DECCAN nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA **NELLORE | WEDNESDAY | 13 JANUARY 2021**



Max: 30.8°C Min: 22.8°C RH: 75% Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: clear. temp. 30/22 ºC



CASES (+14,130)(+162)1,51,524 1,04,93,758

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+301)(+2)TS: 2,90,309 1,568 (+197)(+2)AP: 8,85,234

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



218 worldometers.info/ coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE Sarvari; Dakshinayana

Tithi: Margasira Bahula Amavasya till 10.32 am Star: Uttarashada till 5.27 am Varjyam: 2.03 pm to 3.35 pm Durmuhurtam: 12.02 pm to

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Jumadi ul-Awwal 28,1442 AH

PRAYERS (SHAHI MASJID) Fajar: 5.22 am **Zohar:** 12.17 pm **Asar:** 4.21 pm Maghrib: 5.58 pm Isha: 7.12 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.38 AM MOONRISE TODAY 6.39 AM MOONSET** TOMORROW 7.12 PM



Season's rangoli!

WhatsApp clears air on privacy

New Delhi: WhatsApp on Tuesday said its latest policy update does not affect the privacy of messages as the Facebookowned company sought to address concerns around security of user data on the platform. In a blogpost, WhatsApp emphasised that it does not share users' contact lists or data of groups with Facebook for ads purposes, and that neither WhatsApp nor Facebook can read messages or hear calls between users on WhatsApp.

NATION 4

Indian Army is ever ready: Naravane

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



WORLD 5

FBI warns of more protests in US

SPORTS 6

Shuttler Srikanth miffed with Covid test



Vol. 18 No. 188 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

3 CAPITAL PROCESS TO BEGIN IN FIVE MONTHS: ADVISOR

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

The YSR Congress government is likely to achieve its plan of having three capi-Executive Legislative and Judiciary — in the next four to five months, advisor to government (public affairs)

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated on Tuesday. Addressing a press con-ference here, he said all necessary steps for decentralisation of administration have been taken. He warned that the government will take firm action against those trying to create differences within the society in the name of religion and caste. In this regard, he went on to accuse TD leaders of trying to divert people's attention through such acts.

He said the government has constituted an SIT to investigate demolition of temples and has already achieved some success. He alleged that the election schedule issued for local body polls by SEC is part of a plan to divert attention of people from the Amma

Vodi initiative. He said, "Like never before in any state, 31 lakh house sites are being given to homeless poor. Unable to digest this good deed, the opposition has resorted to creating differences between people through vandalising of temples.

SC stays farm laws, forms expert panel

Farmers refuse to meet court-appointed panel

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

In a major breather to the Narendra Modi government that's caught in a cul-de-sac over the ongo-ing farmers' agitation, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the implementation of the three controversial farm laws for now, restored the Minimum Support Price System (MSP) that was prevalent before the enactment of farm laws and set up a committee of four agriculture experts to examine the laws and submit a report within two months.

The two months, the court said, will start from the date of its first sitting and the first sitting has to take place within 10 days from Tuesday's order.

The clarification of the three-member bench of the Supreme Court, that the suspension of the implementation of the three laws is not indefinite, and that the court will take a final call on the farm laws only after it examines the committee's report, seems to suit the government which is resisting the farmers' demand for repeal of the laws but is agreeable to making amendments.

There is no power | It is clear that the which can prevent us from forming a committee. We want to solve the problem. We want to understand the ground situation. This

SHARAD A. BOBDE, Chief Justice of India

The farmer unions, how-

ever, were not pleased and

reiterated that they will

not participate in the court-ordered committee process, charging that "all

the members of this com-

mittee are pro-govt and

is not politics.

known for their

court is being

misguided by various

forces even in its

constitution of a

committee. These

are people who are

had been justifying the laws of the government." They added that they would not call off their protest until the newly enacted legislations are repealed.

"It is clear that the court is being misguided by var-ious forces even in its constitution of a committee. These are people who are known for their support to the three Acts and have actively advocated for the same," a statement issued All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination

Committee (AIKSCC) said.

Having stayed the imple-

support to three laws **ALL INDIA KISAN SANGHARSH PANEL** mentation of farm laws "until further orders", the court also directed that the farmers' land holdings shall be "protected" and no farmer shall be "dispossessed or deprived" of his/her title of land as a

result of any action taken

under the farm laws.

'While we may not stifle a peaceful protest, we think that this extraordinary order of stay of implementation of the farm laws will be perceived as an achievement of the purpose of such protest at least for the present and will encourage the farmers bodies to convince their members to get back to their livelihood, both in order to protect their own lives and health and in order to protect the lives and properties of others," the court said.

AP gets 4.75L doses of vaccine for launch DC CORRESPONDENT The doses were State health authorities shifted to the State disclosed that they are VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

State officials shift Covid-19 vaccines into a truck at Vijayawada Airport near

Nearly 4.77 lakh doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine called Covishield arrived at the city out of a total allot-ment of 4.99 lakh doses, on Tuesday. The vaccine is being manufactured at the Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune. Krishna district collec-

tor Md. Imtiaz and Child Health and Immunisation joint director U. Sreehari received the consignment from SII. Pune. The doses were shifted to the State Vaccine Storage Facility located at Gannavaram amidst tight security provided by police.

The vaccine will remain stored there at a temperature between 2 degrees and 8 degrees Celsius transported to various places in the state. Collector Imtiaz

Vaccine Storage Facility located at Gannavaram amidst tight security provided by police.

said the Gannavaram storage facility can preserve up to 35 lakh doses of vaccine. Of the first consignment received, about 3,000 frontline healthcare workers of Krishna district will be administered the vaccine at 30 sites spread over the district on Saturday.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das held a video conference with district collectors, SPs and municipal commissioners and reviewed arrangements for administering of the 4.77 lakh cine at 332 sites throughout Andhra Pradesh

also expecting a consignment of about 20,000 doses of Covaxin developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has scheduled despatch of its first vaccine consignment to several places across the country on Tuesday

- C. NARAYANA RAO

Officials said the Centre has sanctioned 4.99 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses including 4.77 lakh doses of Covishield and 20,000 of doses of Covaxin, man-ufactured by Bharat Biot-ech, to AP. With the first consignment arriving on Tuesday, officials expect the remaining vials on Wednesday. Bharat Biot-ech will be dispatching its first consignment to several places from Hyderabad.

> Page 2: State awaits Centre's guidelines

HC to hear SEC appeal on Jan. 18

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

The AP High Court asked the State Election Commission to explain the urgency for taking up hearing on its writ appeal. Based on its justification and assurances from the State government, court posted the next hearing to January 18.
A division bench com-

prising Justice U. Durga Prasad and Justice B. Krishna Mohan on Tuesday heard the appeal filed by the State Election Commission seeking to set aside the vacation bench judge's order suspending proceedings to conduct the gram panchayat polls in February When the bench asked

SEC's counsel N. Ashwani Kumar to explain the urgency to adjudicate the writ appeal, the latter replied saying that suspension of election notification would cause widespread confusion among aspirants and voters and would halt the electoral process like preparation of electoral rolls. He maintained that implementation of model code of conduct could not be suspended once the elec-

Responding to the justification, Advocate-General S. Sriram assured the court that preparation of tinue unhindered.

tion notification issued.

Page 2: SEC claims single judge has erred

SEC RELIEVES POLL PANEL'S SECRETARY

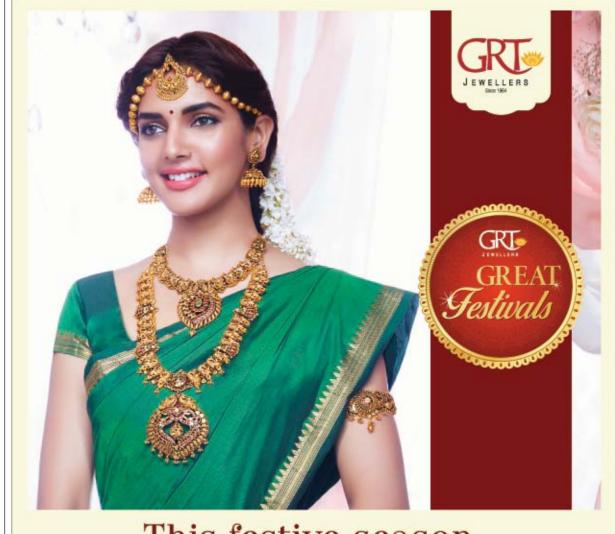
DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday issued orders relieving G. Vani Mohan as secretary of the commission. In his relieving order, the SEC said her services are no longer required by the

state electoral body.

The AP government had posted Vani Mohan, a 1996 batch IAS officer, as secretary to State Election Commission on May 31, 2020, while she was then serving as cooperative department commissioner and MD of AP Development Cooperative Federation.

■ Page 2: SEC informs CS about its decision



This festive season, give your old gold new life.

Get extra per gram

on exchange of old gold

Get

less per gram on purchase of new gold jewellery





Validity: 25.12.2020 to 26.1.2021. T&C apply



*Offer not valid on gold lewellery with wastage (VA) less than 7%. This offer is not applicable on purchase of gold coins and bars Exchange offer is valid only on gold exchange. Limited period offer. Conditions apply.

