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

PM Modi hails Atal Setu as glimpse of developed India

'He also inaugurated the 6th line between Khar Road and Goregaon railway stations in Mumbai'



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, often referred to as the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link. The sea bridge, connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, is the longest of its kind in India and has been built at a cost of ₹17,840 crore. Built at cost of over Rs 17,840 crore, all you need to know about Atal Setu, an 'engineering marvel' "Dreams are coming true 10 years later. The sea bridge is a reflection of Viksit Bharat ... It shows India's infrastructural prowess and march towards being a developed nation," PM Modi said at the inauguration.

"Atal Setu is the picture of developed India. This is a glimpse of what a developed India is going to be like. In a developed India, there will be facilities for all, prosperity for all, there will be speed and progress. In developed India, distances will be reduced and every corner of the country will be connected. Be it life or livelihood, everything will go on continuously, without interruption. This is the message of Atal Setu," he said. The foundation stone for the six-lane trans-harbour bridge, spanning 21.8 km with a 16.5 km long sea-link, was laid by PM Modi in December 2016. The PM highlighted the

change in the country's development trajectory, stating, "In the past, discussions revolved around mega scams. But now, we are witnessing the completion of mega projects. Dreams that seemed impossible are becoming a reality." He emphasised that the Atal Setu reflects India's infrastructure capabilities and its progress towards becoming a developed nation. Furthermore, the PM mentioned upcoming projects that will contribute to Maharashtra's economic growth, including the Navi Mumbai International Airport, the Coastal Road in Mumbai, AURIC

(Aurangabad Industrial City), the Mumbai-Delhi Industrial Corridor, and the bullet train. PM Modi also expressed gratitude to the government of Japan and paid tribute to late Japanese PM Shinzo Abe for their collaboration in completing the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project. In addition to inaugurating the Atal Setu, PM Modi also opened the new suburban railway station, Digha Gaon, on the Thane-Vashi/Panvel trans-harbour line.

He also inaugurated the 6th line between Khar Road and Goregaon railway stations in Mumbai. The completion of the Atal Setu and the launch of these railway projects signify the government's commitment to enhancing connectivity and improving infrastructure in the region. These developments are expected to boost Maharashtra's economy and pave the way for further progress in the years to come.

Mamata to skip INDIA bloc's crucial virtual meeting today

NEW DELHI: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee won't attend a virtual meeting of INDIA bloc leaders Saturday. A TMC leader said the CM was informed about Saturday's meet only on Friday and she has a scheduled event at that hour. "But this doesn't mean we won't attend future INDIA meetings," another TMC leader said, adding, "We continue to be patient and gracious." Banerjee has already dismissed sharing seats in Bengal with Left Front, but is open to an understanding with Congress.



Leaders of INDIA bloc parties will hold a virtual meeting on Saturday morning where strengthening the anti-BJP platform and seat-sharing are expected to be the main subjects of discussion. The grouping is also likely to deliberate on the appointment of a convener for which

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is understood to have been in touch with leaders of all parties, including Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar. Sources said JD(U) has been reaching out to INDIA partners to garner support for Kumar's nomination as the bloc's

convener and Kharge's appointment as chairman, a suggestion that Congress appears not too keen on. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee will not attend the meeting "as she has other engagements", party leaders said. Banerjee had earlier sought Kharge's appointment as the head of the bloc, a demand that was rejected instantly by the Congress chief. A consensus among allies will also be critical for Kumar's appointment, and Banerjee's consent, especially, may be needed.

PM: God has made me an instrument to represent all Indians at temple event

NEW DELHI: In the emotional message, Modi noted that the feeling of 'Ram Bhakti' has swept the country in the run-up to the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration ceremony). Calling this moment a blessing of the almighty, a culmination of over 500 years

of enduring patience, countless instances of sacrifice and penance, the PM said, "I am overwhelmed with emotions. I am experiencing a different feeling of devotion. This emotional journey of my inner self is not an opportunity for expression but for

experience. Fast and strict rules have been prescribed in the scriptures, which have to be followed before consecration," PM said. "I have the privilege of being present at the time of the fulfilment of the dream which many generations

have lived in their hearts like a resolution for years. God has made me an instrument to represent all the people of India. This is a huge responsibility," said the PM as he explained why he had to be in the right frame for the occasion.

Prayagraj division of IR to make elaborate arrangements for Magh Mela

PRAYAGRAJ: At a time when different departments are busy making preparations for the upcoming Magh Mela, starting January 15, the Prayagraj Division of North Central Railways (NCR) too have chalked out an elaborate plan to meet out the heavy influx of devotees and a multifold increase in number of passengers during the mega religious event. Talking to media on Friday, the divisional railway manager (DRM), Prayagraj Division Himansu Badoni informed that a total Ten Mela Special Express trains have been arranged on all bathing festivals during Magh Mela.

"On the occasion of Mauni Amavasya (February 9), we will be operating 20 trains to meet the rush", said the DRM. Likewise, on Basant Panchami, 15 special trains would be operated, he added. The official further informed that 210 commercial staff and 450 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel will be deployed to assist the devotees during the mela period. Along with them, the Scouts and Guides cadets, people of Civil Defense will also provide their services. To keep a close watch on the Magh Mela and to coordinate with the mela administration, a mela control room has been established at Prayagraj Junction. "Security has been increased at the entry gates and entry to the station will be allowed after scanning and checking through barricading and ticket counters have been arranged on Leader road on a trial basis, which will be expanded further in Maha Kumbh," he added. As an experiment in this Magh Mela, along with the tickets, stickers of different colours will be pasted on the tickets as per the colour of the passenger shelters. Retro reflective arrow marks have also been installed for the convenience of the passengers.

Supreme Court criticises Punjab govt. for politically motivated litigation

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Friday upheld a Punjab and Haryana high court order quashing an FIR registered in Amritsar against former deputy CM and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal and slammed the Bhagwant Singh Mann-led AAP government for indulging in politically motivated litigation. A bench of Justices A



S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan asked Punjab counsel Rooh Hina Dua as to why the Punjab government has appealed against the HC order when it should be the complainant, at whose

behest the FIR was registered? This is nothing but indulging in politically motivated litigation," the bench said. The HC in August last year had quashed an FIR against Badal while observing that continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to an abuse of process of law.

DRDO successfully tests advanced Akash-NG missile, ready for user trials to strengthen India's air defence

NEW DELHI: The new generation Akash surface-to-air missile system, capable of intercepting hostile aircraft, helicopters, and drones at a range of 30 km, is now ready for user trials before its induction into the armed forces. DRDO successfully tested the new-generation Akash missile on Friday from the integrated test range at Chandipur off



the coast of Odisha, completing its developmental trials that began in January 2021. "The flight test

was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at a very low altitude. During the flight test, the target was successfully intercepted by the weapon system and destroyed," an official said. "This validated the functioning of the complete weapon system to intercept high-speed, agile aerial threats. The system consists of a more compact missile with an advanced indigenously developed radio frequency seeker.

No Shami, Ishan Kishan for first two Tests against England, Jurel earns maiden call-up

NEW DELHI: Pacer Mohammed Shami, who is still recovering from an ankle injury was not included in the Indian side for the first two Tests against England, starting January 25 in Hyderabad. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday night announced the 16-man squad for the first two matches of the five-Test



series and the side also did

not have wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan in it. Gloveman Dhruv Jurel got a maiden Test call-up while pacer Avesh Khan was also included in the squad. KL Rahul and KS Bharat are the other two wicketkeeper-batters in the squad. Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel are back in spin-heavy squad which will be led by veteran R Ashwin.

Kharge slams 'BJP conspiracy', says don't need its temple invite

NEW DELHI: Slamming BJP for leading a conspiracy against Congress for declining the invitation to attend the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, party president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said those who have faith in Lord Ram can visit the temple any day, without needing an invitation from RSS and BJP. Kharge, who along with Sonia Gandhi and Lok Sabha MP Adhir Ranjan had "respectfully



declined" to attend the January 22 "event" calling it a "political project" of RSS-BJP meant for electoral gains, said Congress has never hurt any religion or guru, and reiterated that religion is a personal matter. "As far as attending the function is concerned,

those who have faith (aastha) can go tomorrow or the day after. I have made it clear on January 6 itself. It is not correct to attack us and this is a conspiracy of BJP... We do not want to hurt anyone, any religion, any guru. This is not our issue. Our only issue is what PM Modi has done for the people on issues of unemployment, inflation, India's borders and on China (incursions) and what their foreign policy is," Kharge said.

VHP counters Digvijaya Singh, asserts temple work on ground floor complete

New Delhi: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) president Alok Kumar on Friday said Congress leader's statement that the Ram Temple is incomplete, is not true as the idol of Ram Lalla is to be settled on the ground floor where work has been completed. "A 'muhurat' (auspicious time) has been decided at 12.20 pm. The Pran Pratishtha is going to take place in a complete temple with all rituals...I have never seen such a reason to decline the invitation stating that the temple is incomplete except from the Head of Jyotish Peeth. Three Shankaracharyas have expressed joy at the completion of the temple and welcomed the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration)," Kumar told reporters.

Destiny decided construction of Ram temple, chose PM Modi for this: Advani



NEW DELHI: BJP veteran L K Advani has expressed in an upcoming article that destiny had chosen Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfill the long-cherished dream of building the grand temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya. The article, titled 'Ram Mandir Nirman, Ek Divya Swapna Ki Purti', will be featured in a special edition of the 'Rashtra Dharma' magazine, scheduled for release next week. Reflecting on the transformative journey that

began with his Rath Yatra 33 years ago, Advani regards the Ayodhya movement as a pivotal point in his political career. It was a journey that led him to "re-discover India and, in the process, re-understand himself". The Rath Yatra, which commenced on September 25, 1990, ignited a nationwide movement, rooted in the faith of Lord Ram, he recalls. The BJP veteran, who was at the forefront of the Ram temple agitation.

The Trinamool is not keen to hold any talks with the Congress



NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress wants the Congress leadership to acknowledge that the grand old party is weak in West Bengal and let Mamata Banerjee lead the fight against the BJP in the state. The Trinamool is not keen to hold any talks with the Congress on seat sharing for Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, according to party sources.

"The Congress leadership should acknowledge the ground reality in Bengal.

They are weak. We are ready to lead the fight in West Bengal, we are committed to the INDIA bloc and to defeating the BJP. Our position is clearly spelt out with data, so there is no need for one to go to Delhi and have another discussion," a TMC leader told news agency PTI on condition of anonymity.

The Congress panel for seat-sharing talks, which includes Mukul Wasnik, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel

among others, has already met several INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) partners from different states. TMC sources said the Congress contacted party leaders for such a meeting and has been conveyed that they are not keen on sending any representative for talks.

