFT, Swadeshi and Bharathi Mills were not getting wages though funds totalling Rs 24 crores were earmarked by the territorial government. "The Lieutenant Governor issues orders to divert the funds meant for wages to settle the PF and ESIC dues. This intervention by Bedi deprives workers of the textile units of their wages," he said.

He said, "Despite obstacles from the Lieutenant Governor, we provide infrastructural facilities through bank loans and

aid from NABARD in the implementation of the smart city project."

The territorial government had launched a new scheme to provide free education from kindergarten to PG and research studies to students belonging to Adi Dravidar community and the scheme involved an expenditure of Rs 54 crores every year, he said.

"Unlike the delay seen during the previous AINRC rule in disbursement of assistance to the aged people, widows and also differently-abled persons, our government is promptly disbursing the aid to these sections every month," he said. — PTI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his election campaign ahead of Tamil Nadu assembly polls, at Uthukuli in Erode district, Sunday. — DC

'Modiji has brought growth in GDP - gas, petrol and diesel'

Chennai, Jan. 24:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday attacked the Centre over rise in fuel prices, saying people are suffering due to inflation, while the Modi government is busy in tax collection.

The former Congress chief's attack came a day after petrol and diesel prices in the country touched new all-time highs after rates were increased for the fourth time in the week.

"Modi ji has brought about the tremendous growth in GDP — gas, diesel and petrol — prices," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"People are suffering due to inflation, while the Modi government is busy in tax collection," he alleged.

The increase in prices took the petrol price in Delhi to ₹85.70 per litre and in Mumbai to Rs 92.28.

Diesel rate climbed to ₹75.88 a litre in the national capital and to ₹82.66 per litre in Mumbai, the price data showed.

The former Congress chief's attack came a day after petrol and diesel prices in the country touched new all-time highs after rates were increased for the fourth time in the week

AIADMK declared holiday for Thai Poosam: Edappadi

From P1

Mr Palaniswami said it was his party which declared a public holiday for 'Thai Poosam' festival in deference to the long time request of devotees of Lord Muruga. After a fringe atheist group denigrated 'Kanda Sashti Kavacham,' a hymn in praise of Lord Muruga last year, BJP and Hindu outfits took up the matter and eventually those connected to the outfit were arrested.

The BJP had alleged 'Karuppar Kootam' that offended the sacred hymn had the backing of DMK and the saffron party's 'vel yatra' grabbed media space.

Pointing to Mr Stalin holding 'Makkal Grama Sabai Kootam,' a rural outreach initiative of DMK, the Chief Minister said the main opposition party won the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by merely 'confusing' people.

Similarly, they were attempting at it again and Palaniswami wondered if the promises made during the parliamentary elections were fulfilled by the DMK.

Lok Sabha poll promises were not honoured by the DMK as its assurances formed part of a 'drama' and for the Assembly elections now, Mr Stalin was attempting to derive political mileage by making false promises and confuse people, Mr Palaniswami alleged.

Seeking votes for the two-leaves symbol of AIADMK, he listed out his

Will not allow relegation of Tamils to second place: Rahul

From P1

Mr Gandhi, who also addressed people from his vehicle at some places during a roadshow, accused the BJP of trying to impose one culture one and language on people and relegate Tamil to a 'second class place'. "I understand, accept and respect the Tamil spirit and culture. I am not going to allow the Prime Minister and the BJP to disrespect the Tamil people no matter what," he said in his speeches in English, translated into Tamil.

India was home to many diverse cultures, religions and languages... "it is the nation's strength. It is our duty to protect every single language, culture and religion in this country," he said.

In a veiled attack on Mr Modi's monthly radio programme, the top Congress

leader said his Tamil Nadu visit was not to tell people his 'Mann Ki Baat,' or advise them on what they should do but to listen to them, understand their problems and help resolve them. He said the rest of the country could learn a lot from Tamil Nadu's history and language.

Waving at people from his car at key intersections, the Congress leader also got off the vehicle and shook hands with people waiting on the roadside at several junctions.

He was accorded a warm welcome by party workers. An elderly woman applied 'vibuthi' (sacred ash) on his forehead as a mark of blessings and several took selfies with him. He garlanded a statue of late chief minister and Congress stalwart K. Kamaraj. — PTI

government's welfare measures and development work and underlined a combined drinking water scheme here to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

A higher allocation for education, setting up of new colleges, simplification of post matric scholarship, and distribution of laptops, books, footwear and bicycles free of cost to students were among the initiatives in the educa-

tion sector, Mr Palaniswami mentioned. Reservation of 7.5 per cent in medical courses for government school students who clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Exam, setting up of 2,000 Amma Mini Clinics, payout of old age pension to 90 per cent out of about five lakh targeted elderly beneficiaries were also specified by the Chief Minister. — PTI



Police personnel practice for Republic Day rehearsal. — DC

Sasikala is stable, says hospital

Bengaluru, Jan. 24

Expelled AIADMK leader VK Sasikala, who is serving a jail term in a corruption case and has been hospitalised for COVID-19 is stable, according to the hospital where she is undergoing treatment. The symptoms have reduced and she is now stable, authorities at Victoria Hospital where Sasikala is being treated said on Sunday. Her sister-in-law J Ilavarasi, who is also serving a prison term in the corruption case, has tested positive for coronavirus and has been admitted to Victoria Hospital.

In a bulletin issued by Dr C R Jayanthi, the Dean and Director of the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, which manages Victoria Hospital, said the



66-year old Sasikala's symptoms have reduced and her condition is stable.

"Conscious, alert and well oriented. Stable and comfortable, taking oral food normally and walking with support," the bulletin said. Sasikala is being continuously monitored in the ICU of the hospital, Jayanthi said. Ilavarasi, on the other hand, is asymptomatic

The symptoms have reduced and she is now stable, authorities at Victoria Hospital where Sasikala is being treated said on Sunday

and stable and is without oxygen support, hospital sources said.

Sasikala, the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's close aide, who is serving her jail term at the Parappana Agrahara Prison here, had complained of fever and breathlessness on Wednesday last, a week before her release. Sasikala was sentenced to four years imprisonment in February 2017 in the Rs 66 crore disproportionate assets case. — PTI

National holidays still a dream for city workmen

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

The country is all set to observe its Republic Day as a national holiday but workmen in many factories across the city may not get time off then as most workers are still being forced to work without adequate benefits like holidays over the years.

This practice has been going on at a time though the Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act

1958 provides for the grant of national festival holidays to persons employed in industrial establishments across the State.

V. Gopalakrishnan, an employee in a city factory, says his employer forced him to work on the last Republic day and the same is going to happen this year as well.

"Though workmen are forced to work on holidays, we don't get any additional benefit. In fact the company management provides us only basic

salary for working on a holiday instead of overtime wages. I think this is clear exploitation. I did take up the matter with the labour department last year. But they did not come up with any remedy to the issue," he said.

The Act says - "Every employee shall be allowed in each calendar year a holiday on January 26 (Republic Day), May 1 (May day), August 15 (Independence day) and October 2 (Gandhi Jayanthi) and five other holidays for such festivals".

Former judge calls for upholding reservation

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

Constitutional Courts are the vehicles to interpret the Constitution, and hence, should be more sensitive to uphold the principles of reservation, failing which social justice will be defeated, said former Judge, Madras HC, Justice Hariparanthaman.

Addressing a virtual panel discussion on 'Social Justice through Reservation/Affirmative Actions-Indian and Global Experience', Justice Hariparanthaman said, "Dravidian

parties starting from the 'Justice Party' are the fore-runners for reforms relating to social justice. The erstwhile 'Justice Party' had introduced caste-based reservation in 1919 itself, setting an example for other political and social movements in the country. Muthiah Mudaliar of the 'Justice Party' introduced reservation through a 'Communal GO' in 1921, and the Dravidian parties, particularly the 'Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam' (DMK), played a major role in upholding these principles."

"Manusmriti still rules the country indirectly in all the fields. In Tamil Nadu, though known for implementing the reservation policy, no advocates from the denotified communities (Idayar, Konar and Yadavar from MBC), have become judges of the Madras high court so far. Similarly, there is no adequate representation of SC, ST, BC and MBC in the Madras high court and the Supreme Court. The case is the same in all the government machineries and public sector undertakings," he added.

A model Governor recounts his experiences



Service Uninterrupted – Memoirs of M.M. Rajendran (Har Anand Publications)

R. MOHAN | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

It was every young student's dream to crack the civil services exam and join government service. It still is though things may be changing with youngsters imbibing the entrepreneurial streak or simply hoping to join the IT industry. In Mr M.M. Rajendran's time, public service was the ultimate and he chose it to serve the people deriving inspiration from his parents. As a student of Tamil medium, he went through the same rigours as many of his generation who were schooled in the rural parts of Tamil Nadu and came to Chennai for college education.

From attaining fluency in English to keep up with college mates in Christian College, Chennai to hold the highest administrative post in Tamil Nadu of being Chief Secretary, besides being Adviser to Governor during a spell of President's Rule and ultimately getting a Governor's post was Mr Rajendran's life journey and one in which he excelled with his integrity and his empathetic approach to people's problems. Being from the old school, he handled deftly Governorship of Odisha where his advice was especially sought and acted upon after a horrendous supercyclonic storm had ripped through the state.

A particularly significant

"Whatever I could do in Orissa would clearly show that the Governor need not be a figurehead but one who can contribute to the running of the State by good and timely advice and suggestions not depending only on his past experience but going out into the field and learning about the practical problems of the people"

aspect of the days Mr Rajendran was the Governor of a State and now is it did not matter then whether the State was ruled by a regional party or the national party in power at the Centre. "Whatever I could do in Orissa would clearly show that the Governor need not be a figurehead but one who can contribute to the running of the State by good and timely advice and suggestions not depending only on his past experience but going out into the field and learning about the practical problems of the people," he writes in the Preface. If only we could roll back time and go back to a friendlier and more harmonious era in which Governors contributed to solving problems!

Mr Rajendran has good words for the Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik during whose early regime he served as Governor for four had a half years. "His willingness to accept advice and keeping me informed of all important state matters were admirable," he writes. Of course, a Governor has to

act within Constitutional limits. His work with Universities as Pro Chancellor may have helped the State close the gap in education standards with the best institutions in the rest of the country.

A chapter on a Governor's authority to grant pardon makes useful reading when a controversy is still raging in Tamil Nadu over the release of the Rajiv Gandhi case convicts who have been incarcerated for close to 30 years and whose pardon has been recommended by a resolution passed in the State assembly.

It is still hanging fire with the Governor who is now expected to give his verdict soon going by the government's word in the top court. Mr Rajendran believes Tamil Nadu usually makes such recommendations without taking a categorical stand and leaves a measure of discretion to be exercised by the Governor. Of course, in the case of the convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination matter the government stand is known.

Modi's charm will work this time, says Tada Periyasamy

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

His name would invoke fear among the people more than three decades ago in the state. Now, shunning the path of violence, Tada Periyasamy (59), has been striving to achieve communal harmony and attempting to break caste barriers.

