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

Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM again, with support from BJP



Patna
For Bihar, Nitish Kumar is many things. He is the young son of an ayurveda practitioner who was studying electrical engineering at the Bihar College of Engineering in the early seventies, and like so many of his contemporaries, got swept up in a great wave of socialist politics. He is the man that gave the state its counterfoil to Lalu Prasad, and framed his politics around "sushasan" (good governance). He is both social engineer, and political survivor; his political epitaph written many times

over. And yet, like on Sunday evening, when the dust inevitably settles on another political manoeuvre in a storied but controversial career, for the past two decades, Nitish Kumar has nearly always been one, very important identity — chief minister of Bihar. Born in Bakhtiyarpur, a non-descript town on the outskirts of Patna in 1951, Kumar was in college in the early seventies; a time of great churn both in India and in Bihar, when the Jayaprakash Narayan movement against Indira Gandhi and the Emergency was

building steam. He came from a generation of student politics that produced both Lalu Prasad and Sushil Modi, and by 1985, he won his first assembly elections from Harnaut, fighting on a Lok Dal ticket. He was already creating ripples, winning a seat in an election cycle swept by the Congress. Five years later, he moved to Delhi as the MP from Barh. It was the early nineties, and as the Mandal storm blew over the Hindi heartland, politics in Bihar saw the arrival of a new generation of leaders. If there was

Lalu Prasad of the Janata Dal, Kumar sided with George Fernandes to float the Samata Party in 1994, the first iteration of what is now known as the Janata Dal(United). The JD(U) grew from strength to strength, as did Kumar. He was first chief minister for seven days in 2000, but led his first full term as head of the state, in alliance with the BJP, in 2005.

In many ways, it is that first tenure which earned Kumar the political goodwill that has kept him in good stead for the two decades after. If the years of social churn that preceded him were labelled by his supporters as "jungle raj" and failing law and order, Nitish Kumar was "sushasan babu", who restored a semblance of administrative order. If Lalu was the early family budding politicians; Nitish Kumar kept his family away from the limelight. If the Yadavs battled allegations of corruption.

AAP to go solo in Haryana assembly polls: Kejriwal

Jind
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said his party will contest all the 90 assembly seats in Haryana on its own, but the Lok Sabha polls will be fought as part of the INDIA bloc. "Today people only have trust in one party, which is AAP. On one side, they see Punjab, and on the other, our government in Delhi. Today Haryana is seeking a big change. In Delhi and Punjab, people made this big change earlier and now people there are



happy," he said at his party's 'Badlaav Jansabha' in Haryana's Jind. Kejriwal's announcement comes days after the AAP, a constituent of the INDIA block,

made it clear that party will not have any alliance with Congress in Punjab for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "AAP will contest on all 90 seats and we will form the next government in

Haryana and make it the number 1 state in the country," he said. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann was also present at the event. Kejriwal said Haryana is looking for a "big change" as the people of the state are "fed up" with all the parties that have ruled here. They have tested all the other parties and these parties have only filled their coffers, the AAP national convener alleged, he added. Only the AAP can provide round-the-clock power supply and other facilities to people as it has done in Delhi and

Jarange-Patil to continue stir until order implementation, BJP unhappy

MUMBAI: Just when everyone believed that Manoj Jarange-Patil had been pacified, the Maratha activist made a fresh announcement on Sunday: that he would continue his agitation until the actual implementation of the order

issued by the government. The BJP, meanwhile, is reportedly unhappy with the state government's decision if union minister Narayan Rane's staunch opposition to it is anything to go by. After Jarange-Patil's long march from

Antarvali Sarati to Navi Mumbai, the state government on Saturday issued a draft notification to give Kunbi certificates to all Marathas and their blood relatives in their family trees (sage-soyare) whose Kunbi-antecedent records have

been found by the state administration. Kunbi is a Maratha sub-caste which gets quota benefits in the Other Backward Castes (OBC) category, and the government launched a concerted hunt to dig up the Kunbi.

All-Indian tunes to be played during Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk

New Delhi
The ceremony will begin with the massed band's 'Shanknaad' tune which will be followed by enthralling tunes such as 'Veer Bharat' and 'Sangam Dur'. The Raisina Hills here will reverberate with the sound of captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes that will be played by military and paramilitary bands on Monday during the Beating Retreat ceremony. The historic ceremony which takes place at Vijay Chowk in the heart of the national capital, marks the culmination of Republic Day celebrations. The Raisina Hills "will witness all-Indian tunes" which will be played during the Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29, the defence ministry said in a statement. "The music bands of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will play 31 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes before a distinguished audience," it said. The audience will comprise President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several other union ministers, senior officials and the general public. The ceremony will begin with the massed band's 'Shanknaad' tune which will be followed by enthralling tunes such as 'Veer Bharat', 'Sangam Dur', 'Deshon ka Sartaj Bharat', 'Bhagirathi', and 'Arjuna' by pipes and drums band, the ministry said. The CAPF bands will play 'Bharat Ke Jawan' and 'Vijay Bharat' among others.

"Tiger Hill', 'Rejoice in Raisina' and 'Swadeshi' are among the tunes to be played by the band of the Indian Air Force, while the audience will witness the Indian Navy band playing a number of tunes, including 'INS Vikrant', 'Mission Chandrayaan', 'Jai Bharati' and 'Hum Tayaan Hain'," it said.

Blow to Farooq as several National Conference leaders join BJP in J&K

J &K: Several key National Conference leaders, including its Kathua district president, joined the BJP on Sunday, in a jolt to the Farooq Abdullah-led party in the Jammu region. Many supporters and district office bearers also made the switch from the National Conference to the BJP. They joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in Jammu, with



Ravinder Raina -- the saffron party's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief -- and other leaders welcoming the new entrants. During the programme, Raina highlighted the BJP's commitment to the

welfare of the people, irrespective of region or religion. "The BJP's contributions and achievements in health care, education, infrastructure building and socio-economic development are historic," Rain said. He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, attributing the nation's unity and progress to his "dedicated efforts".

SC primary medium of ease of justice, says PM

New Delhi
The ease of justice is the right of Indian citizens and the Supreme Court is the primary medium for achieving this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, imploring the top court to engage in capacity-building for all stakeholders so that the transition from old laws to the

new regime can be seamless. Inaugurating the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court, the PM highlighted the government's initiatives in abolishing the colonial-era criminal laws and introducing new legislation — the Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita, Bhartiya Nyaya

Samhita, and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam. These laws, which were cleared by Parliament last month but are yet to be notified, will replace the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act. With the introduction of the new laws, the PM said India's legal,

policing, and investigative systems have entered a new era, signifying the government's constant endeavour to modernise laws to align them with the present situation and best practices. "Today's economic policies will form the basis of tomorrow's vibrant India... Laws that are being laid down .

