

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday 23 January, 2024

UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

500 years later, history made in just 84 seconds

● "Before the consecration ceremony, Modi did all the necessary rituals and offered prayers. The rituals took a few minutes before two purohits removed the blindfold with a golden stick"



AYODHYA: The idol of Ram Lalla was consecrated at a grand ceremony with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as special 'yajman' in the presence of over 4,000 sadhus from 150 orders and 3,200 other guests at the newly built temple, and watched live on TV screens by crores of people across the globe on Monday. Army helicopters showered flower petals on the newly constructed temple as the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony took place in the 'mool muhurt' that started from 12.29.08 hours and lasted 84 seconds with 'Sri Ram Chandra Kripalu Bhaj Man', 'Thumak chalat Ram Chandra' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja

Ram' playing in the background. Screenshot 2024-01-23 03:41:33 After the ceremony, Modi prostrated himself before the idol and took blessings from temple trust chairman Mahant Nitya Gopal Das. UP governor Anandiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat were present on the occasion. "The extraordinary moment of consecration of Ram Lalla's life in Ayodhya Dham is going to leave everyone emotional. It is my great pleasure to be a part of this divine programme. Hail Siya Ram!" he tweeted after the event. The PM arrived at the

temple complex around 12.00 noon carrying silver 'chhatra' for Ram Lalla. He entered the sanctum sanctorum at 12.07. Before the consecration ceremony, Modi did all the necessary rituals and offered prayers. The rituals took a few minutes before two purohits removed the blindfold with a golden stick from the idol, symbolising the completion of the consecration ceremony. Modi and others continued with other rituals while invitees seated patiently outside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. After the rituals, the PM along with others performed 'arti' of Lord Ram following

which he sought blessings from the seers. He also greeted Kameshwar Chaupal, who had laid the first brick during the 'shilanya' in Ayodhya in 1989 by VHP. He was also offered an auspicious ring by Swami Vasudevanad Saraswati of Prayagraj. Immediately after his speech, the PM made it a point to get down from the dais and greet the guests and sants and seers present at the Ayodhya temple compound.

He was seen in conversation with Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, and exchanging greetings with other dignitaries like Reliance chief Mukesh Ambani and spiritual gurus Rambhadracharya, Morari Bapu and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, among others. He then left for Kuber Tila, where a statue of Jatayu was recently installed. At the Shiv Temple in Kuber Tila, Modi again performed puja before leaving for New Delhi.

Rahul's protest, Uddhav's aarti, Didi's barb: Opposition not in tune

Ayodhya Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee, walked in different directions as India celebrated Ram Lalla's consecration in Ayodhya. Gandhi protested in Assam after being blocked by police barricades, while Banerjee wrapped up her rally in Kolkata. Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray performed a 'maha aarti' in Nashik's Kalam temple, and Akhilesh Yadav skipped the event but issued a statement. **Uddhav Thackeray performs maha aarti at Kalam temple & Ramkund**



Opposition leaders aiming to take on BJP together walked in different directions on Monday as a microcosm of India descended on Ayodhya to celebrate Ram Lalla's consecration. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sat in protest outside Bordowa Satra (Batadrava Than) in Assam's Nagaon district,

the birthplace of Vaishnavite saint Srimanta, after his convoy ran into police barricades en route to the pilgrimage site. "I have been invited here, and now the administration is saying that I can't go. With folded hands, I am asking you, what is my offence? Why can't I go?" Rahul asked the police

personnel blocking his way. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had advised the Wayanad MP on Sunday not to visit the satra until the Ayodhya consecration ceremony was over. The satra management issued a letter saying he couldn't enter the site till 3pm, citing pre-scheduled events linked to the Ayodhya celebration. In Kolkata, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee wrapped up her "sampriti rally" in the evening with a question to BJP — "Are you anti-women?" — and a call to everyone to join the fight for "a chance to coexist".

Over 1 crore viewers opted for Doordarshan's 4K coverage

NEW DELHI: Doordarshan's 40-plus camera setup transmitting live footage of the consecration ceremony saw the broadcaster garner over 1 crore views across its platforms on YouTube on

Monday. The only broadcaster with access to the Ram temple, DD's live footage was shot entirely in 4K — only the second time this was done after the G20 summit last year — and was provided to

regional, national and international electronic and digital platforms for live telecast. Live telecast was also broadcast across Prasar Bharati's radio and digital platforms including Twitter and Facebook,

with running commentaries and updates being provided to audiences both in India and abroad. DD will also telecast the first 'aarti' of Ram Lalla and the darshan that follows on Tuesday morning.

Over 67,000 Delhi teenagers to vote for first time in Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI: Almost four lakh names were deleted from the capital's electoral roll during the summary revision exercise, which concluded on Monday with the publication of the final electoral roll-2024. Of the 3,97,004 names that were deleted, 3,07,788 voters had permanently shifted out of the capital, 56,773 people had passed away in the last one year and there were 32,443 multiple entries in the electoral roll. "The purification of electoral rolls by addition and deletion of names is a continuous process and necessary to achieve a good quality electoral roll," said P Krishnamurthy, chief electoral officer (CEO) of Delhi.

According to the data, Delhi now has 1,47,18,119 registered voters while the number stood at 1,47,76,301 when the electoral roll was published last year on Jan 5. The number of voters has come down by over 58,000. On Oct 27, 2023, when the office of the CEO published the draft electoral roll, the total number of voters was 1,48,60,653. Officials said 2,54,470 new voters were added during the summary revision exercise, which included 67,930 young voters in the age group of 18-19 years-which was 26.7% of the total addition-who would be voting for the first time in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Of the 1,47,18,119 who would be eligible to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, 79,86,572 are male, 67,30,371 female while 1,176 belong to the third gender. Officials said due to the efforts made during this special summary revision, the gender ratio of the electors improved from 838 woman voters to 843 on every 1,000 male voters, demonstrating significant progress in efforts towards electoral inclusion of women. They added that 9,335 prospective electors, who will be attaining the age of 18 years on Apr 1, July 1 or Oct 1 this year.

Ram Rajya is coming, we have to shun disputes and ego, stay united: RSS chief

AYODHYA: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Monday that the pride of the country has been restored with the homecoming of Ram Lalla to his temple in Ayodhya. "Today, after 500 years, Ram Lalla has returned here and due to his efforts, we are seeing this golden day. We pay our utmost respect to him. The history of this era has

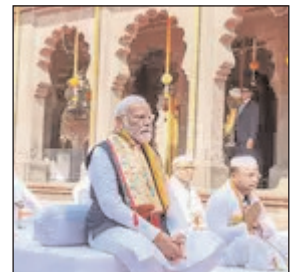


so much power that whoever listens to the stories of Ram Lalla, all their sorrows and pains will be erased," Bhagwat said, addressing the gathering at Shri Ram temple premises after Ram Lalla's 'Pran Pratishtha'. He said that the opening of the Ram temple has become a symbol of the emergence of a "new India" that has the potential to save the world from all

sorts of problems and tragedies. He described PM Modi as a 'tapasvi' who needs to be supported by every citizen. "Pradhan Mantri ji ne tap kiya ab humko bhi tap karna hai (The PM did penance. Now it is our turn)," he said. Bhagwat said Ram Lalla has returned home because of the penance of a lot of people and I salute their hard work and sacrifices.

Invite brought us honour as well as dignity, say yajmans

LUCKNOW: For Dilip Kumar Valmiki and his wife Manju Devi, consecration of Ram Lalla has crafted a new identity not just for them, but for the entire community that has lived with discrimination at the bottom of the social ladder for generations. "Never in my life of over 60 years have I received so much respect. Lord Ram has brought dignity to our entire community," said Dilip, who was one of the 15 'yajmans' for the



Pran Pratishtha ceremony, where PM Narendra Modi performed the rituals in the garbha griha (sanctum sanctorum) as the chief 'yajman'. Equally delighted was Manju, who is in her mid-50s. "We have

heard that 'bhaav' (emotion) has the supreme importance in sanatana dharma. For the first time, I found out what 'bhaav' means. It is the honesty of emotion with which a puja is conducted," she said. The couple travelled from Lucknow to Ayodhya for the ceremony and received a grand welcome upon their return. Similar sentiments were shared by the Dom Raja of Kashi, Anil Chaudhary.

Israel proposes 2 month fighting pause in Gaza for release of all hostages

Gaza Israeli forces have killed around 60 Palestinian fighters in the Gaza Strip, the military said in a statement on Thursday summarising operations over the previous 24 hours. Around 40 of the fighters were killed in the area of southern Khan Younis and several others in the northern Gaza



Strip, including at a compound used by the Palestinian faction Islamic Jihad, the statement said. Further, the IDF informed that the Israeli military killed a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist

in an airstrike in southern Gaza. Spain's top court says the government broke the law when it sent child migrants back to Morocco US President Joe Biden spoke to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday about the Red Sea, Gaza and Ukraine. "They talked about what's going on in the Red Sea.

Indian Air Force saves man who suffered heart attack at Ram temple event

NEW DELHI: A mobile hospital of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) rapid response team saved a devotee who suffered a heart attack while attending the 'Pran Pratishtha' event at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Monday. Ramkrishna Srivastava, the

devotee, collapsed inside the temple complex, a team of BHISHM Cube led by Wing Commander Manish Gupta evacuated him within a minute of the incident and provided on-site treatment, capitalising on the critical golden hour — the first hour following a traumatic injury

or medical event which is crucial for successful emergency treatment, health ministry sources said. Upon initial assessment, it was found that Srivastava's blood pressure level had shot up to dangerously high levels of 210/170 mm Hg, it added.

Ram-splendent: Idol sparkles with crores worth of gold, gemstone jewellery

AYODHYA On Monday, all that glittered was Ram Lalla. As many as 132 craftsmen worked round the clock to put together the jewellery that adorns the main idol. The collection comprises 14 pieces — mukut, tilak, emerald ring, ruby ring, a short round necklace, a panchlada (five-layered necklace), vijay mala, kamar and vijay bandh (waist and arm belt), kangan (bangle), pag kada (ankle band), gold payal apart from dhanush and baan (bow and arrow). It has a total of 18,567 round brilliant diamonds, 2,984 rubies, 615 emeralds, and 439 uncut diamonds, as per the certification reports. The gold mukut, decorated with diamonds,

India tracking Chinese 'research' vessel headed for the Maldives



NEW DELHI: India is closely tracking another Chinese survey and research vessel, equipped with advanced surveillance equipment, now on its way to Malé amid the nose-dive in bilateral relations with the Maldives after the Beijing-leaning Mohamed Muizzu was elected the President in the archipelago in November. Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 entered the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) through the Sunda Strait of Indonesia on Monday morning. "The vessel is expected to reach the Maldives by around the first week of February," an Indian

defence establishment official said. The Chinese vessel is headed towards the Maldives after Sri Lanka refused permission for it to dock at one of its ports. "The Indian Navy is closely monitoring its movements," the official said. The Navy usually keeps track of such Chinese vessels using its fleet of P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft and warships as well as two unarmed MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones leased from the US for top-notch ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) missions in the IOR. Some of these assets.