118, Prakasam Road, Tirupathi. Ph: 0877-228 1515

Guntur | Visakhapatnam (Gajuwaka & Sampath Vinayaga Temple Road) | Kakinada

Telangana | Karnataka | Tamil Nadu | Puducherry | Singapore Shop online at: www.oriana.com | mail@grtjewels.com | CV LIVE Shop from the comfort of your home

Flights to link Kurnool to B'luru, Chennai, Vizag

Kurnool to get air connectivity

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JAN, 12

AIR LINK

Kurnool airport Orvakal is all set to launch commercial operations in a month from now in February. Indigo, which emerged as a successful bidder under UDAN-4 scheme, may have flights from here to Bangalore, Chennai, and

Vizag. Incidentally, finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy had during his recent trip to New Delhi met Indigo representatives seeking expediting of com-

mercial operations. Aviation sources said Kurnool airport may as well become a centre for running flight training operations. This is because air traffic at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports has increased and running training operations from these centres is becoming increasingly difficult.

Given the proximity of Kurnool airport from both these locations, the possibility of setting up training facilities at Kurnool will be advantageous for all angles. Logistically Kurnool is at the midpoint between Bengaluru and Hyderabad and on the flight path to Chennai from RGIA, Shamshabad, said an Airports Authority of India (AAI) official

M.K.V. Srinivasulu, nodal officer who is overseeing finishing works at the Orvakal airport, said Orvakal airport, said Indigo staff had visited the airport and assessed its readiness last month. They are visiting again on January 20 or the last week of this month. Once that is over, commercial flights will start taking off and landing at Kurnool, the gateway of Rayalase-ema. Originally, the airport was scheduled to start commercial operations by Deepavali but missed the deadline. Orvakal Airport is spread over 970 acres at a distance

of 20 km from Kurnool city. The airport has a runway length of 2,000 metres x 30 metres. It will have four parking bays, which can be utilised for and up to ATR-72 / Q-400 category of aircraft. The nearest major international airport is Hyderabad, about just 200 km from Kurnool.

SHORT TAKES

AP KIDNAP CASE: BROTHER OF EX-AP MIN NAMED

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JAN. 12

Bhuma Jagath Vikhyat Reddy, brother of former AP minister Bhuma Akhila Priya, has been named as one of the accused in the kidnap case of Naveen Rao and his brothers.

Bowenpally police of Hyderabad, who took Akhila Priya into custody on Monday last week, have been questioning her on the alleged kidnap and the role of others who aided and abetted her.

The police has so far named

20 people. Vikhyat and his sister Naga Mounika have been vocal on the issue of Akhila Priva's arrest.

The police is in pursuit of Bhargav Ram Naidu, the husband of Akhila Priya, and Guntur Sreenu. They could be holed up in Pune or Bengaluru,

CM TO TAKE PART IN KAMADHENU **GOPUJA ON JAN. 15**

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will take part in the prestigious Kamadhenu Gopuja mulled by TTD on the auspicious day of Kanuma on January 15 at 12 noon in Narasaraopeta of Guntur dis-

After inspecting the venue, Sports Authority Stadium Grounds at Narasaraopeta, TTD JEO P. Basanth Kumar said, for decades TTD has been conducting Gopuja on Kanuma festival day. This year besides the 50 temples in TTD Gopuja will be conducted in all 996 temples of State Endowments Department on January 15, he noted.

6 MONTHS JAIL FOR FATHER, SON **OVER CASTE CRIME**

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, JAN. 12

The court dealing with cases under the SC/ST (Prevention Atrocities) Act here on Tuesday sentenced a fatherand-son due to six months imprisonment.

convicts, Tirumalakonda Venkatá Ramana and his son Tirumala Viswanath Yerravonkallapalli in NP Kunta mandal had abused Avula Hari of the same village in the name of caste during a quarrel on July 14, 2016. The victim lodged a complaint against them with the NP

Kunta police. Then SC/ST (PoA) Cell DSP M. Venkata Ramana investigated the case and filed the chargesheet. SC/ST (PoA) Act Court judge Tirumala Devi pronounced verdict in the case on Tuesday. Apart from undergoing six months in jail, the duo has to pay a fine of ₹3,000.

Superintendent of police Satya Esubabu appreciated the efforts of DSP Venkata Ramana and additional public prosecutor Ram Naik for getting justice for the victim.

OFFICIALS FREE GRABBED LAND WORTH ₹80 CR

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JAN, 12

A team of revenue officials led by the tahsildar of Anandapuram mandal, accompanied by police personnel, seized back 16 acres of prime government land ₹80 crore during the last 24 hours.

Two parcels of land- four acres in survey no 42/1 and another four acres in survey no 74/1 are located in Gudilova, about 16 kilometres from National Highway. The revenue officials did not disclose the people who had occupied the government. The land cost increased manifold after a sixlane highway stretch was developed between Pendurthy and Anandapuram village.

A senior revenue official said each acre of land seized back now estimated to cost ₹5 crore. The two parcels of land are located about 30 km from Visakhapatnam city. The drive would continue till all the government land parcels grabbed by private people and agencies are taken back by the revenue

department. TWO PARCELS of land- four acres in survey no 42/1 and another four acres in survey no 74/1 are located in Gudilova, about 16 kilometres from National Highway.

Social breach



On the occasion of Sankranti holidays, people rush to board a bus to their native place, violating the Centre's Covid-19 regulations, in Vijayawada

Vundavilli asks parties to keep off temple attacks

He says Modi wants to implement the 'Hindutva' agenda

DC CORRESPONDENT RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM,

Former MP Vundavilli Arunkumar has urged political parties to avoid politicising the temple attacks. Instead, he said, the police should be given a free hand in the investigation of these incidents.

The ex-MP told the media here on Tuesday

that the police would be able to catch the culprits if they are given a free hand and if there is no politicallevel interference. No political party including the BJP would resort to attacks on temples or damaging idols. Anti-social elements must be behind these attacks.

quoted Swamy Vivekananda to say that Lord Rama or any other

MIN OPENLY

DANCING TO

TD'S TUNES

NELLORE, JAN. 12

DC CORRESPONDENT

Water resources minis-

ter P. Anil Kumar has

alleged that there is no

scope for impartial elec-

tions to local bodies as

long as Nimmagadda

Ramesh Kumar is holding the post of State Election Commissioner

In an all out attack, the

minister accused the SEC of working under

directions of a political

party by calling for the local body polls. In the

same breath, he alleged that the same SEC had cancelled precisely these

very elections last year

based on a letter from

the Telugu Desam Party.

sons here on Tuesday

Anil Kumar questioned

the rationale behind

going for the election

now when the entire

government machinery

is all geared up for a massive vaccination pro-

gramme against the

Coronavirus pandemic.

Referring to grand suc-

cess of the launch of Amma Vodi programme

second round at Nellore

on Monday, he said some

anti-social elements are

trying to create chaos

near schools and tem-

ples to divert attention

TDP leaders of under-

mining development

activities and welfare schemes of the state gov-

ernment through mud-

slinging. He said Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy is only

carrying on the legacy of

his late father Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who

passed away in a chop-

per crash while being

the CM of united AP.

The minister accused

of people.

Speaking to media per-

ACCUSES SEC OF



Vundavilli Arunkumar

god or goddess knows very well how to protect themselves, irrespective of whether or not their idols are destroyed or damaged. Arun Kumar said the YSRC and the Telugu Desam should explain their attitude to the BJP. The BJP's ideology, in particular the Hindutva' agenda, posed a threat to

From Page 1

The AG also informed the

court that developmental schemes of the govern-

ment would be taken up

only after taking prior

permission from the SEC.

The AG informed the court that as the local

body polls would be held

on a non-political and

non-partisan basis, the

model code of conduct would not apply and affect

it in any manner.
The AG informed the

court that the state gov-

ernment would not take

advantage of the loss of

time due to the issue of

the interim order, by seek-

ing advancement of conduct of polls and also

would not move earth and

heaven in case of the sin-

gle judge's earlier order

He assured to cooperate with the State Election

Commission to stick to

the schedule and hold

elections as indicated by

It may be mentioned that

being vacated.

the court.

THE FORMER-MP also made sensational comments on religious conversions. He said nothing was wrong with religious conversions. Some upper caste Hindus adopted a "touch me not" attitude and kept the downtrodden sections away from the social mainstream. Now these poor people are turning to Christianity.

the country and this will damage the image of the country at the global level too. Due to the Hindu culture and its philosophy and principles and the preachings of Swamy Vivekananda, India has a good image in the world. though Muslims and Christians ruled the coun-

try for many years. He said the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to implement the "Hindutva" agenda. The ex-MP also made sensational comments on to worship Hindu gods.

State Election Commission

claims single judge has erred

religious conversions. He said nothing was wrong with religious conversions. Some upper caste Hindus adopted a "touch me not" attitude and kept the downtrodden sections away from the social mainstream. Now these poor people are turning to Christianity," he said.

Arunkumar also said, "Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is a true Christian and there is nothing wrong if he went to Rishikesh or Haridwar

festival. Jagan said that the festival of Sankranti was a symbol of our culture and traditions, of the love we have towards our villages, the respect we give to the farmers and of the arts unique

JAGAN, GOV.

