# The global spread

world since emerging in a market in the



patients have now been confirmed in Australia – six who arrived in the country from Wuhan – and are being treated in hospitals in Sydney, Melbourne and Gold Coast

CANADA Canada has confirmed two cases so far, and is calling a third case "presumptive"

The first case of human-to-human transmission was reported on

FINLAND A tourist from Wuhan tested positive for the virus on Wednesday and was being treated in

FRANCE

A woman, a student

at Wuhan University,

The cases

include two

is in isolation at a

**JAPAN** 

The most recent case is the daughter of an elderly Chinese tourist who is in serious condition in hospital

MALAYSIA

All are

Chinese nationals

The 32-year-

from Wuhan.

He was initially

quarantined.

but recovered

and was

discharged

old man came

The cases include The first of human-to-human transmission on European soil

**GERMANY** 

THE PHILIPPINES

All of

them

**SINGAPORE** 

from Wuhan

**SRI LANKA** 

The patient, a 38-year-old woman,

**SOUTH KOREA** 

from Wuhan

A 43-year-old Chinese

tourist from Hubei

cases- five

travelled

arrived from Wuhan and is no

longer showing symptoms

All from a Chinese family that arrived from Wuhan

SOUTH KOREA

THE PHILIPPINES

FLIGHT RADAR A number of airlines have said

**THAILAND** 

new cases

include five

of a family

Six

AIRASIA | AIR FRANCE | AIR INDIA | AMERICAN

Patients include two female

Chinese nationals in their 70s who

VIETNAM

Thursday

Three new cases,

all Vietnamese

returned from Wuhan.

citizens who

were reported on

arrived in the country as part of a

CORONAVIRUS ANATOMY: Snike

glycoprotein: Affects the way that the

CAPSID Protein shell

# Deadliest day for China in fight against virus

### 38 deaths reported in 24 hours, taking the toll to 170

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China reported its biggest single-day jump in novel coronavirus deaths on Thursday, as global fears deepened with more infections confirmed overseas, including three Japanese evacuated the outbreak's epicentre.

The World Health Organization, which initially downplayed a disease that has now killed 170 in China, was readying to meet on Thursday to decide whether to declare it a global emergency.

CAMBODIA

case has been

reported - a

60-year-old

man who arrived

from Wuhan, and

At least 20 countries have confirmed infections. Airlines began cancelling flights servicing China on Wednesday, and more followed suit on Thursday.

Lockdown in liner

Meanwhile, more than 6,000 tourists were put under lockdown aboard a cruise ship at an Italian port on Thursday after two Chinese passengers were isolated over fears they could be carrying the coronavirus.

Beijing has taken extraordinary steps to arrest the spread of the virus, including quarantining effectively more than 50 million people in Wuhan and surrounding Hubei province.

The government on Thursday reported 38 new deaths in the preceding 24 hours, the highest one-day total since the virus was detected late last year. All but one of the new deaths were in Hubei.

The number of confirmed new cases also grew steadily to 7,711, the National Health

Commission said. Another 81,000 people were under observation for possible Thousands of foreigners

have been trapped in Wuhan since it was sealed off last week. Massive cities like Beijing and Shanghai were also eerily quiet as countless people followed advice to stay indoors, or at least wear masks when venturing out.

Japan and the United States on Wednesday became the first countries to organise airlifts from Wuhan for their citizens. A second U.S. flight is planned in the coming days. Britain was planning an evacuation of around 200 of its citizens early on Friday morning. Australia and New Zealand were among others organising similar operations.

Tokyo on Thursday reported that three people who were aboard the first evacuation flight had tested positive for the virus after landing back in Japan.

Two of the three infected passengers showed no symptoms, according to Japanese authorities, underscoring the difficulty detecting the

# Russia to shut

China border

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russia said on Thursday it was closing the border with China to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus and would stop issuing electronic visas to Chinese nationals.

"We have to do everything to protect our people," Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin told a govern-

# Divorce sealed, Brexit finally arrives today

U.K. is the first nation ever to leave EU

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday will mark a truly historic moment, but almost nothing will happen.

A few Union Jack flags will be lowered from EU buildings in Brussels, more will be waved in jubilation by Brexiteers in London at the moment of Britain's departure - at 11 p.m. in the U.K..

But for most of the half a billion people in Britain and the bloc, it will be a normal Friday night.

Britain and the bloc fought tooth and nail for the best part of four years with insults flying across the English Channel – over the terms of their divorce. Now, on the eve of one of the most significant events in EU history, the political eruptions have ceased and an uneasy quiet reigns - the calm before the next storm.