DMK, Congress hold first round of discussions for seat sharing in Tamil Nadu

Chennai
The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Congress on Sunday held their first round of talks for seat sharing in Tamil Nadu for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The discussions were held at the DMK headquarters in Chennai and was

attended by a five-member team of the Congress and seven-member panel of the DMK. The Congress team comprised senior national leaders Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid and Ajoy Kumar, and Tamil Nadu Congress Committee chief K S Alagiri and Congress

Legislature Party (CLP) leader K Selva Perunthagai. The DMK panel was led by parliamentary party leader T R Baalu and comprised MPs Tiruchi N Siva and A Raja, former state higher education minister K Ponmudy and state ministers K N Nehru, I Periyasamy

China's 'break new ground' message to France after Macron's visits India

Chinese President Xi Jinping has offered to "break new ground" to give a fillip to the China-France ties, days after French President Emmanuel Macron's high-profile visit to India during which the two countries unveiled an ambitious defence roadmap besides intensifying cooperation in the strategic Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region. Macron's visit to India also coincided with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France. In his message on the occasion, Xi said "As today's world is once again at a critical crossroads.

Welfare dynamics may shape Lok Sabha elections

Ambitious welfare programmes and promises will likely be a central theme in the 2024 general elections. Over the past decade, there has been a sea change in how governments deliver welfare benefits to citizens. Technological advancements and state capacity improvements have allowed both central and state governments to transfer benefits directly to voters, weakening meddlesome middlemen. Unlike the discretionary sops of the past, these rule-based direct transfers are supposed to reduce favouritism and corruption. In doing so, they are widely perceived to have become popular vote winners. Yet, in reality, there is limited hard evidence of schemes translating into votes. This uncertainty presents a question: How, if at all,



have transformative changes in India's welfare State affected voting behaviour? Ambitious welfare programmes and promises will likely be a central theme in the 2024 general elections. (ANI file) Ambitious welfare programmes and promises will likely be a central theme in the 2024 general elections. (ANI file) India has experienced at least three interrelated transformations in the functioning of the welfare State: Less discretion in the selection of beneficiaries, the direct transfer of benefits, and a proliferation of benefits. India's impressive digital public infrastructure allows the government to reduce discretion in beneficiary selection.

Aparajita Mahila Samaj Organises Sharad Mela 2024 Meja Prayagraj

A special tribute to the inauguration of the Ram Mandir was paid through a captivating sand art display. External vendors from surrounding regions added vibrancy with their stalls. Addressing the gathering, Aparajita Mahila Samaj President Smt. Usha Kumar emphasized the significance of such programs in breaking the monotony of township life.



Prayagraj. On Sunday the eagerly anticipated Sharad Mela, orchestrated by Aparajita Mahila Samaj on January 27 and 28 under the adept guidance of AMS President Smt. Usha Kumar, unfolded at Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, Srijan Vihar. With a theme "Striving Steps

Towards Success," the two-day extravaganza captivated the attention of all attendees. The fair featured an array of activities for children, including dances, cultural programs, games, a puppet show, and a career counseling workshop. A book on 'con-

scious parenting' was also launched during the event. A special tribute to the inauguration of the Ram Mandir was paid through a captivating sand art display. External vendors from surrounding regions added vibrancy with their stalls.

Addressing the gathering, Aparajita Mahila Samaj President Smt. Usha Kumar emphasized the significance of such programs in breaking the monotony of township life, providing ample opportunities for talent showcase and mutual learning.

Highlighting the importance of understanding evolving technologies and changing behavioral patterns, Smt. Usha Kumar stressed the need for parents to adapt. Students from Bal Srijan, Bal Bhawan, and St. Joseph School conveyed this message through dance performances, underscoring the importance of recognizing children's strengths and weaknesses. Also, the program's chief guest, Sh. Sunil Kumar, distributed bicycles to the Girl Empowerment Mission beneficiaries and blankets to ladies beneficiaries of surrounding villages, contributing to the community's welfare.

MCD & DDA penalised for dumping C&D waste



New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted an action-taken report to National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the pollution caused by dumping of construction and demolition waste near residential complexes in Vasant Kunj. In the report, DPCC stated to have issued a show cause notice to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and an environmental compensation of Rs 1 lakh was imposed. The tribunal had constituted a joint committee of DDA, DPCC and district magistrate (South West Delhi) in Sept 2022 to verify the factual position about heavy vehicular movement and dumping of construction material on the vacant land adjacent to Sector E-2, Vasant Kunj. After inspecting the area in Dec 2022, the committee issued direc-

tions under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 along with Construction and Demolition Waste Rules, 2016 to DDA and MCD. As the issue remained unresolved, NGT in Nov 2023 ordered the DPCC to issue show cause notices and impose penalty on the DDA and MCD. "DPCC has issued show cause notice on Jan 5, 2024 for imposition of Environmental Damage Compensation of Rs 1,00,000 to the superintendent engineer, DDA for past violations and damage to the environ-

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

Government steps up Ayushman drive, 30 crore cards issued till January 12



Delhi: With Lok Sabha polls round the corner, the Centre has stepped up enrolment under the Ayushman Bharat - PM Jan Arogya Yojana or AB-PMJAY - the flagship health scheme of the BJP-led government which intends to provide health coverage of Rs 5 lakh to over 60 crore beneficiaries identified based on select deprivation, and occupational criteria, in rural and urban areas respectively, as per SECC database of 2011. As on Jan 12, 30 crore intended benefi-

ciaries have been issued Ayushman cards, according to government data. "Ayushman card creation is the most fundamental activity under AB-PMJAY, and concerted efforts are being continuously made to ensure that every beneficiary under the scheme has Ayushman card. As a

result of the persistent efforts, the scheme has reached the feat of 30 crore Ayushman cards created. More than 16.7 crore Ayushman cards have been created only during the last two financial years," government said. In a statement issued, the health ministry said, 14.6 crore women have been issued Ayushman cards. With 4.83 crore Ayushman cards, UP tops the list of states with the highest number of cards issued. MP and Maharashtra

GRAP Stage-3 limitations lifted as Delhi pollution improves

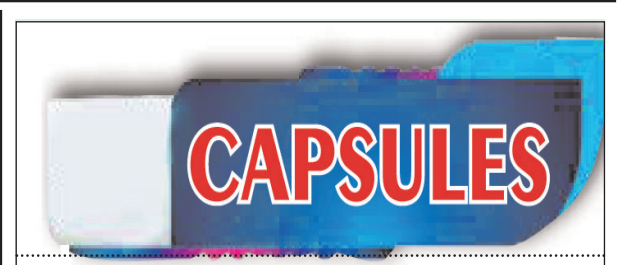


Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) subcommittee revoked Stage-3 of GRAP in the Delhi-NCR with immediate effect, halting construction and demolition except for essential government projects, mining, and stone crushing, and banning BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles in Delhi and surrounding areas. "AQI of Delhi has been progressively improving and has been recorded as 316 at 2.00 pm, which is about 85 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the Grap Stage III actions (Delhi AQI 4 0 1 - 4 5 0). Preventive/mitigative/restrictive actions under all Stages up to Stage III are underway, so there is likelihood of

sustaining the improvement," the CAQM said. Added: "The forecast by IMD/IITM also do not indicate any significant deterioration and there is a likelihood of the AQI improving and remaining in the lower end or very poor category in the next few days." The GRAP Stage-3 limits were immediately activated across Delhi-NCR after air quality suddenly deteriorated on Sunday. The region invoked limits three times this winter. CAQM began Stage 3 actions on November 3 after AQI exceeded 400 for the first time this winter (402). After rain lowered the AQI below 300 on November 29, the restrictions were lifted 27 days later.