According to reports, the Trinamool Congress has offered two seats to the Congress out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state. These are the seats which the grand old party won in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress has said the offer is too low and difficult to accept. In fact, West Bengal

Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had reacted strongly to the reports and had said "the Congress does not need Mamata's mercy." Adhir says the Congress had won the two seats on its own and is capable of fighting and winning more seats in the state. Notwithstanding his claims, data shows that the Congress has struggled in the state of West Bengal. In the last nine Lok Sabha elections, the grand old party has managed a maximum of nine seats and that too in the year... The Trinamool Congress says its offer of two seats to the Congress is based on the grand old party's voteshare in previous

assembly and Lok Sabha polls. In at least 39 out of 42 seats in West Bengal, the Congress had less than five per cent vote share in the past.

In West Bengal, the Congress got a vote share of 2.93 per cent in the 2021 assembly polls, 12.25 per cent in the 2016 assembly polls, and 5.67 per cent in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The TMC is also looking at fighting from one seat in Meghalaya and at least two in Assam, party sources said. They added that while the local unit of TMC had an aspiration to fight from one seat in Goa, where it got around five per cent vote share in the 2021 assembly polls, it will not press for it and support the Congress in the coastal state. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the TMC won 22 seats in West Bengal, the Congress won two, and the BJP made an impressive performance by bagging 18 seats.

I am available for any topic the Naxalites wish to discuss

RAIPUR: I am open to discussions with the young cadres any time, 24x7, without any conditions. I am available for any topic the Naxalites wish to discuss, but they must be willing to engage," Chhattisgarh deputy chief minister Vijay Sharma, who holds the home portfolio, told .

"...if they regret their decision to join the outfit or wish to reintegrate with mainstream society, I extend my hand to them and urge them to lead a peaceful life and serve the country," Sharma said, adding that it's a step towards restoring peace and stability in Bastar.

Last month, after a string of Maoist IED attacks and ambushes, seemingly a challenge to the newly-elected government, chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai ordered security forces to step up the offensive.

Government is holding out an olive branch but has made it clear there will be no softening of stance.

what they desire, why they carry weapons, why they mislead and trouble people, why they oppose progress in villages, and why they do not support the establishment of hospitals

The deputy CM issued a warning: "If they fail to grasp the importance of dialogue, they will have to pay for the pain they have inflicted on our people ('dard ka hisaab hoga'). They must understand that peace talks cannot occur with guns and bullets. A well-ordered society is not governed by firearms."

"We want to discuss what they desire, why they carry weapons, why they mislead and trouble people, why they oppose progress in villages, and why they do not support the establishment of hospitals, schools, water facilities, and anganwadis," he said.

Every time past govern-

ments offered talks, Maoists set conditions, like release of "innocent tribals". Asked about this, Sharma said the "law governs those in jail".

Talks will be based on the same legal framework under the Constitution that guides all governments, he added.

"If Naxals feel they have something to contribute to society, they should step forward and communicate instead of enduring a difficult life in forests. Discussions should take place in every possible manner, allowing them to share their perspectives on our 'shortcomings', which we will consider. Young Maoist

cadres should not feel isolated from society," Sharma said.

On Maoists' call to save tribals' 'jal, jungle aur jameen' and opposition to mining activities, Sharma said mining is important for progress of any region and expressed his willingness to discuss alternative approaches to minimise damage and explore measures for the development or conservation of the environment in mining regions.

Previous state governments too had proposed talks, but they never materialised as Maoists refused to accept the first condition - that they lay down arms. The Chhattisgarh government has invited Maoists to hold unconditional talks, suggesting "video calls if they are reluctant to come for physical meetings".

"We are prepared to provide Naxalites an online platform to express their grievances, ideas and desires.

Who gave Shinde the AB form... who gave him the post of leader of opposition?

MUMBAI: Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday called for an urgent meeting of Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders at his residence Matoshree to review Speaker Rahul Narwekar's disqualification order. While UBT Sena is expected to move Supreme Court, a section of leaders are reportedly upset over the party backroom operators' failure to get the party's amended 2018 constitution on Election Commission's records and the Speaker's office. Sources said internal friction was seen among leaders over the poor handling of the EC affairs. UBT Sena functionaries said handling the affairs of EC and legislature was the responsibility of MP Anil Desai and ex-minister Subhash Desai. The fact that the party's 2018 constitution was not on EC's records and Narwekar held the 1999 constitution as valid proved to be a key issue in Narwekar declaring the Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena and rejecting disqualification petitions against them. Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut was among those who attended meeting. Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab said all documents of the 2018 amendments were given to EC and will be given to the SC. "There is no internal friction," he said. UBT camp MP Arvind Sawant said Uddhav Thackeray was made party chief in 2013. "In the national executive meeting (in 2018), we elected Uddhav Thackeray to the post of party chief. Who gave Shinde the AB form... who gave him the post of leader of opposition? So far EC has never said the constitution is invalid. There was no friction (between Sena UBT leaders) at all. It was discussed that we will go to SC. A legislative party has limits of terms. This is nothing but making a cruel mockery of the constitution. In 2018, Shinde was given the post of leader. We have submitted all the changes in the constitution to EC, we have the evidence." he said.

Global issues like the conflict in West Asia and the Ukraine war

NEW DELHI: Foreign minister S Jaishankar spoke to his two Quad counterparts, US secretary of state Antony Blinken and Australian foreign minister Penny Wong, and discussed bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues like the conflict in West Asia and the Ukraine war. The Quad countries are looking to finalise

dates for the 2024 summit which India has to host. "A good discussion this evening with my friend US @SecBlinken.

Our conversation focused on maritime security challenges, especially the Red Sea region.

Appreciated his insights on ongoing situation in West Asia, including Gaza," said the minister in a post on X.

"Exchanged perspectives on developments pertaining to the Ukraine conflict. Looking forward to realising our extensive cooperation agenda for 2024," he added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had joined UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in their bilateral meeting earlier this week in calling for an early humanitarian

ceasefire in Gaza. India has also said it attaches high importance to freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. "The first conversation of 2024 with @SenatorWong of Australia. Exchanged views on the state of the world and discussed our cooperation for this year, including through Quad," said Jaishankar, on his conversation.

Kharge has been holding hectic deliberations with its state leader

NEW DELHI: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge held two separate meetings with Lok Sabha coordinators from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands as part of the party's preparations for the Lok Sabha polls this year and to ascertain the party's strength on the ground.



Though Kharge has stressed that Congress will focus on preparing the ground for all 543 parliamentary constituencies, as a key constituent of the INDIA bloc, it is likely to contest fewer LS

seats than it has done in the past.

With negotiations with allies underway - second round of discussions with AAP and SP are scheduled on Friday - the Congress leadership has been holding hectic deliberations with its state level leaders, not only to gauge its strengths across constituencies, but also to ready Congress cadres for their fight against BJP.

Govt may announce hike in support scheme for farmers in interim budget

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman may announce an increase in income support to farmers under the flagship PM-Kisan scheme, which is currently fixed at Rs 6,000 annually, providing a boost to nearly 11 crore land-holding farmers across the nation. They also spoke about the pos-

sibility of giving a higher amount to women farmers and the annual amount in that case could be in the range of Rs 10,000-12,000.

This year, government has budgeted outgo of Rs 60,000 crore for PM-Kisan and depending on when the decision is implemented, the allocation will have to be

increased. In 2019, the first instalment was paid before the end of the financial year in March, weeks before the first round of elections.

An increase to Rs 8,000 will increase the annual allocation to Rs 88,000 crore, while annual support of Rs 9,000 will cost Rs 99,000 crore. Given that tax and

other revenue receipts have been buoyant, resources are not seen to be a problem despite government's commitment to stick to the fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of GDP for the current fiscal year and follow the glide path to lower deficit. The budget session of Parliament is likely to commence.

Separate video statement of her plight is also circulating on the social media

HAVERI: Her companion was allegedly beaten up. A separate video statement of her plight is also circulating on the social media. "I pleaded with folded hands, but they were in no mood to listen. Three of them later dropped me at a bus stop, from where I reached my home," the woman said. "I don't know their names, but will be able to identify them if paraded before me." Three of the seven suspects - identified as Aftab Maqbul Ahmed Chandanakatti, Madarasab Mohammad Isak Mandakki, and Abdul Khader Jafersab

Hanchinamani - were arrested on Thursday. SP Anshu Srivastava confirmed that the survivor's account, as recorded by the magistrate, matched her video statement to the media. Based on the new information, what was a case of alleged moral policing will now be treated as a serious crime. "We are recasting the FIR that was initially filed, based on information available at the time.

We will invoke Section 376D (rape by one or more people with common intention) against the accused," SP said.

SP Srivastava also assured the survivor and her family of police protection.

A Karnataka woman who was allegedly hounded by seven men from her community over an interfaith relationship told a judicial magistrate on that she was gang-raped by the group that barged into her hotel room in Hangal taluk, 80km from Hubli, four days ago. The complainant, who was with her male companion at the time, said she was dragged to a forested area near Nalkuru Cross of Hangal and sexual-ly assaulted by all seven men.

Book parents of kids with nylon manja: HC

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR:

Aurangabad bench of Bombay high court has directed authorities to register offences against people who fly kites using nylon strings, reports Prasad Joshi. In a recent order, HC directed that strings should be confiscated if children are found using nylon strings and investigation held to find their source. If parents are found involved in procuring them, offences must be registered against them, it said, adding that shops selling nylon strings should be sealed. "Police authorities and the local administration in the state should commence combing operations and raid all premises where nylon threads are being sold," said a two-member high court bench during a fresh hearing of a suo motu PIL, which the court had initiated in response to TOI reports in 2020.

Karnataka government would celebrate the consecration of the Ram temple

NEW DELHI:

Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivkumar, announced the Karnataka government would celebrate the consecration of the Ram temple. Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh said he will attend the ceremony, while CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said he does not need an invite from government to visit the Ram temple.

It was no surprise then that though the top leadership including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief Sonia Gandhi and Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury declined to attend the official ceremonies, the party's Uttar Pradesh unit - led by general secretary in-charge Avinash Pande, PCC chief Ajay Rai and 100 other office bearers - will head to Ayodhya on Makar Sankranti to take a dip in Saryu river and then visit Hanumangarhi and the makeshift Ram Temple to pay obeisance. The UP unit is not alone. As many leaders pointed out that VHP's invitation to the consecration was sent out selectively to individuals, not parties, several Congress leaders appeared to be going the UP way, making a clear distinction between the party's ideological position - not an official diktat to keep away.