The EU would prefer the night to pass without anyone noticing. After all, it is losing one of its biggest members, a diplomatic, mil-



British PM Boris Johnson, a champion of Brexit, has promised a "dignified exit".

itary and economic power on a par with Germany and France. The U.K. is the first nation ever to turn its back on the EU in the 62-year history of this experiment in political union.

British PM Boris Johnson, a champion of Brexit, promised a "dignified exit" that is "mindful of everybody's feelings." The U.K. will no longer be part of EU summits and ministerial meetings. Its 73 EU parliamentarians have lost their jobs and cleared out their offices.

# 10 killed as deadly strikes hit rebel bastion in Syria

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ARIHA

Air strikes killed 10 civilians near a bakery and a medical clinic in Syria's rebel-held Idlib region on Thursday, as government forces kept up a ground offensive.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian warplanes hit the Idlib province town of Ariha, but the Russian Defence Ministry said its "aviation did not carry out any combat tasks in this area of Syria".

The government and its Russian allies have upped their deadly bombardment of Syria's last major rebel bastion, slowly chipping away at it from the south. Rebel-held territory has

shrunk to just over half of Idlib province, along with slivers of neighbouring Aleppo and Latakia, following a series of government gains. That saw Damascus loyalists retaking the strategic northwestern town of Maaret al-Numan on Wednesday.

# + Nurse held for poisoning babies with morphine

The infants developed breathing issues

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE FRANKFURT AM MAIN

A nurse in Germany has been arrested on suspicion of poisoning five newborn babies with morphine, officials said on Thursday, adding that the infants had survived.

The woman was taken into custody on Wednesday after investigators found an oral syringe containing breast milk mixed with morphine in her locker at Ulm University Hospital in southern Germany.

The premature and newborn babies, who were between one day and five weeks old and staying in the same hospital room, suddenly all developed breath-

ing problems "at almost the same time" in the early hours of December 20, said Ulm police chief Bernhard Weber. "Only because of immediate action taken by the staff could the five lives be saved," he said

The nurse taken into custody has yet to be formally charged but faces five counts of attempted manslaughter and grievous bodily harm, Ulm prosecutor Christof Lehr told reporters. She denies poisoning the

babies, he added. Prosecutors believe the nurse who was arrested acted with premeditation and "accepted that the babies could die" as a result of her

actions, Mr. Lehr said.

# Senate set for high-stakes tussle as Trump trial resumes

Democrats, Republicans to present closing arguments today

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's impeachment trial resumed on Thursday for a second day of questioning by U.S. Senators before they address the explosive issue of whether to call witnesses such as former National Security Adviser John Bolton.

Without witnesses, Republicans, who control the Senate, say the trial could end as early as Friday with Mr. Trump's acquittal, which would leave him in office and allow him to claim vindication just as the Democratic Party holds its first nominating contest for the Novem-



Donald Trump

ber 3 election in Iowa on Monday.

Mr. Trump will hold a rally in the State on Thursday night.

Democrats accuse the Republican President of abusing his power by using con-

military aid as leverage to get a foreign power to smeai former Vice-President Joe Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination.

Democratic-led House of Representatives approved the two articles of impeachment in December. Lawyers for Mr. Trump and the House Democrats who are managing the prosecution in the Senate trial will spend Thursday answering questions from lawmakers, read aloud by U.S. Chief Jus-

tice John Roberts. On Friday, each side was expected to present what amount to closing argu-

# Terror attacks drop by 85% in a decade in Pakistan

Concern over curbs on terror funding

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terror attacks in Pakistan plummeted by more than 85% over the past decade. It's a welcome statistic for the country, but one that risks being overshadowed by international concern over its efforts to curb terror funding and lingering militant activity that could test any future peace agreement neighbouring Afghanistan.

The tally, put together by Pakistani think tanks, found terror attacks dropped from nearly 2,000 in 2009 to fewer than 250 in 2019, a steady decline that underscores the long-haul nature of fight-

But a Paris-based international watchdog said in October that Pakistan was not doing enough to stop terror financing. The group meets next month to decide whether the country should be downgraded from a gray status to black, alongside Iran and North Korea, a step that could pose a challenge to Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan's militant groups are often interlinked with those across the border in Afghanistan, so its progress at reining in terror is critical, particularly as Washington seeks to secure a deal with the Afghan Taliban to bring an end to the 18-year war, America's longest military engagement.