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

New Delhi: The fourth runway of the Delhi airport that had become operational last July will have the CAT-III instrument landing system (ILS) by Jan 26, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said late on Saturday night. Once that happens, both of IGIA's runways on the Shivji statue side will be CAT-III. However, the reopening of its backbone CAT-III runway — 28/10 which lies in a slightly better visibility area — has been delayed yet again and the same is now expected to happen in about 10 days or the end of this month. This means that during the R-Day flight restrictions (Jan 19-26), IGIA will have only one CAT-III runway. If dense fog envelops the city during this time, flight delays will get only worse.



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

NEW DELHI: In what could prove to be a boon for patients who have lost their ability to speak due to throat cancer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has developed a cost-effective prosthesis to restore their voice. According to doctors, many throat cancer patients are unable to speak after the removal of their larynx due to advanced stages of laryngeal disease. Larynx, or voice box, contains vocal cords and helps a person speak, breathe and swallow. A study conducted on 20 patients over three years has yielded positive outcomes, said AIIMS doctors. Until now, patients have been implanted with commercially available voice prosthesis costing between Rs 20,000 and Rs 40,000. However, the AIIMS-IIT prosthesis is free of cost for AIIMS patients. Following successful trial completion and approvals, it may be made available for other patients and could cost a few hundred rupees. Dr Alok Thakar, head and professor of otolaryngology and head/neck surgery, said the aim of developing the device was to ensure patients who lost their voice due to cancer in the larynx can speak again without shelling out thousands of rupees on an artificial voice box. "During the tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP) procedure, we create a small hole in the wall between the trachea and esophagus, the tube that moves food from mouth to the stomach. A small one-way valve, called tracheoesophageal prosthesis, is placed inside the hole to direct air into the throat," he said, adding the valve is made of silicon. He said the vocal cords are completely removed during total laryngectomy surgery and the sound source is lost. The TEP surgery with a prosthesis creates a path for air to move from lungs to the esophagus. This air causes the top of the esophagus to vibrate, producing a new tracheoesophageal voice, he explained. The device, weighing a few grams, enables throat cancer patients who had their larynx removed to speak. Prof Rakesh Kumar from the ENT department said on an average, annually four-five out of 25 patients suffering from larynx cancer face voice box removal risk. Usually, cancer occurs in the 50-60 age group. "It's not difficult to learn how to use the prosthesis. After surgery, patients just need guidance and practice. The prosthesis valve lasts six-eight months on an average. The replacement procedure doesn't require surgery. It is usually painless and can be done in OPD," he said. Doctors said TEP's main advantage is it generates the most intelligible, fluent and natural voice compared to other alaryngeal speech methods.

Food subsidy bill for FY24 to breach 2L cr



Delhi: The government's food subsidy bill for fiscal year 2024 is likely to overshoot the budgeted estimate of 1.97 lakh crore, prompting the food department to seek additional funds primarily to support its flagship programmes. The revised allocation for the ongoing fiscal year is expected to go up by 3% to 2.02 lakh crore, a top official of the department of food and public distri-

bution. The department needs an extra 5,600 crore for decentralised procurement of foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

scheme, and sugar subsidy for families covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana programme, this official said, declining to be identified. India's food subsidy likely to go up next year as well, as the government recently extended the PMGKAY scheme. Its flagship food welfare programme, for another five years ahead of this year's general election

Punjab Congress worried about losing 'identity' if Congress-AAP contests Chandigarh mayoral race

Delhi: INDIA bloc partners Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) decided to jointly contest the mayoral elections in Union Territory of Chandigarh, Punjab's capital. Congress leaders and party cadre in Punjab fear the ruling party could dent its identity and vote bank in the State established over the years. Even though the Congress, the State's main Opposition party, has been aggressively criticizing the ruling AAP government's "poor governance" in its past two years, a section of Congress leaders and workers

believe that if the party joins the ruling party, it could damage its identity among the people. A faction of the party believes the Congress would fail to capitalize on anti-incumbency emotions against the AAP government, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) or Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) could take over as the "main Opposition". A party leader, who requested anonymity, informed The Hindu that if the Congress and AAP form a general election coalition in Punjab, both parties may compete for nearly equal seats out of 13.

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

Delhi: A Delhi court has ordered framing of charges for various offences against 13 accused, including former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan and United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi, in a case related to the 2020 Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, however, discharged the accused from the penal offences of criminal conspiracy, abetment, and common intention and provisions of the Arms Act. "...prima facie, there are grounds for presuming that accused persons have committed offences under Indian Penal Code sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 186 (obstructing public servant), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to public servant), 353 (assault or



criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty," said the court. According to the prosecution, the Feb 26, 2020 incident occurred at Masjidwali Gali in Khureji Khas of northeast Delhi. The chargesheets were filed against Ishrat Jahan, Khalid Saifi, Vikram Pratap, Samir Ansari, Mohammed Salim, Sabu Ansari, Iqbal Ahmed, Anzaar, Mohammed Ilyas, Mohammed Bilal Saif, Salim Ahmed, Mohammed Yameen and Sharif

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Auto driver rescues disabled woman

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

Drug smuggler held, heroin worth 7crore recovered

Kanpur: The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Barabanki and Kanpur's Kalyanpur police arrested Fatehpur drug smuggler Rehan from Indira Nagar area of the city and recovered 1 kg of heroin worth Rs 7 crore from his possession on Saturday.



The arrested smuggler told investigators that a man from Lucknow gave him the heroin, which he had to take to Delhi and deliver it to a person living in the Indira Nagar area of Kalyanpur. Deputy commissioner of police DCP (West) Vijay Dhul and DSP Irfan Nasir Khan of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force said that Rehan, a resident of Aladatpur of Fatehpur Kotwali area, works in a salon in Lucknow. "A man from Barabanki lured him, after which he started smuggling drugs," they said. DCP Vijay Dhul further said that Rehan was to get Rs 2 lakh for supplying heroin in Delhi. "It is suspected that earlier too he used to supply and earn money. Besides 1 kg of heroin, three ATM cards, Rs 1400 and a mobile phone have been recovered from Rehan," the DCP further said. A reward of Rs 50,000 has been announced for the police team that arrested Rehan, he added.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Shakir has been identified as the owner of the vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

Wait for NCERT books for classes 1 & 2 gets longer

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

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



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

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

Semenistaja claims crown

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

Editorial

How military aviation is closest connection between India and France

These events and interactions indicate the great bonhomie between the two friendly nations and strategic partners and the chemistry between the leaders. There are plans to move forward in many areas of cooperation, ranging from defence and security to energy.