Travelling from active Communist youth wing politics to the naxal movement and then to Dalit politics, Tada Periyasamy has now reached the BJP. Periyasamy was appointed member of the national executive committee of the BJP last year.

He has been campaigning in various parts of the state for the past few months, hoping that the party would enter the Tamil Nadu Assembly for the first time with the help of Modi's magic. Periyasamy, hailing from Kalinga Rayanallur village in Perambalur district,

was deeply disturbed over the atrocities faced by Dalits and other downtrodden population in rural areas. After completing school, he joined an ITI course. In due course, he was attracted to the ideals of the All India Youth Federation and became an active member of the Radical Youth League (RYL), a naxal movement, to take up the cause of Dalits and the downtrodden.

He was close to the founding members of the Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) like Pulavar Kaliaperumal, Thamilarasan, Su Sundaram and Dharmalingam, and fought for a separate state for Tamils in the country and Eelam for Tamils in Sri Lanka. After giving up violence, Periyasamy along with Thol Thirumavalavan joined the Dalit Panthers of India, which was later rechristened the 'Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi' (VCK). He joined the

BJP in 2004.

In 1987, he was awarded the death sentence in a bomb blast case in Ariyalur, but later acquitted from the charges. In due course, he was arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and detained in prison. A few years later, he was acquitted, but the acronym 'Tada' got prefixed to his name, and since then, has been known as 'Tada Periyasamy'.

He contested the election for Perambalur parliamentary constituency in 1999, the Harur assembly constituency in 2001 as DPI candidate, the Chidambaram parliamentary constituency in 2004 and the Varagur assembly constituency in 2006 as BJP candidate. He has been running 'Nandhanar Sevashrama Trust', which is working for the development of Dalit children and providing vocational training to

women in the region. He is also involved in restoring the 'Panchami lands' from illegal occupants.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, he said, "Decades back, I have shunned violence to achieve my goals. By sheer hard work, I have developed a close relationship with the people from all communities in the region. I was once not even allowed inside a temple. Now, temple priests offer me their customary respects whenever a temple festival is held in my native village."

"On the campaign trail across the state, I have met various sections of people. They seem to like the principles and functioning of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home minister Amit Shah. After L Murugan assumed office as state president of the BJP, the party has grown larger. The party will make history by entering the TN assembly this time in large numbers," he added.

Jumbo death: Activist sends legal notice to Collector, SP

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, JAN. 24

Following the recent tragedy in which miscreants inflicted burn injuries on a wild tusker, eventually leading to its death, Chennai-based environmentalist 'Elephant Rajendran' sent a legal notice to the Nilgiris Collector and the SP, the Nilgiris, demanding sealing of all unauthorized tourist resorts / cottages in the Nilgiris, besides initiating action against the revenue, civic body and police officials, all of whom turned a blind eye to the existence of such unauthorized tourist cottages and resorts here.

In his legal notice, 'Elephant Rajendran', who is also the PIL petitioner on elephant corridor in the Nilgiris, had stated that inflicting fire injury on the wild tusker in a private tourist resort, proved that several such resorts are functioning without approval and license.

"Construction of resorts or a house is not completed in one night. It would take several months to complete the construction. Therefore, the VAO and executive officer or president of the respective local bodies, would definitely know about the



Residents of Chrompet stage a candle light protest against the brutal murder of an elephant at Nilgiris.

— DC

progress of the illegal construction. Concerned officials would not take legal action, because bribes come into play. The running of 'Home Stay' is another fraud. The building may be approved or unapproved. Without the knowledge of the jurisdictional Inspector of Police, this illegal running of 'Home Stay' cannot function.

The VAOs, president or executive officer of the village, and the jurisdictional Inspector of Police are all the real culprits," averred 'Elephant Rajendran'.

The Collector and the SP of Nilgiris should collect details of unauthorized tourist resorts/cottages in the Nilgiris and should take action to seal them immediately.

The collector should take action to book the concerned VAOs, executive officers of local bodies and presidents of village panchayats and the concerned police inspector under the 'Goondas Act' for allowing illegal resorts in their respective jurisdictions. "If action is not taken, I will approach the high court for necessary action," he warned.

BEHTAR ZINDAGI KE LIYE

BADALNA ZARURI HAI

Deep Lid Controls Spillage

Prestige SVACHH PRESSURE COOKER

5 YEAR WARRANTY ON PRODUCT

India's first and only cooker with spillage control

LONG LASTING WITH ANTI-BULGE BASE

COOKS FASTER SAVES ENERGY

SPILLAGE CONTROL LID THAT KEEPS KITCHEN CLEAN

GAS & INDUCTION COMPATIBLE

Range

Available in Aluminium, Stainless Steel, and Hard Anodised variants.

Jo apnon se kare pyaar, woh Prestige se kaise kare inkaar.

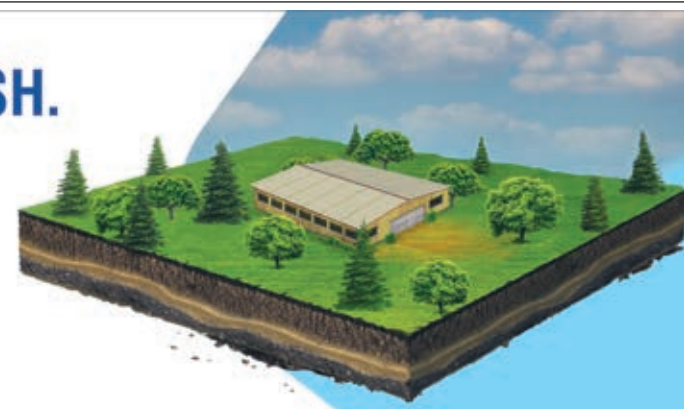
Chennai: Ambattur, Ph: 9080994741, 9841421788, 04442836025; Adambakkam, Ph: 22444545, 9176551717; Adyar, Ph: 24464979; Annanagar 1 (Shanthi Colony), Ph: 45510123, 9500016189; Annanagar 2 (Chintamani), Ph: 26222246, 6382805349; Avadi, Ph: 26550741; Avyanavaram, Ph: 26742008, 45090864; Chromepet, Ph: 22652690, 42629208; Cholaimedur, Ph: 42657232, 9962000261; Guduvancherry, Ph: 47467891; Kanchipuram, Ph: 27230759; Medavakkam, Ph: 04422771854, 9094773609, 7299558664; Moulivakkam, Ph: 79667954, Mogappair West (Nolamburi), Ph: 8925219972, 812224467; Mylapore (Alwarpet), Ph: 42031819; Perambalur, Ph: 43513435, 8639777489; Perasavakkam, Ph: 42631123, 8015973103; Royapuram, Ph: 25603435, 902034442; Salligramam (Vadapalani), Ph: 23650242; Singaperumalkoil, Ph: 8940919910; Selaiyur, Ph: 43324246; Tambaram, Ph: 48597077; Triplicane, Ph: 47431099, 908056653; Velacherry, Ph: 42158755; West Mambalam, Ph: 8012168234, 9962091000; Kelambakkam, Ph: 43526661; Kattupakkam, Ph: 45495966, 6374481472; Nanganallur, Ph: 7299038482, 42000057.

Prestige Corners: T.Nagar Ranganathan St. Saravana Stores, Ph: 24348078; Padir: New Saravana Bramandam, Ph: 39666606; E.Bazaar: M A Ethirajulu Naidu Ph: 25353215; Nanganallur: Balasubramanian Retail Private Limited Ph: 43588573; Adayar: Sri Murugan Stores Ph: 24917032; Sri Ambal Stores Ph: 42150045; Avadi: Selvam Steel House Ph: 26551095; Vadapalani: New Rathna Stores Ph: 42159666; Velacherry: Suriyah Firm Ph: 22039246; Tambaram: Raja Stores Ph: 22260937; Bharatham Stores Ph: 8939031750; Medavakkam: Sri Ambal Stores Ph: 044-22462007; Selaiyur: Lakshmi Stores Ph: 22262133; Poonaallee: Selvam Stores Ph: 26273076; Raja Traders Ph: 42674788; Perambalur: Pandian Home Appliances Ph: 26701258, 45058258.

Also Available At: Adayar: Currimbhoy's Home Products Pvt Ltd Ph: 750158562; Adambakkam: Vanathi Home Appliances, Ph: 9884194408; Ambattur: New Valarmathy Marketing, Ph: 26574559; Valarmathy Metal, Ph: 26571973; Annaijekarai: Rg Home Needs, Ph: 9840471054; Ruban Metals, Ph: 8056064336; Anna Nagar: Santhosh Super Stores, Ph: 26225017; Avadi: Valli Murugan Stores, Ph: 9994210971; Guduvancherry: Lakshmi Traders, Ph: 98404 33233; Iyyapanthangal: Chandra Stores, Ph: 9884366998; Kalpakkam: Aec Co-Operative Stores, Ph: 27488696; Kelambakkam: Saravana Stores, Ph: 27474696; Aiysha Hyper Mart, Ph: 43012903; Kolathur: Dhanalakshmi & Co, Ph: 9884252639; Madipakkam: Pandian Stores, Ph: 9719445677; Mint Street: Abinaya's Marketing, Ph: 9444253540; Mylapore: A. Thangavel Nadar Stores, Ph: 24915622; Iswarya Store, Ph: 9841284532; Navalur: En Enterprises, Ph: 9838652468; Jor Stores And Furniture, Ph: 7299946722; Nanganallur: Sri Parani Stores, Ph: 22315474; Nungambakkam: Ramachandra Store, Ph: 7299582856; Pallavaram: Prakash Stores, Ph: 22644064; Latha Super Bazaar, Ph: 8921920994; Perungudi: J.K. Super Market & Home Appliances; Porur: Kasi Stores, Ph: 24828611; Pudhur: Balaji Metal, Ph: 9360857954; Purasavakkam: Rathna Stores (Pvk), Ph: 9862412999; Selaiyur: Mai Raja Stores, Ph: 22260406; South Usman Road: New Saravana Stores Bramandam, Ph: 28140095; T. Nagar Ranganathan St. Saravana Stores (Madley Road), Ph: 24312727; Saravana Stores (G.N.Chetty Road), Ph: 28151077, 28153077; Rathna Metals, Ph: 24342568; Tambaram: Saravana Stores, Ph: 22265657; Raja Stores, Ph: 22266659; Tiruvallur: Bharath Metals, Ph: 27662429; Alice Super Market, Ph: 8940437888; Washermenpet: Ramakrishna Metal, Ph: 9003046223. **Authorised Distributors:** Chennai: Mala Associates (P) Ltd, Ph: 24341426; Sri Vasan Enterprises, Ph: 9884800472; Gc Marketing, Ph: 48539553, 42822868; Vipin Associates, Ph: 9789004455; Kanchipuram: S D Agencies, Ph: 9894813999. **Distributor Enquiry Solicited, Ph: 24538251, 9600917567. Franchisee Enquiry Solicited, Please Contact: Mr Srikanth Chiguluri, Ph: 9515851905; Mr Prassath, Ph: 9994940081; Mr: Karthikeyan, Ph: 7358222964; Mr Nanthu Kumar, Ph: 7358615115.**

ANDHRA PRADESH. INDIA'S NEW TEXTILE HUB

with generous
State Incentives!