WISH FOR

SANKRANTI

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

and Governor Biswab

husan Harichandan wishes the very best to

the Telugu people living worldwide on the auspi-cious Makara Sankranti

CS ABOUT ITS DECISION

From Page 1

SEC INFORMS

After removing Vani Mohan as commission secretary, Ramesh Kumar also wrote a letter to Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das informing that he has relieved her from her post and mentioned: "circumstances that warranted for such an action"

Incidentally, just on Monday, the SEC had dismissed G.V. Sai Prasad, a senior func-tionary of State Election Commission of the joint director rank on charges of indiscipline and breach the poll body's Code of Conduct.

TD accuses YSRC over diverting Endowment funds

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12

TDP state spokesperson Anam Venkataramana Reddy came down heavily against the YSR Congress government for diverting the Endowment department funds meant for temples to various welfare schemes.

To justify his claim, he produced Government Orders 733, 108, 145, 441, and 593 related to the transfer of crores of rupees from endowment wing and minorities wing to different schemes including Amma Vodi.

Reminding that endowment revenue is from the lands and properties donated by devout to the temples, he said that the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has no right to divert funds of the department for any other purpose except tem-ples and their development

The TDP leader alleged that Jaganmohan Reddy has been targeting funds earmarked for Hindu temples to keep up prom-ises he made during his Padayatra. He alleged that the CM is ignoring various strictures passed by the Supreme Court and the High Court against the use of funds of endowments depart-

CHRISTIAN LEADERS RESIGN FROM TD OVER **NAIDU'S REMARKS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

Representatives Telugu Desam Christian cell on Tuesday submitfrom membership of the party objecting to comments of former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu against their com-

"Chandrababu Naidu and TD leaders should prove their allegations about Christians organis ing religious conversions in AP," demanded community leaders belonging to TD after meeting at a private hotel ijayawada.

Speaking on their behalf to media, TD Christian cell president Y. Praveen Kumar under-lined that the TD chief's comments have "shocked" the community's pastors and laity.

ment except for propagating Hindu dharma and maintenance

Burn anti-farm GOs in Bhogi fire: Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

Telugu Desam Party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu has called upon people to burn in Bhogi fire all YSRC government's antifarmer GOs, which have led to over 1,779 farmers committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a video conference with party coordinators and in-charges of parliamentary and assembly segments, Naidu pointed out that the Jagan government had promised to pay ₹12,500 under Rythu Bharosa, but paid only half of it.

Further, the government is trying to wash its hands of free power by fixing meters for electric motors used by farmers. He alleged that the ruling party has cheated farmers to the tune of ₹21,000 crore.

As a mark of protest, the TD chief wanted people to make a Bhogi bonfire of all anti-farmer GOs including those

related to fixing motors on farm pump sets, Sunna Vaddi scheme, caste-based division of cultivators, and diversion of zero budget natural farming funds.

Naidu a ccused Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of making tall promises before elections. "But after becoming the Chief Minister, he has turned into a betrayer of farmers," he stated.

The TD chief said the

CM was being cruel towards Amaravati farmers and labourers who have been agitating on the streets since nearly 400 days. blamed He

Mohan Reddy of breaching the trust farmers who had parted with their valuable ancestral lands for establishing the capital city of AP at Amaravati. But now, over 30,000 Amaravati families have no choice but to continue their prolonged protests due to lack of crops, income and livelihood.

SEC Ramesh seeks Gov's help for holding GP polls

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

Commissioner (SEC) N. Ramesh Kumar called on Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan on Tuesday. The SEC briefed the latter about the latest developments pertaining to conduct of the gram panchayat polls in February.

Ramesh Kumar reportedly sought that the Governor direct the AP government that it enable State Election Commission in going already announced.

Election State Commissioner reportedly informed Biswabhusan Harichandan over the hurdles he has been facing in conducting the gram panchayat polls in four pĥases in February. informed

Governor that the State government has challenged SEC's election proceedings in the High Court and got suspension of the commission's order. Ramesh Kumar pointed

ahead with conduct of out to Biswabhusan polls as per the schedule Harichandan that though Harichandan that though a single judge had ordered suspension of the election proceedings, the same has been challenged before a division bench. The bench has posted the case for hearing by a regular bench on January 18.

It has to be seen whether the Governor intervenes into the issue and resolves what appears to have become a prestige issue between the state government and SEC over whether or not the gram panchayat polls should be held.

Govt may turn a blind eye to cockfights

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy greets Hima-

chal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya at a Star

hotel in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

on Monday, soon after

vacation bench of Justice

M. Ganga Rao issued an

interim order suspending

the SEC's election pro-

ceedings to conduct gram

panchayat polls, the SEC

appealed against the

order before the division

It argued that the order

of the vacation judge was

From Page 1

According to sources, a huge ground was being readied in Kesanakurru Konaseema. Two prominent communities are participating in the cockfight on Wednesday and Thursday. A community from Konaseema area another from Kakinada will reach the village to participate in

the traditional sport. They are reportedly planning 20 contests a day and the betting range may be between ₹10,000 and ₹3

Many communities will

go for co-betting with bigwig punters. Cockfight grounds are being prepared at Kandrakota, Vetlapalem, G. Medapadu, Madhavapatnam, Achampet in limited num-

A general feeling is that the government may allow cockfights as freely this time as in the past. But, the government is still vigorously campaigning against the blood-letting sport. "The Telugu Desam and the YSRC are conducting cockfights separately. This is fine. The government is implementing welfare schemes without

political bias. Hence, why should we create any hindrance to the TD cadre visa-vis organising cockfights," a former MLA of the YSRC reasoned.

- BY ARRANGEMENT

contrary to settled princi-

ples of law and facts of

the case and maintained

that the judge erred in

suspending the election notification.

the election process was

set in motion, it could

not be justified to inter-

fere with the election

The SEC said that once

He said no government can stop the cockfight as it is a matter of prestige to local leaders. "Local body elections would be held this year. If the government does not support this traditional sport, the ruling party may face reverses in the elections," he

Some ruling party workers in Undi constituency met their party leader and asked about the govern-

ment stand on cockfights The leader assured them that this may be allowed for three days and the cadre need not worry over this in West Godavari dis-

Meanwhile, demand for cock-knives' has increased. Many of these knives had been seized by the police in East and West Godavari districts in the past 20 days as part of a drive against cockfight sport. Now, price of the knives has gone up. Gamblers playing cards, Gundata and others are also getting ready to go places for the cockfight

State waits for Centre's advice

From Page 1

Meanwhile, health authorities are making arrangements to dispatch vaccine from the state facility storage Gannavaram to regional centres at Kurnool, Kadapa, Guntur and Visakhapatnam. From there they will be sent to district vaccine centres and to 1.659 vaccine centres set up all over the

expected by Tuesday night. Until their dispatch, the 4.77 lakh doses of Covishield will remain at the State Vaccine Facility Storage Gannavaram," the offi-A senior health official cial added.

said, "We are awaiting guidelines from the Centre on dispatch of

Covid-19 vaccine to vari-

ous sites in Andhra

Pradesh for administra-

tion to identified health

These guidelines are

care workers.

SHORT TAKES

AP RECORDS 197 COVID CASES, TWO DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12

Andhra Pradesh registered 197 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities issued Covid-19 bulletin on Tuesday reporting that out of 40,986 samples tested, 197 per-sons were found infected with

Out of a total number of 1,23,96,593 samples tested so far, 8,85,234 persons were found infected with Covid-19 and of them, 8,75,690 were recovered while 2,411 are active with the virus.

Among the new Covid-19 infections, Krishna registered the highest number of 49 followed by 32 in Chittoor, 31 in Guntur, 19 in East Godavari, 15 in Visakhapatnam, 14 in Kadapa, seven each in Srikakulam and West Godavari, six each in Anantapur and Nellore, five in Prakasam and three each in Kurnool and Vizianagaram.

ENGINEERING STUDENT DIES BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, JAN, 12

An engineering student dies by suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her residence at Yerrampalli in Nallacheruvu mandal of Anantapur district as she was in "depression".

Sources said Aswani was doing her B.Tech at a private engineering college in Puttaparthi mandal. She came home for Sankranti holidays. She resorted to the extreme step after her parents left for work in nearby agriculture

A suicide note has been found stating that Aswani had been highly depressed and nobody is responsible for her suicide.

Nallacheruvu police have registered a case and shifted her body to Kadiri Government Hospital for post-mortem.

KARNATAKA MAN DROWNED IN HANDRI-NEEVA

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12

A resident of Karnataka state drowned in the Handri-Neeva canal near Patrapalli village in V. Kota mandal of Chittoor district after an accidental fall Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Srinivasulu of Venkatapuram in Karnataka. The incident came to light when some passersby noticed

the body on Tuesday morning.
The police led by V. Kota CI Yellama Raju and SI Mahesh rushed to the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem.