Horizon 2047 Document

The Horizon 2047 document for the India-France Strategic Partnership has spelt out many core partnership areas. Development of a self-reliant defence industrial technological base with special emphasis on aeronautics is at high priority. Collaboration between naval dockyards is being driven. Cooperation in space is at the heart of the strategic relationship, and the two will continue to engage through the recently institutionalised bilateral strategic space dialogue. In view of the French territories of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, close cooperation in the Indo-Pacific will be important. India and France have always stood together with each other in the fight against terrorism. The two recognise the importance of reinforcing their strategic partnership in the scientific field. Critical technology cooperation includes cyber security and advanced digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and quantum. Progress related to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (JNPP) will be reviewed. Establishing a partnership on low and medium power modular nuclear reactors is being worked out. Strengthening energy security to meet climate objectives has been flagged. Supporting urban and ecological transitions in India as well as social inclusion are on the joint agenda. India and France are committed to strengthen their academic ties and to foster exchanges of students.

Defence Discussions Buzz

French President Emmanuel Macron's visit is likely to evolve relations for the next 25 years and announce a military-industrial roadmap in which France is expected to enhance India's capacities and capabilities. There will be an emphasis on making aircraft engines, submarines (including nuclear-powered SSNs), and cooperation in space. But clearly, the loudest buzz is about the aviation deals. Can the visit see some progress on purchasing 26 carrier-capable Rafale-M aircraft for the Indian Navy? Could additional upgraded variants of Rafale be a choice for the Make-in-India fighters for Indian Air Force (IAF)? India has been in talks with France's Safran Group for joint development of a fighter aircraft engine for India's fifth-generation fighter, the Advanced Medium Multirole Fighter Aircraft (AMCA). Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) have already been making the Turbomeca (a Safran company) supported 'Shakti' helicopter engine. Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL are now set to form a joint-venture (JV) for developing an indigenous aero-engine for Indian Multirole Helicopter (IMRH), which will be built in large numbers in the near future. These deals, if they go through, would take the relations between the two to the next higher level. Of course, there could be discussions on three additional Make-in-India Scorpene (Kalvari-class) submarines. The Indian Navy already operates six India-made Scorpene submarines.

France: India's Time Tested Strategic Partner

Indo-French relations date back to 1674 when the French arrived in India at Pondicherry. They later created colonies at Pondicherry, Karaikal, Yanam, Mahe and Chandanagar. All these were peacefully transferred to India in 1954. Paris and New Delhi have had warm and business friendly relations from the very beginning.



Why rising India faces Anglo-American pushback?



Whenever the United States-led Anglosphere sees a potential threat to its global hegemony, it acts swiftly and ruthlessly. Germany was a growing threat in 1914. By 1945, two world wars later, Germany was neutralised. After nearly 80 years, it remains an obedient ally of the US. Japan received the same treatment, though it took two atomic bombs and over 2,50,000 lives to end Japan's military threat in the east.

The Soviet Union posed a tougher challenge. It controlled over a dozen European countries right up to the doorstep of (then) West Germany. It took the US 40 years to dismantle the Soviet threat to its global hegemony. Having dismembered former Soviet satellites like Yugoslavia into several small separate countries, the US enjoyed a brief moment of being the world's only superpower between 1990 and 2010. China's rise came as a rude shock. Beijing had followed president Deng Xiaoping's advice: hide your strength, bide your time. For 30 years from the 1980s to the 2010s, China quietly stole US military technology from under the Pentagon's nose and deeply infiltrated Silicon Valley. President Xi Jinping's aggression in the South China Sea woke Washington up. China

was not just a military threat as the former Soviet Union had been. It was a far more serious economic threat than the Soviets had ever been. Washington moved quickly, lockstep with its Anglophone cousins — Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — to thwart China's rise. President Donald Trump imposed far-reaching trade sanctions on Beijing which President Joe Biden has deepened. When faced with a foreign challenge, US Democrats and Republicans, sharply polarised over domestic politics, have an uncanny ability to join forces. Biden doubled down on Trump's trade war against China by imposing wide-ranging technology sanctions on Beijing. He banned Western, Japanese,

Korean and Taiwanese companies from sharing advanced semiconductor technology with China. Since China no longer has access to the latest wafer-thin chips from Nvidia and other Western firms, it will take years to catch up on new-generation chips in mobile phones, cars, computers and AI-powered electronic devices.

Hegemony birthright

British prime minister Winston Churchill used to say that the English-speaking nations (known today more commonly as the Anglosphere) had prevailed in the social Darwinian battle.

According to Churchill, white Christian Protestants occupied the top rung in the hierarchy. In the second tier

were white Christian Catholics. Then came Indians and Chinese and in the fourth tier Africans. Churchill, an amateur historian himself, knew that his social Darwinism theory was driven. Before 1700, Britain was a mid-level European country in awe of the Ottoman and Mughal Empires.

British envoys like Sir Thomas Roe were for years denied an audience in the 17th-century Court of Emperor Jehangir. The Chinese were more direct, sending back British envoys with a threat of beheading if they returned.

Churchill also knew that a rare combination of science, slavery, industry and invasive colonialism had elevated Britain to a global hegemon

by the mid-1800s. Social Darwinism had little to do with it. The hegemonic baton passed from Britain to its colonial cousin America around 1900. There it has stayed for over a century. Reining in China remains a work in progress. Hawks in Washington believe China's moment has come and gone. Expected to surpass US GDP by 2030, they now believe China may never catch up, allowing the US to be the largest global economy for the foreseeable future. The problem with that thesis is that the future is unpredictable. International financial institutions have warned that India could overtake both the US and China as the world's largest economy sometime between 2052 and 2075.

US vs China vs India

The Anglosphere has held global hegemonic power for 200 years since the defeat of French Emperor Napoleon by the British at Waterloo in 1815. Farsighted American policymakers have sought for years to draw India into its Anglospheric orbit as it did with Japan and South Korea. Xi Jinping, alive to the US ploy, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi for three congenial summits between 2014 and 2019 — in Ahmedabad, Wuhan and Mahabalipuram — to wear India away from the US.

Is the Oscar snub for Barbie about women or money?

It is that time of the year again when everyone is talking about the Oscars. The nominations are in for this prestigious award. But all that people are talking about are those who are not nominated. It is being called the Great Oscar Snub, and it is about the Barbie movie. One of the biggest hits of 2023, Barbie earned over a billion dollars at the box office, and it had two women at its helm: Greta Gerwig as the director and Margot Robbie as the lead actor. Yet, both of them haven't been nominated for the respective categories. But Ryan Gosling from Barbie has been nominated for best supporting actor.

Ryan Gosling strongly reacts to Margot Robbie and Greta Gerwig's Oscars snub,

says, 'No Ken without Barbie'. So the movie is about dismantling patriarchy, yet a man is nominated for an Oscar. Is the Oscar snub just another snub for women? Or has it got to do with its dislike for commercial successes? "Doesn't matter what I do; I will always be number two." Those are lyrics from the song "I'm Just Ken" a song that Ryan Gosling sang in Barbie, that rings true today. The Oscar nominations are in, and Barbie has been given the big snub. Let's look at some facts about the movie first: Barbie was released on July 21, 2023. It has since become a pop-culture phenomenon. The wave of pink took over the world and also the box office, raking in more than \$1 billion. What is more, it was

helmed by a female director, Greta Gerwig. The lead actor was Margot Robbie. But Barbie wasn't just a movie about dolls. It was about dismantling patriarchy. It was about women and celebrating them. But that did not seem enough for the Academy Awards. Barbie got eight Oscar nominations. There was the best picture, the best supporting actor (female), the best supporting actor (male), the best producer, etc. Yet, no nominations for best director or best actor came for Barbie. Even Ryan Gosling raised this. He said, "There's no Ken without Barbie." And there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie. The nomination news led to an uproar on social media.