2020 Delhi case: Rioting charge for Ishrat Jahan, 12 others



According to the prosecution, the Feb 26, 2020 incident occurred at Masjidwali Gali in Khureji Khas of northeast Delhi. The chargesheets were filed against Ishrat Jahan, Khalid Saifi, Vikram Pratap, Samir Ansari, Mohammed Salim

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has ordered framing of charges for various offences against 13 accused, including former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan and United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi, in a case related to the 2020 Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat,

however, discharged the accused from the penal offences of criminal conspiracy, abetment, and common intention and provisions of the Arms Act. "...prima facie, there are grounds for presuming that accused persons have committed offences under Indian Penal Code sec-

tions 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 186 (obstructing public servant), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to public servant), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge

of his duty)," said the court. According to the prosecution, the Feb 26, 2020 incident occurred at Masjidwali Gali in Khureji Khas of northeast Delhi. The chargesheets were filed against Ishrat Jahan, Khalid Saifi, Vikram Pratap, Samir Ansari, Mohammed Salim, Sabu Ansari, Iqbal

Ahmed, Anzaar, Mohammed Ilyas, Mohammed Bilal Saif, Salim Ahmed, Mohammed Yameen and Sharif Khan.

The court put the accused on trial stating that their role was "prima facie" established based on the contents of the chargesheet and statements of witnesses. Noting the statements of three public and other police witnesses, the court observed, "Khalid and Ishrat were instigating the crowd and firing took place from the said crowd. Despite the police request, Khalid and Ishrat did not move and were bent on pushing the police and they were abusing the police".

Made in heaven, but not getting registered in Delhi



NEW DELHI: The number of people applying for the registration of their marriage has gone up significantly in Delhi, but it is still not anywhere close to the actual number of weddings that are solemnised. marriage registration According to the data maintained by the revenue department of Delhi government, the year 2023 saw an average of 2,300 couples submitting documents for the registration of marriage every month, which was more than 120% compared with a decade ago when just 1,035 completed the formalities. Between March 1 and Dec 31 in 2023, 11 districts of Delhi government received a total of 22,944 applications for marriage registration. Of these, 15,928 certificates had been issued while several applications were still in process. According to

the estimate of an industry body, more than 3.5 lakh weddings were solemnised between Nov 23 and Dec 15 in the capital, but only 2,443 applications for registration were received in the month of Dec. Experts believe that registration of marriage, though compulsory, is done only when the couples are required to submit the certificate for official purposes. "The registration of marriage is still considered as a process to get a certificate required for obtaining a visa or getting the name of the spouse added in the passport. Only in a

handful of cases the couples get their marriages registered with a long-term planning or to ensure there is no issue when it comes to transfer of property or inheritance within the family," said Rajeev Sharma, a Delhi-based senior lawyer.

"Also, while registration of marriage is compulsory under the Hindu Marriage Act, the communities that follow personal laws don't get it documented," he added. Marriage registration in the national capital was made mandatory through the Delhi (Compulsory Registration of Marriage) Order, 2014 in April 2014 in compliance with a Supreme Court order of 2006. This order was made applicable to all marriages solemnised in Delhi irrespective of caste, creed and religion of the bride and groom.

Fourth runway at Delhi airport to have CAT-III by January 26

New Delhi: The fourth runway of the Delhi airport that had become operational last July will have the CAT-III instrument landing system (ILS) by Jan 26, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said late on Saturday night. Once that happens, both of IGIA's runways on the Shivji statue side will be CAT-III. However, the reopening of its backbone CAT-III runway — 28/10 which lies in a slightly better visibility area — has been delayed yet again and the same is now expected to happen in about 10 days or



the end of this month. This means that during the R-Day flight restrictions (Jan 19-26), IGIA will have only one CAT-III runway. If dense fog envelops the city during this time, flight delays will get only worse.

"Post-refurbishment, the (28/10) runway was scheduled to be operational on Jan 19. But

due to some unforeseen technical issues, system integration could not be completed. It is expected to be completed in 8 to 10 days. DIAL is working diligently with its partner Honeywell to complete the process soon," the statement said.

Main runway 28/10's closure has made operations a nightmare for airlines — only the ones that have deployed CAT-III/low-visibility take off (LVTO)-compliant aircraft with pilots trained to operate in low visibility — and passengers this winter.

AIIMS, IIT-Delhi develop low-cost voice box for throat cancer patients



NEW DELHI: In what could prove to be a boon for patients who have lost their ability to speak due to throat cancer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has developed a cost-effective prosthesis to restore their voice.

According to doctors, many throat cancer patients are unable to speak after the removal of their larynx due to advanced stages of laryngeal disease. Larynx, or voice box, contains vocal cords and helps a person speak, breathe and swallow. A study conducted on 20 patients over three years has yielded positive outcomes, said AIIMS doctors. Until now, patients have been implanted with commercially available voice prosthesis costing between Rs 20,000 and Rs 40,000. However, the AIIMS-IIT prosthesis is free of cost

for AIIMS patients. Following successful trial completion and approvals, it may be made available for other patients and could cost a few hundred rupees. Dr Alok Thakar, head and professor of otolaryngology and head/neck surgery, said the aim of developing the device was to ensure patients who lost their voice due to cancer in the larynx can speak again without shelling out thousands of rupees on an artificial voice box. "During the tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP) procedure, we create a small hole in the wall between the trachea and esophagus, the tube that moves food from mouth to the stomach. A small one-way valve, called tracheoesophageal prosthesis, is placed inside the hole to direct air into the throat," he said, adding the valve is made of silicon.

Govt decision on Basavanna lauded

Mysuru: Jagadhika Lingayat Mahasabha district unit chief Sharanara Mahadevappa on Sunday welcomed state government's decision of declaring 12th century social reformer and Lingayat faith founder Basavanna as Karnataka's cultural leader. Basavanna was the first in the state to be declared as a cultural leader. Speaking to reporters, he appreciated CM Siddaramaiah for taking the decision. He also hailed the state government for projecting the ideals and philosophy of Basavanna, one of the 12th century social reformers who strove to build a casteless discrimination-free society. Basavanna was the first to allow for people of all faiths, communities to take part in discussion in the religious parliament he formed in those days.



FPIs pull out 13k crore from stocks in January



NEW DELHI: Foreign investors have adopted a cautious approach this month, offloading domestic equities worth Rs 13,000 crore in the first three weeks owing to high valuations of Indian stocks and surging US bond yields.

In contrast, foreign investors are bullish on the debt market and injected Rs 15,647 crore in the debt market during the period under review, data with the depositories showed. According to the data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) made a net withdrawal of Rs 13,047 crore in Indian equities this month (till Jan 19). They pulled out over Rs 24,000 crore from equities during Jan 17-19. Before this, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 66,134 crore in Dec.

"The US bond yield started rising with the 10-year yield rising from the recent level of 3.9% to 4.2% triggering capital outflows," V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, adding, "Also, since the valuations in India are high, FPIs used the excuse of less-than-expected results from HDFC Bank to press massive sales too."

KEA clarifies on study certs

Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) says candidates applying for ex-defence certificates through the Seva Sindhu portal can use either their CET application number or army number. S Ramya, executive director, KEA, clarified in a press release Saturday that candidates who have studied for seven years in Karnataka and cleared class 10 in the state need not submit class 11 and 12 study certificates. Instructions issued in this regard on Jan 19 stand withdrawn, said the release. If the above information is fetched from Student Achievement Tracking System database, there is no need to upload documents. Candidates claiming religious/linguistic minority reservations should upload study certificates from class 1-10. Since certificates uploaded by candidates will be sent to BEO / DDPU for verification, it is sufficient if colleges/schools issue these certificates; the counter-signature of BEO / DDPU is.

Samvidhana Jatha from Jan 26: Min

Mangaluru: Karnataka government will organize 'Samvidhana jatha' for a month from Jan 26 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India, said social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa. He was speaking after inaugurating Dr BR Ambedkar Hall at BC Road in Bantwal taluk. The minister said that the jatha is aimed at creating awareness among people on the



Constitution of India and the event will be held in all the districts across the state. "Ambedkar is a motivational force for the oppressed and underprivileged class in the

nation. We have to ensure our rights through rational thinking. India is a pluralistic country which believes in unity in diversity. If we protect our Constitution, then the Constitution will protect us," he said. Cautioning against attempts being made to suppress democracy, the minister said that the Constitution is facing threat as it is heading towards danger.

Truck driver who mowed down woman arrested

New Delhi: Two days after a 39-year-old physically challenged woman died after she was mowed down by a speeding truck while crossing the road, police nabbed the accused in Geeta colony on Saturday. The accused was identified as Firoz (36) a native of Uttar Pradesh. He had initially fled the scene, and the vehicle, utilised for transporting concrete and building materials, didn't have a visible registration number on either side. Police said an extensive probe, which included analysing footage from CCTV cameras in a 10km radius, led the cops to solving the case. According to Surendra Choudhary,

DCP (Shahdara), they had received a PCR call on Jan 18 about the incident near Shamshan Ghat, Geeta Colony. "A team was rushed to the spot and the injured was shifted to a hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival," said the police official. A case under the sections of negligence and rash driving was registered. "During the investigation, CCTV footage showed the victim crossing the road in a sitting posture, with a green dumper passing over her. The model and make of the truck were identified, leading the team to physically check the parking lots of all relevant truck companies," said Choudhary.