AVAILABLE FOR SALE

**3 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS EACH OF 1 LAKH SQ.FT.
READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION & COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION**

55 Acres
(24.50 Lakh sq.ft.)
of Industrial
Land

Essential Infra
Facilities like
Roads and
Godowns

Owned by
**3 Companies of
RAMCO GROUP**
with Clear Title

Dedicated
Power
Feeder Lines

Ideal for
Spinning Mills
& Textile Units

Gopinenipalem,
Jaggayyapet,
Krishna Dist.
(A.P)

Interested parties may contact within 10 days:

**B Gnanagurusamy, CFO,
Rajapalayam Mills Limited,
Post Box No.1, P A C R Salai, Rajapalayam – 626 117 (TN)
E-mail: bgg@ramcotex.com, Mobile: 98946 24217**

“ Never click on suspicious links that you receive via SMS, email or social media platforms ”

rbikehrai

**RBI Kehta Hai...
Jaankaar Baniye,
Satark Rahiye!**

For more details, visit <https://rbi.org.in/cs>
For feedback on this advertisement, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

Issued in public interest by
**भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**
www.rbi.org.in



SHORT TAKES

RAM TEMPLE IN 3YRS; TO COST ₹1,100 CR; TRUST

Mumbai, Jan. 24: The Ram temple in Ayodhya will be built in around three years and the construction cost of the project will exceed ₹1,100 crore, a prominent functionary of the temple trust has said.

"The main temple will be built in three to three and a half years and will cost ₹300-400 crore. The expenditure on the development of the entire 70 acre land there will exceed ₹1,100 crore," said Swami Govind Dey Giri Maharaj, treasurer of Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Nyas.

He said he arrived at these figures after consulting experts involved in the Ram temple construction project. The Nyas (trust) has not come out with an official statement so far on the expenditure involved in the project, he said while talking to a TV channel.

"It was possible for us to raise funds (for the temple construction) from some corporate people. Some (corporate) families had approached us, requesting us to hand over the (temple) designs and assuring us they will complete the temple project, but I humbly declined that request," he said.

CENTRE OFFERS JABS TO ENVOYS POSTED IN INDIA

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 24

The Indian government on Sunday offered vaccination against Covid-19 to foreign diplomats posted in India. Embassies have been asked to give the names of diplomats and their family members who want to be vaccinated by Friday though no dates for their vaccination has been given so far.

Over 16.13 lakh healthcare and frontline workers have been vaccinated till date. On Sunday, the ninth day of the vaccination drive, 31,466 people were vaccinated in five states. Union health ministry officials said 10 cases of AEFI were reported on Sunday. India on Sunday reported 14,849 cases of Covid-19 and 155 deaths. In the coming week the government plans to intensify its immunisation coverage to complete its target of inoculating 3 crore healthcare and frontline workers well in time so that the vaccination drive for the rest of the population can be rolled out. It is expected that the diplomatic missions will be covered in the 2nd phase.

In a letter to all diplomatic missions, the MEA said that "as a gesture of goodwill and solidarity," the Government of India is considering to offer Covid-19 vaccination to "eligible foreign diplomats and their family members" accredited to all diplomatic missions, including consulates, United Nations and its specialised agencies, and other international organisations based in India.

FIR FILED AGAINST TANDAV ACTORS IN MP, K'TAKA

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
with agency inputs
BHOPAL/BENGALURU JAN. 24

A case was registered against actors Saif Ali Khan and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub in a police station in Datia in Madhya Pradesh late on Saturday evening for their roles in OTT web series *Tandav* which sparked a furor among Hindu bodies for "hurt religious sentiments".

A FIR was filed against the two actors in Kotwali police station in district headquarters of Datia following a complaint lodged by the local unit of Hindu Jagarn Manch, police said on Sunday.

Earlier on January 21, a delegation of the outfit led by Ravi Sharma filed a complaint with local sub-divisional officer of police Sumit Agrawal saying that the two actors slighted Hindu deities in the film.

Meanwhile, a case has also been registered by the Bengaluru police against the cast and crew of *Tandav*.

Based on a complaint by one Kiran Aradhya, the case was registered on Friday against *Tandav* director Ali Abbas Zafar, producer Farhan Akhtar, actors Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub and Saif Ali Khan and the head of India Originals of Amazon Prime Video, Aparna Purohit.

Cases have been registered under section 295A, 298, 153A and 34 of the IPC for insulting religious belief and promoting religious enmity between groups.

Tractors converge on Delhi for rally

25,000 tractors from UP, U'khand; 12,000 from Amritsar, 10,000 from Doaba to take part

Chandigarh/Ghaziabad, Jan. 24: More batches of farmers from Punjab on Sunday set out for Delhi to participate in the proposed tractor parade on January 26.

Farmer unions protesting the Centre's three farm laws had said they would go ahead with their tractor parade in Delhi on Republic Day. They had announced to take out the tractor parade on the Outer Ring Road in Delhi. A batch of 500 tractor-trolleys left Amritsar and several groups of growers from Phagwara, Hoshiarpur and other places of Punjab moved towards the national capital to take part of the tractor parade, farmer leaders said.

Kisan Sangharsh Union leader Baldev Singh Verka in Amritsar said, "Today as many as 500 more tractor trolleys left for Delhi to join the tractor parade. Each tractor-trolley will carry 20 persons along with bedding and eating arrangement for fourteen hour-long journey to Delhi".

He said on Saturday, around seven hundred tractor trolleys had left for Delhi. Gurbachan Singh Chhaba, spokesperson of the Kisan Sangharsh Committee said so far, around 12,000 tractor and trolleys had already left Amritsar and Tarn districts. While most of the tractor convoys from Doaba region had left for Delhi on Friday and Saturday, many left on Sunday also to take part in



Tractors arrive for farmers at Singhu border in New Delhi on Sunday, during an ongoing protest against the new farm laws. — PTI

the tractor parade, said Satnam Singh Sahni, General Secretary Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba). Sahni, who returned here from Delhi's Singhu border on Saturday night to further mobilise farmers for the parade. He said a total of around 10,000 tractors from Doaba region would join the parade to highlight agitating farmers' demands and the "stubborn" attitude of the central government towards them.

Around 25,000 tractors from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand will participate in the 'kisan parade' on January 26, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said on Saturday.

Farmers moving towards UP Gate from the two states on their tractor trol-

leys were intercepted by police in different districts but farmers will arrive here at every cost, he said.

"Around 25,000 tractors would arrive here and a tractor rally would be brought out on Republic Day. Apart from the districts of western Uttar Pradesh, farmers would take out rallies in every district," Tikait said in a statement. "No political person will be allowed to participate," the BKU national spokesperson said.

District administrations are sending notices to farmers and mounting pressure on them not to participate in the rallies citing Covid-19 norms and section 144 of the CrPC, he claimed.

Meanwhile, authorities in some Haryana districts close to the national capi-

tal have issued advisories against unnecessary travel towards Delhi over the next couple of days in view of a January 26 tractor parade by protesting farmer unions.

On Sunday, thousands of tractors were seen plying on the highways in the state heading towards Delhi, resulting in traffic congestion at several points on the GT Road, a police officer in Karnal said.

The Haryana Police issued an advisory stating that in view of the security and traffic arrangements for Republic Day and the proposed tractor parade, there would be disruptions in vehicular movement on the national highway from Karnal and Rohtak towards Delhi during January 25-27. — PTI

Farmers tableaux to depict protest

New Delhi, Jan. 24: The Republic Day tractor parade by agitating farmers will feature a number of tableaux from across states depicting village life, the protest against the Centre's contentious farm laws, and hailing their courage, according to organisers.

A farmer leader said that directions were issued to all organisations participating in the protest to prepare tableaux for the parade. "Around one lakh

tractor-trolleys from across the country will participate in the parade. Around 30 per cent of these will have tableaux on different themes, including the history of the farmers' movement in India, the role of women farmers and farming practices followed in different states," he said.

A few children from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region have also planned a tableau on farmer suicides. — PTI

Maha farmers to march to Capital

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 24

Protesting against the Centre's farm laws, thousands of farmers from various districts of Maharashtra reached Mumbai on Sunday via a vehicle march. They are expected to march towards Delhi to support the protesting farmers on Republic Day.

The Nashik to Mumbai rally is part of the call given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM),

which is leading the protests in Delhi. The farmers have started their statewide vehicle march from Nashik to Mumbai on Saturday.

Arriving in cars, jeeps, vans and trucks flying red flags, the farmers reached the city's iconic Azad Maidan, where they will hold a massive rally on January 25 to protest the controversial agriculture laws. The rally will then march to the Raj Bhawan and submit a memorandum to the Governor.

J&K ENCOUNTER: ARMY CAPTAIN NAMED IN CHARGESHEET

Shopian, Jan. 24: The Army captain involved in the fake encounter in Kashmir's Shopian district last July and two other civilian accused haven't provided any information about the source of weapons planted on the three slain youths and had also attempted to destroy the evidence, a police charge sheet said.

Captain Bhoopendra Singh had also provided wrong information to his superiors and the police about the recovery made during the staged encounter, the charge sheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police before the chief judicial magistrate here said.

The case relates to the July 18, 2020 encounter in Shopian's Amshipura in which three youths were killed and dubbed as terrorists. Later, the Army ordered a Court of Inquiry after reports appeared on social media that the three youths were innocent.

"No leads regarding the source of illegal weapons as illegally arranged by accused" for planting on the bodies were provided, the charge sheet said.

"By staging the encounter," the three accused "have purposefully destroyed evidence or real crime that they have committed and also have (been) purposefully projecting false information as part of a criminal conspiracy hatched between them with the motive to grab a prize money of ₹20 lakh," it said.

— PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group photograph with artists participating in the upcoming Republic Day parade, at an 'At Home' event, in New Delhi, Sunday. — PTI

HC says groping minor without skin contact is not sexual assault

Mumbai, Jan. 24: Groping a minor's breast without "skin to skin contact" cannot be termed as sexual assault as defined under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Bombay High Court has said.

Justice Pushpa Ganediwala of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, in a judgement passed on January 19, the detailed copy of which was made available now, held that there must be "skin to skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault.

She said in her verdict that mere groping will not fall under the definition of sexual assault.

Justice Ganediwala mod-

ified the order of a sessions court, which had sentenced a 39-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

As per the prosecution and the minor victim's testimony in court, in December 2016, the accused, one Satish, had taken the girl to his house in Nagpur on the pretext of giving her something to eat.

Once there, he gripped her breast and attempted to remove her clothes, Justice Ganediwala recorded in her verdict.