- and their personal faith. Reactions to Congress brass's decision to stay away were also, as a result, varied. On the one hand, Congress Gujarat leader Arjun Modhwadia broke ranks with the party and said the decision to stay away from the consecration ceremony was a subject of trust and belief of people of India and it should have, therefore, "stayed away from taking such a political decision".

In declining government's invitation to attend the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, Congress sought to emphasise two things - one, that it would not endorse or participate in a "political event" organised by RSS-BJP, the organisations it has consistently been critical of; and two, that religion is a personal matter that should not be used for political gains.

CAPSULES

FIRs on complaint of saffron outfits

BHOPAL/JABALPUR/MUMBAI

In Mumbai, two separate police complaints were filed by Bajrang Dal and Hindu IT Cell activists against the actor and others associated with the film for remarks about Lord Ram and for allegedly promoting "love jihad". PTI quoted an official as saying a complaint was submitted by Bajrang Dal activists to the Oshiwara police station two days ago, and an inquiry was underway. Another complaint was filed at the Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station by Hindu IT Cell founder Ramesh Solanki who alleged the film demeans Lord Ram and was intentionally released to hurt religious sentiments of Hindus. In Jabalpur, Omti police station filed a case under IPC Sections 153 (wanton provocation with intent to cause riot) and 34 (common intention) following a complaint from the Jabalpur-based outfit on Wednesday. Apart from Nayanthara, the FIR names Zee Entertainment CEO Punit Goenka, director Neelesh Krishna, producers Jatin Sethi and R Ravindran, Saryq Patel and Monica Shergill of Netflix India. Hindu Seva Parishad president Atul Jaiswani alleged the film had "inappropriate references" to Lord Ram and promoted "love jihad". In a scene, the daughter of a priest is shown wearing a hijab to cook biryani and is shown offering namaz. Lord Ram is depicted as eating meat after hunting animals during his exile, the complaint says.

Police in Jabalpur have registered an FIR against actor Nayanthara and makers of Netflix movie "Annapoorani" after Hindu Seva Parishad filed a complaint accusing them of hurting religious sentiments. The film was no longer available on Netflix at the time of going to print on Thursday. Solanki also cited few scenes he claimed hurt religious sentiments, including those cited in the Jabalpur complaint. In another scene, PTI quoted his complaint as saying, Farhaan, the friend of Nayanthara's character, brainwashes her into cutting meat and says Lord Ram and Sita had also consumed meat.

Raided 32 locations on, seizing illegal arms and ammunition, cash and 'incriminating' documents

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency - in a fresh, multi-state crackdown against the banned outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Lawrence Bishnoi crime syndicate and other terrorist organisations/criminal gangs - raided 32 locations on, seizing illegal arms and ammunition, cash and 'incriminating' documents. The crackdown covered raids at 16 locations in a case relating to the activities of BKI chief and members, seven locations linked to a case registered against the organised criminal gang run on the directions of Bishnoi and his Canada-based associate Goldy Brar, and nine in a third case relating to terror and criminal conspiracies hatched by proscribed terrorist organisations and criminal gangs based in India and abroad. The 32 locations searched on five states - Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, UP and Delhi - as well as Union territory of Chandigarh. The seizures made by the NIA teams during the searches included two pistols, two magazines and ammunition, cash amounting to Rs 4.6 lakh, documents and digital devices.

"The terror hardware is being used by operatives/members of terror outfits and organised criminal syndicates for carrying out bomb explosions, targeted killings, extortions, terror funding of terror outfits, etc. in various parts of the country," NIA said in a statement.

SC extended the interim bail

NEW DELHI: SC on extended the interim medical bail granted to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik by another six months after his plea was not opposed by Enforcement Directorate (ED). He was first granted bail on medical grounds in August last year. A bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal after Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for ED, did not object to Malik's request for extension of bail. ED had arrested the former minister in February 2022 in a money laundering case registered over the Goawala compound property in Kurla, allegedly linked to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. On August 11 last year, SC had granted him bail for two months and it was further extended on October 13. "Temporary medical bail of petitioner extended by six months as prayed for. List the main matter after six months," apex court said.

Mackay optimism about the strong interests between India and Canada

NEW DELHI: Canada's high commissioner to India Cameron Mackay expressed optimism about the strong alignment of strategic interests between India and Canada, despite recent diplomatic tensions.

Speaking at a seminar on 'India-Canada Business: The Way Forward' at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, Mackay emphasized the importance of the bilateral trade and investment relationship. He praised the annual gathering of investors as a platform to strengthen business and people-to-people ties. While acknowledging the past tensions between the two countries, Mackay highlighted the leader-



ship and vision of the business community present at the seminar. He urged both governments and the business community to focus on trade and investment, as it would support job creation, technology partnership, and mutual prosperity. "In the past months it has been a time of some tensions between our two countries. It is no secret. But I am encouraged by leadership and vision of business community

present here and outside the room to continue with trade and investment relationship which is in the interest of both of our countries," Mackay said. Mackay stressed that Canada's strategic interest and India's strategic interest are absolutely aligned," the high commissioner said. The diplomatic row has not affected business relations between India and Canada, Mackay said, adding that over 100 Indian companies have invested in Canada, while more than 600 Canadian companies are present in India.

He urged everyone to let the governments handle diplomacy while fostering business-to-business ties to restore

Key features of the newly-built temple in Ayodhya

NEW DELHI: With anticipation for the sacred consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir reaching a feverish pitch, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra has shared key features of the newly-built temple in Ayodhya.

On January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other special invitees will lead the Pran Pratishtha of the temple before it opens up for devotees around the world. Here are 20 points

about the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya ...

1. The temple is being built in traditional Nagara style.
2. The length of the temple (from east to west) will be 380 feet, width will be 250 feet and height will be 161 feet.
3. The temple will be three-story tall. The height of each floor will be 20 feet. There will be a total of 392 pillars and 44 gates in the temple.
4. There will be a child form of Lord Ram (deity

of Ram Lalla) in the main sanctum and Shri Ram Darbar on the first floor.

5. There will be 5 pavilions in the temple: Dance Pavilion, Color Pavilion, Sabha Pavilion, Prayer Pavilion and Kirtan Pavilion.
6. Statues of Gods and Goddesses are being carved on the pillars and walls.
7. Entry to the temple will be from the east side, by climbing 32 stairs and from Singhdwar.
8. There will be a provi-

sion of ramp and lift in the temple for the disabled and elderly.

9. There will be a rectangular wall all around the temple. Its total length in all four directions will be 732 meters and width will be 14 feet.
10. Four temples dedicated to Sun God, Mother Bhagwati, Ganapati and Lord Shiva will be built at the four corners of the park. There will be a temple of Maa Annapurna in the northern arm.

"To ensure the best possible experience for the voters"

NEW DELHI: Chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Thursday told chief electoral officers (CEOs) of all states and Union Territories to focus their energies on delivering a "spotless" general election, the thrust of which would be "to ensure the best possible experience for the voters". Addressing a conference all the CEOs, which over its two-day duration saw the CEOs from states

where polls were held recently sharing their experiences, best practices and lessons learnt, Kumar said the "road to the elections is a journey of duty and resolve" and expressed confidence in the readiness of the election machinery with all the necessary interventions to make the electoral experience of all stakeholders a pleasant one. The EC brass and the CEOs brainstormed on various themes like election planning,

expenditure monitoring, electoral roll, IT applications, data management and electronic voting machines and voter education and awareness. Election commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey said the CEOs conference is the culmination of the exercise that started with various conferences, workshops, trainings, seminars organised over the past six months as part of preparations for 2024 elections.tnn

Petrol and diesel from India like 'Quit India' movement

NEW DELHI: Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said on that he is on a mission to drive out petrol and diesel from India like 'Quit India' movement.

Speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat summit, the minister said there is a need to increase production and use of clean and alternative fuels to check air pollution and reduce India's dependence on imported crude. "I travel in hydrogen,



electric and flex-fuel cars to advertise alternative fuel. Like we had a Quit India movement to drive away Britishers, I am on a mission to drive out petrol and diesel from the country," he said. Gadkari said the country is facing air pollu-

tion and transport sector contributes nearly 40% to it.

"Huge import bill to get crude to meet our requirement is an economic challenge. We need to find pollution free and indigenous fuel that's cost effective," he said.

Howrah in West Bengal is the dirtiest city in India

NEW DELHI: Howrah in West Bengal is the dirtiest city in India, according to the recently released annual cleanliness survey, 'Swachh Survekshan'. Notably, the 10 dirtiest cities with a population of over 1 lakh are all from West Bengal. Kalyani, M a d h y a g r a m, Krishnanagar, Asansol, Rishra, Bidhannagar, Kanchrapara, Kolkata and Bhatpara are the dirtiest cities in the country after Howrah in the category, the survey found. Except Kolkata and Bhatpara, the remaining eight cities have a cleanliness score of less than 1,000. Shillong in Meghalaya as

well as Khagaria and Sitamarhi in Bihar also occupied the bottom spots in the rankings. These cities were evaluated for their cleanliness and sanitation practices. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh's Indore, for the seventh consecutive time, clinched the title of the cleanest city in India. It was followed by Surat (Gujarat), Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). Among the states, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were determined the cleanest in India with high sanitation standards.

Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Nagaland were found to be the least clean. The Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh secured the top rank in the category of the cleanest cantonment boards while Nainital secured the bottom rank. The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 were declared in a ceremony presided over by President Droupadi Murmu and saw many other dignitaries. in attendance. The participation of 4,447 urban local bodies with over 12 crore citizen responses, making it the largest cleanliness survey in the world.

Editorial

How saffron party's organisational structure with Modi hallmark makes a difference?

The chief ministers in the three states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh have taken office. Their council is also taking shape. Along with it, Prime Minister Modi's leadership has passed a test with flying colours. If one is to argue that these were state polls and Brand Modi had little to do with them, then must I remind how the entire opposition was ready to claim it as dying of 'Modi Wave', had the results been otherwise. Chhattisgarh, for instance, was nowhere in contesting positions for the BJP. So much so that many had considered the Congress victory in the state a given. But that was well before Modi stepped into the electoral battle. Through the year, PM Modi was involved in multiple projects, including ones with international implications for Bharat, i.e., the G20 India summit. Soon after it was over, PM Modi entered the electoral campaign, and things started looking brighter for his party. CM Madhya Pradesh, Mohan Yadav, is now popular for his skills with the sword that he perhaps learnt at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Shakra; Bhajan Lal Sharma is looked upon as a man who single-handedly managed the party office. And, then, we have the first tribal chief minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai. The elevation of these three, overlooking or putting aside claims of some stalwarts in their respective states, says a lot about the BJP's way of functioning.