MCD & DDA penalised for dumping C&D waste



New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted an action-taken report to National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the pollution caused by dumping of construction and demolition waste near residential complexes in Vasant Kunj. In the report, DPCC stated to have issued a show cause notice to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and an environmental compensation of Rs 1 lakh was imposed. The tribunal had constituted a joint committee of DDA, DPCC and district magistrate (South West Delhi) in Sept 2022 to verify the factual position

about heavy vehicular movement and dumping of construction material on the vacant land adjacent to Sector E-2, Vasant Kunj. After inspecting the area in Dec 2022, the committee issued directions under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environmental Protection Act, 1986 along with Construction and Demolition Waste

Rules, 2016 to DDA and MCD. As the issue remained unresolved, NGT in Nov 2023 ordered the DPCC to issue show cause notices and impose penalty on the DDA and MCD. "DPCC has issued show cause notice on Jan 5, 2024 for imposition of Environmental Damage Compensation of Rs 1,00,000 to the superintendent engineer, DDA

for past violations and damage to the environment," stated DPCC report dated Jan 11, uploaded on NGT website on Saturday. A similar show cause for damages of Rs one lakh was sent to MCD deputy commissioner (Najafgarh Zone), said the report, adding both agencies were yet to submit their replies to the concerned authority. In 2022, residents of Sector RE02 and E-1, Vasant Kunj approached NGT regarding pollution caused by continuous heavy vehicular movement due to presence of godowns, big cargo stores, warehouses in Rangpuri Pahari area causing serious health hazard to residents.

BJP asks for names of potential candidates for LS polls in TN



Chennai: BJP leadership has directed the party's Tamil Nadu president K Annamalai to send a list of prospective candidates, three for each of the 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu, triggering speculation that the party may well decide to face the Lok Sabha elections in the state without the AIADMK in tow. Elections for the Lok Sabha are expected to be announced soon, and all parties have started their preparatory work, constituting committees, for election work, candidate selection and to prepare manifestos. The BJP has appointed office bearers to take care of election work

● **With the Tamil Nadu BJP yet to initiate talks with potential allies in the state, including the PMK, O Panneerselvam, G K Vasan's TMC, T T V Dhinakaran-led AMMK and other fringe groups, it is not clear yet how the alliance would shape up**

for all the constituencies in Tamil Nadu. They include R Nanthakumar, Dr M Siva Subramanian, H Raja, A Kathali Narasinga Perumal and R Umarathi.

With the Tamil Nadu BJP yet to initiate talks

with potential allies in the state, including the PMK, O Panneerselvam, G K Vasan's TMC, T T V Dhinakaran-led AMMK and other fringe groups, it is not clear yet how the alliance would shape up. Meanwhile, Annamalai has been asked to furnish details of prospective and potential candidates for all the 39 constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

He has been asked to give a list of three candidates for each constituency by the end of the month. The BJP state president is expected to receive applications from the party members after the Ram temple consecration.

Thane woman tries to hire hitman to kill doctor after relations sour

THANE: A Thane woman was arrested Sunday for plotting to kill a Nashik doctor. Neha Jadhav alias Jyotsna Pagare (47) had befriended the doctor, but started blackmailing him after their relationship soured, said Thane police anti-extortion cell officials. "She had been making persistent demands, asking the doctor to pay Rs 50 lakh, and warned him to face consequences if he failed to pay the amount," DCP (crime) Shivraj Patil said. Following a complaint by the doctor and an initial probe, the police learnt that she was looking out for a contract killer to target him, said senior police inspector Shekhar Bagde. The police then



sent a decoy who approached the woman and convinced her he would take up "any kind of work" she wanted done. After a few conversations, the woman told the police decoy of her plan to get the doctor eliminated. "She agreed to pay him Rs 3 lakh for the job... But she was not aware that the man had been sent by the police," said an offi-

cer. She gave him the doctor's details — his photograph, clinic address, timings, photos of his wife — on WhatsApp, the officer said, adding that this evidence is just what they wanted. The police had even provided a voice recorder to the decoy who taped the woman's conversation when they met, including the plot to kill the doctor.

Auto driver rescues disabled woman

Chennai: An auto driver found that a woman who boarded his vehicle at Madhavaram on Sunday was mentally challenged and handed her over to police. The auto driver found something was amiss when she found her giving wrong addresses as drop locations. Police said Sudhakar, the driver, was waiting

for passengers when a woman approached and asked him to drop her at a relative's place in Madhavaram. When he reached the address mentioned by her, he found it was incorrect. The driver found her to be giving out contradictory replies and suspected she was mentally challenged. He managed to con-

vince a woman in his locality to let this woman stay there overnight. Later in the morning, Sudhakar took her to Madhavaram police station.

With the details the woman gave, police traced her relatives to Madhavaram. She was later reunited with her family.

Schools to hold board practicals as per schedule but suspend jr classes

● **Birla High School has decided to conduct board practical exams as per schedule but classes have been suspended**



Kolkata: Most city schools have decided not to defer board practical examinations while a few have declared class suspension due to 'unavoidable circumstances' keeping in mind the rallies scheduled on Monday. There are some schools that will disperse kids earlier than usual. Sushila Birla Girls School, Birla High School, South Point, DPS Ruby Park have decided to conduct their

board practical as per schedule. Birla High School has decided to conduct board practical exams as per schedule but classes have been suspended for junior sections. Sushila Birla Girls High School principal Koeli Dey said, "Board practical examinations will be held and only 34 students will take them. They will

leave soon after the exam is over." South Point School has declared a holiday on Monday as they had carnival for students on Saturday and Sunday. Around 90 students have practical exams on Monday that will be held as per schedule and only examinees and concerned teachers will come to school.

Mumbai: Speeding car crashes into divider & rolls twice in first mishap on MTHL, 5 hurt

NAVI MUMBAI: In the first accident on the newly-opened Sewri-Nhava Sheva Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, a speeding Mumbai-bound car rammed into the side barricade and divider around 3pm on Sunday, resulting in minor injuries to two women and three children. The accident took place 12km from the Mumbai end of the 21.8km bridge. A video recorded from another vehicle that was behind the Maruti Ignis shows it first hit the left side barricade of the bridge and then



skidded at high speed over three lanes to crash into the divider after which it rolled twice before coming to a halt.

A Navi Mumbai traffic police cop who rushed to the site after the MMRDA control

room sounded an alert said, "The family in the car was very lucky to have survived with minor injuries because the vehicle could have even fallen off the bridge into the sea because of its speed." Mumbai resident Moiz

Shakir has been identified as the owner of the vehicle.

At the time of going to press, a case of accident was being filed at Nhava Sheva police station against Panvel resident Zara Shakir (35) who was at the wheel at the time of the crash. Car in MTHL crash was on way to Dongri. A speeding car with two women and three children crashed into the divider and rolled a couple of times on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link on Sunday afternoon, leaving them injured.

GMC control room to keep a watch on feed from 1.5k cams

Ghaziabad: Strides toward becoming the safest city in the state are being made as the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) works on the integration of over 1,500 CCTV cameras into a centralised control room enhancing surveillance and security in Ghaziabad. Officials said feed from these 1,500 CCTV cameras will be monitored live from a centralised control room, to be set up by the corporation at GMC's headquarters in Navyug Market. They said the work to integrate the cameras will be carried out at a cost of about Rs 4.8 crore. "Under the chief minister's 'safe city loop' initiative, the CCTVs will be installed at crime hot spots of the city to monitor public places and identify the troublemakers," said municipal commis-

sioner Vikramaditya Singh Malik. Apart from the 1,500 CCTV cameras, another set of 6,500 CCTV cameras installed at residents, RWAs, and private entities overlooking public places like by-lanes, markets, and roads, will be brought under the "safe city loop" initiative to help with crime surveillance and detection. "This will not only augment the reach but will also help surveillance larger areas. We have requested residents to save feeds for 15 days and GMC will have the first right to access those feeds. Once the feed is sought from residents by the police or GMC officials, the DVR footage will be converted into NVR and used as and when required," said Malik, adding that residents are often not keen on sharing footage, one

of the common problems GMC officials face. Meanwhile, under the state smart city project, the state government has approved the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) project in the city, for which Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras, Red Light Vehicle Detection, Cameras, Public Address System, Surveillance Junction, and Speed Violation Cameras will be installed at 41 locations/roundabouts. Also, an Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) will be installed at 16 points, which will be linked to FASTag. "The state government has sought the ITMS project to be vetted by IIT Delhi. It should be installed in next six months," said NK Choudhary, chief engineer, GMC.

Wait for NCERT books for classes 1 & 2 gets longer

● **"This means that children will get books for classes 3 to 8 by the start of the new academic session on April 1, but it is certain that it will take more time"**

Prayagraj: Students of classes 1 and 2 of around 1.14 lakh state-run primary schools will have to wait a little longer for National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books of English, Hindi and mathematics for new academic session of 2024-25 starting April 1 as they have not yet been approved. These books are being introduced for the first time in the curriculum of these classes. Books for classes 3 to 8 will be available in time for the new session. In coordination with NCERT, experts from the State Institute of Education and the English Language Teaching Institute,



both units of State Council of Educational Research and Training, UP, have prepared the books, but they have not yet been approved by the UP basic education department. After getting approval, tenders will be floated and after that they will be published. After the purchase order is issued, it may take time till the end of April or May for the books to reach the children. Meanwhile, on the instructions of director general, school education, UP, Kanchan Verma, most of BSAs have issued purchase order to publishers for books from classes 3 to 8 for their respective districts as per norms. All these books

are to be supplied to the districts within 90 days with effect from January 10 while the workbooks are to be supplied within 120 days or four months. This means that children will get books for classes 3 to 8 by the start of the new academic session on April 1, but it is certain that it will take more time for the supply of books and workbooks for classes 1 and 2. This time, textbooks are being purchased for around 2 crore students of government-run primary and upper primary schools of the state based on the number of students registered on designated Prerna portal.

Semenistaja claims crown

Bengaluru: Top seed Darja Semenistaja lived up to her billing as she annexed the KPBT Trust ITF Women's Open crown steamrolling an error-prone sixth seed Carole Monnet in the final played at the KSLTA Stadium here on Sunday. The Latvian, after breezing past 6-1 in the first set, was leading 3-0 in the second set when her French rival threw in the towel owing to a back injury. This was the 21-year-old Darja's 15th ITF title overall, which she made it all the more memorable by winning the doubles title as well yesterday. "I am feeling happy to take two titles home. I think Bengaluru is lucky for me," said Darja, who took home the winner's cheque of \$6,094 while earning 50 WTA points each for her singles and doubles victory. Carole won the runner-up cheque for \$3,257 while earning 33 WTA points for her effort.