CLASSIFIEDS

EDUCATIONAL CAREER/ENTRANCE COURSES

ONE-SITTING Fasttrack:- Graduations (ÅII), Post-Graduations (AII), PG Diplomas, Polytechnic

Diplomas, Secondary (10th) & Senior Secondary (12th), Provided Online results & Online verifications, Eligible for Private & Abroad. Ph:9912540011, 7337291133, www.hyderc.com (A/2021/IC00094)

DISTANCE EDUCATION

CONTACT FOR NCTE-Recognised B.Ed./M.Ed. No Advance Fee. Only For Educational Consultants. **Students** Please no call. Contact regarding any Educational Problem/ Guidance. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi, Email:shikshabharti88@yahoo.com 9519759663, 9 9 1 5 1 0 3 7 8 1 (HYMM/2021/C05705)

NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to

Selfie belief



Students take a selfie with the Swami Vivekananda Statue at Ramakrishna Mission during the National Youth Day Colebrations on the heach road in Visakhanatnam on Tuesdav. — K. MURALIKRISHNA

NRIs' Ayyappa Deeksha in US

Temples consecrated idols of Ayyappa

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12

Hundreds of Ayyappa devotees with roots in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana state, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka and living in the USA are observing the 41 days of arduous Deeksha withstanding the sub-zero freezing temperatures.

Clad in their black attire, the devotees per-formed Ayyappa bhajans at temples in the US, to amazement onlookers. Several Hindu temples have con-Several secrated the idols of Ayyappa to facilitate the devotees of the Naishtika Brahmachari to worship him and offer Irumudi on completion

of the Vratham. at Maryland, Missouri, Tampa, and Houston have built replicas of the holy 18 steps as in Sabarimala, enabling devotees to carry the Irumudi and scale the steps with great fervour.

Founder of Sri Satyanarayana Swamy temple at Atlanta, Naga Ravikumar Medicherla, said that they had installed the Ayyappa idol in 2015 on devotees' request. "Ayyappa devotees in the US had an unhindered and satisfying Deeksha this year owing to the work from home and Covid restric-

As many as 200 devo-



Devotees are seen witnessing Abhishekam to Lord Ayyappa at his s,hrine in Atlanta, Georgia State, USA.

IT professionals, and 20 of their kids observed Deeksha this year as they were working from home and attending online classes, respec-tively," said Ravi-kumar hailing from Hyderabad.

During Deeksha, the devotees performed Padi Puja (Puja to 18 steps) and, on the second Saturday of each month, and, at the Ayyappa shrine in Atlanta.

Speaking to this newspaper, Balaji Lokanathan said that he and 20 devotees had formed a core group of volunteers to help the temple administration perform special rituals at the temple. Their team was instrumental in designing the sanctum sanctorum Ayyappa shrine

gang. Sharing the infor-

mation to the media per-

sons in Pileru in Chit-

toor district, Circle

Inspector Murali Kris-

hna said enhancing the

surveillance on temples

following the recent attack on holy places

helped them to nab the

He said that they have

rounded off the accused

following a raid after

receiving information

over some digging activ-

ity for hidden treasure

in an isolated area.

gang.

They also pay special attention to celebrate tees, most of whom are

festivals such as Vishu, Sankranti (Makara), puja and ritual in Irumudi December apart from Pushpabhishekam.

He said that near devotees go to Sabarimala from Atlanta every year after observing 41 days Deeksha to see the lord in all his glory, but Covid foiled their plans this year.

Interestingly a core team member, Rama Iyyer, trekked to Sabarimala from Coimbatore, a distance of 200 km. inspiring Balaji, Saravanan Vadivelu, Raghupati and Subhramanyam to join him. Balaji said that their

ambition is to gather necessary funds and resources to build a standalone Ayyappa temple with 18 steps in Atlanta in the near

RED SANDERS PILERU POLICE WORTH ₹12 **NAB 5 TREASURE LAKH SEIZED** HUNTERS

Atlanta.

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12

Red sanders Anti-Smuggling Taskforce team has apprehended a red sander smuggler and seized 10 red sander logs in the forest opposite KMM College located on Mangapuram – Pileru Road near Tirupati on

Tuesday.
The team led by Reserve Sub Inspector Vasu and Divisional Officer Narasimha Rao stumbled upon the smuggler while combing towards Srivari Mettu from Kalyani Dam before

dawn on Tuesday.
The smuggler identified as Chintara Kasi, 35,
of Polur Taluk in Tiruvannamalai district Tamil Nadu was caught while carrying the logs from the forest along with ten woodcutters. However, the others managed to escape in the cover of darkness.

GOLD, SILVER RECOVERED FROM THIEVES

DC CORRESPONDENT DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12 NELLORE, JAN. 12

The Pileru Police apprehended a gang of treas-A police team led by ure hunters who had the DSP of Crime Branch A. Sivaji dug up ancient temples Raju, CI's Baji John in Gudipala, Chandragiri, Yerpedu, Nagari, Saida, D. Jagan-Pileru and Rompicherla mohan Rao, Nawamandals of Chittoor dis-Vema Reddy and Nellore rural CI Srinivasa trict apart from some shrines in Nellore and Reddy Kadapa districts. arrested The police seized two three persons autorickshaws and five involved in housemobile phones from the breaking cases, on

Tuesday. The habitual offenders identified as Shaik Karimullah, 34, Boggavarapu Jayapal, 32, and Shak Khajavali, 30, of Jakir Hussein Nagar in Nellore. valuables The

recovered from the accused include 204.024 grams of gold and 250 grams of silver worth ₹10.4 lakh, SP said. He appreciated the

probe team.

CAR DRIVER KILLED, TWO INJURED IN **ROAD ACCIDENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JAN. 12

A car driver was killed and two others injured critically when the car rammed into the National Highway No 16 at Veerampalli Crossroads in Manubolu mandal of Nellore district on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as SK Afzal Khan,

25, of Tirupati and the injured as Praneeth and Suseelamma.

Khan was pursuing a degree course and working

Obesity among students stitched for these schools.

during the year-long lock-down has emerged as a serious worry for parents, also as they need to buy new outfits for their children, including uni-

More eating,

no exercise in

lockdown days

A Class X private school student in Anantapur had a waist size of 39 inches prior to the lockdown, but within a few months the size swelled to 43 inches. The parents say they purchased more than 10 pairs of outfits including two pairs of uniforms for the student. Similar situations arose for students and parents across the country.

DC CORRESPONDENT

Uniform-making and supplying agent Rajesh of Anantapur said a corpo-rate school recently start-ed classes for Class-IX and X. It ordered new sets of uniforms in bulk for all students. "I was shocked to collect measurements of children who have all become fatter or grown in size," he said and added at least four students were found

having a waist size of 43.
Parents of a Class IX
girl student from a private school in Anantapur purchased more than 15 new dresses for her, saying the old dresses did not fit anymore. "This is an inevitable situation and I had to spend more than ₹17,000 to get new clothes for my daughter excluding what I spent by way of ordering new school uniforms," a mother stated on condition of anonymity. She confided that the old clothes were donated to the granddaughter of her housemaid.

Private schools make uniforms for their students via dress supply

The online classes also added to the problem of

agents. The agents are now getting new clothes

"Children and teens are seriously struggling with obesity due to lack of minimum physical exer-cise during the lockdown home-stay period, when they also ate more," Dr Ravi Srinivas, general physician and obesities specialist, observed. Children also took a

fancy to search for new types of food and cooking tips on Google during this period, and engaged in cooking experiments as time was hanging heavy on them. This resulted in obesity among many of them. Among many, noted writer Yendamuri Veerendranath had cautioned children against eating food while watching TV as the intake would be more and lead to obesity and other physical disorders.

The online classes also added to the problem of obesity. A study revealed the children ate extra food with rich fats and were sleeping an extra two hours per day. They spent nearly five hours a day with phone, computer and TV screens. This dra dramatically

increased their consumption of junk food in addition to routine traditional

lem of obesity.

Jayachandra, correspondent of Radha School of Learning in Anantapur, said his institution was planning to provide physical exercise to students by following Covid lockdown regulations so as to help students overcome the prob-

ISRO TO ADOPT OVER 100 ATAL TINKERING LABS

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Space and Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog, announced that Isro would adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across the country, out of which 45 ATLs were adopted in phase 1 on January 11, 2021.

The remaining 55 ALTs will be adopted soon, to promote education in STEM, space education and space technology related innovations for school students.

An Atal Tinkering Lab provides activity-based learning in the identified schools across the country where young minds can shape their ideas for societal problems.

It also fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, enabling over 3 Million+ students between VI to XII standards to according to the students. dards to acquire a problem solving, tinkering and innovative mindset.

The decision was taken during a meeting in Bangalore.

The participants include CEO, Niti Aayog, Amtiabh Kant, Secretary, DOS – Dr K Sivan, Mission Director, Amtiabh Ramanan; Director, Building Office, Isro HQ – DR P V Venkitakrishnan and a video message from Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog -Dr Rajiv Kumar.

Dr Sivan expressed hope that their initiative would help promote innovation and the spirit of experiential learning among the school kids. He said that students

involved in these ATLs would be invited as guests to witness future launches Sriharikota.

He added that the initiative's idea is to give students the direction to pursue their space dreams as a part of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.



MYADAM KISHAN RAO

DOB: 10-02-1936

DOD: 12-01-2021

With deep sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of our beloved







The light which used to show the right path of living, taught us the aim of life is sacrifice. After enlightening us, the light has suddenly disappeared. We pay homage to this noble soul.

> Inserted by: **Family & Staff**

Final rites on 13-01-2021 Wednesday, 11:00am at Mahaprasthanam Swarg Vatika, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.