However, since he groped her without removing her clothes, the offence cannot be termed as sexual assault and, instead, constitutes the offence of out-

raging a woman's modesty under IPC section 354, the high court held.

While section 354 entails a minimum sentence of imprisonment for one year, sexual assault under the POCSO Act entails a minimum imprisonment of three years.

The sessions court had sentenced him to three years of imprisonment for the offences under the POCSO Act and under IPC section 354.

"The act of pressing of breast of the child aged 12 years, in the absence of any specific detail as to whether the top was removed or whether he inserted his hand inside the top and pressed her breast, would not fall in the definition of sexual assault," it said.

Justice Ganediwala said "the act of pressing breast can be a criminal force to a woman/ girl with the intention to outrage her modesty".

The POCSO Act defines sexual assault as when someone "with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, or does any other act with sexual intent which involves physical contact without penetration is said to commit sexual assault".

The court held that this "physical contact" mentioned in the definition of sexual assault must be "skin to skin" or direct physical contact. — PTI

TMC vows to take revenge

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JAN. 24

A day after "Jai Shree Ram" chants prompted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to refuse to address the Centre's Parakram Diwas celebration as a mark of protest in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at Victoria Memorial, her nephew and Diamond Harbour Trinamul Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee vowed to take "revenge" against the BJP "in every inch" as the ruling party demonstrated across the districts, crying of an "insult" to its supremacy at the official event, to swing the public mood in the poll-bound state.

Advising the BJP workers to chant 'Jai Shree Ram' at their homes and on religious occasions Banerjee on Sunday told a party rally at Kultali in South 24 Parganas, "They polluted the environment when our elected CM was about to address the official event on the solemn occasion. When they did not allow her to speak,

she protested and did not deliver her address to make the PM feel that no insult to iconic freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is tolerated here. They did not learn a lesson even after demolishing the bust of another legend: Ishwarachandra Vidyasagar in 2019."

In a threatening mood he added, "It was Mamata Banerjee's magnanimity that she gave the slogan: *Bodla Noy, Bodol Chai* (We want change, not revenge). That is why they are now making tall talks. After coming to power again, revenge will be meted out to them in every inch. Be ready for that. You will be paid back in full. I will see then how much power you have."

The TMC MP also declared to quit politics if he can not wipe out the saffron party in the coming Assembly election. Apart from him, TMC ministers like Firhad Hakim and Bratya Basu also tore into the BJP for raising religious slogans in political overtones at a government event to "insult" the CM.

States to look for malnourished kids

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Identifying severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children and their referral to hospitals, using AYUSH concepts and monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" are among highlights of the government's new guidelines which aim to improve nutritional status of children and women in the country.

In a letter to all states and UTs, the women and child development ministry asked all chief secretaries to launch a drive for identification of severe acute malnutrition in children for referral to hospitals, if required, and AYUSH centres and complete this exercise by January 31.

"The states shall launch a drive for identification of SAM children for referral to hospitals (if required) and AYUSH centres in accordance with the detailed action plan approved by the district nutrition committee to be finalised in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer. This exercise shall be completed by January 31, 2021,"

GOVT'S NEW guidelines aim to improve nutritional status of children and women.

The ministry said. The ministry shared the guidelines and stressed on the need to ensure that entitlements of Supplementary Nutrition Programme reach the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner as per quantity and nutritional standards.

The ministry said it has streamlined guidelines on quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and data management and monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of supplementary nutrition.

The ministry has asked all states to mandatorily implement Poshan Tracker that uses centralised data architecture to align with digital technology systems of other ministries and programmes. — PTI

WATER | WOES

Families say no household is connected to piped water supply

J&K: Villagers pool funds for pipelines

Bhaderwah (J&K), Jan. 24: Claiming neglect over the past seven decades, the villagers in remote Thanhala Panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district have set out on a mission this winter to bring potable water to their homes.

To fulfill their objective, the mostly below poverty line (BPL) families of the snow-bound village in the lap of mighty Ashapati Glacier got into a hurdle recently and decided to contribute ₹40,000 to pur-

chase the required water pipes to get connected to the nearest water source. "We are living by the example of the proverb 'God helps those who help themselves' as the government had miserably failed to ensure tap water in our homes over the years. In the absence of the facility, we have to fetch water round-the-year from a nearby source even during this harsh winter and the lurking threat of avalanches," a local resident Ajaz Ahmad said.

BPL FAMILIES decided to contribute ₹40,000 to purchase required water pipes to get connected to the nearest water source.

About 30 families live in the village bordering Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, just 1.5 km from the interstate Bhaderwah-Chamba road. The villagers depend on the labour work in Bhaderwah town for a living. Despite 'Har Ghar Jal Yojna' under 'Jal

Jeevan Mission', villagers claim that none of the households are connected with the piped water supply. When contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Rakesh Kumar said that providing potable water to every household is the priority of the government.

"The area being rich in natural water resources, I will take up the issue with the concerned department of 'Jal Shakti Vibhag' Bhaderwah to make temporary arrangements to

provide piped water to the village in view of extreme cold wave conditions unless permanent gravity line is laid under Jal Jeevan Mission," he said. Talib Hussain, another resident, said they literally ran from pillar to post to get piped water supply but no one listened to their woes.

"Under these circumstances, we have no other option but to pool money from our daily wages to bring water to our homes," he said. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

11 IRAQI
FIGHTERS DIE IN
IS AMBUSH

Samarra, Iraq, Jan. 24: At least 11 fighters from Iraq's state-sponsored Hashed al-Shaabi force were killed in an ambush by the Islamic State group north of the capital on Saturday, Hashed security sources said.

The jihadists used light weapons and the cover of darkness to target the Hashed east of Tikrit, the capital of Iraq's Salahaddin province, two days after a twin suicide attack claimed by the group killed 32 people in Baghdad.

"IS launched an attack on the Hashed's Brigade 22," said one of the unit's officers Abu Ali al-Maliki.

Maliki said the brigade commander was among those killed before reinforcements from the federal police came to the unit's aid.

Hashed security sources said the total toll was 11 dead and 10 wounded.

'STEALING' FILES:
TESLA SUES
EX-EMPLOYEE

San Francisco, Jan. 24: Tesla has sued a former employee for allegedly stealing about 26,000 confidential files in his first week of working at the company, according to a court filing seen by AFP.

The company said on Friday that within three days of being hired, software engineer Alex Khatilov "brazenly stole thousands of trade computer scripts that took Tesla years to develop" and transferred them to his personal Dropbox, a cloud storage service.

Tesla said that when confronted by Tesla's security team, Khatilov claimed he had only transferred "a couple of personal administrative documents", whilst trying to delete the evidence.

Khatilov told the New York Post the software files ended up in his Dropbox by mistake when he had been trying to make a backup copy of a folder on his computer.

Russian cops go
on the rampage

3,500 protesters arrested at rally in support of jailed Putin critic Navalny, says monitor

Moscow, Jan. 24: Nearly 3,500 protesters were arrested at demonstrations in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, a monitor reported on Sunday, as authorities probed violence on the part of both protesters and police.

Police clashed with demonstrators in Moscow as tens of thousands took to the streets across the country on Saturday following Navalny's call to demonstrate against President Vladimir Putin's 20-year rule.

A number of protesters were injured, including a woman in Saint Petersburg who was hospitalised with a head injury and was in intensive care Sunday.

The West condemned the arrests and "harsh tactics" used against demonstrators, with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell saying the bloc would discuss "next steps" on Monday.

Late Saturday the Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it launched criminal inquiries in Moscow over the use of violence against law enforcement, hooliganism and property damage.

"Investigators are continuing to study and analyse a large amount of photo and video materials," the Committee said.

In a separate statement, investigators said Sunday a 36-year-old man hit two policemen at the Saint Petersburg protest and was detained.

But Saint Petersburg prosecutors also said they were probing violations "on the part of law enforcement" and the use of force against a woman. The statement was

US condemns
'harsh tactics'

Washington, Jan. 24: Washington on Saturday rebuked Moscow over its use of "harsh tactics" against protesters demanding the release of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

"The United States strongly condemns the use of harsh tactics against protesters and journalists this weekend in cities throughout Russia," State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

Navalny being taken into custody and the arrests of his supporters were "troubling indications of further restrictions on civil society and fundamental freedoms," he added.

"We call on Russian authorities to release all

those detained for exercising their universal rights and for the immediate and unconditional release of Aleksey Navalny," Price said, using an alternative spelling.

"We urge Russia to fully cooperate with the international community's investigation into the poisoning of Aleksey Navalny and credibly explain the use of a chemical weapon on its soil."

In Russia tens of thousands nationwide answered Navalny's call to rally, which he issued after he was detained at a Moscow airport on arrival from Germany, where he had been recovering from a near-fatal poisoning with a nerve agent. — AFP

US INTERFERING
IN 'DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS': KREMLIN

Moscow, Jan. 24: The Kremlin on Sunday accused the US embassy of interfering in Russia's domestic affairs after the mission distributed a "demonstration alert" to US citizens in Russia recommending they avoid protests. Ahead of the demonstrations, the US embassy issued a safety warning to Americans based in Russia. "Of course, these publications are inappropriate," President Putin's spokesman said.

Vaccine immunity will take
3 weeks: UK medical officer

London, Jan. 24: One of England's leading medical officers on Sunday urged the public to continue to follow the strict lockdown rules because any vaccine-related immunity from Covid-19 takes at least three weeks to kick in. Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, also warned that there is no clear evidence yet to show that vaccinated people cannot transmit the

deadly virus on to others. "Regardless of whether someone has had their vaccination or not, it is vital that everyone follows the restrictions and public health advice, as protection takes up to three weeks to kick in and we don't yet know the impact of vaccines on transmission," said Van-Tam. His warning comes as the UK registered another high daily death toll from the virus of 1,348 this weekend.

He pointed to an additional 32 vaccination sites coming on stream to add to the thousands of venues where the National Health Service (NHS) has been delivering 140 jabs a minute, taking the vaccinated total to over 5.8 million. "The vaccine is rightly something to celebrate — let's stay patient, stay at home and support the NHS as it continues to roll out the vaccine," he said. — AFP

A nasal spray that
blocks out Covid-19

London, Jan. 24: A nasal spray which can prevent a Coronavirus infection for up to two days is being prepped for mass production by scientists at the University of Birmingham with the hope of having them available over-the-counter in pharmacies in a few months, a UK newspaper report said on Sunday.

HINDU PRIESTS CHARGE
MORE FOR SA FUNERALS

Johannesburg, Jan. 24: Cashing in on the fearful atmosphere prevailing in South Africa amidst a second wave and a new variant of the Covid-19 virus, some Hindu priests in the country are allegedly charging exorbitant rates for conducting funerals of coronavirus victims.

The priests are under fire for charging between 1,200 rand (\$79) and 2,000 rand (\$131) to conduct a funeral, according to Pradeep Ramlall, a member of the Hindu Dharma Association of South Africa and Manager of the Clare Estate Crematorium in Durban.