Editorial

New India champions global gender equality and equity at Davos

As India's economic performance grows, its soft power grows in proportion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the charismatic leader of this 75-year-old republic and ancient civilisational culture, is thought to have answers to the dilemmas of the currently divided and troubled world. From a country that used to deliver unwanted lectures to the world, it is now much sought after. Modi's 'one world family' messaging during the recent G20 year hosted by India, ended by including the 55 nation African Union into its fold. India made the effort, achieved unanimity for the move, and successfully included the most exploited and savaged continent on earth onto the leading global platform where its ills can be addressed. Domestically, the inclusive tone is set by 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Viswas', despite the inevitable mockery and accusations of Hindu triumphalism. Together, these ideas resonate in an old-fashioned way in a world with two ongoing wars, one in Europe and the other in West Asia and the tendency to form opposing axes. A polarisation not seen since WWII is developing in a very worrisome way. Meanwhile, the fact that India has drawn closer to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel than ever before, in practical, material, ways, gives the lie to the criticism of Hindu communalism. In addition, America has become a firm strategic partner with military and technological benefits for both. France is now a firm friend and defence manufacturing partner too, along with Russia. Other relationships have also undergone massive positive transformations, such as the one with Japan. Modi, a grey eminence with unbounded energy, in his 73rd year now, is widely regarded as one of the most respected and influential voices in the pantheon of global leaders. With a gross domestic product growth of around 7 per cent per annum going forward, India is expected to occupy the 3rd position in the world by 2027. It will be behind only the US and China, with a GDP of \$10 trillion, up from its current \$4 trillion. It is the world's most successful economy now. By 2047, India's 100th year since Independence, it is expected to have become a highly developed country. It will also have multiples of its present per capita income for its vast population, expected to touch 1.70 billion by then. It is expected to have an economy of over \$30 trillion by then. That India's soft power is growing alongside all this is not surprising, nor is it unprecedented. Ancient India was famed for its wealth, the greatest in the ancient world. That it set off a series of marauding conquests and occupations was the other side of the coin not likely to be repeated in the 21st century. Its cultural, civilisational and dharmic influence spread all over the Far East including China and Japan. Without any aggression, attempt at domination or conquest. West Asia was also heavily influenced by Indian learning and innovation. And not a few so called inventions and discoveries claimed by the West were shamelessly lifted from India without acknowledgement. Davos, used to hosting world's leaders, its finest minds and economic thinkers, for over half a century now, witnessed a major presence from India this year, building on the interest generated last year. This in the presence of leaders from 300 countries. The rate of foreign direct investment into India has trebled, and is slated to grow exponentially into high technology areas such as chip-making, defence manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and other relocations of manufacturing from China. For its latest soft power projection, India deployed the thoroughly confident and articulate Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Smriti Irani. She led the charge for global gender equality and equity.

What does Iran's rocking of the status quo mean for West Asia and the world?

Iran has set a new agenda for the region and the rest of the world, even if it is unclear how it is going to make it relevant and work on the ground for long, if not indefinitely. AP Iran's tri-nation attacks on Pakistan, Iraq and Syria, not necessarily in that order, is possibly the first time that any nation in West Asia has trained its guns on three adversaries simultaneously after Israel in 1967. Of course, Iran's is a limited attack at present, but Tehran's strategy would have provided for possible, if not plausible counter-attacks from

one, if not two or all three nations that it had targeted. In the Six-Day War that June 1967, Israel shocked the enemy and surprised the world by destroying Egypt's air force almost completely on the ground, and also took on a half-hearted Jordan, and later Syria, simultaneously, forcing them all to sign a truce pact on Tel Aviv's terms, all within 10 days. This time round, no one is talking about the complete annihilation of Iran's adversary or adversaries, and certainly not their annihilation, as with Egypt's enmity decades ago.

Yet, Iran has set a new agenda for the region and the rest of the world, even if it is unclear how it is going to make it relevant and work on the ground for long, if not indefinitely. For the sheer audacity of the attacks bordering on insanity, Tehran needs to be watched for its subsequent moves, political, diplomatic and military. It's because Tehran is already a pariah to much of the 'international community'. How Iran's 'surgical strike' on Pakistan-based terror groups shows Tehran's confidence. If not on their own, many if not

most Western nations look up to the US for guidance and direction that used to be the UK's until the latter voluntarily abdicated it all in the decades following the Second World War. Iran is now a no-no again after the US had sought to mend fences under President Obama, but has remained intransigent during the incumbency of Joe Biden, who followed in the footsteps of maverick Trump. In a re-election year when Trump is vastly emerging as his Republican challenger, Biden's hands are tied, and his choices limited.

Hindu Kush: The epicentre of terror, drugs and weapons demands India's vigilant gaze

The withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2021 was the end of yet another conflict in this historically war-torn nation. Geographically, the country is located at one of the geopolitical hotspots where Russia, China, West and Central Asia, and South Asia meet. The US, too, has been a central player in the last few decades due to its war against terror. Afghanistan has seen years of civil war in the last two centuries, had there been the Anglo-Afghan Wars, incursions by the Russian Empire, the Soviet-Afghan War, or finally the US' invasion of Afghanistan. Since 2021, the Taliban have ruled the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The individual countries have seriously conflicting interests, and many of them are playing out bilateral or multilateral rivalries or tensions on Afghan territory.

The Hindu Kush mountains are central to the region. For a long time, these mountains have been dominated by warlords. The Hindu Kush range has also been the passageway for invasions of the Indian subcontinent and continues to be important to contemporary warfare in Afghanistan. Hindu Kush The epicentre of terror drugs and weapons demands India's vigilant gaze. The Hindu Kush is an 800-kilometre-long and 240-kilometre-wide mountain range



with the Iranian Plateau on its west and South Asia to the south and east, and it finally joins the Great Himalayas. Essentially, they stretch from central and eastern Afghanistan into north-western Pakistan and south-eastern Tajikistan. The Hindu Kush buttresses the Pamir Mountains near the point where the borders of China, Pakistan, and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan meet. The north-eastern end of the Hindu Kush merges with the Karakoram Range. The southern end connects with the White Mountains near the Kabul River. It has the valley of the Amu Darya to the north and the Indus River valley to the south. The Hindu Kush is one of the great watersheds of Central Asia. The range has many high snow-capped peaks, with the highest point being Tirich Mir at 7,708 metres in the Chitral District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Interestingly, the "Hindu Raj" (Hindu rule) is a mountain range in northern Pakistan, between the Hindu Kush and the Karakoram ranges. The Hindu Kush and the Pamirs constitute the most seismically active intermediate-depth earthquake zone in the world. Mountains occupy 22 per cent of the world's land surface area and are home to about 13 per cent of the world's population. While about 915 million people live in the mountainous region, less than 150 million people live above 2,500 m above sea level (AMSL), and only 20-30 million people live above 3,000 AMSL.

The Name
The Persian name Hindu Kush appeared first in maps of around 1000 CE. Hindu Kush is generally translated as "Killer of Hindu" or "Hindu-Killer" by most writers. According to the 14th century travelling scholar Ibn Battuta, Hindu Kush means Hindu

Killer as slaves from the Indian subcontinent died in the harsh climatic conditions of the mountains while being taken from India to Turkestan. Another alternate meaning is 'sparkling snows of India' and 'mountains of India'. In Vedic Sanskrit, the range was known as Uparisyena, as "beyond the reach of eagles". The Hindu Kush range region was a historically significant centre of Buddhism, with sites such as the Bamiyan Buddhas. While the vast majority of the region has been majority-Muslim for several centuries now, certain portions of the Hindu Kush only became Islamised relatively recently.

Inhabitants
Hindu Kush are mostly inhabited by the Ismaili Muslims who adhere to a 1,400 year tradition of Shi'a values embracing pluralism. Others like Tajik (who are Sunni Muslims), Uzbek, and some Hazara (Persian-speaking peoples of Central Asian origin) live in the valleys. Kyrgyz nomads who once occupied the high Pamir migrated to eastern Turkey in the 1980s during the Afghan War. Pashtun are found in the major towns, like in Kabul, and in many districts south of the Hindu Kush. Some Indic Gujar nomadic herders seasonally visit the valleys of the southern slopes. Kalasha of Chitral and

the Nurestanis of Nurestan, were once the larger ethnic group. Since the 11th century they were called "Kafir," a term disapproving derived from the Arabic word for "infidel". Nurestanis were forcibly converted to Islam in 1896. These mountainous areas are mostly barren and sparsely sprinkled with trees and small bushes. Gem-grade emeralds are found in the valley of the Panjshir River in the north of Kabul. The centre of this region is occupied by powerful tribes. They were totally independent and paid neither tax nor owed any allegiance to anyone. Only in the late 1980s did they change 'loyalty' to the Taliban and Al Qaeda combine that had transformed the region from Hindu Kush to Waziristan region of West Pakistan into a loosely integrated jihadist state.

Opium cultivation and easy money
The people of the Hindu Kush region, like some other areas of Afghanistan, have been growing a lot of opium for thousands of years. It is ostensibly required for some medicines but has a huge market for illicit drugs. The opium is cultivated and transformed into rough morphine and heroin for export to the world market. Locals have a long tradition of ingesting stimulants, intoxicants, and depressants.

Emerging situations in Myanmar require proactive responses from India

The pace of unfolding events on our eastern borders with Myanmar is fast evolving and needs a closer look by Indian decision-makers. Sharing close to 1600 km of borders with India, Myanmar is at one of the critical points of its nationhood, growth, and survival, all three of which are substantially mixed at this juncture. Myanmar, the name it adopted from its erstwhile name of Burma with effect from June 18, 1989, has been under British India as early as 1886 onwards. Except for the short duration during World War II when it came under Japanese occupation, it continued to remain part of British India. It got some kind of separate geographical identity in 1937 but became independent only on January 4, 1948, from the British as a fol-

low-up to the Burma Independence Act passed by the British Parliament on December 10, 1947. Both the Independence Acts as well as the grant of independence to Myanmar (then Burma) were later in time frame as compared to the Indian Independence Act, which was passed on July 18, 1947, and Indian independence, which was granted on August 15, 1947. After the affaire Lakshadweep, can Chinese embrace help Muizzu wade through domestic waters? By all standards, international norms, and ethical conduct, Britishers should have made Myanmar a part of India, which became the primary successor of British India. The British policy of 'Divide and Rule' was modified by the Britishers as

'Divide and Destroy' wherein they ceded different parts of erstwhile British India to different countries, separating them from India. The above historical context is important to understand the country's old and close linkages between India and Myanmar, which stand at crossroads as of now. The dynamics of the country are fast changing since the military junta took over power on February 1, 2021, close to two years now, when they dismissed the civilian government running the state of affairs.