China is preparing for 'history warfare' that India must counter

Recently, news circulated that after the Galwan incident, which claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers and some 40 Chinese soldiers in June 2020, new clashes would have taken place between India and China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This probably explains why External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar often mentions that relations between the two Asian giants are 'not normal'. Clashes would have taken place at least twice on the LAC during the past three years, and China would have attempted to violently attack some Indian Army checkpoints (probably not in Ladakh) between September 2021 and November 2022.

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff, himself stated that the situation on the border with China was 'stable, yet sensitive'.

China's military purge sparks concerns of escalating tensions towards World War III

While these incidents need to be taken seriously (and they are, by the Indian Army), they show the limits of the Chinese ability to militarily create mischief on the northern border.

Opening new fronts

In this context, there is no doubt that Xi Jinping's regime will try to open new fronts, perhaps not so visible, but which could lead to serious consequences if India is caught nap-



ping. One of these is what could be called 'history warfare', through which Communist China will try to prove that it has always occupied the Tibetan plateau and that the border areas (whether Tibet or Xinjiang) have always been under Chinese possession. Earlier this month, The Global Times, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, asserted: "Half-decade-long frontier archaeology yields major discoveries, reveals diverse yet united Chinese civilization."

The article says that in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, nearly 80 archaeological projects were taken up between 2019 and 2023.

Why is Chinese control suddenly projected far from the historical frontiers of the Middle Kingdom (represented by the Great Wall of China)? The answer is clear—this is to project that 'all these areas are part of China since immemorial times': "Archaeological projects in Xinjiang, along with other discoveries

made in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, southwest China's Yunnan Province, and other parts of the country, have contributed greatly to the enrichment of the current research landscape of China's frontier archaeology."

A new term has come into being; it is called 'frontier archaeology'; in fact, a China Frontier Archaeology Symposium was recently held in Beijing; its declared objective was "to facilitate discussions about future topics in Chinese archaeology."

Ethnic and cultural diversity

The symposium looked into questions such as 'ethnic cultural diversity' or 'ancient Silk Road cultural exchanges'. A 'frontier' archaeologist, Chen Hurong, told The Global Times that this reflects "the unique value of frontier archaeology...Compare d with many inland archaeological projects, frontier histories can often vividly depict ancient China's exchanges with other cultures."

US presidential election: How independent voters will be the kingmakers this time

The high-octane contest leading up to November 5, the actual polling day, would see a no-holds-barred slugfest between the duo while they are simultaneously trying to woo the independent voter who is emerging as the kingmaker. Image: Moneycontrol



four years. There is so much riding on your choice, not just domestically but across the globe. You are expected to choose wisely. But you have a problem. You are being called upon to choose between a near-octogenarian demagogue who is feared and disliked except by his die-hard followers and an octogenarian who is uninspiring and unpopular. What do you do?

There are no easy answers. The average voter is disillusioned. She so wishes to see a different slate of contenders who are younger, capable of rising above partisan politics, and relatable. A few American analysts have already begun speculating about such an outcome on the premise that Trump would be disqualified by the courts and Biden would eventually respect the public mood. But that is more of a pipedream than a possibility as of now. Back to the voter. His default reaction is to distance himself from most politicians and political parties, but not necessarily from politics. That is why

a growing number of people, predominantly young, are refusing affiliation with either of the two major parties to maintain their independence. They prefer to vote not along party lines but on merit. They are also choosing to make themselves heard through the ballot box rather than moping on the margins. The findings of the monthly Gallup polls are instructive. In the preceding few months, 43 to 49 per cent of American adults have described themselves as independent, compared to 39 per cent in 2020.

Hyundai will spend \$4bn on production



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

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

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

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

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

Will fight non-tariff barriers: Piyush Goyal

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

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



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

With the EU and UK utilizing carbon border tax to raise steel and

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

Apple overtakes Samsung as world's top smartphone seller

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

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

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

CAPSULES

India Slaps 50% Export Duty on Sugar's Molasses

Delhi: The Indian government has implemented a 50% export duty on molasses due to concerns about a potential decrease in domestic sugar production this season. The export duty, effective from January 18, 2024, aims to address the situation, as per an official notification from the Ministry of Finance. Molasses, a by-product of sugar, is crucial for ethanol production, contributing to a greener economy. Cane juice-derived ethanol comprises 25-30% of the total ethanol production, while over 60-65% comes from B heavy molasses. Ethanol from C-heavy molasses and grains makes up the remaining share. Earlier in December, the Food Ministry instructed sugar mills not to use cane juice or syrup for ethanol production. However, in mid-December, the central government permitted the use of both juice and B-heavy molasses for ethanol production, with a capped diversion of sugar at 17 lakh tones for the current marketing season. India has already introduced 20% blended fuel, E20, in a phased manner starting April 2023, with wider availability anticipated in the coming days. The introduction of E20 blending in petrol aims to reduce the country's oil import costs, enhance energy security, lower carbon emissions, and improve air quality. The government has advanced the target for E20 fuel adoption from 2030 to 2025.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Coaching centres may face action for exorbitant fees

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Gujarat teachers demoted for higher studies

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



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

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

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

School guest teachers seek salary revision, claim Dec salaries due

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



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

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



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

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

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

Centre issues guidelines for regulation of coaching centres

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Fort Hyderabad Conquered! Ollie Pope, Tom Hartley star in England's sensational win over India in 1st Test

NEW DELHI: A daddy ton from Ollie Pope was followed by a dream debut spell from Tom Hartley as England stunned India to conquer Fort Hyderabad, winning the thrilling series-opener by 28 runs on Sunday. Playing his maiden Test, left-arm spinner Hartley produced a phenomenal spell of 7 for 62 as he spun England to a sensational victory on the extended penultimate day against India. After Pope's inspiring 196 helped England set India a stiff 231 target, the host batters crumbled under pressure of the fourth innings chase, folding for 202. After West Indies stunned Australia for their first win Down Under in 27 years, all-round England caused the second upset of the day as Ben Stokes and Co. prevailed in testing conditions to

go 1-0 up in the series. This is India's fourth defeat in home Tests since 2013 and India's approach during chase was in complete contrast to how Pope tackled Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with a lot of intent. The spin twins have never been lethal on surfaces which aren't exactly dustbowl and England's second innings batting show won't do their reputation any good. As It Happened Earlier, Pope's brilliant 196 took England to 420 in their second innings, and gave them a substantial lead and genuine hopes of stretching India. And England did way more than stretching the hosts. In fact, this defeat will leave a deep burn in Indian hearts as they stumbled against a 25-year-old rookie Lancastrian with a

combined experience of three international matches on a pitch that did not hide any demons. There was appreciable turn and variable bounce but nothing this set of Indian batters could not have negated. Three dismissals showcased the travails of Indians on the day - Shubman Gill (0), Yashasvi Jaiswal (15) and Shreyas Iyer (13) fell to their own ineptitudes. Jaiswal made a half-hearted charge against Hartley and the spinner pulled back his length after spotting movement of the batter. All the left-hander could manage was to spoon a catch to Pope at silly point. Gill followed the suit two balls later in the same over. He made a hard-handed, indecisive push at the ball after Hartley tossed one around the off-stump.