SHORT TAKES

EC DISCUSSES SECURITY FOR STATE POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday held a meeting with the Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla to discuss require ment and availability of the Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) during the upcoming Assembly polls in several states.

Other related issues, including law and order situation, transfer posting of officials were also discussed

Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be held this year.

The term for Tamil Nadu Assembly ends on May 24; Kerala June 1; West Bengal May 30;

Puducherry June 8; and Assam May 31.

The ECI had in December issued an advisory to states saying in order to ensure from the control of the order to ensure free and fair election, states should ensure that the officers directly connected with conduct of elections in an election going state/UT are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period.

INDIAN ARMY IS EVER READY, **SAYS NARAVANE**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

Army chief General M.M. Naravane asserted on Tuesday that Indian army is "alert and ever-ready to meet any challenge" from China and there has been no reduction in Chinese deployment in friction areas in Eastern Ladakh.

"We are prepared to hold our ground as long it takes to achieve our national goals and objec-tives," said Army chief. "It is not only the Eastern Ladakh but we

have maintained a high state of alertness all along the Northern borders as of now, keeping the threat perception in mind. We have gone in for a winter posture and deployment,

he said. Gen Naravane said that not much should be read in Chinese withdrawing troops from depth areas in the Tibetan plateau that were there for training. "There has been no strength decrease in either on the Chinese side or our side as far as the friction points are concerned," he said.

He said that all logistics aspects have been taken care of, whether it is clothing, ration or habitat and "as a result of all this, our operational preparedness is of a very high order and the morale of the troops is high." "We keep saying that we are prepared to meet all challenges. But last year we had to walk the talk and actually rise up to the occasion and show that we are indeed prepared to meet all these challenges," he said.

SC panel on laws pro-govt: Farmers

Unions say they never demanded the SC form a committee to resolve impasse

New Delhi, Jan. 12: presser. The farmer leader Agitating farmer unions on Tuesday disapproved of the demanded the apex court Tuesday disapproved of the committee appointed by the Supreme Court to break the deadlock over the acts and said they will continue their protest against the three legislations

Addressing a press conference at Singhu Border here, Union leaders claimed the members of the committee are "pro-government", and asserted they will not appear before it.

The Supreme Court earlier in the day stayed the implementation of the controversial farm laws till further orders and set up a four-member committee to the impasse between the Centre and the farmer unions protesting at Delhi's borders over the legislations.

'The members of the SCappointed committee are not dependable as they have been writing on how agri laws are pro-farmer. We will continue our agitation," farmer leader Balbeer Balbeer Singh Rajewal told the

form a committee to resolve the impasse over the laws, alleging the Central government is behind these developments.
"We are against the com-

mittee on principle. It is the government's way to distract attention from the protest," he said. The framer leaders said the Supreme Court can repeal the farm laws suo motu. Another farmer leader Darshan Singh said they

will not appear before any committee, adding Parliament should discuss and resolve this issue. "We don't want any external committee," he said. However, the farmer leaders said they would attend the January 15 meeting with the government.

The four members of the committee are BKU president Bhupinder Singh Mann, Shetkeri Sangathana (Maharashtra) president Anil Ghanwat, South Asia Director for International

Food Policy Research Institute Pramod Kumar Joshi, and agriculture economist Ashok Gulati.

During the hearing, the top court sought the cooperation of the protesting farmers and made it clear that no power can prevent it from setting up a committee to resolve the impasse.

Thousands of farmers, mostly from Haryana and Punjab, have been protesting at several border points of Delhi since November 28 last year, demanding a repeal of the three laws and a legal guarantee to the minimum support price (MSP) system for their crops. Farmer leaders welcomed the SC's order to stay the implementation of three farm laws on Tuesday, but said they would not call off their protest until the legislations are repealed.

The Sankyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of around 40 protesting farmer unions, has called a meeting later in the day to decide the next course of

All states to receive vaccine by Jan. 14

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

The central government has started procurement and transportation of the Covid-19 vaccines for the nationwide inoculation drive that begins from January 16. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said on Tuesday that the entire doses of 1.10 crore of Oxford vaccine Covishield by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and 55 lakh of Covaxin from Bharat Biotech — will by January 14 reach all states and

Union Territories. Bhushan said already 54.72 lakh doses of the vaccines have reached designated national and state-level stores till Tuesday afternoon. He clarified that apart from the ordered vaccines, Bharat Biotech is also giving 16.5 lakh doses

of its Covaxin for free to the government as a good-

will gesture. "55 lakh doses of Covaxin are being procured from Bharat Biotech. For 38.5 lakh doses the price is ₹295 each, excluding taxes. Bharat Biotech is providing 16.5 lakh doses for free as a goodwill gesture which ultimately brings the cost of Covaxin down to ₹206 per dose," Bhushan said.

The 1.1 crore doses of

Covishield vaccine are being procured from SII at the cost of ₹200 per dose, excluding taxes. More vaccines will be ordered in the coming days. Covaxin will also be supplied to Brazil and other countries.

NITI Aayog member (health) Dr. V.K. Paul said both Covishield and Covaxin have been tested on a large number of people and "are the safest with

no risk of any significant side effect."

The health secretary said that four other vaccine candidates by Zydus Cadila, Russia's Sputnik V, Biological E and Gennova are also in advanced stage of clinical trials and once they are cleared by the Drugs Controller General of India, they will be available to people.

As the first shipment of

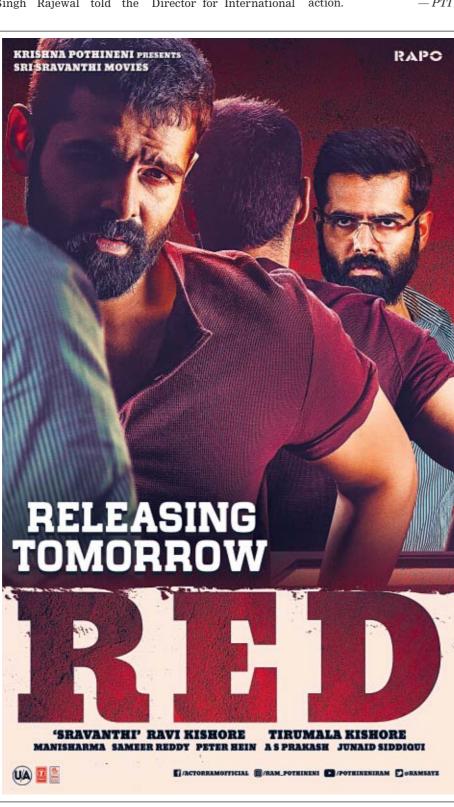
the vaccines rolled out, SII CEO Adar Poonawala said it was a historic and emotional moment for his team and he hoped that the vaccine reached everyone this year. Covishield vaccines were initially brought to four

Government Medical Stores Depots — at Chennai, Karnal, Kolkata and Mumbai — and then dispatched to different regional medical stories in

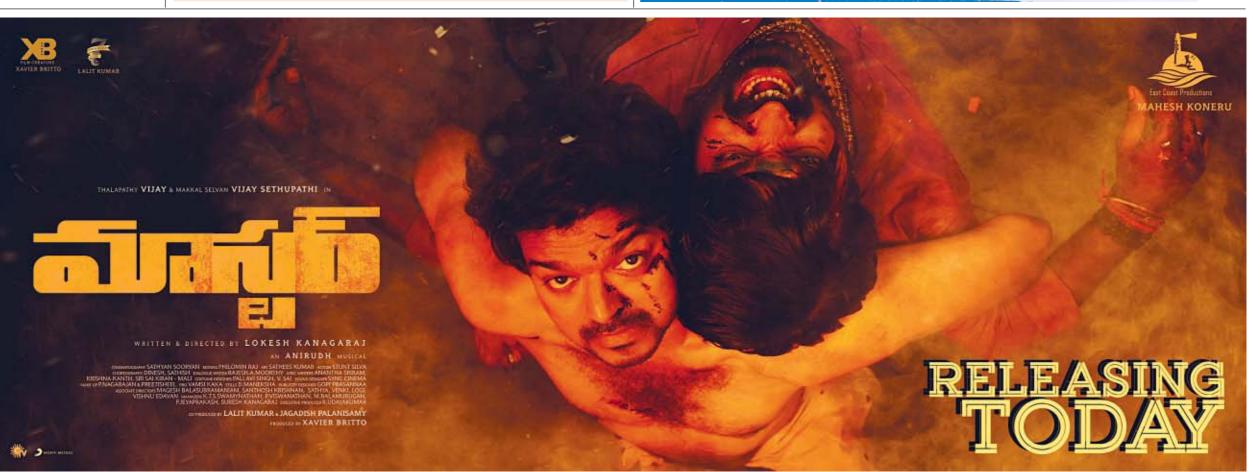
states. Bhushan said some big states have multiple stores. For instance, Uttar Pradesh has nine, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have four each, Kerala has three, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan

two each. Meanwhile, the Health Secretary said the Covid-19 situation is still worrisome across the world and even though daily cases are declining in India. The official said the effectiveness of the vaccines can be observed only after 14 days, till then people must maintain Covid-appropriate behavior and follow protocols like masks, distancing

etc. The country on Tuesday reported 12,584 fresh cases and 167 new deaths in the last 24 hours. This was the lowest in the last seven







MINE BLAST: EFFORTS ON TO FREE 22 CHINESE

Beijing, Jan. 12: Rescuers are seeking to free 22 Chinese workers trapped underground for more than two days following an explosion at a partially built gold mine in the country's east, state media reported on Tuesday.