It was hoped that the initial emergency of a year's duration may result in fresh elections to install a civilian democratic government, but that does not appear to be the intention of the current military government.

India's civilisational discourse resonates across the Indian Ocean Region

The consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22 is a landmark event for India. This event is not just religious but has several undertones that cut across different perspectives, such as historical, political, and social. However, the Ram Temple is also fast assuming a geopolitical character, which is reflected in the developments of the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian Ocean Region is already in turmoil due to the Israel-Hamas war and its spillover effects as the Houthis are attacking cargo ships in the Red Sea. The geopolitics of this region are further thrown into flux due to the India-Maldives row. With Mohamed Muizzu, a pro-China leader, in power, India-Maldives ties have deteriorated dramatically in the last month. Muizzu's unequivocal anti-India stance is rapidly increasing threat perception for India in the Indian Ocean Region, as the risk of the Maldives ceding ground to China in India's neighbourhood is very high. 2023 saw a massive 122% increase in civilian deaths by explosives, highest in decade. The friction between India and the Maldives could generally be considered as falling mostly within the realm of strategic competition in a geopolitical space. However, this row also has a civilizational



undertone. Not only is Muizzu anti-India, he also tilts towards conservative ideology and radical Islam. The Maldives, a Muslim-majority country, has seen a surge of radical elements in its society since about a decade and a half ago. The radicalisation in the Maldives is in stark contrast to the celebration of inclusive civilisational ethos and taking pride in one's own culture without demeaning others' beliefs that is happening with the construction of the Ram Temple in India. This civilisational undertone is further pronounced when Mauritius, with an almost 50 per cent Hindu population, declared a two-hour break to all Hindu officials on January 22, when the consecration of Ram Temple is scheduled to take place in India.

Mauritius government has even termed the consecration a global event. Mauritius' overtures not only celebrate the shared cultural values with India, but they also underscore the island nation's support for India in the Indian Ocean Region. Mauritius, an African

island country located in the southern Indian Ocean, is geopolitically important for India in its outreach to the Indian Ocean Region as well as Africa. While India has accelerated its engagements with African countries in the Indian Ocean Region in the past decade, Mauritius was one of the first countries that India reached out to for strategic cooperation. It was in Mauritius in 2015 that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined India's vision for the Indian Ocean Region, which is termed as SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region). Mauritius' cultural overtures also have a subtle hint of attracting Indian tourists, as they are likely to think of options other than the Maldives for holidays. While Lakshadweep may be gaining traction after Prime Minister Narendra Modi endorsed it as a tourist destination, it could take time for Lakshadweep to develop into a full-fledged tourist destination like the Maldives. Identifying this scope, Mauritius has subtly pitched itself as an alternative to the Maldives.

Hyundai will spend \$4bn on production



Delhi: Hyundai aims to invest \$4 billion (Rs 33,200 crore) in India to increase car manufacturing to one million units and launch a variety of new vehicles and technologies, including electrics and batteries, in one of its greatest growth programs. India investments would exceed \$9 billion since the corporation began operations here in 1996. At the World Economic Forum in Davos later this week, the business will tell state government leaders about its acquisition of General Motors' Talegaon facility in Maharashtra. Hyundai would invest over Rs 26,000 crore in

● **Hyundai, India's second-largest manufacturer, sold over 4 million units in 2023, but other companies are investing in the local market**

Tamil Nadu (its first plant and component ecosystem) and over Rs 7,000 crore in Maharashtra at Talegaon facility. "We want to grow with India and its people and community. "We

want to be a home-grown brand," Hyundai India MD & CEO Un Soo Kim announced intentions for a stronger India presence. He spoke after the business released a new Creta premium SUV priced at Rs 11 lakh (ex-show-room).

Hyundai, India's second-largest manufacturer, sold over 4 million units in 2023, but other companies are investing in the local market. Maruti, India's largest automaker, is investing Rs 1.3 lakh crore by 2030-31 in production capacity, new models, electrics, powertrains, and a battery plant.

Will fight non-tariff barriers: Piyush Goyal

Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal warned that India will deploy non-tariff obstacles against countries that use these methods, including unnecessary registration and compliance requirements or pesticide norms and levels. My stance on other nations is severe. I have stated that we will put two barriers if you erect them. He mentioned this at a Board of Trade (BoT) meeting where the Centre, states, and business meet.

He advised enterprises to flag these restrictions: "Today we face issues because we do not have data of their (other countries) non-



tariff barriers." India has used some of the instruments to negotiate with trade partners like the EU and the US over textiles, food, and other exports that have faced recurring obstacles due to countries setting their own standards and disrespecting international rules. With the EU and UK utilizing carbon border tax to raise steel and other metal import

taxes, the minister's comment comes as environmental criteria are set. The government claims these are non-tariff barriers, which are illegal worldwide. Goyal asked the sector for methods to ease business, reduce compliance and logistics costs, decriminalize minor offenses, and attract investments.

Apple overtakes Samsung as world's top smartphone seller

Delhi: Apple has overtaken Samsung as the world's top smartphone seller, ending the Korean tech firm's 12-year run as industry leader. The iPhone took the top spot in 2023 with 234.6m units sold, according to figures from the International Data Corporation (IDC), overtak-

ing Samsung's 226.6m units. IDC said the crowning of Apple, which released the iPhone 15 in September, was due to trends including the increasing popularity of high-end devices, which now account for more than 20% of the market. "The last time a company

not named Samsung was at the top of the smartphone market was 2010, and for 2023 it is now Apple," IDC said. "A sort of shifting of power at the top of the largest consumer electronics market was driven by an all-time high market share for Apple and a first time at the top."

Indonesia allows Boeing 737 Max 9 planes to resume flying after checks

● **The Alaska Airlines jet had a door plug blow out shortly after takeoff when the plane was at 16,000 feet**



Delhi: Three Boeing (NYSE:BA) 737 Max 9 planes that belong to Indonesia's budget airline Lion Air have been allowed to resume flying after a temporary grounding following the Alaska Airlines incident earlier this month. Transportation Ministry spokesperson Adita Irawati told reporters that following inspections, it was found that the three Boeing 737 Max 9 planes operating under Lion Air

apparently had different configurations with the Alaska Airlines' Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft, which suffered an in-flight blowout earlier this month, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The door system is apparently different from the Alaska Airlines. We have inspected it, communicated with Lion Air and Boeing. They are allowed to fly

again," said the spokesperson. This latest development comes as Boeing is facing a number of issues on its aircraft.

On January 5, the Alaska Airlines jet had a door plug blow out shortly after takeoff when the plane was at 16,000 feet, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the

AWS to invest over \$15 bn in Japan to expand data centres

Delhi: Amazon (NASDAQ:AMZN) Web Services (AWS), the cloud arm of e-commerce giant Amazon, announced that it will invest about \$15.5 billion (about 2.3 trillion yen) in Japan over five years between 2023 and 2027. The company will use the amount to expand data centres -- key facilities for cloud computing services -- and strengthen business operations, reports Nikkei Asia. This comes on top of the 1.51 trillion yen (about \$10.1 billion) that was invested in



Japan to increase cloud capacity between 2011 and 2022. The purpose behind this investment is to tap into the strong demand for cloud computing from Japanese companies and governments. The focus is on responding to genera-

tive AI, which is expected to expand in the future, the report noted.

In May last year, AWS announced plans to invest Rs 1,05,600 crore (\$12.7 billion) into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030 to

meet growing customer demand for cloud services in the country. The investment followed AWS's investment of Rs 30,900 crore (\$3.7 billion) between 2016-2022, bringing AWS's total investment in India to Rs 1,36,500 crore (\$16.4 billion) by 2030. AWS has two data centre infrastructure regions in India -- the AWS Asia Pacific (Mumbai) Region, launched in 2016, and the AWS Asia Pacific (Hyderabad) Region, launched in November 2022.

The Centre warns Amazon on selling sweets as Ayodhya Ram Temple 'Prasad'



Delhi: Amazon was warned by the Centre of "deceptive trade practices" in selling sweets under the name 'Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad.' Amazon was accused by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) of deceiving customers by selling sweets as "prasad" from the Ayodhya Ram Temple, which is yet to be inaugurated.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) says such activities misrepresent product qualities, influencing customers' purchase decisions. "Online food sales that misrepresent product qualities deceive consumers. Such technique falsely affects customers to make purchasing decisions they might not have made if product features were accurately

mentioned in the statement. "CCPA lists 'Sri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad - Raghupati Ghee Ladoo, Ayodhya Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad, Khoya Khobi Ladoo, Ram Mandir Desi Cow Milk Peda,' among others. According to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Amazon has seven days to respond to the CCPA's warning or face legal action.

Paytm earns Rs 2,850 Cr and loses Rs 222 Cr in Q3 FY24

● **"The company spent Rs 1.13 every rupee of operating income in Q3 FY24. After hitting a 52-week high at Rs 990 a share in October 2023"**

Delhi: Fintech powerhouse Paytm revealed its third-quarter financial figures for the year ending March 2024. The earnings report shows a slight topline rise and a considerable bottomline improvement. According to its consolidated financial statistics posted on its website, Paytm's income from operations rose 13.2% to Rs 2,850.5 crore in the quarter ended December 2023 from Rs 2,518.6 crore Q2 FY24. Paytm operating revenue rose 38.2% from Q3 FY23's Rs 2,062.2 crore. Merchant payment services accounted for 38% of rev-



enue. Revenue from this vertical rose 69% to Rs 1,081 crore in Q3 FY24 from Rs 640 crore in Q2. The company earned Rs 598 crore from consumer payment services, Rs 514 crore from commerce & cloud services, and Rs 658 crore from other operations in the quarter. Q3 FY24 employee benefit spending were 37% of total expenses. This cost stayed at Rs 1,187.2 crore. This includes Rs 378.5 crore for ESOP. Another large expense was payment processing, which rose 20% to Rs 982.2 crore in Q3, and marketing and promotional,

which was Rs 275.2 crore. Paytm's quarterly software, cloud, and data center costs were Rs 170.4 crore, bringing its overall expenditure to Rs 3216.3 crore, up 9.5%. Q2 FY24 costs totaled Rs 2,936.7 crore.

In Q3, Paytm cut losses by 24% to Rs 221.7 crore from Rs 291.7 crore. Last year's Q3 FY23 loss was Rs 392.1 crore. The company spent Rs 1.13 every rupee of operating income in Q3 FY24. After hitting a 52-week high at Rs 990 a share in October 2023, the company's share price fell to Rs 610 crore in December.