This is not right. As per our scriptures, this is our seva (service) to the community. If a family wants to give a priest a donation, then that is acceptable but priests should not be charging people, he told the Weekly Post newspaper as he slammed the priests who are overcharging.

Oman limits
jobs for expats

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

Gulf nation Oman's reported move on Sunday to bar certain jobs for foreigners such as finance, commercial and administrative positions in insurance companies, shops and car dealerships as well as nationalise some jobs in the private sector is set to impact Indian workers there. Although there was no official reaction from New Delhi till late on Sunday evening, it is expected that India will examine the matter soon.

Queens Land
The Land of Amusement
குடியரசுதின நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்!
Lets Go Queens Land
Rs.50/- Off
Bring this coupon and avail this offer for TWO PERSONS EACH Rs. 50/- Off VALID UPTO 28.02.2021
Wear Face Mask
Keep Social Distancing
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
* This offer cannot be combined with any other offer.
www.queenslandamusementpark.com
Chennai - Bangalore Trunk Road, Palanjur, Sembarambakkam, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 123
CALL NOW: 2681 1124 / 2681 1136 Marketing Off. 2230 1268 / 2235 3371

Celebrating 11th NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

25th January 2021

Chief Guest

Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Hon'ble President of India

Guest of Honour

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad

Hon'ble Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Govt. of India

at

Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

Launching

DIGITAL EPIC
Electoral Photo Identity Card

Web Radio **Hello VOTERS**
Every Vote Matters
Tune on our ECI Website



Advantage e-EPIC

- Alternate and faster mode of obtaining Digital Voter Card
- Download & Store on mobile/desktop
- Self printable
- Secure: QR code with image and demographics

Download e-EPIC From

- Voter Helpline Mobile app
- <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in/>
<https://nvsp.in/>
- 1950 Voter Helpline
- # ClickSeEPIC

We are ...



Theme : NVD 2021
Making our Voters Empowered,
Vigilant, Safe & Informed

© The Common Man: BCCL. Used under license

25th January 2021 onwards : For Newly Registered Electors*
1st February 2021 onwards : For All General Electors

*Only newly registered during special summary revision 2021 & having unique mobile number in E-Roll



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
www.eci.gov.in

NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND

DECCAN Chronicle

25 JANUARY 2021

Is power only language in which to talk farm laws?

Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar's statement to the farmers' unions during the 11th round of talks that there are no problems with the farm laws and that the government offered to suspend them for up to 18 months as a sign of respect for farmers is unhelpful, to say the least, in ending the stalemate. Instead, it casts a shadow over the sincerity the government displays in the talks.

It has been almost three months now that the farmers are in Delhi, agitating, demanding the repeal of the three laws that seek to rework the way agriculture in this country is conducted. They also want a legal assurance that the minimum support price (MSP) regime is retained. The government has been non-committal on all these demands.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella union of the 40 agitating farmers unions, cannot be faulted for rejecting the government's offer to suspend the laws and discuss them "clause by clause" for many reasons. First, such an offer has no legal backing. A bill, passed by Parliament and signed into law by the President, cannot be kept in abeyance by the government. There has been no legal mechanism to ensure the laws are not acted upon, except that the government may delay the framing of the rules, but that cannot be a legitimate route a government can take while negotiating on critical laws that have serious ramifications for the future.

The government, as Mr Tomar has stated, has been insisting that the laws are for the good of the farmers and the agriculture sector. The farmers, on the other hand, fear that it's a bogey the government advances and that it would, ultimately, want to withdraw from the sector and throw them at the mercy of the corporates. The government can either say the laws are good or they are bad; and it has said they are good. It is up to the government to explain what it seeks to gain by sticking to its stand and then offering negotiation, at a juncture when the Supreme Court has stayed the operation of the laws. Second, the farmers cannot be faulted for not taking the bait of clause-by-clause discussions as the government had failed to follow the regular, democratic law-making process in this case. It was in an unholy haste to rush them through the legislature.

The government agreed to the discussion only after the farmers showed their grit at the gates of the national capital. If the government understands only the language of power, then the farmers need to continue to talk that. The government may be concerned about the elderly farmers suffering in the extremely cold weather of Delhi; but for them, it's a do-or-die struggle, and they may be willing to pay the price for it.

The government has of late allowed the proposed tractor rally by the farmers' unions on Republic Day. The government must show the same spirit of accommodation and seriousness of purpose while sitting with the farmers next time. It's unlikely to reach a conclusion if the government goes into the talks with the stand that all is well with the laws.

Heed general on arms buys

Last week, Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane did well to highlight in the public sphere the hidebound, time-consuming, procedures for defence acquisitions that impact our military capabilities and preparedness, especially in relation to potential adversaries who are able to absorb innovations in military technologies more speedily.

If our armed forces are working for a revolution in military affairs (RMA), it is inescapable that we also bring about a revolution in bureaucratic affairs (RBA). General Naravane aptly pointed out. It seems plain common sense to us that RMA — which the major powers have already brought about, and is an area in which India lags behind — cannot be achieved without RBA taking place. It is a rude awakening to hear from the country's military leader that while the Defence Procurement Procedure 2016 was 450 pages, the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 is 681 pages. It's got worse, rather than better. This is surely a travesty.

The Army chief quotes the late defence minister Manohar Parrikar as saying that the system and procedures of military procurement is built on "distrust" — or, should we say, mistrust. The premium is on the detailed crafting of bureaucratic rules that attempt to take in every future infraction of procedure, and not on the quick availability of a much-needed equipment or defence system. In a word, the idea is to catch the thief, as it were. This is pathetic.

The whole system still appears to be paying the price for the then Opposition crying foul over the procurement of Bofors artillery guns with the purpose of bringing down the Rajiv Gandhi government. As we know since then the successive governments have not been able to establish corruption on the part of the then PM.

We must move on if we are to grow as a credible regional power, leave alone international power. The way things are, any mid-way course-correction in acquisition or introducing of a newly available useful technology requires the whole Quality Requirement procedures to start all over again. Sometimes more than a decade passes. By then what has been got at great cost is already antiquated.

Gen. Naravane is right. There must be built-in flexibility clauses for the end user (our armed forces) as well as the manufacturer. Similarly, overhaul of procurement procedures are needed in the civilian domain to gain efficiency and cut delays.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

R. MOHAN
Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:
Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748
Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256
Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phones: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256.
Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500. Fax: 080-2296051/52/55
Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334. Fax (0891) 2755285
Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/ 2555287, Fax (0866) 2555234
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618
Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904
Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82, Telefax (0861) 2348580
Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilalpally Colony, Jagtiyala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433
Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax: 0495 0419018
Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph Press Thecad post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14, Ph: 0471-2735105/67, Fax: 0471-0416112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348-2006-08ss

Chandrajit Banerjee



Reviving growth: Govt needs to do a fine balance in Budget on Feb. 1

With economic activity resuming and the vaccine becoming a reality, the challenge of lives versus livelihoods is largely addressed. The next big challenge facing the government is getting growth back.

The government has been fiscally prudent in its Covid interventions, with support to industry coming in the form of loan guarantees and reform measures. However, as private consumption, investments and exports remain sluggish, the burden to nurture the unexpected but buoyant recovery falls primarily on public expenditure, at least in the immediate term.

Government spending in areas with high multipliers is important for demand creation, employment generation and catalysing private investments. The RBI estimates the Central government capex has a multiplier effect of 2.45 in the year the expenditure is incurred and 3.14 next year. This shows a hike in capital expenditure by the government crowds in higher private investments benefiting the economy in the next few years. Private investments have been slow even before the pandemic, and this boost can get them back on track. Higher investments, public and private, will lead to

employment generation, boosting consumer demand and savings.

The virtuous cycle of public expenditure, demand generation, private investment and employment generation can put the economy back onto a high growth trajectory.

However, the fiscal situation is now under stress driven by a shortfall in revenue collections due to a fall in GDP induced by the Covid-19 crisis, constraining higher public spending.

Supporting economic recovery and growth via greater public expenditure as well as ensuring prudent fiscal management to safeguard macro-economic stability is an immediate concern the Budget must address.

CII suggests a seven-point agenda. One, prioritise public investment in infrastructure and health. Infrastructure has one of the highest multiplier effects on the economy and boosts long-term competitiveness. Therefore, the government must hike its infrastructure spend by one per cent of GDP, including higher allocations for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The pandemic highlighted the importance and need for a robust public health infrastructure. India should look at increasing its public health

expenditure to three per cent of GDP by 2025.

Two, the government should look at fiscal deficit management from a three-year perspective. The deficit target for next year should be realistic.

Three, the government should ensure greater transparency in the deficit numbers, inspiring confidence in markets, rating agencies and investors. This implies realistic revenue projections, avoiding off-Budget borrowings, realistic estimation of costs of schemes and accounting fully for borrowing for food subsidy. Last year's Budget listed off-Budget expenditures and their financing as an annexure. This year it should build on this positive step.

Four, given the uncertainties set a range-bound deficit target, instead of pursuing a single number, as was recommended by the economic advisory panel of the 15th Finance Commission.

Five, adopt a suitable Fiscal Performance Index framework to capture both the quantum and quality of the deficit. Higher expenditure on areas like infrastructure, healthcare, education and sustainability boosts the economy's productivity and efficiency, leading to higher growth, which helps pay for itself in the long run.

CII wants a composite Fiscal Perfor-

mance Index with six components: (i) Quality of revenue expenditure: measured by the share of revenue expenditure other than interest payments, subsidies, pensions and defence in GDP; (ii) Quality of capital expenditure: measured by share of capital expenditure (other than defence) in GDP; (iii) Quality of revenue: ratio of net tax revenue to GDP (own tax revenue in case of states); (iv) Degree of fiscal prudence I: ratio of fiscal deficit to GDP; (v) Degree of fiscal prudence II: ratio of revenue deficit to GDP; and (vi) Debt index: Change in debt and guarantees to GDP.

Six, the government should look at raising revenues through non-tax measures. It should look at aggressive disinvestment, taking advantage of booming capital markets. The disinvestment plan should include both loss-making and profit-making PSUs. To get better valuations, that is often a concern, the government could announce a list of PSUs where it plans to bring down its holdings below 51 per cent. The positive market sentiment this creates may lead to higher interest and valuations.

Monetisation of assets of the government and public sector enterprises, like surplus land and buildings, profitable brownfield assets like roads, transmission lines, airports, power

plants, etc, could be another source of significant revenue. State governments should also be encouraged to do so.

The proceeds should be ring-fenced for creating health infrastructure and other physical infrastructure in both urban and rural areas.

Seven, further rationalise subsidies and non-productive expenditure. Some of the measures that can help achieve this objective include: pursue Aadhaar-enabled direct benefit transfer (DBT) for food and agri-input subsidy. A policy of giving subsidised kerosene and LPG through DBT only to BPL families should also be explored.

The term for extension of the urea subsidy, given by the CCEA, will come to an end in 2020. The government should use this opportunity to carry out urea price decontrol and rationalise the fertiliser subsidy based on soil health card scheme data.