Klopp to take sabbatical, rules out ever managing another English club

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp plans to take a break from football for a year once his time in charge at Anfield finishes at the end of the season. Klopp said he lacked the energy to go on as he made a shock announcement on Friday that he will step down in May. The 56-year-old German has previously been linked with the German national team. But Klopp, who has won the Champions League and Premier League among seven trophies since taking over at Liverpool in

2015, said his immediate plan was for a break and that he would never manage another English club. "Whatever will happen in the future I don't know now but no club, no country for the next year. No other English club ever, I can promise that," said Klopp at a press conference. The former Borussia Dortmund coach could go out on a high with Liverpool five points clear at the top of the Premier League and in the running for three other trophies.

Thanks to a series of summer signings, the Reds have bounced back to form this season after a turbulent 2022/23 campaign and Klopp said he was leaving with a squad in place that would succeed even without him. "It's too important to do it with 50 percent, it is just too important and this team is set up for the future," he added on his reasoning for stepping down. "When I said Liverpool 2.0 that didn't include me obviously for the next 10 years.

Where India lost the first Test against England

Debutant Tom Hartley took 7/62 as England completed an extraordinary turnaround to beat India by 28 runs in the first Test in Hyderabad on Sunday. Hartley returned the fourth-best figures for a debutant visiting bowler in India as the hosts collapsed from

420 to all out for 202 runs in 69.2 overs. The inexplicable collapse was all the more unlikely after the hosts took a 190-run lead in the first innings, scoring 436 in reply to England's 246. Ollie Pope's 196 runs helped England score 420 runs in their second

innings, as the visitors overcame a record deficit to register a stunning win on Indian soil. Hartley's seven-wicket haul was the second-best return for an English spinner on debut after John Langridge's 7/56 against the West Indies in 1933.



Uzbekistan hand leaky India second Asian Cup defeat

NEW DELHI: India fell to a second straight defeat at the Asian Cup on Thursday in Doha, losing 3-0 to Uzbekistan, all the goals coming in a torrid first half for Igor Stimac's men. The result put Uzbekistan in pole position to qualify along with Australia from Group B with one round of matches to go. Against the central Asian nation at Ahmed bin Ali Stadium, India's performance was a far cry from their display against Australia, where the team went down 0-2 in the opener. Uzbekistan scored through Abbosbek Fayzullaev (4th minute), Igor Sergeev (18th) and Nasrullaev (45+3) to register their first win in the competition after being held to a stalemate by Syria in their tournament opener. Hoping to start on a positive note barely days after their promising show against Australia, India, instead, found themselves on the backfoot straightaway and conceded a rather soft goal early on. The lightning quick Fayzullaev, placed in a favourable position, found the target with a header past the hapless Gurpreet Singh Sandhu after Shukurov headed the ball towards him from a Nasrullaev cross taken at the edge of the Indian penalty area. Ranked 102 in the world as against their 68-ranked opponents, Igor Stimac's men found the going tough as Uzbekistan looked to rattle the Indian defence with their attacking play. Unlike the match against Australia, the Indians could not prevent Uzbekistan from splitting their defence wide open in the early part. In a mood to stamp their authority further, Uzbekistan again benefitted from sloppy defending from their opponents.

Tenacious Jannik Sinner fights back to beat Daniil Medvedev

NEW DELHI: Jannik Sinner exhibited his fighting skills to the tilt as the fourth-seed Italian fought back from two-set down to register a sensational five-set victory over World number three Daniil Medvedev in a thrilling final to clinch his maiden Australian Open title on Sunday. Sinner was blown off course in the first two sets but recovered to win 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in three hours and 44 minutes. This is Sinner's first



Grand Slam title in his first appearance in a Major final. However, former US Open champion Medvedev, playing in his third final at Melbourne Park, was third time

unlucky in his quest for victory. The 27-year-old Russian started off well and stayed solid on his own serve at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.

Medvedev, who took 36 minutes to win the first set, once again broke twice to take the second set 6-3, but this time in 49 minutes. The 22-year-old Italian kept his composure despite losing the first two sets, as he fought back hard in the third and fourth sets to break Medvedev's serve exactly in the 10th game and take both the sets with a 6-4 scoreline in 45 and 56 minutes respectively.

U-19 World Cup: Arshin, Naman sizzle as India crush USA by 201 runs to top group

NEW DELHI: In a dominating performance, Arshin Kulkarni showcased his batting prowess with a stroke-filled century, scoring 108 runs, while Musheer Khan played a crucial supporting role with 73 runs as defending champions India continued their unbeaten streak in the U-19 World Cup, securing a resounding 201-run victory over the USA. This formidable partnership contributed to India posting an imposing total of 326 for five in their final group game of the tournament in Bloemfontein, South Africa. India's left-arm pacer, Naman Tiwari, emerged as the star with the ball, claiming



four wickets for just 20 runs. The bowling unit, under Tiwari's leadership, efficiently restricted the USA to a modest 125 for 8 in

their allotted 50 overs. With this comprehensive win, India, having already secured a super six berth with two previous victories, progressed to the next stage as leaders of Group A, further solidifying their status as a formidable force in the U-19 World Cup. USA faced significant challenges in chasing the formidable target set by India, with their innings off to a shaky start. Pacer Tiwari, in conjunction with fellow fast bowler Raj Limbani (1/17), displayed exceptional skill with the new ball.

Gill's rash shot that led to his departure on day two of first Test



Gill commenced the second day of India's first Test against England on his overnight score of 14. However, debutant spinner Tom Hartley managed to dismiss him, getting him caught at mid-wicket on 23. Gill's painstaking innings of 66 deliveries included only two boundaries. The way Gill got out, after putting in the hard work, left Gavaskar, who was doing commentary at that moment, frustrated. India eventually scored 436 to take a

first-innings lead of 190 runs. "What kind of a shot was that!" - When Sunil Gavaskar fumed at Shubman Gill's shot-selection Shubman's Gill's rash shot that led to his departure on day two of India's first Test against England in Hyderabad annoyed batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, who questioned the young Indian batter's shot-selection. Gill took a fresh guard to begin the second day on his overnight score of 14 but was dismissed by debutant spinner

Tom Hartley, caught at mid-wicket on 23 having played 66 deliveries in his laborious knock, which included just two boundaries. The manner of Gill's dismissal after having done all the hard work annoyed Gavaskar, who was doing commentary at that point. "What kind of a shot was he looking to play! One can understand if he was looking to play it in the air, but it was just a badly executed on-drive. He did all the hard work and then played a sh.