UltraTech Cement Q3 Results: Net profit rises 68% to Rs 1,777 crore

Delhi: Cement manufacturer Ultratech declared its highest-ever profit of Rs 1,777 crore for the quarter ended December, up 68% from Rs 1,058 crore last year. Revenue from operations climbed 8% YoY to Rs 16,740 crore from Rs 15,521 crore in the third quarter of last year. Profit and revenue results were in line with ET Now poll forecasts of Rs 1,725 crore and Rs 16,705 crore, respectively. With 77% capacity utilization, the company's volumes climbed 5% YoY in the reporting quarter. Grey cement domestic volumes rose 5% to 25.44 million tons, while white cement rose 18% to 0.48 million tons. December quarter consolidated sales (including foreign) rose 6% to 27.32 million tons.

SC asks state bar councils for lists of senior advocates to train students



Delhi: A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta pointed out that the 2008 Rules envisaged the Bar Council of India - the apex body to regulate legal education and profession in the country. The Supreme Court has asked all the state bar councils to explain if they have prepared a list of senior advocates willing to train law students when the courts are on vacation, observing that the 2008 Rules of Legal Education ought to be complied with the bar councils across the country. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta

"A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta pointed out that the 2008 Rules envisaged the Bar Council of India (BCI) - the apex body to regulate legal education and profession in the country"

pointed out that the 2008 Rules envisaged the Bar Council of India (BCI) - the apex body to regulate legal education and profession in the country, to publish the lists prepared by the state bar councils for the benefit of law students. "There has to be compliance with your own rules. When your own

rules provide for it, you must publish these lists and put them on your website. What have you done?" the bench asked advocate Radhika Gautam, who appeared for the BCI. Gautam responded that the BCI is committed to abiding by the regulation, adding it is for the state bar councils to ready the lists of senior advocates and share with them. At this, the bench sought to know if the state bar councils are parties to the public interest litigation (PIL) raising this issue and proceeded to seek their replies. "Let the state bar councils enter appear-

86% dip in Canada study permits for Indians in October-December

Delhi: Study permits for Indians aspiring to pursue an education Canada nose-dived in the Oct-Dec 2023 quarter to 14,910, an 86% drop from the 1.1 lakh during the same months in 2022, when Canada ached the charts as the number one study abroad destination for Indian students. Canadian immigration minister Marc Miller, who shared the data in an interview, said the numbers were unlikely to rebound anytime soon. He attributed the sharp fall to Canadian diplomats who would process the permits being ejected from India and fewer Indian students applying due to a



diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani terrorist in Canada, a Reuters report said. Scarcity and cost of accommodation have also deterred many students from opting for Canada, Canadian government paper which flagged the "urgent need" to look at students' well-being and housing shortage in Ontario, which hosts a record number of international students, especially Indians. In Dec, Ottawa doubled the cost

of living requirement, mandating international students to hold more dollars in their bank account. These factors led to an 86% drop in study permits issued to Indians in the fourth quarter of last year from the year-ago period, to 14,910 from 108,940, according to official data that has not been previously reported and not yet released by the IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada), which monitors visas issued.

Coaching centres may face action for exorbitant fees

Delhi: Coaching centres can be made to pay up to Rs 1 lakh or have their registration cancelled for charging exorbitant fees that causes undue stress, leading to student suicides, or for other malpractices. New guidelines issued by the education ministry bar centres from

hiring any tutor who has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude.

Also, each branch of a coaching institute will now be treated as a separate entity. An institute will not be registered unless it has a counselling system as per the require-

ment of these guidelines. "Information about the names of psychologists, counsellors and the time they render services may be given to all students and parents. Trained counsellors could be appointed," the guidelines said.

25% rural kids aged 14-18 can't read Std 2 level in own tongue

"One rural district was surveyed in each major state with the exception of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh"



Delhi: Nearly 43% of children in the 14-18 age group in rural areas cannot read sentences in English, while 25% struggle to read a Class 2 level text in their respective regional language, shows the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023. More than half of the children struggle with even simple division, something they are expected to have mastered in

Class 3 or 4. The figure on reading English is, in fact, an improvement compared to 2017, when 47% of students were found to be faltering. Of those who could read sentences in English, almost three-fourths could get the meaning (73.5%) compared with 53% in 2017. The report, published by Pratham

Foundation, is based on a survey conducted in 28 districts across 26 states, reaching out to 34,745 children in the 14-18 age group.

One rural district was surveyed in each major state with the exception of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where two such districts were surveyed.

Gujarat teachers demoted for higher studies

Delhi: Gujarat HC has come to the rescue of three primary teachers whose promotions were reversed because they pursued higher studies to obtain graduate and postgraduate degrees. A bench of Justice Nikhil Kariel ordered status quo, meaning Magan Dodiya, Savji Parmar and Haresh Rajyaguru would continue to serve as head teachers until further orders. The court has issued notice to the authorities and posted further hearing. Dodiya, Parmar and Rajyaguru



have been singing in Bhavnagar city's municipal board's schools since the 1980s and 1990s. The qualification required then for the post of a primary teacher was only secondary schooling with a certificate course in pri-

mary teaching. After the state government introduced certain qualifying criteria for promotions, the three cleared a test called Head Teachers Aptitude Test (HTAT) required to become a head teacher and they were promoted to the

post in 2012. On December 8, 2023, the Bhavnagar town education committee cancelled their promotions and demoted them to their original post of primary teachers. The punishment was for the "misconduct" of pursuing higher education without due permission from the department. All three rushed to HC, where their advocates Shalin Mehta and Shikha Panchal submitted that these teachers had sought permission to pursue higher studies.

School guest teachers seek salary revision, claim Dec salaries due

Delhi: The Loktantrik Adhyapak Manch Delhi, representing guest teachers working at Delhi government schools, has alleged in a letter to education minister Atishi that "no guest teacher of Delhi government schools has received any salary for Dec". The letter has also requested for a revision of remuneration rates, which, according to it, does not align with the guest teachers' vital role in the education system. Each guest teacher currently gets around Rs 33,000 every month. A Delhi government official said, "It is imperative to acknowledge that guest teachers in Delhi receive one of the highest remunerations nationwide, with no outstanding dues.



Nevertheless, should any specific case come to light, we shall thoroughly look into the matter." The government is already considering the issue of the revision of remuneration, the official added. Shoaib Rana, general secretary of All India Guest Teachers Association, however, claimed, "The salary bills of guest teachers for Dec have been pending with the principal accounts office (PAO) since January 1." Usually, the salaries

come within a week of the bill being issued, he said. Guest teachers claimed that PAO officials had told them that the office had been facing a problem in the server since Jan 4 and its work had been affected for 12-13 days. The letter, which has also been sent to the lieutenant governor, the chief minister and the principal secretary of education, stated that the remuneration rates were last revised in 2017.

Playschools will have to register with govt soon

Delhi: The city's playschools will soon have to register with Delhi government to run their operations. Following the directions of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the women and child development department has decided to initiate the exercise soon. While the system to make the registration process online may take some time, officials said the individuals and the groups operating the playschools will have to download a form from the department's website and submit through email and hard copy at the district offices. Apart from the details of the organisation or the society running the institutions and their financial details of the



last three years, the playschools will have to provide a host of information about the infrastructure, staff and safety and security features available on the premises. "The NCPCR has had a meeting with the department and mentioned that some playschools were found to be violating the guidelines laid down for them and it was important that there was some kind of control or supervision over them," said a Delhi government official. "On the directions of the child body the department of women

and child development is going to start the registration process," the official added. The information that the play schools will have to provide in the self-declaration and registration form include the number of students in different age groups, number of classrooms, teacher-student ratio, details of pantry and play area, availability of basic things such as soap, towel, washbasins and sinks easily accessible for small children, fire safety measures, CCTV cameras, first aid and med-

icine kits, and provision for audio-visual and learning aids. The playschools will also have to provide the details of academic and professional qualifications of teaching staff, classes assigned to them and their date of appointment. Officials said the registration form has been made based on the regulatory guidelines prepared by the NCPCR. The guidelines were prepared with the objective of bringing "inclusiveness and uniformity" in all private educational institutions imparting pre-school education, to prevent violation of child rights and any kind of abuse against children in the age 3-6 years and to remove ambiguity in the early childhood education system by regulating such institutions.

Centre issues guidelines for regulation of coaching centres

Delhi: Addressing the need for a legal framework and managing the unregulated growth of private coaching centres, Centre has prepared model guidelines for states to implement to regulate coaching centres in India. The proposed Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centre 2024 released by the Centre suggest that students younger than 16-year-olds should not be enrolled in coaching centres. The guidelines also suggest that coaching centres should not make misleading promises or guarantee ranks to parents and students. Tutors with qualifications less than graduation should not be allowed to teach in coaching institutes either, the guidelines propose. "The number of unregulated private coaching centres in the country continues to grow in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation.

CAPSULES

90% of rural children aged 14-18 have smartphones'

Delhi: Over 90% of rural children in the 14-18 years' age group have a smartphone in their home (as compared to 73% in 2017) and are on social media, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 released. The survey conducted by Pratham Foundation in 28 rural districts across 26 states also set out to explore post-Covid digital awareness scenario among the rural children of this group and found that only 9% of them had a computer at home and 85% of them know how to use it. It found a significant gap across gender in accessibility to digital devices. Of those who can use smartphones or have access to them, males (43.7%) are twice as likely than females (19.8%). The survey explored two components: access of children to digital devices and their online habits and an assessment of their digital skills performing a set of tasks in front of the survey team using an available smartphone. On communication and online safety, the survey found that nearly half of all surveyed males have an email ID, compared to 30% among females. The survey found that as high as 90.5% of the children in the age group reported having used social media in the reference week, with a slightly higher proportion of males (93.4%) than females (87.8%). "Of all children who used social media, only about half are familiar with the online safety settings that were included in the survey," the report said. In 2017 when such a survey was last conducted, use of internet and computers was much lower with 28% having used the internet and 26% had used computers, while 59% had never used a computer. Nearly two-thirds of the children, who can use a smartphone, said they have used it for education-related activities.