With this remarkable win in the run-up to the 2024 general elections, PM Modi and the BJP have established themselves as forerunners, leaving the Gandhi family-led Congress much behind. There are, of course, many reasons behind it, and Congress would need to do deep introspection to understand it. However, one reason that gives the BJP an upper hand is the organisational workings of the BJP. It has been some time on the national level that party leaders have shared their thoughts on how the BJP works. Yet, it continues to surprise many. But this is one key factor that separates the BJP from other parties: The organisational working of the party, with Modi hallmark on it. After travelling across the country and perhaps taking blessings and guidance from Sadhus in the Himalayas and Saints in the South, young Narendra Modi in the 1970s got back to his home state of Gujarat and joined the RSS. It was through his learnings that he realised the importance of organisation building. PM Modi has written about it in a book about how so many in the Sangh leadership shaped him into the man that he is today. After growing through the ranks through service in the RSS, Modi was shifted to the BJP organisation in Gujarat. It was for the first time here that Modi's organisation-building activities began showing positive results for the BJP in Gujarat. Over the next few years, Gujarat BJP turned into a model organisation. In the mid-1990s, Modi shifted to Panchkula, Haryana, as the National Secretary-in-Charge for Haryana, among other states. The organisational watermark was visible in the 2014 state assembly elections in the state when the BJP won polls in the state for the first time. The functioning of the party, wherein the organisation reigns supreme, has become a permanent feature of the party. In fact, it is precisely this aspect that has kept factionalism or intra-party rivalries under control. Of course, there is an overarching impression of Modi-Shah functioning, which ensures things stay as smooth as they could be. This sense of discipline and towing the party line are features of the party today.

Why India should use Maldivian self-goal to push tourism in Lakshadweep

It's a goal. A goal which India wasn't even willing to score. In fact, India was happy playing the ball in its own half. But such has been the Maldivian ingenuity to score a self-goal, especially since the formation of a new government this year, maybe emboldened by China's hidden hands in its support, that they have not just jumped on to the Indian half but also ensured that a goal is scored on their own side.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Lakshadweep, he did what he would usually do while visiting a part of India: He posted photos of his stay in Lakshadweep; he praised its pristine beaches; and, he urged Indians to prioritise domestic trips over foreign visits. He then posted his photos and penned his thoughts on Lakshadweep. Like in the past, it did raise curiosity in social media, which went on an overdrive, with many Indian users comparing Lakshadweep with the Maldives. Lo and behold, a few Maldivian ministers took the bait and made unsavory comments about Prime Minister Modi and India. The result has been catastrophic for Lakshadweep: Its primary money-minting industry, tourism, is in tatters, with Indians going in for mass



cancellation and EaseMyTrip, one of India's biggest online travel platforms, suspending flight bookings to the island nation.

As per data from the Maldives' tourism ministry, Indians in 2023 accounted for 11.2 per cent of the total tourist arrivals — 18.42 lakh — in the island nation, with Russia being a close second with a share of 11.1 per cent. The fact of the matter is that Modi was doing what he ought to do as a prime minister. What's ironic is that it took the Indian leadership so long to wake up to Lakshadweep. India's Lakshadweep policy often reminded this writer of the country's now-discarded border development pro-

grammes, especially those related to infrastructure in the North East. For decades, people were made to believe that the roads in the Northeast, especially in the areas bordering China, should not be developed as this would provide the invading Chinese troops an easy access to India's mainland. The result of this defeatist mindset was that the people living in the bordering areas of Arunachal Pradesh, especially, would look askance at the broad, multi-lane highway running up to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the other side, while living amid state-imposed poverty and drudgery. The policy to keep Lakshadweep off the tourist map reminds us of the same

beaten track. For, the agents of climate change won't discriminate in favour of Lakshadweep if neighbouring Maldives and mainland Kerala indulge in unsustainable development and wanton commercialisation. Also, isn't it an elitist mentality of those residing in the mainland to incessantly exploit the planet for human whims and fancies, but keep these people in the dark ages in the name of climate change and ecology?

In the early 1980s, the Maldives was one of the world's 20 poorest countries. Within three decades, it not just pushed itself in the middle-income country, but also showed massive improvements in healthcare and education sectors, with a life expectancy of 74.8 and a literacy rate 98.4 per cent. Lakshadweep, in contrast, remained stuck in a time warp. An archipelago of 36 islands, of which 11 are inhabited with about 70,000 people, it has a low per capita income and high unemployment level of 13 per cent, as per the data provided by the UT Administration. Even after seven decades of Independence, Internet connectivity is in an elementary stage in Lakshadweep, especially at a time when the world is taking a giant online leap forward.

As the saying goes, life finds a way, so will these people in the archipelago, even if all doors of development are closed. If they don't find education and jobs, they will find other means for survival and livelihood, often playing at the hands of those inimical to India's interests. No wonder, in May 2022, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) intercepted two Indian ships off the coast of the Lakshadweep islands and seized 218 kg of heroin worth Rs 1,526 crore. In this backdrop, Prime Minister Modi inaugurating the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection project, among various projects, worth more than Rs 1,150 crore covering a wide range of sectors including technology, energy, water resources, healthcare and education, should be welcomed. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that the project "will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep. This will improve facilities like government services, medical treatment, education and digital banking. The potential of developing Lakshadweep as a logistics hub will get strength from this".

How a divided world allows Houthis to hold global trade hostage

The Red Sea, or, one should say, the Houthi backwaters, has been the surprise package of Israel's war. Iran is not doing anything. Hezbollah is not retaliating, but Yemen's Houthis are doing a lot. These are ragtag militants fighting a civil war. But how are they holding global trade hostage? It is because the world is divided. While most countries agree the attacks should stop, they won't say it out loud. The UN Security Council passed a new resolution on Wednesday, which demanded an immediate end to Houthi attacks. As many as 11 members backed the resolution, and the remaining four — Russia, China, Algeria and Mozambique — abstained. "I would like to once again under-

score that this resolution cannot be seen as legitimising the actions in the Red Sea of the so-called coalition made up of the US and its allies," said Vasily Nebenzya, Russian Federation's permanent representative to the UN. US, allies reiterate call for end to attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea "The draft resolution remains ambiguous on several key issues, which makes us worry that it might not be able to achieve the intended effect or even lead to negative consequences," said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN.

Here is the problem: They won't send warships, nor would they condemn Houthis or back a resolution, but they won't veto it

either. It means no one wants to be the bad cop against the Houthis. They fear it will be seen as anti-Palestine because the Houthis claim to be fighting for Palestine. It's not just Russia and China; Arab countries are also guilty here, especially Jordan and Egypt. Egypt earns around nine billion dollars annually from the Suez Canal. It is a mainstay of their economy. If ships don't use the Red Sea, Egypt will lose that money. Same with Jordan, the Red Sea is vital for their trade; it carries 33 percent of their imports and 54 percent of their exports. Yet both countries are silent; they would much rather suffer losses than speak out, so the Houthis simply carry on.

Congress disowns Ram again, takes another step towards political marginalisation ahead of 2024 polls

The Congress leadership will boycott the Ram Mandir's 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22. The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust had invited Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for the event. The party leadership, after deliberating over the issue for over a week, has finally decided to officially give it a miss. The Congress leadership believes that while "religion is a personal matter", the January 22 ceremony is a "BJP-RSS event". Interestingly, when one looks at the Congress' history, its stand on matters of religion has largely been opportunistic, if not dubious. From overturning the Supreme Court's Shah Bano judgement to providing Haj subsidy, disbursing monthly salaries to Muslim clerics, and legitimising the Islamist endeavour to turn the entire country into a Waqf land through the Waqf Act of 1995, the party has often been seen to be hand in glove with fundamentalist elements. Abhishek Bachchan expresses eagerness to visit Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, says, 'I am very excited to see...'. The grand old party's role in controlling and



misappropriating Hindu temples in the name of their management too calls its 'secular' bluff. Though other political parties have hardly fared any better on the issue, the role of Congress, being in power for the longest time, gets magnified the most. If Anand Ranganathan's book Hindus in Hindu Rashtra is to be believed, "Governments of just 10 states control more than 1,10,000 temples." Of these, the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government, of which the Congress is an alliance partner in the state, alone controls 36,425 temples and 56 mutts. For Karnataka, a state again run by the Congress, the figure is 34,563! So much for the Congress' "religion is personal" remark! One could still have forgiven the party for its endeavour to take away temple freedom, had it helped the cause of the nation. According to TR Ramesh, who has been fighting for temple liberation in Tamil Nadu for decades now, the Tamil Nadu govern-

China's war on journalism: Largest prison for journalists in the world

Recently, an international NGO focused on safeguarding the right to freedom of information released its Freedom of Press Index. As per the report China is the largest prison for journalists in the world, with about 121 journalists facing detention in China as of 2023. Media freedom in China, moreover, comes under the category of "very serious situation", standing at 179th position out of 180 countries, according to 2023 index. The communist country, known for its autocratic system of rule, controls (and funds) most of its media, which functions as the Chinese Communist Party

(CCP)'s mouthpiece and spreads propaganda to ensure the pro-government narrative is inculcated among Chinese citizens. Needless to say, media is under strict state surveillance and censorship, whereby journalists found to report on information deemed by the CCP to be 'sensitive' face censorship, harassment, coercion and intimidation. The level of media scrutiny and repression has intensified with Xi Jinping assuming leadership in 2012, paving the way to a culture of fear whereby free access to information is prohibited and reporting of information critical

of Beijing's narrative is considered as a crime. For journalists to have their press card renewed, they are required to download 'Study Xi, Strengthen the Country', a propaganda application that also collects user's personal data. With the heightened prioritising of national security, attack on journalists, of both national and international media outlets witnessed since 2012, are justified by Beijing's authorities. These journalists, before being formally arrested, face prolonged detention whereby they face torture such as solitary confinement.

Journalists reporting on sensitive issues, or journalists belonging to minority groups such as Uyghurs, are subjected to imprisonment and harsher punishments on charges of 'espionage', 'subversion', 'provoking trouble and threatening national security'. Hong Kong, a former British colony, used to be the hub of vibrant and independent journalism for both national and international media outlets until its handover to China in 1997. Since then, most media outlets came under Chinese government control that has only tightened its grip over the years.