Savings can accrue from rationalisation of power subsidies. For the deserving, the subsidy could be provided through direct benefit transfer. This will also reduce the cost of power for industrial users, helping Indian manufacturing become more competitive.

The writer is the director-general of the Confederation of Indian Industry

Subhani



Trump to Biden: Modi's US ties in need of reset

Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

Ending his much-acclaimed address to a joint session of both Houses of the American Congress in July 2005, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, to rapturous applause: "Partnerships can be of two kinds. There are partnerships based on principle and there are partnerships based on pragmatism. I believe we are at a juncture where we can embark on a partnership that can draw both on principle as well as pragmatism. We must build on this opportunity."

The India-US relationship has waxed and waned depending on how this mix between values, defined by principles, and interests, based on pragmatism, has worked out. As a new administration with a very different and well-defined ideological orientation takes charge in Washington D.C., diplomats and observers in both countries will wait to see what kind of a balance would be struck between the two considerations in taking the India-US relationship forward.

For a long time, when leaders of both countries met, they could only speak about their shared democratic values because their interests were so wide apart. The simultaneous occurrence in 1991 of India's economic opening up and the end of the Cold War added the ballast of shared interests to the relationship. India's desire to secure new markets, new technologies and foreign investment as well as its need to diversify the country's sourcing of defence equipment and bolster its national security, at a time when China was rising and jihadi terrorism had come closer home, created a powerful and potent mix of values and interests.

Long-term and durable bilateral relations between

nations do require a balance between values and interests. The principles by which nations define themselves constitute their values, but a purely values-defined relationship cannot endure unless it also addresses the individual needs of both partners. While political and intellectual leaders define values, it is left to diplomats to identify and secure the pragmatic foundations of a relationship.

Several developments at home and around the world over the three decades, from 1990 to 2020, ensured that the bilateral relationship grew from strength to strength. However, even as global developments continued to favour closer India-US relations, domestic political and economic developments during the tenures of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi did emerge as potential problems for the durability of the relationship.

Mr Trump's "America First" policies created new uncertainties for India's "interests", in areas such as trade and immigration policy, while Prime Minister Modi's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" trade and industrial policies and India's desire to maintain its good equations with Russia and Iran, raised concerns in Washington. However, the weakening of the "interests" side of the equation was balanced by greater emphasis on the "values" side, with Mr Trump hailing India's democracy while turning a blind eye to Mr Modi's majoritarian communal politics, in his campaign against non-democratic China. If Mr Trump had been re-elected it remains to be seen how this equation would have worked out. President Trump may well have continued to ignore the BJP's politics, but would perhaps have demanded his pound of

flesh on the trade and market access side.

What now with the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris duo? Clearly, their values are very different from Mr Trump's, and in a world where domestic politics increasingly influences foreign policy no country can ignore the influence of these "new values" at home on US foreign policy. At the same time, given the domestic economic pressures and promises made, Mr Biden may well not be able to ease up on the demands being made on India on the trade and economic side.

Consider then the emerging balance between principles and pragmatism — the "principles" dear to the new Democratic administration in the US may favour Mr Modi's India less than the principles that defined Mr Trump's attitude; and domestic policy pragmatism may require Mr Biden to stay the course on the economic demands the United States has been making on India.

On the Indian side, Mr Modi has weakened India's global standing as a multicultural, pluralistic, liberal and secular democracy, especially in his second term in office, while at the same time pursuing insular trade policies that raise hackles in Washington D.C. How Mr Modi intends to redefine and rework his approach to the new America of Mr Biden and Ms Harris remains to be seen.

The fact that vice-president Kamala Devi Harris is partly of Indian origin and that several Indian Americans have been nominated to serve the

Mr Modi has weakened India's global standing as a multicultural, pluralistic, liberal and secular democracy, especially in his second term in office, while at the same time pursuing insular trade policies that raise hackles in Washington D.C

Biden administration is no guarantee of a smooth ride for India in the US capital. While the interest groups that lobby for good relations between India and the US may have better access to the Biden-Harris team, the team itself may have many whose values clash with the BJP's majoritarianism. Listen carefully to Mr Biden's speech.

In the past it used to be assumed all too easily that Indian Americans are India's diplomatic asset. Indeed, they were. Their role in ensuring congressional support for the India-US civil nuclear agreement cannot be underestimated. Prime Minister Modi's rallies in New York and Houston, attended by enthusiastic Indian Americans, also helped Indian diplomats build bridges with Mr Trump's people. However, those Indian Americans lost out in this election. The Indian Americans now in office are the ones who may well have disliked external affairs minister S. Jaishankar refusing to meet US Congresswoman Premila Jayapal and her delegation, or his quoting Donald Trump approvingly in his book.

Among senior Biden administration officials there are many from the Obama administration who know India and Indians well, including the new CIA director William Burns and the pointman for Asia, Kurt Campbell. They may well wish to strengthen relations with India. It remains to be seen if their diplomatic "pragmatism" in the pursuit of "interests", is able to score over the assertion of "principle" by those who seek to defend the liberal, democratic "values" of the Democratic Party. Clearly, Prime Minister Modi will have to undertake some reset in his domestic politics and policies to ensure that he gets as warm a reception in Joe Biden's America as he did in Donald Trump's.

The writer is an economist, a former newspaper editor, a best-selling author and former adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

LETTERS

STRANGE LOGIC

In a bid to prevent transmission of Covid-19 authorities have requested members of the public to avoid crowding the R-day events. At the same time, these very leaders expect a huge turnout at the meetings which they have been organising with increased frequency due to the upcoming Assembly election. The speakers, who are interested only in large gatherings, do not bother whether people maintain the pandemic protocols or not. Are we to believe only at the time of R-day events, not during election meetings?

P.G. Menon, Chennai

SUSPICIOUS FIRE

The death of five workmen in the fire in the Serum Institute Pune is really shocking. The incident, described as just an 'accident', happened when India is fighting the pandemic tooth and nail. It is also significant that the serum being made by the strenuous efforts of Indians is now under mass production and we are in the forefront in the export of the serum to other countries too to help them fight the pandemic. At this stage the 'accident' in the Serum Institute cannot simply be brushed aside and there is room and reason to suspect sabotage by invisible internal forces inimical to India. A thorough and impartial probe is a must to unravel the truth.

Kooduthuraiyan, Chennai

POLICE INACTION

It is really painful to know that a bizarre incident around a border dispute between revenue and police officials of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh has caused much grief to a suicide victim's kin. It is foolish of the police to refuse to accept a complaint citing that the place doesn't fall under their jurisdiction. Like 'One Nation, One Ration Card' why can't there be 'One Nation, One Police Station'? Complaints can be lodged in any police station in India. It is their duty to forward the same to the concerned station, who should acknowledge the complaint to the complainant. The present situation of making the complainant to run from pillar to post should be arrested without any further delay.

N. Hariharan, Chennai

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	48,878.54 -1.50
Nifty 50	14,371.90 -1.50
S&P 500*	3,841.47 -0.30
Dollar (₹)	72.97 0.03
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.67 0.57
Euro (₹)	88.79 -0.16
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,861.263 0.53
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	55.64 -0.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.939 -0.29
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.094 -0.013

* As of 8:30 PM IST

FPIs invest over ₹24,400 crore in stocks this month

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) remained net buyers to the tune of Rs 18,456 crore so far in January as global liquidity led to continued investment in emerging markets. According to depositories data, overseas investors pumped in Rs 24,469 crore into equities but pulled out Rs 6,013 crore from the bonds market during January 1-22. The total net investment during the period stood at Rs 18,456 crore.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed & Published at Deccan Chronicle Presses situated at SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg. No. TNENG/2008/25473 Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

Lockdown reverses trends in space demand Apartment size expands as office space shrinks

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

Bucking a four-year declining trend, average apartment sizes grew by 10 per cent in Covid-hit 2020 while office spaces have started shrinking. A major contributor to this trend reversal is the new work from home (WFH) culture. The average apartment sizes in the top seven cities rose by 10 per cent to 1150 sq. ft. in 2020 from 1050 sq. ft. in 2019.

Last year, space-starved Mumbai saw the highest, 21 per cent, increase in apartment sizes to 932 sq ft from 773 sq ft in the previous year.

Among the big seven cities, Hyderabad has the largest average apartment size of 1750 sq ft, says an update from Anarock Property Consultants.

The average apartment sizes have been reducing since 2016. In 2016 it was 1440 sq ft and by 2017 it had declined 13 per cent to 1260 sq ft.

"The two main reasons



for apartment sizes reducing in previous years were affordability and millennials' preference for low-maintenance homes. Keen to generate more buyer interest with smaller price-tags, developers whittled down their flat sizes. But 2020 saw an almost immediate reversal of buyer preferences. With the accent suddenly being on accommodating the WFH and learn-from-home culture, flat sizes began increasing for the first time in four years,"

said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Property Consultants.

The same work from home (WFH) culture saw the average size of office space shrinking in 2020. According to Nobroker.com, companies are choosing smaller office spaces now compared to pre-Covid times as many of them have adopted WFH as an option for at least a part of their employees.

Start-ups, IT companies and financial services

have freed up office space during the lockdown and are looking to work out a hybrid model in the future where work-from-office would be on a rotational basis for the employees. About 30-40 per cent of the companies, mainly driven by start-ups, IT and financial services companies, have let go of their leased office spaces either partially or completely post-lockdown.

This led to a drastic fall in demand for office space, especially larger space.

"While we have witnessed the overall office demand fall by about 50 per cent during the November-January period compared to the same period a year ago, the demand for office spaces which are lesser than 5000 sq ft is witnessing a less severe decline in demand," said Amit Agarwal, co-founder and CEO of NoBroker.com.

Demand for small office space has fallen only by about 25 per cent during the same months.

Separate cheques for vehicle, insurance likely

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Buyer of a new vehicle may have to pay the cost of vehicle and insurance premium through separate cheques, if the recommendations of a committee to review MISP guidelines are accepted by the Irda.

The insurance regulator had issued Motor Insurance Service Provider (MISP) guidelines in 2017

with the intention of streamlining the process and bringing the practices of vehicle insurance, being sold by automotive dealers.

MISP refers to an automobile dealer appointed by the insurer or the insurance intermediary to distribute and/or service motor insurance policies of vehicles sold through it.

In June 2019, the Irda

had set up a committee to review the MISP guidelines. The panel examined the current practice of collecting the premium payment from the customer. It observed a lack of transparency in the cost of insurance premium when the customer buys the vehicle through the dealer and makes the payment via a single cheque.

As the MISP makes payment to the insurance company from his own account, "the customer does not know the insurance premium being paid as it is subsumed in the cost of the vehicle", the committee said.

The panel recommended the customer should make payment to the insurance company directly. —PTI

MUTUAL FUNDS ADD 72 LAKH FOLIOS IN 2020

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Mutual funds added 72 lakh folios in the pandemic ravaged year 2020 as higher disposable income and low interest on bank deposits attracted investors towards this financial instrument.