IPL 2024 to be played from March 22 to May 26: Report



NEW DELHI: The confirmation of the IPL schedule heavily relies on the general election dates in the country. The BCCI is optimistic about hosting the league in India, contingent upon the election schedule. If the proposed schedule from March 22 to May 26 is approved, it will provide the Indian team with only a five-day window to assemble and synchronize for the T20 World Cup in the US and the Caribbean. The Indian Premier League's (IPL) upcoming 17th season is likely to be

held from March 22 to May 26, according to a report. As mentioned by the Cricbuzz website, the BCCI has discussed the tentative Women's Premier League (WPL) schedule with its stakeholders, and it will run from February 22 to March 17. The report adds that the IPL will begin five days after the conclusion of the WPL. However, any confirmation about the IPL schedule is largely dependent on the dates of the General Election in the country, and the BCCI

hopes that it will manage to host the league in India only. In case the March 22 to May 26 schedule gets the nod, it will give the Indian team just five days to get together and sync up for the T20 World Cup in the US and the Caribbean, beginning June 2. But India's opening fixture, against Ireland, is scheduled for June 5. The report adds that "the BCCI has received assurances from most cricket boards that their players will be available until the (IPL) final".

Problem England will have...': Cook raises concerns ahead of India Tests

NEW DELHI: Former England captain Alastair Cook has expressed worries about England's "lack of match preparation" as they gear up for the grueling five-Test series against India. In his column for 'The Sunday Times,' Cook voiced his concerns, citing the absence of sufficient warm-up games, a situation that could pose a challenge for the visiting team. Reflecting on England's victorious tour of India in 2012-13, where they played three warm-up matches against formidable opponents, Cook emphasized the importance of such practice games for a team's readiness. He



suggested the need for an unwritten agreement among cricketing nations to organize quality practice matches under favorable conditions for touring teams, believing it to be essential for the growth of Test cricket. "The problem England will have is a lack of match preparation," Cook remarked. He advocated for more practice matches, stating, "It would be good if there was some sort of unwritten agreement between countries to put on decent practice matches in decent conditions for touring teams."

Inzamam pins blame on outgoing PCB chairman for Pakistan's World Cup fiasco

NEW DELHI: Former Pakistan skipper and chairman of selectors, Inzamam ul Haq, pointed fingers at the departing chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Zaka Ashraf, for Pakistan's dismal showing in the ODI World Cup held in India last year. Inzamam alleged

that Ashraf's actions created a negative atmosphere within the team during the tournament, citing the chairman's public statements disavowing the team selection process and launching inquiries against the chief selector. "In an important event like the World Cup

in India, hearing that the PCB chairman is saying the team selected was not done by the board but by the captain and chief selector only creates a negative mindset among the players," voiced Inzamam during an interview on a Pakistani television channel.

CAPSULES

Odisha, Goa to fight it out for semis spot

It will be a fight for a knockout spot when the top-two teams in Group D — Odisha FC and FC Goa — clash with one another at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday. But with teams sitting pretty on top with six points each — and Odisha sitting on top based on goal difference — it will be a scope to book a place in the semifinals and also to take the bragging rights of finishing atop in the group stage. While the third and fourth-placed Bengaluru FC and I-League debutants will play an inconsequential match on the day, Odisha coach Sergio Lobera and his counterpart on the day, Manolo Marquez, will be eager to use their last group game to test their squad depth ahead of the crucial clash in the last-four stage. However, winning the match on Monday in front of the home crowd will be crucial en route defending the title they won here last time. Bengaluru and Inter Kashi, who failed to claim a single victory in their campaign, will head home from the group stage, hopefully with at least a point in their kitty. Mumbai City won their last group match against Chennaiyin FC 1-0 with a solitary goal from Hmingthanmawia Ralte or 'Valpuia' in the first half. The Marina Machans will be disappointed with multiple missed opportunities, but credit has to be given to Phurba Lachenpa who was excellent in the goal for the Islanders. With the victory, Mumbai City advance to the semifinals and will face the winners the match between Odisha and FC Goa on Monday. Punjab, Gokulam play goalless inconsequential tie: Punjab FC were held on to a goalless draw by I-League side Gokulam Kerala FC in the final match of Group C in the Kalinga Super Cup 2024.

Rohit Sharma starts practicing ahead of Test series against England

NEW DELHI: In anticipation of the much-anticipated five-Test series against England, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has plunged into rigorous net sessions, showcasing his determination and readiness for the challenge ahead. The series, set to kick off on January 25 in Hyderabad and culminate on March 11 in Dharamshala, has cricket enthusiasts buzzing with excitement. The Mumbai Indians, the reigning five-time Indian Premier League champi-



ons and Rohit's franchise, took to social media platform X to provide a glimpse into the 'Hitman's' intense training regimen, posting images from his recent net session. Rohit boasts an impressive record against

England, having accumulated 747 runs in nine Tests at an average of 49.80, including two centuries and three fifties. His prowess in Indian conditions is undeniable, with 2,002 runs in 24 Tests at an average of 66.73, featuring eight

centuries and six fifties. In a recent T20I series against Afghanistan, Rohit faced initial setbacks with two ducks but roared back with a spectacular 121* in 69 balls, showcasing his ability to bounce back with resilience. The Indian Test squad for the first two matches sees the inclusion of wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, earning a maiden call-up. However, the squad will miss the services of the recovering Mohammed Shami, and the rested Ishan Kishan.

Australia announce ODI squad for West Indies series; Maxwell rested, Fraser-McGurk

NEW DELHI: Cricket Australia revealed its 13-member ODI squad to face West Indies, featuring notable exclusions and inclusions. Glenn Maxwell will be rested, while Jhye Richardson has been ruled out due to injury. Exciting young batter Jake Fraser-McGurk and uncapped speedster Xavier Bartlett have earned call-ups to the squad. Fraser-McGurk, recognized as one of Australia's most promising batters, joins the ODI squad after showcasing his talent with a world-record 29-ball



century in the Marsh Cup earlier this season. The 21-year-old, currently playing for Melbourne Renegades in the Big Bash League (BBL), recently scored a maiden first-class century and accumulated 257 runs with an

impressive strike rate of 158.64. Cricket Australia clarified that Glenn Maxwell's exclusion is part of a workload management strategy ahead of upcoming T20Is against West Indies and New

Zealand. mWith David Warner's retirement, Matt Short is expected to open for Australia, and Lance Morris is poised to make his international debut. The three-match ODI series against West Indies is scheduled from February 2 to February 6, with matches taking place in Brisbane, Sydney, and Canberra, respectively. Notable absentees from the pace department include Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, and Josh Hazlewood, who are rested for the ODIs.

Pujara joins elite club, becomes fourth Indian to score 20,000 first-class runs



NEW DELHI: Indian middle-order maestro Cheteshwar Pujara achieved the milestone of 20,000 runs in first-class cricket, solidifying his position as one of India's batting stalwarts. The 34-year-old accomplished this historic landmark during Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy clash against Vidarbha in Nagpur. Pujara exhibited his class with the bat in the

match, contributing significantly to Saurashtra's success. In the first innings, he notched up 43 from 105 balls, featuring four boundaries and a six. The veteran cricketer followed it up with a resilient 66 in the second innings, facing 137 balls and smashing 10 boundaries. Saurashtra emerged victorious in the encounter, securing a

win by 238 runs. With this achievement, Pujara now has 20,013 runs from 260 matches, boasting an impressive average of 51.98 in his first-class career. His stellar record includes an outstanding 61 centuries and 78 fifties, with a highest score of 352. Pujara now stands as the fourth Indian batsman to breach the 20,000-run mark in first-class cricket.

Gough applauds Anderson's dedication as the veteran pacer adjusts run-up ahead of India Tests

NEW DELHI: Former England cricketer Darren Gough has expressed admiration for James Anderson's unwavering commitment to the game, particularly in light of the 41-year-old fast bowler's recent adjustments to his run-up ahead of the challenging five-Test series in India.

Anderson, set to become the oldest player to feature in an overseas Test for England in nearly three decades, revealed in an interview that he has worked on a "better run-up to get that speed and momentum." The veteran bowler aims to enhance his performance after a challenging Ashes series at home last year. Gough, speaking to an English publication, commended Anderson's desire to continue playing despite his lengthy career. He acknowledged the potential injury risks associated with changing a well-established bowling dynamic, especially for a seasoned player



like Anderson. "The only thing is when you've been doing something so long as Jimmy has, when you start quickening up, you bring more injuries into play, more hamstring, calf, groin-type injuries," Gough stated. He expressed hope that Anderson can avoid injuries and continue to perform well. Despite Anderson's age, Gough emphasized that his selection should be based on performance. "Everybody talks about his age but with Jimmy, you have to take age out of it. If he keeps taking

wickets, he keeps playing. If he doesn't, he doesn't, it's that simple," Gough remarked. Anderson, who last played in July 2023 during the final Ashes Test at the Oval, is returning after his longest-ever layoff. Gough acknowledged the challenges associated with changing dynamics and potential injury risks. However, he highlighted Anderson's athleticism and suggested that if the veteran pacer has a good series in India, he might consider playing one more summer.

Keshav Maharaj's special message ahead of Pran Pratishtha

CAPSULES

Diverse colours of Indian culture on ample display in Ayodhya

Ayodhya

It was a colourful evening in Ayodhya on Monday when artistes from within Uttar Pradesh and across the country mesmerized the audience with their musical and dance performances showcasing diverse shades of Indian culture following the consecration ceremony. As many as 200 artistes from regional cultural centres of the Ministry of Culture as well others from within UP and from different parts of the country performed on over 100 stages put up across Ayodhya, introducing the audience to the diverse colours of culture through outstanding performances. This moment was not only a matter of pride for the residents of Ayodhya but also a moment of honour for the visitors who came from outside. The morning chill did not dampen the spirits of the artistes, who dressed in colourful attire, presented their performances. One of the highlights of the cultural soiree was the melodious presentation of songs by Padma Shree Malini Awasthi and Kanhaiya Mittal. Malini Awasthi performed at Tulsi Udyan, Kanhaiya Mittal performed at Ram Katha Park. The consecration ceremony was not just limited to Ayodhya but encompassed the entire Uttar Pradesh. The tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' was introduced to the guests through 'damru' and 'conch blowing'. Various folk dances were performed including Dhobiya, Faruwahi, Bam Rasia, Mayur dances, Rai dance, tribal dances, and many more. The audience was specially delighted to see the tribal folk dance by members of the Vantangiya community of Gorakhpur. In addition, the guests were warmly treated with dances from Awadhi and Uttarakhanda. From Dharma Path to Ram Path, Janmabhoomi Path, at the airport, near Lata Chowk, and many other places, people enjoyed folk dance, music, and singing. The Sharma Brothers from Ujjain presented devotional songs at Tulsi Udyan. During this period, the Ram Katha Park also featured a presentation by the Watekar Sisters from Nagpur. The devotees also listened to the spiritual speaker Devkinandan Thakur's Shri Ram Katha at the venue at 10:30 AM. Along with the folk dancers from various regions of Uttar Pradesh, artists from various states, including Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and many others, participated in this cultural procession.