**Putin in Moscow** 

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu hailed U.S. President Donald Trump's West Asia peace plan as a new opportunity after flying to Moscow to discuss it with President Vladimir Putin. "I think there's a new and perhaps unique opportunity here." he said. "I'd like to speak to you and hear your insights and see how we can combine all our forces for security and peace," Mr. Netanyahu told Mr. Putin. "You're actually the first

leader I'm speaking with after

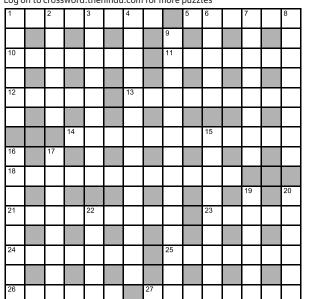
my visit to Washington about

President Trump's Deal of the

Century." he added. AFP

# **THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12846**

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



To play an interactive

ACROSS 1 Hurried to get rid of small, terribly basic cycle rickshaws

5 Reprimand about rubbish copy 10 Fall of Man essentially in 'Paradise Lost' causes anguish

version of this crossword 11 Fool, possibly mad, interrupts online, scan the QR code legendary clarinetist (7)

## 12 Reviewing mission to enter United Kingdom in Eskimo

13 Hardened criminal needs to control temper (9)

14 In spite of vow, changes

asked? (3,4,3,2)

21 Demand to install new

throw up (5)

beliefs (6,2,4) 18 What a boatman might do to give an opinion without being

President after second unofficial ballot (5, 4) 23 Keep consuming ecstasy and

24 Distribute party drug smuggled by hooligan (4,3)

25 Contemptuous expert penning essentially vicious article (7) 26 Realizes husband's

overwhelmed by disputes (6)

27 One composing sacred songs in square, captured by friend on

DOWN

1 Stand by president facing dishonour (6) 2 Draw out and criticize revolting

drunk (6)

# (set by Dr. X)

3 Bully about to torment many with new repressive measures

4 Makes an irreversible commitment and never rows again? (5,4,5)

6 Amateur on dope turns unresponsive (5)

7 Idealistic fellow in riot around college (8)

8 Moderate individual, a little distressed in city (4,4) 9 Once more defers drinking

rum, despite being very likely to fail (7,3,4) 15 Face of fanatic, just revolting

16 Disjointed narrative about one

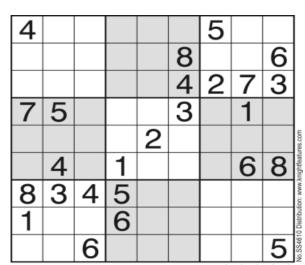
17 Unsettles celebrity brushing

aside media's latest reports

19 Islam perhaps barring a sandwich meat (6)

20 Decay in atom! Leave quickly 22 Complete mess, I hear (5)

### **SUDOKU**



DIFFICULTY RATING:

Solution to puzzle 12845 Solu														utio	ıtion to yesterday's Sudoku									
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### **FAITH**

# Many deep meanings

Thirumurugatrupadai is a work in praise of Lord Muruga, who has six sacred abodes in Tamil Nadu. But it is much more than a poem of praise. It has many deep meanings, which we have to absorb, explained S. Gangadharan in a discourse, drawing parallels to ideas enunciated in Thirukkural. Many devotees go to Thiru Avinankudi, where Lord Muruga is resident. This was the old name for the modern town of Palani. While there are many people who set out to meet Muruga, foremost among them are sages, whose jnana serves to guide others towards the divine path. Nakkeeranaar, the author of Thirumurugatrupadai, describes the sages who lead the procession of people making their way to meet Muruga. He talks of their attitude to life, their wisdom, and in these lines lie many hints to us on how to conduct ourselves in life.

The sages are said to be people who have an emaciated look. Their bones stick out. This is because they go without food for long periods. What this means is that they undertake fasts. Foregoing food for a long time requires determination, and here verse 611 of Thirukkural comes to mind. This Kural says that when we set ourselves a goal, we must not think that it might be difficult to attain. We must put in the effort needed to reach the goal.

Despite the hardy life they lead, the sages do not have any wicked thoughts in their mind. Sorrow may befall a person, but if he sees even the sorrow as joy, then he will earn the respect of his enemies too, says Thiruvalluvar in verse 630 of the Thirukkural. Losing one's temper is no way to show the world one's power. Verse 307 of Thirukkural says that a man who is angry only ends up hurting himself, just as a man who hits the ground hard ends up hurting his hand.