Used car and two wheeler prices go up with demand uptick

he used car and SUV market has been growing at a 10-12% clip and is driven entirely by supplies," said Sanghi. Demand was impacted during the pandemic as supplies dried up with people not buying new cars. Now that new car demand has bounced back

CHENNAI: That trend is also true for used two-wheelers which is witnessing the kind of premiumization that the passenger vehicle market is going through. "There is growing demand for higher end two-wheelers including Royal Enfield models and Pulsars with a 30%-40% rise in ticket sizes in the last 2-3 years," said Sanghi. Part of the reason for prices firming up is the demand bounce back. "Around 18 months ago, two-wheelers faced a dip in rural demand but now that is seeing a bounce back," said Sanghi. The real reason for the two-wheeler demand

New car and two-wheeler buyers opt for more premium varieties and models. This trend is beginning to leave an imprint

revival is the contribution of last mile delivery segment to urban demand. "Delivery is now a huge segment comprising 10% of the total market and that is an urban demand," he said. "It cuts across all product categories." Both used cars and two-wheelers are witnessing robust growth with the used

passenger vehicle market currently at 5.5 million units, compared to a new PV market of just over 4 million units. "The used car and SUV market has been growing at a 10-12% clip and is driven entirely by supplies," said Sanghi. Demand was impacted during the pandemic as supplies dried up with people not buying new cars. Now that new car demand has bounced back, supplies to the old car pool are also in line. The used two-wheeler market is around 25 million units strong and here too "demand is not a challenge".

Milind Lakkad, Chief HR Officer, expressed optimism about the company's future.

In addition, board has recommended a special dividend payout of Rs 18 per share and an interim dividend of Rs 9 per share. During the third quarter, TCS secured deals worth \$8.1 billion, which is lower than the \$11.2 billion worth of deals it secured in the previous quarter. The company's earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) margin stood at 25%, an increase from 24.3% in the previous quarter. As of December 31, TCS had a total employee count of 603,305. The attrition rate for the IT

services division decreased to 13.3% in the last twelve months, down from 14.9% in the previous quarter. Milind Lakkad, Chief HR Officer, expressed optimism about the company's future. He stated, "We expect to be back to our normal operating mode by the end of the current fiscal year. Parallely, attrition is trending down and at 13.3%, is now in our range of comfort." Lakkad also emphasized TCS's commitment to hiring from college campuses and nurturing organic talent, stating

that the company has already initiated its campus hiring process for the next year. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced its Q3 financial results, reporting a 2% YoY growth in net profit to Rs 11,058 crore. However, the profit fell short of expectations. TCS's revenue increased by 4% to Rs 60,583 crore, surpassing analysts' predictions. TCS Q3 results: India's largest software major sees 2% rise in profit to Rs 11,058 crore TCS Q3 results: Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has announced.

"Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 14.70 lakh crore

NEW DELHI: "Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 14.70 lakh crore which is 19.41% higher than the net collection for the corresponding period of last year. This collection is 80.61% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for FY 2023-24,"

the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. Refunds amounting to Rs 2.48 lakh crore have been issued during April 1, 2023 to January 10, 2024. On a gross basis, direct tax collection up to January 10, 2024 registered steady growth.

The gross collections are at Rs 17.18 lakh crore, 16.77% higher than the gross collection for the corresponding period of last year. The growth rate in gross Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) is 8.32% and 26.11% respectively.

Fireside Ventures invests in mental health startup

"The organisation was founded by psychiatrist and healthcare entrepreneur Dr Amit and joined by social entrepreneur"



NEW DELHI: Amaha, formerly InnerHour, announced securing a substantial investment of over Rs 50 crore as an extended series A round. This round of funding was led by Fireside Ventures investing Rs 36.4 crore as well as additional investment of Rs 15+ crore by other strategic investors, says a company statement. The Amaha mental health ecosystem provides treatment

and care for a range of mental health conditions like anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, ADHD, OCD, schizophrenia, and addictions.

The organisation was founded by psychiatrist and healthcare entrepreneur Dr Amit Malik and joined by

social entrepreneur Neha Kirpal as co-founder, to address the mental health treatment gap prevalent in India with a commitment to making quality mental healthcare and support accessible to a wider population across geographies.

The vessels utilised the before will now omit the Panama Canal

"The vessels that utilised the Panama Canal before will now omit the Panama Canal and use a "land bridge" that utilises rail to transport cargo across the 80 km (49.71 miles) of Panama to the other side," the firm said in an advisory to its customers. Panama's drought has decreased transit slots at the canal, already forcing fuel tankers and grain shippers to take longer routes to avoid congestion. This is adding further

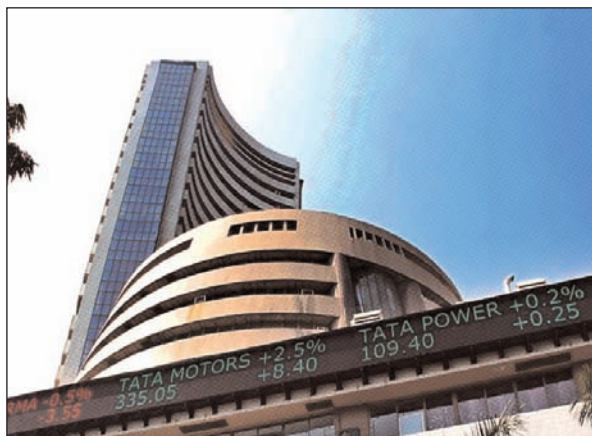
disruption to the global shipping network as companies like Maersk and Hapag Lloyd are switching away from the Red Sea after Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen stepped up attacks on vessels in the Gulf region. AP Moller-Maersk will use rail transport to avoid the drought-hit Panama Canal, the Danish shipping giant said late on Wednesday, as low water levels have caused one of the

world's main maritime trade routes to reduce crossings. The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has reduced the amount and weight of vessels passing through based on current and projected water levels in Gatun Lake, the rainfall-fed principal reservoir that floats ships through the Panama Canal's lock system, Maersk said. AP Moller-Maersk will use rail transport to avoid the drought-hit Panama Canal, the Danish shipping giant

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November to December, CPI rose 0.3 percent, up from the prior month as well

WASHINGTON: This has fueled hopes of a so-called "soft landing" for the world's biggest economy, where inflation cools without a damaging recession. From November to December, CPI rose 0.3 percent, up from the prior month as well. While analysts do not expect Federal Reserve officials to base their rate-setting off of one month's data, accelerating inflation could add pressure to the central bank. Policymakers rapidly lifted interest rates beginning in early 2022 and have held them at a high level, seeking to ease demand and sustainably lower inflation. The aim is to ease demand by making it more appealing to save rather than



spend. Despite the CPI uptick in December, inflation has come down significantly from the 9.1 percent peak in June 2022, while consumer spending and the jobs market remained resilient. Consumer inflation in the United States rose more than anticipated in December, government data showed Thursday, although underlying pressures

still appear to be ebbing. The Department of Labor's consumer price index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, was up 3.4 percent from a year ago and higher than November's figure. However, a "core" metric that strips out volatile food and energy prices cooled to 3.9 percent in the last month of 2023.

The revenue from operations in the third quarter saw a 1% increase to Rs 38,821

The revenue from operations in the third quarter saw a 1% increase to Rs 38,821 crore, as opposed to Rs 38,318 crore in the same quarter last year. Infosys has revised its revenue guidance for constant currency terms to 1.5%-2% from the previous 1%-2.5%. For the fiscal year 2024, the company has raised its revenue estimate to 1.5% but has slightly lowered the upper end to 2%. However, Infosys has maintained its operating margin target of 20-22%. During the third quarter, the revenue in constant currency terms experienced a 1% YoY decline. The operating margins for the same period also fell by 1%



YoY. In the December quarter report, the IT major secured deals amounting to \$3.2 billion Total Contract Value (TCV), with 71% stemming from newly acquired deals. CEO and MD, Salil Parekh, expressed satisfaction with the third-quarter performance, highlighting resilience. He attributed the large deal wins to the strength of their portfolio, encompassing generative AI, digital solutions, cloud services, and initiatives

focused on cost, efficiency, and automation. Financially, the third quarter demonstrated steady cash generation, with Free Cash Flow (FCF) witnessing a YoY growth of 17% to reach Rs 5,548 crore. The FCF conversion to net profit for Q3 stands at an impressive 90.6%. Infosys also reported a notable reduction in attrition, which declined to 12.9% on a 12-month trailing basis. This is a notable improvement from

14.6% in the September 2023 quarter and a substantial drop from 24.3% a year ago. Infosys Q3 results: IT giant Infosys reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 6,106 crore for the quarter ended December, showing a 7% decrease compared to the previous year's quarter. The revenue from operations in the third quarter saw a 1% increase to Rs 38,821 crore. Infosys has revised its revenue guidance for constant currency terms to 1.5%-2% from the previous 1%-2.5%. Stay tuned for more updates on this story. Infosys Q3 results: IT major reports net profit of Rs 6,106 crore, down 7% YoY

The equity slump continuing into 2024

In addition, \$27 billion worth of derivatives, including autocallables, are at risk. Regulators have tightened their grip on these products to prevent them from being marketed to retail investors as fixed-income products. at maturity, according to Guotai Junan Futures Co. Another 60 billion yuan of the derivatives are 5%-10% away from their knock-in thresholds, the brokerage said. Snowballs promise bond-like coupons as long as the underlying assets trade within a certain range. While that has attracted China's institutional and wealthy investors over the past years, a seemingly bottomless decline in the stock market has exposed the risk of those derivatives hitting levels that trigger losses. The equity slump continuing into 2024 has set off concerns over risks stemming from such securities.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with senior government-level officials, reviewed the preparation

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with senior government-level officials, reviewed the preparations being made by Police Commissioners, Divisional Commissioners, District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police regarding strong law and order and facilities for the devotees in view of the upcoming festivals. The Chief Minister issued the necessary guidelines. In the special meeting, Divisional Commissioners of Aayodhya, Gorakhpur, and Prayagraj delivered individual presentations, apprising the Chief Minister of their preparations and seeking guidance from him. Major guidelines given by the Chief Minister in the review meeting: A much-awaited ceremony for the consecration of the new idol of Shri Ram

Lalla in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya is scheduled to take place on January 22. Distinguished individuals from diverse fields such as religion, politics, industry, science, cinema, literature, and arts, both nationally and internationally, are anticipated to witness this significant event. Concurrently, events like the Khichdi Mela in Gorakhpur and Magh Mela in Prayagraj are poised to commence from Makar Sankranti. The tradition of Kalpavas is observed in Farrukhabad, and Uttar Pradesh Diwas will be celebrated on January 24, followed by Republic Day on January 26. Given the importance of law and order during this time, it is crucial to make thorough preparations. This period also presents an opportunity for us to enhance the global branding of the state.

The forthcoming consecration of Lord Rama in Ayodhya holds profound significance in the hearts of the public. On this occasion, people will perform bhajans and kirtans in the temples during the day and celebrate Deepotsav by lighting 'Shri Ram Jyoti' in the evening.