Today India's honour has returned with the arrival of Ram Lalla in his temple: Mohan Bhagwat

Ayodhya

The Chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Mohan Bhagwat, on Monday, said that by erasing the curse of 500 years of defeat, the grand inauguration ceremony of the Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya will mark a significant step towards elevating the country to the status of a global leader, creating new milestones in various aspects. Addressing a gathering of distinguished guests and saints following the consecration ceremony, Mohan Bhagwat said, "This ceremony is witnessing the emergence of a new India that will provide relief from distress to the entire world. There is joy and enthusiasm everywhere. We heard that before attending this consecration ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed challenging fast, which reflects his ascetic nature." He added that by adhering to Lord Ram's policies of unprecedented patience, renunciation, penance and sacrifice, citizens can help India become a global leader. "The reason behind Lord Shri Ram's departure from Ayodhya was a familial conflict. He went into exile and returned after ending the discord in the entire world. Presently, after 500 years, Shri Ram Lalla has returned which assures the welfare of all those who are being witness to this historic event. However, disciplined behaviour and good conduct like that of the people living in Tretayuga is essential for achieving Ramrajya", he pointed out. Instead of engaging in conflicts, our contribution to the progress of the country must be through good conduct, he added. Mohan Bhagwat said that people must adhere to the four stages of dharma as outlined.

Temple is built exactly where it was pledged to be built: CM Yogi

Ayodhya

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath shared his feelings following the completion of the consecration ceremony for the 'Bal vigraha' of Shri Ram Lalla in Shri Ayodhya Dham. Expressing deep satisfaction, the Chief Minister remarked, "the temple has been constructed exactly where it was resolved to be built".? Ramay Rambhadray Ramchandraya Vedhse. Raghunathay Nathay Sitayah Pataye Namah.? Prabhu Shri Ramlala ki Jai! Saryu Maiya ki Jai! Bharat Mata ki Jai! Jai Jai Shri Sita Ram! Hearty congratulations to all of you as Lord Shri Ram Lalla is enshrined in his 'bhavya-divya-navya' Dham! On this eagerly

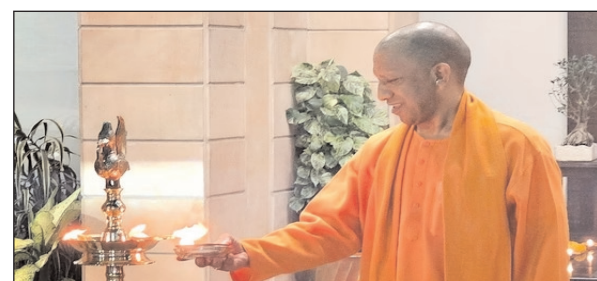


anticipated day, after a hiatus of 500 years, emotions swell in the heart to a degree where words fail to capture the profound sentiments. The mind is immersed in a sea of emotions, profoundly moved and overwheled. Undoubtedly, each of you must be experiencing a similar sentiment.? Today, on this historic

Ayodhya Ram Mandir Highlights: UP CM Yogi lights 'Ram Jyoti' after 'pran pratishtha' ceremony

Ayodhya

Standing on 2.7 acres of land in the temple town, the Ram temple is a marvel of architectural prowess. It reaches a height of 161 feet, spans 235 feet in width, and boasts a total length of 360 feet. Constructed in the distinguished Nagara style, one of the two temple-building styles from ancient India, the Ram temple follows all Vedic rituals while seamlessly integrating modern technology. The



built-up area covers nearly 57,000 square feet, constituting a three-floor structure that stands at about 70% of the height of the iconic Qutub Minar. Security measures in Ayodhya have been significantly heightened, with the Uttar Pradesh government employing advanced technologies, including surveillance drones, night vision devices, and CCTV cam-

Yogi govt strengthens measures against cyber fraud linked to Ram Temple

Ayodhya

Amid the growing concern over surge in cybercriminal activity related to the consecration program of Lord Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya Dham, the Yogi Government has sprung into action to deal with the issue. As false messages claiming to collect donations for Ram Janmabhoomi, along with deceptive promises of providing free Prasad, VIP passes and entry passes, are circulating, the Yogi government is

taking proactive measures to address and counteract these malicious activities. Instructions have been issued to the entire state police, particularly Ayodhya Police, to maintain heightened vigilance. In a recent incident, Ayodhya Police acted swiftly, arresting an Indian American citizen involved in similar activities and putting him in jail under relevant sections. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is also alerting all devotees about these deceptive practices. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust cautions people. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has issued an appeal to all the devotees to not respond to requests or WhatsApp messages from unknown individuals without verification and to avoid making donations without proper authentication, highlighting the various cyber fraud.

Theme of Uttar Pradesh tableau on the occasion of Republic Day 2024 Viksit Bharat

Virasat Tractor: The consecration program of Ram Lalla's statue was completed in Ayodhya today on January 22, 2024, hence the beautiful statue of Ram Lalla installed on a temple-like base has been taken in the front of the tableau.

Trailer: First of all, the trailer features two sadhus with the Kalash symbol, emblematic of the upcoming Magh Mela in Prayagraj and the Mahakumbh to be held in 2025. Below, just above the frill displays the Festival of Lights, symbolizing the auspicious arrival of Prabhu Shri Ram in Ayodhya. The subsequent image showcases Jewar Airport, the fourth-largest international airport in the World. Serving as a symbol, Asia's largest mobile manufacturing factory in Noida represents Uttar Pradesh's ascent as a prominent hub for mobile production. In LED Screen Additionally, the depiction of the state's transformation into an "expressway state" with 6 operational and 7 under construction expressways. Rapid Rail is placed after Sadhus

on tractors, first time in the country, the high-speed rail service (RRTS) is operational connecting Ghaziabad to Duhai.

To conclude, the trailer highlights the Brahmos missile emerging from the top of the Rapid Rail-a product exclusively manufactured in Uttar Pradesh, establishing the state as a hub for such advancements in North India. Finally, the emblematic lion of Make in India signifies Uttar Pradesh's role in advancing the national campaign for indigenous manufacturing.

Thousands clad in saffron danced in the streets waving saffron flags, rangolis were made and temples were lit up with diyas as people gathered to recite hymns and devotional songs about the Hindu god Ram across the country since early morning on Monday. Devotees light earthen oil lamps on the bank of the Sarayu river to celebrate the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday. Devotees light earthen oil lamps on the bank of the Sarayu river to celebrate the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday.

Ramotsav 2024: CM Yogi demonstrates exemplary hosting skills

Ayodhya

During the consecration ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla, Chief Minister Yogi showcased exceptional hosting skills, ensuring a seamless and well-organized event. He personally welcomed



guests and meticulously inspected all temple preparations. Alongside extending a warm welcome to Prime Minister Modi, CM Yogi not only supervised the seamless organization of the program but also actively directed officers to ensure the guests were well taken care of. The guests, in addition to witnessing this historic event, expressed their satisfaction with the hospitality provided by the Yogi government. In the early morning hours, CM Yogi arrived on the temple premises to extend a warm welcome to the guests. As the host, he honored distinguished guests from various fields such as politics, art, sports, literature, film industry, and the industrial sector. CM Yogi personally met with guests, as well as engineers, workers, and their families involved in the temple construction, felicitating them for their contributions. He also conducted a comprehensive inspection of the preparations for the consecration, gathering information about seating arrangements, rituals, and other programs within the sanctum sanctorum. Upon Prime Minister Modi's arrival, CM Yogi and Governor Anandi Ben Patel welcomed him with 'Ramnamni patakas' and a bouquet of flowers. Guests started arriving at 8 am. The arrival of guests commenced at 8 am, with all attendees entering the temple premises through the Janmabhoomi Path. Adorned with Ramnamni patkas, they were escorted to their designated seats. Notable personalities such as MP Hema Malini, Rajinikanth, Kangana Ranaut, Chiranjeevi, Ramcharan, Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Saina Nehwal, Katrina Kaif, Vicky Kaushal, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Devkinandan Thakur, and Randeep Hooda were among the guests from diverse areas.

Ayodhya Mandir inauguration: What adorns Lord Ram

A look at what the Ram Lalla idol has been adorned in.

Crafted in North Indian tradition, the crown is made of gold and adorned with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. At the centre of it is an emblem of Surya Dev. On the right, strands of pearls are woven.

Tilak The forehead bears a traditional tilak, made of diamonds and rubies.

Kundal Designed to complement the mukt, these earrings follow the same design and are adorned with peacock motifs.

They are also embellished with gold, diamonds, rubies, and emeralds.

Kantha The neck is graced by a crescent-shaped necklace, intricately studded with gems. It features floral designs symbolising good fortune, with an image of Surya Dev at its centre. It is crafted from gold and inlaid with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Strands of emeralds hang below, enhancing its appearance.

Padika A necklace worn below the throat and above the navel, significant in

divine ornamentation. It is a five-stranded necklace made of diamonds and emeralds, featuring a large, ornate pendant. Mudrika Rings adorned with gems and featuring dangling pearls are worn on both hands.

Kanch or Kardhani Adorned around the waist is a gem-studded waistband, made of gold and decorated with diamonds, rubies, pearls, and emeralds. It also features small bells symbolising purity.

Lights, prayers, processions: Ayodhya's Ram Temple fervour grips nation

(Reuters) Diwali-like celebrations were held in cities, towns and villages in most states as the country marked the day the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya was thrown open following a consecration ceremony of the idol of the child god or Ram Lalla led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While central government and most states announced a half-day, till 2.30pm, others like Maharashtra declared a public holiday to mark the occasion. Some states such as Uttar Pradesh declared a 'dry day' and prohibited the sale of meat dishes for the day. People flocked

to various temples to offer prayers, organised 'havans' and community feasts and took out colourful processions through the streets. In Delhi, people held Sundarkand recitals, took out rallies and organised 'bhandara' as posters of Lord Ram and saffron flags with the deity's picture dotted the city, devotional songs blared through loudspeakers and special screens provided a live telecast of the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party organised 'shobha yatra's and 'bhandaras' in different parts of the city.