In comparison, the industry had seen an addition of 68 lakh investor accounts in 2019, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

Folios are numbers designated to individual investor accounts. An investor can have multiple folios.

According to the data, the number of folios with the 45 fund houses rose to 9.43 crore at the end of December 2020 from 8.71 crore at the end of December 2019, registering a gain of 72 lakh folios.

In the year 2020, many investors added to their mutual fund investment during the market correction due to Covid-19 and the recovery phase as well, said Harshad Chetanwala, co-founder of MyWealthGrowth.com.

"First time investors chipped in during this period as the markets were looking attractive and existing investors diversified their investments in new schemes as well. Both these actions did result in new folio creation," he added. According to him, the number would have been higher, but a segment of investors also opted to book profits and shuffle from non-performing funds.

—PTI

Chip shortage: VW may claim damages from supplier Bosch



Berlin, Jan. 24: German car manufacturer Volkswagen is looking into possible claims for damages against its suppliers Bosch and Continental due to a lack of semiconductors, Automobilwoche magazine reported on Sunday.

Automakers around the world are shutting assembly lines due to problems in the delivery of semiconductors, which in some cases have been exacerbated by the former Trump administration's actions against key Chinese chip factories.

The shortage has affected Volkswagen, Ford Motor Co, Subaru Corp, Toyota Motor Corp, Nissan Motor Co Ltd, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and other car makers.

Citing people familiar with the matter, Automobilwoche reported that Volkswagen was in talks with alternative suppliers of semiconductors but there were concerns this could lead to higher prices.

Volkswagen wants to make sure that both Bosch and Continental

share the burden and partly compensate the company for the resulting additional costs, the magazine reported.

Contacted by Reuters, a Volkswagen spokesman declined to comment, and Bosch and Continental did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The magazine cited Bosch company sources which said the car supplier was ready to discuss the matter directly with its customers and suppliers in due course.

German economy minister Peter Altmaier has asked his Taiwanese counterpart Wang Meihua to persuade Taiwanese manufacturers to help ease the shortage of semiconductor chips, which is hampering its fledgling economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Altmaier asked Wang to address the issue in talks with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker and one of Germany's main suppliers.

—Reuters

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Agreeing to small points will help you push through some main ideas. Chance meetings could put you in a nostalgic mood. You may want to ease tensions with kin or a friend.



Taurus: Altercations are possible, but don't take them to heart, as others have their own pressures. Inputs from associates will offer fresh perspectives on an old problem.



Gemini: Teamwork will ease your workload. Recruiting close colleagues will help you negotiate from a position of strength. Don't take financial risks.



Cancer: Understanding nuances will give you an advantage. New avenues are likely for freelancers and self-employed. Avoid pointless arguments.



Leo: Focus on restructuring finances. Past efforts at work will be noticed and new initiatives will pay off. Show appreciation for your partner.



Virgo: Use your flair for communication to get your views across at important meetings. Networking could clear the path for important projects. Consult experienced people in property-related decisions.

You share your b'day with

Cheteshwar Pujara, an Indian international cricketer who plays Test cricket for India and represents Saurashtra in domestic cricket. As of 22 January 2021, he is ranked as the world No.7 Test batsman in the world, according to the ICC Player Rankings with a tally of 760 points.



Libra: Romantic relationships could be slightly stressful. You may be considering expensive purchases for your home. A lucrative opportunity is in the offing.



Scorpio: Romantic relationships may be slightly rocky. Honest discussions will lead to a deeper understanding with your partner. Use your skills to build valuable contacts.



Sagittarius: There may be some tension with relatives, and your tact will prevent minor tiffs from escalating. Don't repress emotional issues. Bring them out in the open.



Capricorn: Singles should proceed cautiously with new romantic relationships. Some of you may be contemplating home expansion. Carefully consider all options, as some proposals may not be viable in the long run.



Aquarius: You may be tempted to make purchases for yourself or your home. An objective analysis of ideas could reveal they aren't practical. Keep your views to yourself to prevent an unwanted commitment.



Pisces: Spend time verifying facts — careless research could reflect negatively on you. Those looking for new homes may find good options. Be proactive to have an edge over the competition.



DESCRIBE STRENGTH AND FIT CORRECTLY

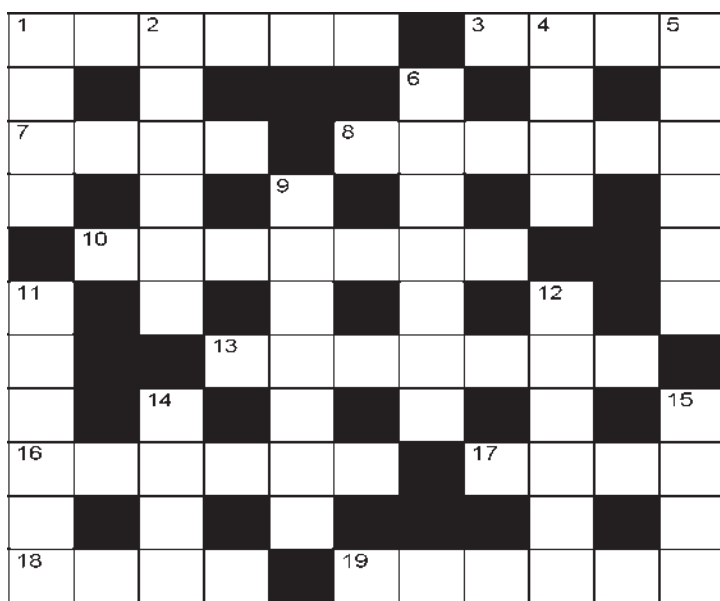
Double fits — at least eight cards combined in each of two suits — do not give bridge players fits. Quite the opposite — they love them because they provide more tricks than the base point-count suggests. Then the hard part can be deciding which of the two fits to make the trump suit.

Today's deal, of course, is an example. How would you and your partner bid the North-South hands? South opens one spade, and North

raises to two spades. (Yes, North has a maximum, and the Losing Trick Count says that he is worth a game-invitational raise, but unless that club suit is useful, the hand will prove disappointing to partner. Starting with two spades seems right.) What should happen after that?

South might jump to four spades, but that is unnecessarily precipitate. It is better to rebid three clubs. Yes, North will think that that is a

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

1. Winding downhill skiing course (6)
3. Grasp tightly (4)
7. Mountains (4)
8. Of service (6)
10. Injurious to health (7)
13. Keepsake (7)
16. Festering, infected (6)
17. Peak of perfection (4)
18. Unadulterated (4)
19. Prefer (6)

down

1. Persuade (4)
2. Come into view (6)
4. Floating platform (4)
5. Meagre (6)
6. Self-confident (7)
9. Put in jeopardy (7)
11. Tittle-tattle (6)
12. Plaster wall coating (6)
14. Incentive (4)
15. Be dressed in (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Handcuffs, 6. Aloft, 7. Looks, 9. Mode, 10. Scenic, 12. Ripple, 14. Urge, 17. Droop, 18. Nitre, 19. Assertion.

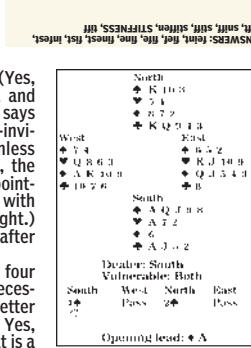
Down: 2. Avoid, 3. Duty, 4. Unlock, 5. Frown, 6. Admired, 8. Secrete, 11. Elapse, 13. Props, 15. Ratio, 16. Knot.

Word Mine

F
I
S
E
N
F
T
S
S

TODAY'S RATINGS: 10 AVERAGE; 11 GOOD; 13 OUTSTANDING

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



jumble

DHIWT
NYADH
SUCINO
CRAED

THE

Answers: 1. DHIWT, 2. NYADH, 3. SUCINO, 4. CRAED, 5. THE

help-suit game-try, which might be made with a weaker suit, but South is interested in his partner's club holding.

Typically, North would either sign off in three spades or jump to four spades. Here, though, his hand could not be better. He should raise to four clubs, announcing the delicious double fit. South should then see the expediency in bidding six clubs, not six spades, because the di-

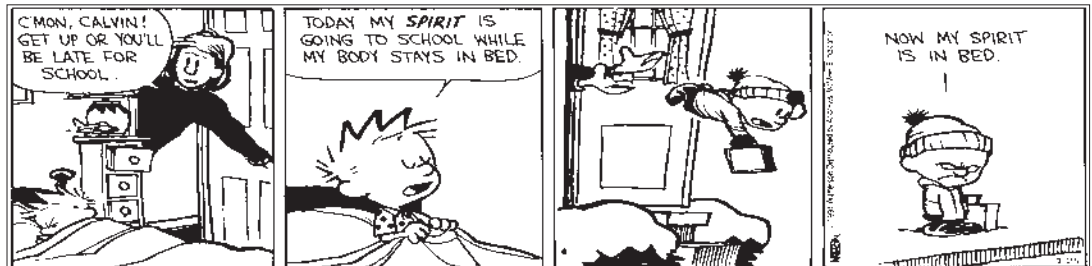


Answers: 1. DHIWT, 2. NYADH, 3. SUCINO, 4. CRAED, 5. THE

Answers: 1. DHIWT, 2. NYADH, 3. SUCINO, 4. CRAED, 5. THE

Answers: 1. DHIWT, 2. NYADH, 3. SUCINO, 4. CRAED, 5. THE

CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



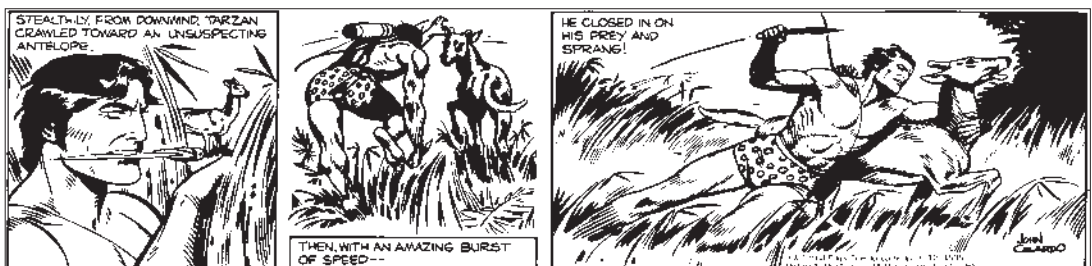
BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



SHORT TAKES

Hemnath wins drag racing title

Chennai: Bengaluru's Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing) retained his overall title in the 2020 MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship which concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday. Muddappa ended the 2020 season which was delayed due to the pandemic with a grand double and a clean sweep in both Above 1051cc and 815-1050cc categories. He won all four outings over two rounds to underline his dominance in two-wheeler drag racing. Aiyaz, a private entrant, clinched three titles – the 226-360cc and 361-550cc categories in the four-stroke class and the Up to 165cc (2-Stroke) – while Bharath Raj of Rulxx Rockers Racing topped in the Up to 165cc and 226-360cc classes.