Some 300 rescuers were seeking to clear obstructions to reach the workers, whose condition remains unknown, the reports said. The mine in the eastern province of Shandong was under construction at the time of the explosion. The cause of the blast has not been announced.

Mine managers did not report the explosion to authorities in the city of Yantai until Monday evening.

China's mining industry focused on coal used to be the world's deadliest, suffering more than 5,000 fatalities a year from explosions, floods and gas leaks.

2 CAPITOL COPS SUSPENDED AFTER ATTACK

Washington, Jan. 12: Democratic Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio says two US Capitol Police officers have been suspended as a result of their actions during last week's attack on the Capitol. Ryan told reporters on Monday that one of the officers took a selfie with someone and the second officer put on a "Make America Great Again" hat. He says of the latter that the "interim chief determined that to be qualifying for immediate suspension". Thou sands of pro-Donald Trump insurrectionists stormed the Ca pitol, forcing lawmakers to flee and hide. Five people died, inc

luding a Capitol Police officer. The congressman says Capitol Police are looking at everybody involved that could have potentially facilitated the incursion "at a big level or small level in any way". Capitol Police did not immediately reply to a request for more details.

US Acting Homeland Security chief quits

Wolf resigns over the storming of the US Capitol by outgoing President Donald Trump's supporters

Washington, Jan. 12: Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, has resigned over the storming of the US Capitol by outgoing President Donald Trump's supporters. His resignation comes amidst Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) warning of a nationwide "armed protests" being planned in the run-up to President-elect Joe Biden's January 20

inauguration. Wolf — whose department oversees numerous federal law enforcement bodies and also is in charge of security for Biden's inauguration ceremony — said last week that he was staving in his position until the end of Trump's administration on January 20.

"I am saddened to take this step, as it was my intention to serve the department until the end of this administration," Wolf wrote in an email to the staff of the Department of Homeland Security on Monday. "Unfortunately, this action is warranted by recent events, including the ongoing and merit-less court rulings regarding the validity of my authority as Acting Secretary.

These events and concerns increasingly serve to divert attention and resources away from the important work of the department in this critical time of a transition of power," he said. His resignation comes into effect from

Monday midnight.
Peter Gaynor, Administrator of Federal Emergency Management Agency, replaces Wolf as DHA acting secretary for the remaining duration of the Trump administration.

He is the third Cabinet member of the Trump administration to resign after the January 6 incident that resulted in the death of five people, including a

'Armed protests' planned at **Biden names two PIOs** all capitols, Washington: FBI to Office of WH Counsel

Washington, Jan. 12: to *The Associated Press*. The FBI is warning of Investigators belie plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitals and in Washington in the days leading up to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, stoking fears of more bloodshed after last week's deadly siege at the

An internal FBI bulletin warned that, as of Sunday, the nationwide protests may start later this week and extend through Biden's January 20 inauguration, according to two law enforcement officials who read details of the memo

police officer. Education

Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Transportation

Secretary Elain Chao resi-

Thompson, Chairman of

the Committee on Homel-

and Security, in a state-

ment said for months Wolf

has been serving illegally in his position. "So the timing of his resignation

from the Department tod-

ay is questionable. He has

chosen to resign during a

time of national crisis and

when domestic terrorists

may be planning addition-

al attacks on our govern-

ment. Unlike others, he is

apparently not leaving the

Trump administration on

"If it is true he is resign-

ing because of recent Fe-

deral court decisions, then

it is an admission that his

policy decisions are inde-

ed invalid. Under this sce-

nario, Ken Cuccinelli

must also resign," Thom-

pson said. Wolf joins a growing exo-

principle," he said.

Bennie

gned last week.

Congressman

Investigators believe some of the people are members of some extremist groups, the officials said. The bulletin was first reported by ABC. "Armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the US Capitol from 17 January through 20 January, the bulletin said, accord-

ing to one official. The officials were not authorised to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. The FBI issued at least

one other bulletin — thev go out to law enforcement nationwide on the topic before the riots last week

On December 29, it warned of the potential for armed demonstrators targeting legislatures, the se-cond official said. Army General Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Gua rd Bureau, told reporters Monday that the Guard is also looking at any issues across the country. The riots followed weeks of online calls for violence in Washington in the waning days of Donald Trump's presidency.

AFTER FROSTY FEW DAYS, PENCE, TRUMP APPEAR TO REACH DÉTENTE

Washington, Jan. 12: President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence appear to have come to a détente after nearly a week of silence. anger and finger-pointing. The two met Monday evening in the Oval Office and had a "good conversation," according to a senior administration official. It was their first time speaking since last Wednesday, when Trump incit-

dus of officials in the final days of the Trump administration. US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger, first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham, White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Matthews, White House social secretary Rickie Niceta, US special envoy for Norted his supporters to storm the Capitol building as Pence was presiding over certification of November's election results.

During their conversati on, Trump and Pence pledged to continue to work for "the remainder of their term" — a seeming acknowledgement that the vice president will not pursue efforts to try to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump. -AP

hern Ireland Mick Mulvaney, acting chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors Tyler Goodspeed and deputy assistant secretary for intelligence and security at the Commerce Department John Costello are among the officials who have resigned over the Capitol violence.

Philippines may

tap meat, fish

freezers for vaccine

The Philippines is preparing cold storage for Covid-19 vaccines, with government telling

industry groups with

facilities for storing meat

and fish to be ready to

help in keeping and dis-

tributing the shots.
The Philippine cold

chain industry expects revenues to hit 20 billion

pesos (\$416 million) by

Local cold-chain logis-tics operators can help dis-

tribute the vaccines

throughout the archipela-

go, as low-temperature

storage facilities are most-

ly in cities, said Anthony Dizon, president of the

Cold Chain Association of

the Philippines. The group

is waiting for the govern-

ment's final decision on

which shots to buy, he

—Bloomberg

end-2023

ANDREO CALONZO

Washington, Jan. 12: US President-elect Joe Biden on Monday named two Americans

Reema Shah and Neha Gupta — to the Office of the White House Counsel. Shah, who had served on the debate preparation team for Biden on the Bid-

en-Harris Campaign, has been named as Deputy Associate Counsel while Gupta, currently an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for the Biden-Harris Transition, has been named as Associate Counsel in the Office of the White House Counsel. Shah was an associate at Latham & Watkins and a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General at the Department of Justice. She served as a law clerk to Justice Elena Kagan on the US Supreme Court and Judge Sri Srinivasan on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

Originally from New Jersey, Shah is a graduate of Harvard College, Cambridge University and Yale Law School.

On the other hand, Gupta served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, where she was general counsel to several city agencies, litigated constitutional and statutory challenges to city laws and administrative decisions, and participated in the office's affirmative public

protection advocacy. Previously, Gupta clerked for Judge Michael Daly Hawkins of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Richard Seeborg of the US District Court for the Northern

INDIAN-AMERICANS IN BIDEN ADMIN

1. Neera Tanden, Director Domestic Policy Advisor Management and Budget 2. Dr Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General 3. Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General

Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Advisor 5. Gautam Raghavan, Deputy Director of the Office of Presidential

Personnel 6. Bharat Ramamurti, Deputy Director for the National Economic Council for Financial Reform and Consumer Protection 7. Vinay Reddy, Director of Speechwriting

Kosoglu, Rohini

District of California. A New York native born to Indian immigrants, Gupta is a graduate of

Harvard College and Stanford Law School. Biden also named Samiyyah Ali as Deputy named Associate Counsel, Funmi

Olorunnipa Badejo as Associate Counsel, Tona Boyd as Special Counsel, Megan Ceronsky as Associate Counsel, Martine Cicconi as Associate Counsel, Sean Crotty as Associate Counsel and Ashley Deeks as Associate Counsel and Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council.

These individuals will, under the direction of White House Counsel Dana Remus, help restore faith in the rule of law and the accountability of government institutions, the transition said.

to the Vice President Shanthi Kalathil, Coordinator Democracy and Human Rights

10. Mala Adiga, Policy Director to Dr Jill Biden 11. Tarun Chhabra, Senior Director for Technology and National Security 12. Sumona Guha, Senior

Director for South Asia Aisha Partnerships Manager Office of Digital Strategy Manager, 14. Sabrina Singh, Deputy Press Secretary, Office of the Vice President

15. Vedant Patel, Assistant Press Secretary

POMPEO HEADS TO EUROPE ON HIS FINAL TRIP

Washington, Jan. 12: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will make his final trip abroad as America's top diplomat this week, the State Department said Monday. With just a week before presidentelect Joe Biden is inaugurated, the department said Pompeo will visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday. While there, Pompeo plans to meet with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Belgium's foreign minister. He will then return to Washington, capping foreign travel for his two-anda-half years as President Donald Trump's secretary

FINANCIAL

DECCAN CHRONICLE | NELLORE | WEDNESDAY | 13 JANUARY 2021

quick

INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	49517.11	0.50
Nifty 50	14563.50	0.54
S&P 500*	3,803.94	0.11
Dollar (₹)	73.25	0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	86.01	-0.05
Euro (₹)	81.51	-0.05
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,946▲297	0.60
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.43	1.38
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.931	0.12
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.168	0.034
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

Karnataka Bank Q3 profit rises 10% to ₹135 cr

Private sector lender Karnataka Bank reported a 10 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 135.38 crore for the December quarter on account of a decline in bad loans. The Mangaloreheadquartered bank had reported a net profit of Rs 123.14 crore in the year-ago period. Total income declined to Rs 1,868.62 crore from Rs 1,993.68 crore. The gross NPAs eased to 3.16 per cent of assets from 4.99 per cent.