On this historic occasion filled with immense faith, joy, and happiness, there will be a public holiday in the entire state, including educational institutions and government offices. Liquor shops, etc., should remain closed. Ensure timely completion of all preparations for the Magh Mela at Triveni Ghat in Prayagraj. The first holy bath of the Magh Mela will take place on January 15. We need to make good arrangements and consider their needs to ensure that every devotee.

Amid fears of escalation in crisis, EAM to leave for Iran on Monday

NEW DELHI: Foreign minister S Jaishankar will travel to Iran on Monday amid fears of an escalation in the West Asia conflict as the US and UK launched air strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen. The Houthis, who are backed by Iran, have threatened to respond leading to speculation that the Gaza war could lead to a wider regional conflict. India's diplomatic balancing in the aftermath of the eruption of the Israel-Hamas war in October has seen the government maintain regular contacts with Tehran over the conflict and also bilateral issues.

Iran has strongly condemned the air strikes in Yemen, saying these will fuel insecurity and instability in the region. The Houthis have targeted ships linked not just to Israel but also others in the Red Sea, while expressing solidarity with the Palestinians. India has strongly backed freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. Jaishankar and his US counterpart Antony Blinken had spoken on Thursday, shortly before the air strikes on Houthis were launched, expressing concern over the threat to freedom of navigation. Jaishankar's

visit though was planned well before the conversation. According to the state department, they discussed shared concerns over reckless Houthi attacks in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which threaten the free flow of commerce, endanger innocent mariners, and violate international law. "The secretary emphasised the Red Sea is a major commercial corridor that facilitates international trade and welcomed increased cooperation with India in defending freedom of navigation in the region."

Spiritual figures hail PM's ritual, urge others to follow him

NEW DELHI: The heads of various religious organisations and spiritual figures on Friday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decision to begin a special 11-day religious exercise preceding the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Chidanand Saraswati of Parmarth

Niketan Ashram said Modi's call has sparked all-round enthusiasm, adding that people should dedicate themselves to the national cause. "We are lucky to have a Prime Minister like him. The temple is coming up after 500 fices," he said in a message. Swami Avdhesanand Giri, the

head of Juna Akhara, said Modi's announcement shows he is not only a rare administrator, but a peerless worshipper and noted that seers and several religious organisations have also taken up different rituals and programmes in the run-up to the temple consecration ceremony on January 22.



Maharashtra body vows step against FB over manja ads

NAGPUR: Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) informed the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court on Friday that it would initiate legal and criminal proceedings against Facebook and its owner, Meta, if it failed to remove advertisements for the sale of nylon manja from its page "Marketplace". MPCB's oral submission came after counsel for Facebook and Meta failed to reply on steps taken to curb the sale of the thread that has claimed many lives. Maharashtra has banned nylon manja, but clandestine sales continue due to lax policing. MPCB's submission is also significant as the kite-flying season is currently on with Makar Sankranti approaching. Earlier, a division bench comprising Justices Nitin Sambre and Abhay Mantri slammed Facebook and Meta after their lawyers failed to arrive on time for the hearing. They arrived late even after being granted an adjournment. Consequently, the judges orally chided them that the court doesn't function as per their convenience. The bench also asked both respondents why action should not be initiated against them for failure to comply with court directives to remove nylon manja advertisements. During the hearing of a suo motu PIL, amicus curiae Deven Chauhan highlighted lack of regulation on sale and purchase of manja despite the product being used across the nation during Makar Sankranti. Chauhan appealed to the HC to bring manja products under the ambit of the Bureau of India Standards (BIS) so that only Indian Standard Institute-mark manja is available for sale. While adjourning the hearing to January 17, the court allowed the amicus to amend the petition.

7 years on, IAF's crashed Antonov-32 found off Chennai coast

NEW DELHI: The wreckage of an Antonov-32 transport aircraft of the IAF, which went missing with 29 personnel while flying over the Bay of Bengal on way to Port Blair from Chennai in July 2016, has finally been found by an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology. Images of the aircraft debris lying on the sea bed, at a depth of 3,400 meters around 140 nautical miles (310 Km) from the Chennai coast, were taken by the unmanned AUV, which is geared for deep sea exploration of polymetallic nodules, a few days ago. "Scrutiny of the search images showed the debris conformed to an AN-32 aircraft. This dis-

● "The IAF would obviously like the aircraft wreckage to be salvaged in order for the families of those killed to get closure"

covery at the probable crash site, with no other recorded history of any other missing aircraft report in the same area, points to the debris as possibly belonging to the missing AN-32 (registration K-2743)," IAF spokesperson Wing Commander Ashish Moghe said on Friday. The AUV, with multiple payloads including a multi-beam sonar (sound navi-

gation and ranging), synthetic aperture sonar and high resolution photographic equipment, had recently been deployed at the last known location of the missing AN-32. The IAF would obviously like the aircraft wreckage to be salvaged in order for the families of those killed to get closure as well as investigate the exact reason for the crash. "But it will prove extremely difficult and expensive at that depth. The possibility of finding human remains is also quite less," a Navy officer said. One of the deepest successful salvage operations, incidentally, is said to be that of a US Navy C-2A Greyhound transport aircraft from a depth of around 5,600 meters in the Philippine Sea in 2019.

100 million Indians to be affluent by 2027: Report

Lucknow

NEW DELHI: 'Affluent' Indians may number 100 million in four years. To put this in perspective: There are only 14 countries in the world with a population of 100 million-plus. And these Indians, already responsible for a consumer and wealth creation paradigm shift, will have an even bigger impact on everything from luxury goods to stock market, from SUVs to jewellery. A Goldman Sachs report released on Friday - 'The Rise of Affluent India' - defines



annual growth between 2019 and 2023, compared with 1% increase in population in the same period. The faster growth in affluence has also meant a significant increase in financial and physical assets, including equities, gold and property, during the last three years. "The increase has been the largest for equities and gold, while property prices have seen a higher rate of appreciation in the last three-four years," it said. Goldman analysts point to a 2.8 times jump.

affluence as income of over \$10,000 per annum, Rs 8.3 lakh in current exchange rates. Goldman analysts say this class numbers 60 million currently but will grow by a huge 67% to 100 million by 2027. Currently just

around 4% of the working population earns over \$10,000 annually (a figure almost five times the per capita income of \$2,100, around Rs 1,75,000), the report says. This class has expanded fast - 12% compounded

Amid cheers, Uttarakhand women break glass ceiling with cricket bats

DEHRADUN

Women in Pharsani, Bironkhal block, Pauri district walk miles to collect wood and fodder. Now, they are walking to play and watch cricket. For six years, Kunjeshwar Mahadev Samiti - a social organisation - had been hosting a cricket tournament for men. But large-scale migration to cities meant this year there were not enough men to man the teams. When KMS decided to host a women's cricket tournament, says Mukesh Rawat, an office-bearer, the response was overwhelming - 45 teams applied, 32 were picked. Locals are all for it. KMS's prize money for winner and runners-up is Rs 3,000 and Rs 1,500, respectively. But locals announced cash



rewards of Rs 3.5 lakh for standout players. Players' ages range from 14 to 50, Rawat says, and most had never played before. But enthusiasm was undimmed. The tournament started on January 7. Finals are later this month. Teams are playing 5-over, tennis ball matches. Some tweaks to cricket rules were made. Since most players had never held a bat or a ball, rules like LBW, leg byes and byes were set aside. But 'no balls' and 'wide balls' Women are also present in numbers among

spectators. "Women from many remote villages like Timli, Nainssyun, Punjoli and Gureedsheelthala have come to play in the tournament. It has been a great way for them to bond with each other," Rawat said. Kanak Toopraniya, captain of Uttarakhand women's cricket U-19 team, told TOI, "The biggest credit goes to the people who came up with the concept...it helped women come out of their homes... spend time together... Such initiatives may help find .

ED raids TMC trio's homes with CRPF standing guard

KOLKATA: A week after an ED squad en route to TMC strongman Sheikh Shahjahan's home for a raid was attacked, CRPF teams in riot gear stood guard on Friday as officers from the agency entered the Kolkata residences of three party leaders - Bengal fire services minister Sujit Bose, MLA Tapas Ray and councillor Subodh Chakraborty - for coordinated raids linked to the municipal recruitment scam. The morning knock on the doors of the TMC troika led to a search that continued till evening, with ED camping the longest - 13.5 hours - in Bose's home. According to Bose and Ray, the officers took away their mobile phones and several documents. Calcutta high court is monitoring the probe into the scam. At 6.40am, CRPF men took positions in the Lake Town neighbourhood where Bose lives, setting the stage for ED's entry. The caretaker at the minister's home kept the officers waiting, arguing with them for 20 minutes before giving in. Around the same time, another ED team



reached Ray's home along north Kolkata's BB Ganguly Street, where CRPF personnel kept watch from the rooftop of a house in the vicinity. The Baranagar MLA's home and offices were searched for 11 hours. A third ED team searched the residence of councillor Chakraborty in near-by Baranagar. Chakraborty, a former chairperson of North Dum Dum Municipality, was questioned for a few hours. "I made only two requests. I had 14 programmes scheduled for the day as part of Swami Vivekananda's birth centenary celebration. I urged them to let me go early, but they took over 13 hours. I had to cancel everything," Bose told reporters later. "When they seized my mobile, I told them this was an emer-

gency number related to my work as fire and emergency services minister. They wouldn't listen. My wife, daughter, son and I cooperated with them, and will continue to do so." The minister said if anyone could prove he had "taken a paisa for jobs", he would instantly send his resignation to CM Mamata Banerjee. Bose was vice-chairperson of South Dum Dum Municipality between 2010 and 2021. Nearly 250 appointments to Group C & D vacancies between 2010 and 2015 are under the scanner. ED had earlier questioned an aide of the minister, Nitai Datta. Ray said he had no idea how his name came up during the probe. "Maybe it is due to my political affiliation.

15-foot-tall metallic squirrel from Bengaluru on way to Ayodhya

BENGALURU: A 15-foot-tall metallic squirrel from Bengaluru is on a 1,900-km journey to Ayodhya. It left Bengaluru on January 8 in two pieces and will be installed at the recently inaugurated Ayodhya railway station on January 15. Self-made sculptor Kalyan S Rathore, 52, who is credited with the 130-foot-tall 'Efflorescence' installation at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), has created this multi-planned artwork. Rathore explained the theme and the coming together of dichotomies with this public art installation. Rathore recalled jumping at the opportunity of bringing contemporary work into the historical city of Ayodhya. "I did not want to do anything expected. Instead of a deity, I wanted to bring out the unsung hero of the Ramayana - the squirrel. As children we had heard of its contribution in building the bridge by carrying around tiny pieces of rock.