Poirier knocks out McGregor

Abu Dhabi: American underdog Dustin Poirier shook up the world of mixed martial arts Sunday, beating up the legs of Irish superstar Conor McGregor before knocking him out at UFC 257 in Abu Dhabi. "I'm happy but I'm not surprised. I put in the work," Poirier after the referee stepped in after 2min 32sec of the second round to save McGregor from further damage after he was dropped by a fierce combination of punches.

Sandeep emerges national champ

Coimbatore: Chennai's Sandeep Kumar and Amir Sayed from Kottayam emerged champions on Sunday in the Formula LGB 4 and Novice Cup category respectively in the 23rd JK Tyre-FMSCI National Racing Championship. It was heartbreak for Ashwin Datta, who led overnight in the Formula LGB 4 category with 63 points. Ashwin was distraught in the morning as he faced brake failure in the first race. Sandeep, 28, has rich experience. He has been part of Indian motorsport for almost 15 years and seen it all from karting to racing.

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited
and Printed at
Deccan Chronicle Presses situated
at SP 3, Developed Plot, Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
RNI Registration No: TN ENG/2005/14987
Ph Nos: 22254747, 22254748, 22254750,
22254751
Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

Rising from Ash-es

Constantly put under microscope, Ashwin says it's a start over, again & again

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

R. Ashwin would not have featured in the first Test against Australia at Adelaide if Ravindra Jadeja had been available. Ashwin himself knew that. And that's why it felt like starting all over again for the off-spinner who has been constantly put under the microscope despite proving his worth time and again.

Apart from taking 12 wickets — he dismissed big fish Steve Smith thrice — in three Tests, Ashwin scored a gritty unbeaten 39 to save the Sydney Test. In a chat on Sunday, Ashwin spoke about the importance of his Sydney knock and how he has been subjected to unfair comparisons with other spinners.

Excerpts:

■ Is this the best that you have bowled in Australia? Looking back, you can say that but I think this is just another dimension of cricket that I'm seeing myself in. It didn't look like I was going to start the series in all honesty but Jadeja damaged his hamstring and that is how I got an opportunity in the first Test. Yes, 2018-19 was good, but I think 2020-21 was one of the best if you compare the last three years.

Before each Test, I sat and watched match videos for eight hours on the bounce. I made my own plans about where the fielders should be. For example, how Tim Paine got out in Melbourne came from what happened in Adelaide with the short-leg fielder and where the ball might go. So these are orchestrated moves and thanks to the freedom the team management gave me in how I should be working it.

■ On his back injury: It (back injury) was looking good for the fourth Test in Brisbane and looked like I would play. But there was some unfortunate turn of events. Even the swimming pool access was cut. The pool is an important activity in the recovery process. Then we had to do a plunge pool activity but it is not the same. The physio also felt if the recovery process was in place, there was a good chance I could play. It was



R. Ashwin

a freakish injury. By day three or four, I was alright to bowl. After that 1-1 draw, things took a U-turn. The way things happened in Sydney and Brisbane, we had to quarantine. Sometimes it was questionable. There was insensitivity around people commenting on why we were complaining. The rules were not such. It was off the beat. But, we buckled down and put on a good show.

■ On the importance of his Sydney knock: There have been questions raised over my batting since that West Indies tour. But another thing that needs to go into consideration is I was an all-format player and sometimes the roles of people playing Test cricket alone don't really sit down well or people don't quite make an effort to understand how it works. I feel ever since that particular thing where I've just been playing Test cricket, it's pretty much a one game here or there and I'm constantly fighting with someone else for the lone spinner spot. And if I have to be judged purely on my batting skills and batting averages, then I think a decision based on an innings or two alone to drop me out of a particu-

lar series wasn't quite justified. I am looking to fight for my place and when I'm doing that I need to emphasise on my primary skill which is to pick up wickets, which I think over the last two years in South Africa, England or Australia, I have done justice to.

■ Despite being on the international stage for more than a decade, why do you feel that you have to prove yourself in every game? I have had some wonderful interactions with batting coach Vikram Rathour (a former selector) throughout this series. He told me that they were looking to leave me out after the England series in 2011-12. He said, 'We didn't quite think that you were bowling well'. But I made close to 400 runs in that series and picked up 14-15 wickets. It's a battle that I have always fought. It's not new territory for me.

Whenever I was pitted against another off-spinner, the series has turned out well for me. From 2013 to 2015, I was competing with Harbhajan who had made a comeback. In 2015-16, it was Jayant Yadav. For me, competition has always got the best out of me. I feel whatever I have left ahead of me will

also be along these lines. So I have decided to play every Test like it's my first. If I can't be excellent, I should just move on.

■ Now, there will be comparisons with Washington Sundar...

Honestly, I have always said it is irrelevant who walks alongside me into the ground. When I walk into the next Test, I will be looking at Burns, Sibley, Crawley, Root. Why would I worry about someone who is going to stand beside me because for all you know I'm walking with a guy who is going to help me over the next five days and he has to do his job and I have to do mine. These are insignificant things and sometimes people tend to talk about it to such an extent because of their mindset.

■ Did the Aussies underestimate India's bench strength? I am not too sure. They were bowled out for 190 in Adelaide. With another hundred runs on the board, even that pink ball Test could have gone either way. I think they knew our bowling was going to challenge them throughout the series. I think it is just that the team found ways to bounce back from 36 all out. I think people rallied around really well, they realised how tough the tour could get. One piece of good fortune is that there were new people and fresh legs especially in the bowling department. Sometimes when you're playing a long series, fresh legs and mind can do the trick.

■ Is there a tinge of disappointment that you were not considered for the vice-captaincy role when Rahane took over from Kohli? I am not disappointed and it's irrelevant to me. I go out there and make my own plans and get the fields that I want. The captains and vice-captains that I have played with have been very supportive of whatever I have wanted. Leadership is just leading yourself and keeping your space upbeat for any situation that arises. If you can help another teammate, that's also leadership, so it really doesn't matter.

Natarajan owes it to his teammates

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

It was a dream international debut for T. Natarajan who had travelled to Australia only as a net bowler. He grabbed his opportunities in all three formats and emerged as one of the unlikely heroes of India's historic triumph. Natarajan, who is enjoying a new found cult status in Tamil Nadu, credited Team India's support staff, skipper Virat Kohli and stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane for backing him.

"They supported and motivated me a lot. I was able to perform well only because of their backing. I enjoyed playing under the captaincy of Kohli as well as Rahane. They had a lot of positive things to say and encouraged me a lot," said the 29-year-old who took three wickets on debut at the Gabba.

"I didn't expect to get an opportunity in the ODIs, but I was keen to do my job. When I was told that I would be playing, I could feel the pressure. But, I wanted to make use of the opportunity," he added.

Natarajan feels being a left-arm pacer and the new angle he brings in add to his advantage.



T. Natarajan

"The main reason for me playing all the formats has to go towards my training and all my coaches. They would have known about my strength in the formats so they gave me a chance to play in all formats. I am a left-arm so that works as an advantage for me," said Natarajan.

Natarajan who runs a cricket academy for players in his village said he would strive hard to help more people achieve their dreams. "I will try to support the Salem Cricket Association as much as I can. It is because of people's support that I am here. People know how I came here, if one does hard work he can achieve anything," he added.

CHENNAIYN LOOK TO KEEP THEIR PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE

NEHA SURANA | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 24

Chennaiyin FC will look to keep their playoff hopes alive when they take on juggernauts Mumbai City FC on Monday. Mumbai are a dangerous team, according to CFC coach Csaba Laszlo. Rightly so, as they have suffered defeat just once this season.

Laszlo wants his team to have a stronger mentality when they face the table-toppers. "The spirit at this moment is very low but we have to fight back

against Mumbai City which will also be a difficult game. We will try to win three points because we need it," he said.

"It is not easy to go into every game with the same energy because the games come up rather quickly. But I am still asking my team to give extra energy especially against a team who is dominating the league," said Laszlo.

Laszlo believes that his team has been out of luck this season with the goal scoring. "I hope in the last few games it will change," he said.

FC GOA'S ONLINE FOOTBALL CAMP

Chennai: FC Goa have announced that the club's 'National Soccer Camps' online programme, supported by RB Leipzig, will be made available to the youngsters in Chennai. Designed for ages 6-18, participants can now enroll for any of the three programs based on their likes, interests and preferences.

The three programs launched are Beginner Free, Beginner Standard and Beginner Max. More information can be found at fcgoa.in/junior.

PRESENTING THE NEW ŠKODA SUPERB 2021.



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER



2.0 TSI ENGINE WITH 7-SPEED DSG



ADAPTIVE LED HEADLAMPS



PANORAMIC ELECTRIC SUNROOF



8 AIRBAGS



VIRTUAL COCKPIT

Download the MyŠKODA App for hassle-free ownership at your fingertips | **ŠKODA** | Toll-free 1800 2700 260

Visit www.skoda-auto.co.in to book a Virtual Demo
Experience from the comfort of your home.

ŠKODA
Financial Services



Chennai: Teynampet: Gurudev Motors: 7239988955; **Chennai:** Ambattur: Gurudev Motors: 7239988966; **Trichy:** Gurudev Motors: 7239988977; **Madurai:** Maverick Motors: 8344337799 / 0452-2366900; **Coimbatore:** SGA Cars: Kabila Towers, Mettupalayam Road: 0422-7123456; **Coimbatore:** SGA Cars: Avinashi Road, Kalapatti Village: 0422-7123456; **Salem:** S7 Cars: 8740085555; **Tirunelveli:** Aura Motors: 8883504440; **Vellore:** Gurudev Motors: 9094039700
Branches: **Tanjore:** Gurudev Motors: 9941919407; **Erode:** S7 Cars: 9791501999; **Hosur:** S7 Cars: 9566566661; **Tirupur:** SGA Cars: 9994357215; **Nagercoil:** Aura Motors: 8344332277; **Dindigul:** Maverick Motors: 8883366733;
Karur: SGA Cars: Salem Bypass Road: 0422-7123500

Specifications given differ from model to model. Accessories shown may not be part of standard equipment. Always insist on genuine ŠKODA AUTO parts and accessories available at authorised sales and service centres. Information relating to colours, prices, construction, technical details and equipment was valid at the time of issuance and these are subject to changes without any prior notice. All disputes are subject to the courts in Aurangabad jurisdiction only. ***Warranty** – 4 years or 1 00 000 km whichever occurs first (promotional offer on 3rd and 4th year, additional 5th and 6th year extended warranty is optional); **ŠKODA Assist** – roadside assistance – 4 years or unlimited km (5th and 6th year roadside assistance is optional); **ŠKODA SuperCare** – 4 years/60 000 km (optional) four periodic maintenance services each at an interval of 15 000 km or one year (whichever occurs first from date of delivery) at an attractive price. Terms and Conditions apply.

6 YEAR
WARRANTY*