■ Only 40-57% of claim amounts reimbursed

Insurers go stingywith Covid claims

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, JAN. 12

Though the number of Covid-19 claims settled by non-life insurance companies has risen sequentially during the December quarter, the claim amount settled by them against the amounts claimed, has not increased in the same proportion. This indicates that policyholders are now paying a significant portion of the claim amount from their pockets owing to disagreements between hospitals and insurers on charges.

Sample this, during October to December 27, the total number of claims reported were 4.23 lakh, of these 83 per cent, or 3.51 lakh, claims were settled. However, in value terms, claims worth Rs 6,235.8 crore were reported, of which only 57 per cent, or Rs 3,578.50 crore were settled.

Similarly, during July to September 2020, there were 2.94 lakh Covid-19 related claims reported to insurers. Of these, 62 per cent, or 1.82 lakh, claims were settled. However, in terms of value, the reported claim amount was Rs Rs 4,629.30 crore, of which insurers settled claims worth Rs 1,842.3 crore, or a mere 40 per cent of the

reported claim amount. A senior official of an insurance company said, The pendency appears big (claims pending) because the Covid treatment is long drawn. Patients after discharge continue to remain in



Cadila aims to supply 150 mn doses

CHRIS KAY

Cadila Healthcare Ltd, a drugmaker working to develop an indigenous coronavirus vaccine, said it expects to supply between 100 million to 150 million doses of its candidate this year.

The Ahmedabad-based firm's ZyCoV-D vaccine was approved to comquarantine and use medicines for nearly two months after discharge and they submit the final

bills only after that." On policyholders bearing a part of the cost of treatment, the official said, "We have come across a few hospitals where the cost of the PPE kits worn by the medical staff is not equally distrib-

mence with final stage and it is recruiting 30,000 tests, according to a presother vaccines, and instead introduces the DNA sequence encoding the antigen. —Bloomberg

uted between all the patients in a ward but only to the insured patients in the ward. There are several items which are not payable by us and have been commu-

nicated to the hospitals." Take the case of N. Akhter, a 76-year old female who suffered from breathlessness due to Covid-19 infection. Her

human trials in December, volunteers for its phase 3 entation filed with the stock exchanges on Tuesday Cadila's plasmid DNA candidate doesn't use an infectious agent, like

> one-day bill in the intensive care unit of a top South Mumbai hospital was around Rs 33,000. Out of which, the insurer, however, did not pay Rs 5,318 charged for disposable gown, PPE kits, shoe cover and face mask and Rs 600 charged for resident doctor visits. So, the patient has to pay nearly Rs 6,000 per day from her pocket.

TATA CHEMICALS IN TALKS FOR ARCHEAN'S IND. SALT UNIT

BAIJU KALESH & P R SANJAI

Tata Chemicals Ltd is in advanced talks to acquire the industrial salt unit of Chennaibased Archean Group that could value the business at Rs 450 crore (\$61 million) at a minimum, according to people familiar with the matter.

The board of Tata Chemicals is set to discuss the potential offer as soon as this month, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private.

A representative for Archean declined to comment, while a representative Chemicals didn't provide any immediate

comment. The Archean unit, with a production capacity of 3 million tonnes, makes industrial salt used as an intermediary in the manufacturing of products from detergents, textile dyes to plastics and glass.

A potential deal could offer a reprieve to Archean, which has been struggling to service its debt obligations for the past two years. The company, founded in 1982, has businesses spanning from industrial salt, fertilisers to mining. In 2018, India Resurgence Fund, a JV between Bain Capital and Piramal Enter-prises invested \$156 million in Archean's marine chemical business.

Bloomberg

Amazon tells Sebi to suspend Future-RIL deal



SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 12

After receiving a validation for Singapore tribunal's interim award from Delhi High Court, Amazon has once again asked markets regulator Sebi to suspend the Future-Reliance deal. It has also asked the Sebi to instruct stock exchanges not to issue any approval letter to Future Retail.

In the letter dated

January 5, Amazon informed the regulator about the constitution of the arbitral tribunal by Singapore International Arbitration (SIAC) in the arbitration proceedings initiated by Amazon against inter alia FRL, Kishore Biyani and Rakesh Biyani. A three-member tribunal consisting of Singa-pore-an barrister Michael Hwang Albert van den Berg and Jan Paulsson have been formed at the

"We wish to highlight that in view of the consti-tution of the Arbitral Tribunal, the interim award passed by the Emergency Arbitrator

extended for the duration of the Arbitration Proceedings unless it is reconsidered/ modified/ vacated by the Arbitral Tribunal," Amazon said in the letter seen by Financial Chronicle.

Hence, Future Retail continues to be expressly injuncted and restrained by the interim award from taking in any steps furtherance...In October, Amazon had received an interim order from SIAC barring Future Retail from taking any step to dispose of or encumber its assets or issuing any securities to secure any funding from a restricted party.

Amazon wants the Sebi to take action by suspending review of the impugned transaction transaction (Future's with Reliance), and not granting any no-objection in relation to the same. It also wants the regulator to direct Indian stock exchanges not to issue any no-objection/ approval letter to FRL.

Amazon has been writing letters to regulators and stock exchanges from October 3 on this TAKES

Warner says sorry to Siraj and India

Sydney: Australian batting star David Warner on Tuesday con-demned the racist slurs hurled at Indian players, particularly pacer Mohammed Siraj, during the third Test here and said such behaviour by the specta-tors was not acceptable. Siraj and senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah were abused for two consecutive days by the crowd. Play was, in fact, halted on the fourth day for a few minutes after the Indian team complained to the umpires, which led to the expulsion of six spectators from the stands and an unreserved apology from Cricket Australia. "I'd also like to say sorry to @mohammedsirajofficial and the Indian team as racism, and abuse is not in any way acceptable or tolerated anywhere at any time, and I would expect better from our home crowd," Warner said in an instagram post. - PTI

Hyderabad win

second match

Hyderabad: Hyderabad defeated Odisha by 11 runs in the second round of their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament being played in Kolkata. Put in to bat, Hyderabad made a modest 153 for 8 with the help of knocks by Tilak Varma (44), Tanmay Agarwal (34) and Himalay Agarwal (22). Odisha were restricted to 147 for 4. Brief scores: Hyderabad 153/8 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 34, Tilak Varma 44, Himalay Agarwal 22, Suryakant Pradhan 3/34, Ankit Yadav 2/23) bt Odisha 147/4 in 20 overs (Govind Poddar 50, Subranshu Senapthi 43 n.o, Rajesh Dhuper 30 n.o, C. V. Milind 2/24, T. Ravi Teja 2/40). Points: Hyderabad

Printed and Published from Nellore by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronile Holdings Limited at PlotNo.527.Chemudugunta (Village), Venkatachalasatram (Mandal), Nellore. RNI Registration No.APENG/2003/11048 Phones: 2348581, 82 & 83, Fax:2348580 Grams: CHRONICLE. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

4, Odisha 0.

BAD START!

Sindhu, Praneeth lose on return to action in Thailand

Bangkok, Jan. 12: World champion P. V. Sindhu suf fered a shock defeat on her return to international badminton, losing in three games to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the opening round of Thailand Open Super 1000 event here on

Tuesday.
Months after the Covid19 pandemic disrupted the international calendar, Sindhu, seeded sixth, returned to action with a 21-16, 24-26, 13-21 defeat to world No.18 Blichfeldt in a 74-minute battle.

In the men's singles, world No.13 B. Sai Praneeth too suffered a straight game loss to Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen on his return to competition. Frontrunner to represent India at the Olympics, Praneeth went down 16-21,

10-21 to the world No.15. Earlier in the day, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy claimed a 21-11, 27-29, 21-16 win over the Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Widjaja.

However, the women's doubles pair of Ashwini and N. Sikki Reddy couldn't cross the opening hur-dle, going down 16-21, 7-21 to fourth seeded Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.
Sindhu made a good

start, opening up a 6-3 lead and never allowing her opponent an advantage, to take the opening game.

In the second game, the Indian once again moved 11-8 ahead but the Danish girl turned the tables at 15-14. After a neck-and-neck battle, it was Blichfeldt who showed better nerves to make a roaring come-



SAINA & PRANNOY CLEARED TO PLAY AFTER COVID TEST DRAMA

Bangkok, Jan. 12: Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and H.S. Prannoy were cleared to compete in the Thailand Open after they tested negative for Covid-19, invalidating their previous positive results that forced them out of the tournament hours earlier on a chaotic Tuesday.

the Badminton World Federation and Badminton Association of India confirmed the development. "Both Saina Nehwal and H.S. Prannoy have been cleared to participate in the ongoing Thailand Open after the

fourth-round tests reports confirmed that both shuttlers have been tested negative for Covid-19," BAI said in a statement.