1st T20I: All-round Shivam Dube fires India to easy win over Afghanistan

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma (0), returning to T20s after 14 months, and Shubman Gill (23) got involved in an avoidable mix-up that limited the Indian skipper's stay to just two balls. The usually calm and cool Rohit did not hide his anger on this occasion as Gill did not pay heed to his call for a quick single. He ended the game in style with a straight six and four in the fine leg region. Jitesh Sharma (31 off 20) also gave a good account of himself before Rinku Singh (16 not out off 9) joined Dube in the middle and took the team home. Earlier, a stroke-filled partnership between Nabi and Omarzai was just what Afghanistan needed after India reduced the visitors to 57 for three in 10 overs amid chilly conditions at the PCA Stadium. Openers Rahamanullah Gurbaz (23 off 28) and skipper Ibrahim Zadran (25 off 22) could only find four boundaries in the powerplay.



The start of the game was delayed by a few minutes as a flickering blue light around the sight screen distracted Gurbaz. Pacer Arshdeep Singh opened the innings with a maiden before the spinners got into the game as early as the fourth over. Axar Patel, who ended up as the stand out bowler for India with figures of 4-0-23-2, had Gurbaz stumped with a fast and straight delivery after the opener slogged him for a six. Zadran was the next to depart as he smashed an innocuous ball from Dube straight to India skipper Rohit Sharma at cover. It was only the second ball of his opening spell.

Rahmat Shah, making his T20 debut after playing 106 ODIs for Afghanistan, chopped on to stumps a flatter one from Axar. Afghanistan badly needed a move on and that came via the experience of Nabi and Omarzai, who had impressed with his all-round abilities in the ODI World Cup in India. While the top-order struggled to rotate strike, Omarzai and Nabi showed their teammates how to build a T20 innings. Both targeted Ravi Bishnoi and Mukesh Kumar in the middle overs. Nabi's back-to-back sixes off Mukesh stood out in his quickfire knock.

"In T20s, I know I can hit big sixes, so I can generate runs any time"

● "Rohit could not open his account after a mix up with Shubman Gill resulted in his run out"

NEW DELHI: "There are a lot of positives. Shivam Dube, the way Jitesh batted, Tilak as well and then Rinku is in good form as well." Rohit could not open his account after a mix up with Shubman Gill resulted in his run out. In a rare sight, the India skipper vented out his anger following the miscommunication. "These things happen



(on the run-out). When it happens you feel frustrated, you want to be out there and score runs for the team. Everything will not go your way. We won the game, that's more important.

I wanted Gill to carry on, unfortunately got out after playing a very good little innings." Man of the match Dube was pleased with his effort in his comeback game.

"It was really cold. I enjoyed playing on this ground. Playing after a long time and batting at number four, there was some pressure on me. "I had one thing in my mind that I have to play my game. First 2-3 balls, I feel a bit of pressure, after that I just focus on the ball and I don't think much on what's going on. "In T20s, I know I can hit big sixes, so I can generate runs any time," he said.

Bengal have task cut out against UP

KOLKATA: Bengal did not get the start they were looking for as they managed to end up with just one point against Andhra in their Ranji Trophy opener. They will have to raise their game against a strong Uttar Pradesh side when they meet them in an Elite Group 'B' match at the Green Park in Kanpur from Friday.

Although the hosts' first game against Kerala also ended in a draw, UP dominated the proceedings earning three points from that. UP seem to have all their bases covered with both their batters and bowlers coming good in the first match. Although they will be missing an in-form Rinku Singh and wicketkeeper-

batter Dhruv Jurel in this match, batters like skipper Aryan Juyal, Priyam Garg and Nitish Rana, who have shifted base to UP this season, are all capable of scoring big. Both Juyal and Garg had hit centuries in the last match too. The Bengal pace attack does not look too menacing in Ishan Porel.

The first outing, against Services, was a good one for the Vidarbha bowling unit

● " Manipur in their second Ranji Trophy match from Friday. Though the plot sounds a lot more about batting, the bowlers will be key.



NAGPUR: The first outing, against Services, was a good one for the Vidarbha bowling unit. The bowlers led by Aditya Thakare bundled out Services for just 155 in the second innings. The bowling attack now has Rajneesh, in place of Yash Thakur. Ideally, the team management would be keen to give a chance to seamers rested in the first match, and Gurbani. The lure of bonus

points may, however, lead to second thoughts about resting the likes of Umesh Yadav. With the weather expected to be warm and sunny, Vidarbha spinners — Akshay and Aditya — may get more workload. The first outing saw the three seamers — Yadav, Thakare and Darshan Nalkande — doing most of the bowling in overcast conditions.

After grassing a few catches against Services, Vidarbha will hope for a better fielding performance.

The same goes for the batters. After an unbeaten 84 against Services, Sanjay R will look for another productive outing, especially with injured Atharva Taide slated to return after the Manipur match.

'React according to the ball, keep your calm and I just do the same thing'

NEW DELHI: Rahmanullah Gurbaz (23) and Ibrahim Zadran (25) stitched a 50-run opening partnership, but it was Mohammad Nabi's 42 off 27 balls that helped Afghanistan cross the 150-mark. Another left-hander, Rinku Singh, who scored a 9-ball 16, stayed till the last, giving Dube good company to finish off the chase. The duo put on a fine unbeaten 42-run stand for the fifth wicket, denying any chance whatsoever to Afghanistan. Rinku, who is an attacking batsman himself,



kept his cool and gave credit to former Indian skipper MS Dhoni's advice for his calm and composed approach towards the game. "I've spoken with Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni), he just told me to react according to the ball, keep your calm and I just do the same thing. I don't think a lot while batting, just react

to the ball," Rinku said at the post-match interaction. "I have got a habit of batting at 6 and finishing games, I'm feeling very happy with this job. Enjoyed the cold conditions, it was tough while fielding though. "I just try to talk to myself, batting at 6, I don't have the chance

to face too many balls or score too many runs, that's the thing I keep telling myself," Rinku concluded. Left-handed batter Dube fired an unbeaten innings of 60 runs off 40 balls, playing a pivotal role in India's successful chase of a 159-run target. His contribution allowed India to achieve the target with 15 balls to spare, indicating his capability and form with the bat, which could be valuable for the team in the upcoming T20 World Cup. Opting to field, India restricted Afghanistan.

The Kalinga Super Cup provides Chennaiyin FC an opportunity to win silverware

CHENNAI: Head coach Owen Coyle stresses that the return of key domestic players will lend more balance to the Chennaiyin FC team in the Kalinga Super Cup in Bhubaneswar. In an interaction with TOI ahead of Chennaiyin's opener against fellow Indian Super League side Punjab FC in Group C, Coyle speaks about the importance of having a near full-strength squad, the club's chances in the cup competition, transfers in the January window and more.

Excerpts: The Kalinga Super Cup provides Chennaiyin FC an opportunity to win silverware after a period of five years (the last title they won was the ISL trophy in 2018). With the squad you have, do you believe that you can end the



wait? We certainly believe that we are capable of doing it. We want to be at the business end fighting for trophies. We knew that it was going to take time, to evolve and build the team to do that (win titles). In this cup competition, we have to be at our best. Anything other than that will not be good enough because of the quality of the opposition (teams). We have got a number of players back from injuries,

which will help us give more balance to the team. It is a tough group, as they all are, for different reasons. We played Punjab and Mumbai City recently, albeit both away from home (in the ISL in December 2023). We know the squads; if we perform the way we did against Punjab at our home (a dominant 5-1 win in Chennai), we will be more than a match for anyone. That is the level we need to be at.

Ishan Kishan Saga: Jharkhand man stood no chance against the Big Man

● And Kishan is not someone who lacks that passion quotient

If Kohli vs Kishan comparison is done with weightage on experience and big match temperament, the Jharkhand man stood no chance against the Big Man. This despite the fact that after Shubman Gill, until the ODI World Cup, Kishan was one of the most consistent white ball batters. Did he have reasons to feel aggrieved that he didn't play a single T20 in South Africa after



scoring two half-centuries under pressure in the preceding series against Australia at home? And Kishan is not someone who lacks that passion quotient not to feel hurt at that sidelining. If one had to accommodate both Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma, who also returned to the T20 establishment, the scapegoat had to be Kishan as he is a top-order player. Then we have another left-handed top-order batter Yashasvi

Jaiswal, who might just be a yard ahead of Kishan in terms of range and quality. A flowering cricketer often learns a lot while sharing the dressing room with legends. But ask any young player off the record, they would emphatically tell you that "no one learns cricket by carrying drinks and towel. Learning by doing is the only process." Did Kishan miss a beat in South Africa? Of course, he did. He was frustrated that

Fuming Rohit vents out anger at Gill after terrible run out

NEW DELHI: India skipper Rohit Sharma's return to the T20I fold after a 14-month gap turned out to be a nightmare, as he could play only two balls before being dismissed for a duck in a horrendous mix-up with non-striker Shubman Gill during the first T20I against Afghanistan in Mohali on Thursday. A visibly angry Rohit couldn't put a check on his emotions as lashed out at his partner Gill while walking back to the dugout. India, set to chase 159, suffered early blow on the second delivery of the innings. Rohit struck a powerful shot to mid-off off Fazalhaq Farooqi's delivery, and Ibrahim Zadran came up with an impressive effort to stop the ball. Following the shot, Rohit immediately went for a run, but his partner, Gill, was more focused on tracking the ball rather than responding to the call for a run.

CAPSULES

Wanindu Hasaranga takes career-best 7/19 as Sri Lanka bowl out Zimbabwe for 96 in third ODI

NEW DELHI: Despite a promising start by Zimbabwe's openers, Hasaranga, known for his deceptive googly, made a significant breakthrough by dismissing Takudzwanashe Kaitano in the ninth over after the first rain interruption. He continued his brilliance by claiming two more wickets in the same over, leaving Zimbabwe struggling at 47-3. Sri Lankan leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga marked a spectacular return to international cricket by recording his career-best figures of 7-19 in the rain-affected ODI decider against Zimbabwe in Colombo on Thursday. The match, reduced to 27 overs per side due to rain, saw Zimbabwe being bowled out for 96 runs.

With no recovery in sight for the tourists, Hasaranga continued to wreak havoc by taking four more wickets, finishing with a career-best 7-19. This outstanding performance set a new record for R Premadasa Stadium, surpassing Angelo Mathews' 6-20 against India in 2009. It also stands as the second-best ODI figures by a Sri Lankan bowler, with Chaminda Vaas' 8-19 holding the top spot. Sri Lanka lead the three-match series 1-0. The first game was washed out by rain while Sri Lanka won the second by two wickets.