Sakshi Malik advises wrestlers to participate in nationals conducted by ad-hoc panel

NEW DELHI: Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik on Thursday recommended that the country's wrestlers opt to take part in the Nationals organized by the ad-hoc committee in Jaipur instead of the event arranged by the suspended national federation. Sakshi, along with Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, played a key role in a protracted battle against the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) former president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Singh faced accusations of sexual harassment and intimidation from the trio. "I urge the wrestlers to go and play in the Nationals organised by the ad-hoc committee and not to take part in the tournament organised by the WFI. The tournament organised by the ad-hoc panel is the recognised event," Sakshi said in a video on X. Last month, the ad-hoc committee governing the WFI announced that the senior national championships for

"Most states will go to Pune only. There is an issue in the state of Haryana because there are factions in the association. But if you look at other states, like Delhi, Punjab

wrestling would be held from February 2 to 5 in Jaipur. The Bhopinder Singh Bajwa-led panel said the event will feature competitions across senior free style, Greco Roman, and women's categories. The Bajwa-headed panel was formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to oversee the WFI after the newly-elected body, led by Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh, was suspended by the sports ministry for violating its own constitution.

A woman wrestler from Rohtak, however, told PTI that they will compete in the Nationals to be conducted by WFI in Pune, despite the gov-

ernment according recognition to the Nationals organised by the ad-hoc panel. "Most states will go to Pune only. There is an issue in the state of Haryana because there are factions in the association. But if you look at other states, like Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan, all are going to Pune. So, we are also going there," she said when asked about the government directive. "Most of the wrestlers in our akhara will go to Pune but a few will also go to the Nationals in Jaipur. But you will see a majority of the players in Pune," said the wrestler who did not wish to be named.

How Sumit Nagal overcame fund crunch, injury and Covid

NEW DELHI: Last year when Sumit Nagal spoke about the "hardships" and "lonely battles" he faces on the ATP Tour, India's best men's singles player also pointed out the consequent "funds-related issues" he encounters to sustain his tennis career. Sumit, in a fervent appeal, had said that he had just 900 euros (approximately Rs 80,000) left in his bank account and needed a "big sponsor" to prolong his tennis career. After his confession, Gatorade, renowned for its history of supporting athletes globally, entered into a partnership with Sumit. "At one point last year, he (Sumit) faced acute financial problems due to lack of sponsors. He had a steady sponsor early in his career. It was a big corporate, but they too pulled out when Covid started.

Lala Lajpat Rai played an important role in liberating India: Ramchandra Jadaula

Said: Lala Lajpat Rai was a symbol of patriotism, dedication and sacrifice



Kaithal: Former director of HAFED and famous social worker Ramchandra Jadaula, while paying tribute to freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai on his birth anniversary, said that Lala Lajpat Rai was a symbol of patriotism, dedication and sacrifice, who fought for freedom till his last breath. Struggled for Lala Lajpat Rai played his role in liberating the country. While talking in an interview at his establishment in New Grain Market Dhand, Ramchandra Jadaula said that during the freedom struggle, Lala Lajpat Rai awakened the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of

millions of youth with his thoughts. Lala Lajpat Rai played an important role in liberating India. He was one of the three major heroes of the Indian freedom struggle, Lal-Bal-Pal. He said that Lala Lajpat Rai, decorated with the title of Sher-e-Punjab, was born in an ordinary family of Dhuri village. He was also a social reformer. Ramchandra Jadaula said that we should follow the path shown by martyr Lala Lajpat Rai and adopt his ideals in life and always be ready to

serve the country, this will be our true tribute to the martyrs. Ramchandra Jadaula said that Lala Lajpat's sacrifice has been the biggest contribution to the country. He was a very dynamic orator and a high level patriot and a true social worker of the country. He was martyred fighting for the country's independence from the British till his last breath. The entire country is proud of whose martyrdom. We should follow the path shown by the martyrs.

Over 60,000 Students Participate in Nationwide Painting Contest Ahead of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024

NEW DELHI

In preparation for Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, a nationwide painting competition engaged over 60,000 students across Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. Themed around "Exam Warriors," it aimed to reduce exam stress and inspire patriotism on 'Parakram Diwas.' The competition, part of a larger stress-free education movement, precedes the interaction program led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, scheduled for January 29, 2024, this program will involve students, teachers, and winners of the Kala Utsav, Union Education Ministry. In preparation for Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, an initiative aimed at alleviating examination stress among students, competition, themed around exam mantras from the book "ExamWarriors" authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Union Education Ministry. In preparation for Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, an initiative aimed at alleviating examination stress among students, competition, themed around exam mantras from the book "ExamWarriors" authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Kerala SET Answer Key 2024 released at lbscentre.kerala.gov.in

NEW DELHI. Those dissatisfied can raise objections with valid proof by submitting a DD of Rs. 300 per question challenged. The official website provides instructions for downloading and challenging the answer key. The test comprised two papers, and the mark-

ing scheme awards 1 mark for each correct response. Kerala SET Answer Key 2024 released at lbscentre.kerala.gov.in, direct link here Representative Image Kerala SET 2024 Answer Key: The LBS Centre for Science and Technology has released the Kerala

SET Answer Key 2024. Candidates who appeared in the Kerala State Eligibility Test can check the answer key from the official website at lbsedp.lbscentre.in/setjan24. The Kerala SET 2024 was conducted on January 21, 2024. dates to log in.



Dr. Subhash Sethi's 'Two Love Letters (Undelivered)' story collection released



Chandigarh: Dr. Subhash Sethi's story collection - Two Love Letters (Undelivered) was released on Sunday under the aegis of Samvad Sahitya Manch, Chandigarh. On this occasion, senior litterateur Prem Vij was present as the chief guest and litterateurs Dr. Vinod Sharma, Dr. Sarita Mehta, Daljit Singh, Ajaib Aujla were present as special guests. The program was moderated by famous writer Vimla Guglani. Speaking on the book 'Two Love Letters (Undelivered)', Dr. Subhash Sethi said that love is blind, but sometimes it is complicated. And it becomes even more complicated when you are unable to express your love to your special someone. Giving his views on the story collection, Prem Vij said that the stories in the story collection have been taken from the life around him. While reading, the reader starts understanding these as his own stories. Dr. Vinod Sharma said about the book that whatever is written in real form becomes history. He presented six stories of the author in poetic form. Dr. Sarita Mehta said that it is good that the eyes are hidden by the eyelids, otherwise there are thousands of secrets hidden in these eyes. Apart from these, Dr. Subhash Sethi's daughter Nisha, her husband Dr. Pradeep Chinnna, son Madhur Sethi and his daughter-in-law Aanchal Sethi also expressed their views. A poetry session was also organized on this occasion. It

Cybersecurity Awareness for Students: 5 Most Common Scams to Avoid in 2024

NEW DELHI. Cybersecurity Awareness for Students: 5 Most Common Scams to Avoid in 2024 Representative Image Cybercrime is on the rise among students in India, especially college students trying to earn extra money through unconventional means. Many fall victim to scams, facing mental stress and financial loss. It's important to openly discuss online safety with students, educate them about various cybercrimes, and urge them to report any suspicious activities. Raising awareness about cybersecurity is essential to safeguarding the next generation from online dangers. Here are some of the common cyber crimes that stu-

dents need to be aware of: FedEx Scam How it works: It all starts when someone gets a call from a stranger pretending to be from 'FedEx.' The caller says a package in the person's name, heading to Macau or another country, got seized by Mumbai customs for having illegal stuff. After that, the victim is linked to a "police officer," often from the Mumbai Crime Branch or Anti-Narcotics Unit. Verify the legitimacy of such messages/calls by contacting FedEx directly using official contact information. YouTube Like Scam How it works: Criminals are using WhatsApp and Telegram to approach potential victims with offers

for part-time work from home or part-time jobs. In these fraudulent schemes, scammers are enticing users to engage with videos on YouTube by liking and subscribing.