The national body said it was possible after it took up the matter with BWF. "BAI have taken up the matter with topmost BWF officials to ensure if tests were negative, matches for respective players should be rescheduled and no walkover is given,' BAI added.

Earlier in the day, chaos gripped India's campaign when Saina was forced out following a positive

Srikanth miffed at poor treatment

"A doctor from the Covid-19 testing team is attending to Srikanth Kidambi. BWF is still awaiting a medical explanation from Badminton Association of Thailand and the Department of Disease Control as to the reasoning for the occur-rence," a BWF official

The BWF allowed the rest of India players to come to the venue and play but made it clear that 'no coaches, managers or other personnel from Team India" will be allowed. The BWF said other 'the entire Indian team has been categorised high by Thai health authorities.'

Arjun & Akshath best performers DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Leg-spinner G. Arjun and top order batsman P.
Akshath Reddy emerged
the top performers in
Tuesday's action in the
Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division three-day league matches.

Arjun took seven wickets while conceding just 48 runs for Balaaji CC against Charminar while Akshath hit 176 to help Income Tax take a first innings lead.

P. Saaketh Sai Ram (101) of Central Excise; Venkata Chaitanya (6/61) of Concorde; Amrith Yaday (6/13) and Aryan Cariappa (5/53) of Sportive; Apex's S. Vikranth (150 n.o) and Ranjith Kumar (126); N. Surya Teja (100 n.o) Jai Hanuman; Evergreen's G. Aniketh Reddy (5/30); Rahul Singh (5/35) of AOC; Zinda Tilismath's N. Anirudh Reddy (5/58); Ensconse's Md Junaid Ali (111) and P. Shiva (100); Osama Bin Wasim (5/44) of

Khalsa; and Nitin Sai Yadav (5/54) of Rohit XI were the other performers.

Brief scores (Day-2):
A-1 DIVISION (THREE-DAY)

■ R. Dayanand 251 in 75.4 overs & 3 for no loss in 2 overs vs Income Tax 395 in 80.1 overs (P. Akshath Reddy 176 — 152b, 15x4, 7x6, D. Swaroop Kumar 59, A. Vamshivardhan Reddy 49, Shiva Singh 42, M. A. Shanmukha 3/96)
■ Deccan Chronicle 421/7 in 90 overs vs Central Excise 242 in 63.2 overs (P. Saaketh Sal Pam 101 no. — 1424 Rv4 Saaketh Sai Ram 101 n.o — 142b, 8x4, 3x6, T. P. Anirudh 78, Md Abdul Adnan 4 /61, E. Vidyanand Reddy 3 /41) & 116/3 in 17 overs (Y. Chaitanya Krishna 55 batting, P. S. Chaitanya Reddy 38, E. Vidyanand Reddy 3/26) "Jai Hanuman 457/9 in 90 overs & 239/2 decl in 39.5 overs (Shashidhar Reddy 62, N. Surya Teja 100 n.o — 122b, 9x4, 1x6, Sai Purnanand Rao 51) vs BDL 120 in 34.1 overs (Harish 34, Thejodar 49, 1x6, Tay Land 1, 200 n.d. 120 n.d. 1 Irfan Khan 3 /25, Rohit Rayudu 4/21) & 14/1 in 2.5 overs.

Budding Star 482/8 in 90 overs

vs Union Bank of India 363/7 in 79 overs (Harsh Shankpal 95, Neeraj Bist 77, Arjun Yadav 56 n.o)

Concorde CC 123 in 47.5 overs & 149 in 34.3 overs (M. Radhakrishna 4/9) lost to Hyderabad Bottling 255



P. Saaketh N. Anirudh

B. Harshith 35, P. Praneeth Reddy 55, B. Akhilesh Reddy 30, Venkata Chaitanya 6/61 — 16-3-61-6) & 18/2 in 0.4 overs. Points: Hyderabad Bottling 6, Concorde 0.

Evergreen 53 in 18.5 overs & 288 in 39.3 overs (15hap. Sharma

in 39.3 overs (Ishan Sharma 72, Chandan Sahani 95, N. Anirudh Reddy 5/58 — 7.3-0-58-5) lost to Zinda Tilismath 160 in 60.2 overs (G. Aniketh Reddy 5/30 — 13.2-3-30-5) & 184/5 in 37.5 overs (Shashank Lokesh 90 n.o, Sai Survith Vaday 75. Suprith Yadav 35). **Points:** Zinda Tilismath 6, Evergreen 0.

AOC 113 in 36.1 overs & 297/4 in

■ AOC 113 in 36.1 overs & 297/4 in 40 overs (Amit Pachera 86, Shivam Tiwari 48, Sachin Shinde 58 n.o, G. Rahul Singh 48 n.o) vs Combined Districts 177 in 52.2 overs (Md Afreedi 46, Rahul Singh 5/35 — 15.2-6-35-5) & 83/6 in 17 overs ■ Continental 419/7 in 90 overs vs Ensconse 365/6 in 90 overs (Md Junald Ali 111 — 202b. 17x4. P. Shiva Junaid Ali 111 - 202b, 17x4, P. Shiva 100 — 177b, 16x4, 1x6, Mehdi Hasan 57, Owais Abdul Wahed 34 n.o, S.

Nikhil 3/73) Cambridge XI 432/8 in 90 overs vs MP Colts 286 in 83 overs (Ashesh Singh 61, Vaishnav Reddy 47, Rahul 92, Sampath 58, Ashish Srivastav

Balaaji CC 145 in 43.2 overs & 236/6 in 40 overs (R. Vamshi 55, S. Ganesh 36, Pabba Nilesh 36, G. Trishank Gupta 4/37) vs Charminar CC 178 in 43.2 overs (Ali Diamond K 40, **G. Arjun 7/48** — **17.5-6-48-7**) & 119/4 in 29 overs (Ali Diamond K 40 batting)

Sportive CC 493/7 in 90 overs bt Jai Bhagwathi 155 in 31.2 overs (P. Akshat 54, Abhinav Kumar 44, Aryan Carlappa 5/53 — 9-1-53-5) & 168 in 34.3 overs (A. Yuvaraju 68, Arnav K 36, Amrith Yadav 6/13 — 5-0-13-6). Points: Sportive 8, Jai Bhagwathi O.

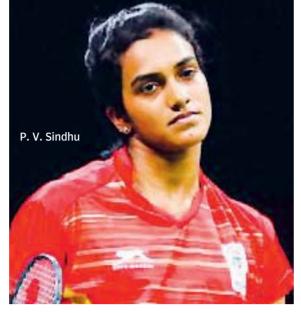
Mahmood CC 264 in 85.3 overs &

■ Manmood CC 264 in 85.3 overs & 38/2 in 5 overs vs. Apex CC 431/8 decl in 82.1 overs (Ranjith Kumar 126 — 104b, 23x4, 2x6, S. Vikranth 150 n.o. — 163b, 18x4, 2x6, Lokesh Reddy 3/100)
■ Khalsa 342 in 80.5 overs & 74/3 in 173 overs (Harshit 37 batting) vs.

17.3 overs (Harshit 37 batting) vs Secunderabad Nawabs 236 in 67 overs (Takshit Rao 40, T. Harish Singh 56, Jaidev Goud 88, Osama Bin Wasim 5/44 — 14-2-44-5)

Rohit XI 555 in 88 overs bt Gouds XI 192/9 in 50.2 overs (K. Krithik Radik Oran Nillie Sel Video F. E.

Reddy 89 n.o, **Nitin Sai Yadav 5/54** — **17.2-2-54-5**) & 145/9 in 23.4 overs (V. Srujan 44, V. K. Siddharth 3/51, Nitin Sai Yadav 3/5). **Points:** Rohit XI 8, Goud's XI 0.



Bangkok, Jan. 12: Former world number one shuttler Kidom

Srikanth got a bloodied

nose after undergoing multiple Covid-19 tests

and miffed at the poor

treatment of health offi-cials at Thailand Open,

the Indian on Tuesday

"We take care of ourselves for the match not to

come and shed blood for THIS. However, I gave 4

tests after I have arrived

and I can't say any of

them have been pleasant. Unacceptable," an upset

Srikanth wrote on his

The 27-year-old, who is

scheduled to open his

twitter handle.

called it "unacceptable".



Kidambi Srikanth shared images after his Covid Test in Thailand which left him bleeding from the nose.

Verma, shared photographs of his nose bleedcampaign on Wednesday ing after he was against fellow Indian the fourth time. ing after he was tested for

The Badminton World Federation said Srikanth is being attended to by a doctor and it is awaiting a



Gold Standard Safety Protocol . Book an appointment . Live Video Call

To locate your nearest store and know more (S) on 6366920017. Buy online at tanishq.co.in (A) or Download our App [] > *Conditions apply • Check tanishq.co.in/offers for more details.

* Additional discount on diamond jewellery above ₹12 Lakhs * **Valid on gold bought from any jeweller, assuming old gold exchanged is of 22kt & above purity.

New stores now open at Jubilee Hills, Eluru, Vizianagaram