CAPSULES

Under the guidance of PM Modi, a conducive sports environment has been fostered: Chief Minister



Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fostering a favorable sports environment in the country through initiatives such as Khelo India, Fit India, and Sansad Khel Mahakumbh. "To further enhance this environment and make it more spectacular, the state government is developing sports infrastructure in every village. The achievements of athletes are being complemented with substantial rewards, including monetary incentives, government jobs, and all the facilities for sports," the CM added. Addressing the closing ceremony of the Sansad Khel and Lok Kala Mahakumbh organized at Mahant Avaidyanath Stadium in Jangal Kauria, the Chief Minister said that about seven years ago, the concept of sports infrastructure in UP seemed unimaginable. Furthermore, he highlighted, "However, presently, sports fields and open gyms are being established in every village. Healthy competition in sports is taking place in every village. In the villages, sports kits have been distributed to 80,000 Yuvak Mangal Dal and Mahila Mangal Dal. Efforts are being made to connect panchayat secretariats in villages with optical fiber to provide all facilities to the youth." Reflecting on the progress, he stated, "What was once just an idea has now materialized into reality. In Jangal Kauria, a stadium named after the Mahant Avaidyanath Maharaj has been equipped with all facilities for sports talents, along with an auditorium for local artists." Asserting that Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country to formulate a sports policy, the CM said, "Under this policy, the government has provided provisions for government jobs for athletes who win medals in the Olympics, ASIAD, Commonwealth Games, and World Championships. In the recent Asian Games, the athlete Parul Chaudhary, who won a gold medal by surpassing a Chinese player, credited the state's sports policy as the inspiration for her victory." He added that the belief of athletes in the sports policy is an achievement for us. The government has announced a prize amount of six crores for winning a gold medal in singles events at the Olympics. There is also a provision for cash awards for silver and bronze medals in Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Championships. The state government is not only providing jobs to athletes but also rapidly advancing sports infrastructure. Expressing best wishes for the bright future of all participants in the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh, the Chief Minister said that for comprehensive development, youth should participate in sports and cultural programs along with academics. During the occasion, CM Yogi discussed the transformative changes brought about by development in Gorakhpur. The city has witnessed remarkable infrastructure growth, including the inauguration of a fertilizer factory and the establishment of AIIMS. Additionally, the road from Jangal Kauria to Nepal is undergoing expansion from 4 lanes to 6 lanes. Various educational institutions, including inter colleges, polytechnics, and ITIs, have been established to meet the needs of the local people and youth. He further extended greetings and best wishes to everyone on Makar Sankranti (Khichdi) and urged people to understand their responsibility regarding the upcoming consecration ceremony on January 22.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath further stated that everyone should participate in the cleanliness campaign in every village and town from January 14. On January 15, distribute khichdi among the needy. Commence the chanting of the name of Lord Ram in all temples from January 16.

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State govt gears up to welcome Lord Ram's devotees, releases Rs 10 cr for night shelters and bonfire

Ayodhya

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during a review meeting, issued directives to the district administration to pay special attention to all pilgrims visiting Ayodhya after the consecration ceremony on January 22. In view of the cold and cold wave, CM Yogi directed the administration to make arrangements for night shelters, particularly for devotees from economically disadvantaged sections. He stressed the importance of increasing the number of night shelters to ensure proper accommodation for devotees



during inclement weather. Additionally, arrangements will be made for lighting bonfires at various locations and blankets will be distributed to those in need. For these preparations, the government allocated an

additional amount of Rs 10 crores to Ayodhya. According to Relief Commissioner GS Navin Kumar, the Chief Minister, in a meeting, has instructed to prioritize the requirements of all the devotees coming to Ayodhya. After the

consecration of Lord Ram on January 22, more than a lakh devotees, not only from the country but also from abroad, are expected to visit Ayodhya daily. In light of this, special care should be taken to ensure they do not face any difficulties. Additionally, all existing arrangements should be thoroughly checked and corrected. He further informed that the Chief Minister emphasized the prevailing cold weather in the state, underscoring the need to increase the number of night shelters in Ayodhya.

Furthermore,

Yogi govt preparing to accommodate 30,000 devotees daily in Ayodhya

Ayodhya

CM Yogi directs to enhance devotee facilities, emphasis on cleanliness, hot water, bedding, and spirit of service. CM Yogi instructs to increase accommodation arrangements in Ayodhya. Ayodhya, January 12. In preparation for the upcoming events in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself has prepared a blueprint and assigned tasks to officers. The government aims to

ensure complete arrangements for accommodation, food, shelter and cleanliness for devotees coming to Ayodhya for Ramlala's darshan after January 22. Notably, the Chief Minister has visited many states in the last several months and invited people across the country to visit Ayodhya after the inauguration of the Ram Temple. Following the directives of the Yogi government, arrangements are cur-

rently being made at the administrative level to accommodate 30,000 people every day. Considering the increasing number of devotees, additional arrangements will also be made. In recent days, during his visit to Ayodhya, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of cleanliness, hospitality, and good behavior to ensure everything is in order for the event during inspection and review

meetings. Arrangements for stay in hotels, dharamshalas, homestays, tent cities, dormitories. On the instructions of the Chief Minister, the local administration is making elaborate preparations for the lodging of devotees and tourists. For this, arrangements are being made in hotels, dharamshalas/guest houses, homestays/paying guest accommodations, tent cities/shelter places.

Yogi govt to run a statewide cleanliness campaign

Lucknow

In line with preparations of the consecration ceremony to be held in Ayodhya on January 22, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch a mega cleanliness campaign starting from Makar Sankranti in Ayodhya. Following this, an extensive cleanliness campaign will be carried out in every village, city, and locality of the state. The responsibility for this has been entrusted to the Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Departments. Instructions issued for Urban

Development and Panchayati Raj Department. Instructions have been issued by State Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra to the Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Department regarding the upcoming inauguration of the Ram temple. The command of the cleanliness campaign, which is set to begin on January 14, will be led by the Chief Minister himself. Following this, an extensive cleanliness campaign will be carried out in every part of

the state for the next nine days. Not only that, local representatives will also take charge of special cleanliness campaigns in every district headquarters of the state. Each drain will be cleaned. In addition to the main roads, directives have been given to completely clean the routes from the railway station and airport to the temples in Ayodhya. Instructions further include the cleaning of every drain and drainage, and a large team of sanitation worker.

Ayodhya poised to become the world's most magnificent tourist destination: CM

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that Uttar Pradesh witnessed over 31.5 crore tourists in the last one year, leading to diverse employment opportunities in the state. "Following the consecration of Shri Ram Lalla on January 22, Ayodhya is set to emerge as a highly developed and prominent tourist destination on the global tourism map. The double-engine



government is actively working on the development of religious tourist sites across the state," the CM added. Speaking at an event organized at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Auditorium of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (APJAKTU) on the occasion of 'National Youth Day'—the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

She learned about the morphed images of her posted on social media

MUMBAI: She learned about the morphed images of her posted on social media on December 27 when her friend Gyanendra Dev received the photos on his social media page from one Kuldeep Dwivedi. "The cyber section of the police station has sought the internet protocol (IP) address of the user through which the morphed photos have been posted," said a police officer of the Versova police station. Due to the work schedule, Sekhon did not file the complaint on December 23, 2023. In

the complaint, Sekhon said: "Another friend informed about the post with threatening messages to rape and kill along with the morphed photos. Finally, on January 8, I was on my way to the police station to complain when I received calls from my mother, father, and then my friend about the morphed photos that they received on their mobile numbers." A case under the Indian Penal Code section 506 (criminal intimidation), and under the IT Act sections 67 and 67 (A)

(publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit) has been registered against an unknown person. friends, and relatives on their WhatsApp numbers. The case was registered with the Versova police based on Aneet Kaur Sekhon's (37) complaint on Wednesday after she received messages on social media that she will be raped and killed. Sekhon has been staying in Mumbai's Andheri (West) for the last two years along with her friend.

Ayodhya

In a grand initiative, the Yogi government is gearing up to celebrate the 'pran pratishtha' ceremony of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya as a statewide festival. Following the ceremony scheduled for January 22, an extensive Deepotsav celebration is planned for the night, promising to outshine the Diwali Deepotsav in Ayodhya. As part of the celebration, 'Ram jyoti' is set to illuminate not only homes but also adorn the banks of rivers, temples, and various historical and mytho-

logical sites, as well as every establishment and institute across the state. The Yogi government has urged all residents of the state to celebrate Deepotsav by lighting Ram Jyoti not only in their homes but also in their offices and shops. The atmosphere should be peaceful. Ram devotees across the state, nation, and the globe are brimming with excitement over the upcoming Pran Pratishtha event. After 500 years of struggle, Lord Ram is poised to grace his temple in all his majestic glory. The double-engine govern-

ment has appealed to celebrate this historic occasion like a festival in the entire country. Following the Pran Pratishtha, every citizen has been asked to light a lamp 'Ram Jyoti' in their house at night. In the same sequence, the Yogi government is actively encouraging residents of the state to extend their participation beyond their homes. The appeal encompasses not only residential spaces but also commercial entities such as shops, hotels, factories, and offices (both govern-

Health department to establish first aid units at sixteen key locations

Ayodhya

In anticipation of the influx of devotees attending the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22, the Health Department is intensifying its preparations. Dr. Sanjay Jain, the CMO of Ayodhya, revealed that the department is collaborating with Shri Ram Mandir Teerth Kshetra Trust to establish first aid units at sixteen key locations within the event area. Dr. Sanjay Jain further specified that these first aid units will have a doctor, pharmacist, and a ward boy. They are strategically planned for crowded locations such as Shri Hanuman Gufa, Saket Petrol Pump, Kanak Bhawan, Hanuman Garhi, and other crowded areas. Each unit will be equipped with necessary medical supplies, including medicines, a nebulizer, oxygen facilities, and the capability to conduct blood sugar tests. Additionally, the Health Department is establishing two hospitals with capacities of 10 and 20 beds, respectively, where doctors will be available to attend to patients. Besides this, arrangements for 40 ambulances are also being made, which will be stationed at various important locations in Ayodhya. The Health Department has reserved 190 beds for emergency situations in the district's Medical College, Shri Ram Chikitsalaya Ayodhya, District Hospital Ayodhya, Mahila District Hospital and Kumarganj Hospital. During the consecration ceremony, if anyone faces a medical emergency, they will be initially taken to the two hospitals set up in the event area for treatment. If the condition does not improve, they will be referred to Shri Ram Hospital. Further, if needed, Medical College and subsequently, the Lucknow Medical College, Trauma Center, and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital have been arranged for referral in case of non-improvement in the patient's condition.