Protect yourself:

Avoid clicking on links in suspicious messages. Verify notifications directly on the official YouTube website or app. Online Shopping Scam How it works: Fraudsters make fake websites that seem like real online stores. These sites usually tempt people with attractive discounts on popular products to trick them. When people enter their payment details, the scammers take their money and vanish.

Maldives' Muizzu has joined camp China

After completing his first state-visit to China with great pomp and show, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu returned to Male to take stock of the soured relations with India. The ties between the two countries were already on rocky ground, with Muizzu demanding Indian troops leave the island nation and his government not renewing an agreement allowing India to conduct hydrographic surveys in Maldivian waters. But over the last six days,

more dominoes have fallen in quick succession. The question is: will Muizzu pick up the pieces or leave them where they are? The latest controversy was triggered by disparaging remarks made by three Muizzu ministers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indians at large. References to Indians drinking cow urine were a low blow but it wasn't until Indians on social media began encouraging a tourism boycott of Maldives that Male issued a statement dis-

tancing itself from the ministers' remarks and then suspended them. Some Maldivian MPs like Eva Abdullah suggested issuing a formal apology to India, and former vice president Ahmed Adeeb told me in an interview that all of this could've been avoided if Muizzu had rang Modi. If Muizzu's latest trip is any indication, it's that he's unabashedly in China's camp. He praised China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and, in what was perceived as a slight to India, called for

Beijing to reclaim its number one spot as the country sending most tourists to Maldives. (Last year, India held the top spot with over 2 lakh tourists flocking to the island nation). Sure, Muizzu and Modi had a sit-down on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai last month, but his interaction with Chinese First Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang at the same event was far warmer. China-Maldives relations will "thrive" under Muizzu's leadership, a statement from the President.

Plan to drop sitting MLAs, MPs backfires on Jagan

The YSR Congress Party's strategy to drop several sitting MLAs and MPs in Andhra Pradesh for the forthcoming polls has triggered a spate of resignations. Machilipatnam MP Balasouri Vallabhaneni resigned from the party amid indications that he might be dropped. Balasouri is likely to join the Jana Sena Party

(JSP) led by actor-politician Pawan Kalyan. This is the latest resignation to hit the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led party ahead of the simultaneous polls to the state Assembly and the Lok Sabha, likely to be held in April-May. Kurnool MP S. Sanjeev Kumar resigned from the party. The general surgeon and urologist resigned both as MP and also from the primary membership of YSRCP. This followed the party's decision to field sitting MLA and state minister Gummanur Jayaram as the party candidate from the Kurnool Parliament seat. The MP, who remained low profile throughout his stint, alleged that there is no respect for backward classes in the party. He is likely to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Two MLAs have also quit the ruling party over the denial of tick-

ets. Last week, Rayadurgam MLA Kapu Ramchandra Reddy resigned from YSRCP. He alleged that the party leadership betrayed him despite his loyalty to the party. Alla Ramakrishna Reddy was the first YSRCP MLA to quit the party. The MLA from Mangalagiri has declared his support to Y. S. Sharmila, who recently merged her YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) with the Congress. Sharmila, the sister of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, will likely get a key position in the party. A couple of MLCs have also quit YSRCP in the last few days. While MLC and senior leader C. Ramachandraiah joined the TDP, another MLC Srinivas Varma joined the Jana Sena. Earlier, cricketer Ambati Rayudu resigned from YSRCP. He quit the party 10 days after joining it.

Modi representing Bharat' Advani writes on 'cherished' Ram Mandir

I am elated beyond words that we are on the verge of realising my most cherished dream of having a grand Shri Ram temple at Ramjanmabhoomi, the birthplace of Shri Ram. On 22nd January 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will install the idol of Shri Ram at the beautiful temple in Ayodhya, and I feel blessed that I will witness this historic occasion in my lifetime. I have always believed that 'faith' is the foundation on which rests both a meaningful life of a person and the whole society at large. Faith not only infuses energy and confidence into a person's life, but also helps give it direction. For me and for crores of Indians, this faith has been our deep reverence for Shri Ram. Shri Ram embodies the spirit of India. The true spirit of India and Indianness is discipline,

truth, honesty, ethics, moral values, acceptance and celebration of diversity, respect for elders, strong family bonds and all such fine human values and Shri Ram is the epitome of all these impeccable human qualities. Hence the title 'Maryada Purushottam' (an exemplar among good human beings) by which he is known. He is an ideal for Indians' aspiration to live a life of higher values. Shri Ram was also an ideal king - the living embodiment of 'Dharma'. Hence the concept of 'Ram Rajya', the epitome of good governance, was extolled as the ideal for India. Although Shri Ram is the holy religious figure worthy of worship for the Hindus, he is a pre-eminent symbol of India's cultural heritage and national identity - which belong to all citizens alike. The story of Shri Ram's life, the

Ramayana, is both a source and a carrier of the continuity of India's cultural traditions and has greatly influenced the Indian mindset generation after generation, century after century. Therefore, for the last almost 500 years, the reconstruction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has been a deep desire for countless Indians. The Ramjanmabhoomi movement for the reconstruction of the temple at the Janmasthan of Shri Ram in Ayodhya proved to be a major watershed in the history of post-1947 India. Its impact on our society and polity, and on our sense of national identity has been tremendous. In my own political journey, I have always said that the Ayodhya Movement was the most decisive transformational event, which gave me an opportunity to discover

India anew, and in the process, rediscover myself. I feel humbled that destiny made me perform a pivotal duty in the form of the Shri Ram Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya in 1990. I believe that before any event finally occurs in reality, it takes shape and form in a person's mind. At that time, I was feeling that a befitting temple for Shri Ram in Ayodhya would indeed be a certainty one day, and that it was only a matter of time. A grand Mandir for Shri Ram at Ramjanmabhoomi had been a desire and mission for the Bharatiya Janata Party. When in the mid-1980s the Ayodhya issue rose to the centre-stage of national politics, I was reminded of the time how political stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad.

ICAI CA : Foundation, Inter and Final course exam schedule out

NEW DELHI. ICAI CA exam 2024: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has released the ICAI-CA May to June Exam 2024 date sheet. Candidates who are planning to appear for the Foundation, Inter & Final courses examination in May to June 2024 can check the timetable released on the official website of the ICAI at icai.org. According to the notice, the Foundation course examination will be conducted in the month of June, on the dates - 20, 22, 24 & 26. Paper 1 and 2 will be conducted from 2PM to 5PM and Paper 3 and 4 will be held from 2PM to 4PM. For the Intermediate course - Group 1 exam will be on May 3, 5 and 7, 2024. Group 2 exam will be held on May 9, 11 and 13, 2024. The timings for the papers will remain the same - 2PM to 5PM.