

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday 03 February, 2024

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

Uttarakhand led way, others can adopt UCC template': Uttarakhand CM Dhami

Dehradun: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai submits final UCC report to Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami

Terming the handing over of the UCC draft report 'a significant day for the entire nation' and one paving the way for Uttarakhand to become the first state after Independence to implement it, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in an interaction with TOI said the state has created a template for UCC that the rest of the country can adopt.

It is a momentous day for not only Uttarakhand but the entire country. We have laid the foundation stone and created a template which other states can follow. It has been a two-year-long exercise. The draft has been prepared after a wide range of consultations with people, including those in the remotest corners. A cabinet meeting has been called on Saturday, and the pro-



posal would be passed. The bill will be tabled in the special session of the state assembly starting Feb 5. We had promised UCC to the people before the assembly elections, and they had voted us back to power on the issue. So, it feels good to have fulfilled this promise. Why shouldn't we provide equal rights to all, especially women? We keep on hearing about women being deprived of property rights, inheritance and injustice done to them in matters of divorce. We believe there should be equal

rights for everyone, irrespective of their religion. UCC will provide a legal framework for marriage, divorce, land, property, and inheritance for all irrespective of their faith. It will help bring social harmony, end gender discrimination and strengthen women empowerment. Where were the leaders of these parties when the draft panel had invited them for a meeting to give their suggestions? Adequate time was given, but they preferred to boycott the meeting. Now when we have gone ahead with our objective of bring-

ing uniformity in society, Congress and its leaders are issuing baseless statements to mislead people. Have they even seen the draft? If they were serious, they could have given their suggestions on time rather than making efforts now to grab the limelight. I would like to request opposition parties to have a healthy and elaborate discussion when the bill is tabled. The process to prepare the draft has been questioned by a few in the opposition... A completely transparent process has been followed. Besides reaching out to a cross-section of people, we have used technology (web portal, WhatsApp, and SMS) to take public opinion, suggestions, and feedback.

Two days were allotted to political parties to give their suggestions. A total of 72 meetings were held, and 2.3 lakh suggestions were received.

Cops land at Arvind Kejriwal's house to ask for proof of BJP's 'poaching' bid

NEW DELHI: On a day when CM Arvind Kejriwal chose not to appear before Enforcement Directorate for the fifth time and led his party members to stage a big demonstration against BJP, accusing it of rigging the Chandigarh mayor elections, Delhi Police's crime branch landed at his residence in the evening. They served him a notice seeking evidence regarding his allegations of poaching attempts on his MLAs by BJP. Sources said police have begun an



investigation as the allegations levelled by Kejriwal are of a crime being committed and police was duty-bound to probe them. The cops also went to AAP minister Atishi's house to serve a similar notice. However, the notices couldn't be served as the cops were informed

that the two were 'busy' and unavailable, a senior cop said. Government sources said officials at the CM's office were ready to receive the notice but it can be served only to the person to whom it is addressed.

Police's attempt to serve notice on Kejriwal came days after a dele-

gation of BJP leaders met police commissioner Sanjay Arora and submitted a complaint regarding the poaching allegations made by the CM Kejriwal had earlier claimed that BJP was trying to topple his government and had offered Rs 25 crore each to seven legislators to leave AAP.

He had alleged that BJP had claimed to be in touch with 21 MLAs but his party had knowledge of seven who were approached with the offer of money and ticket to contest the next elections.

British MP slams BBC over Ram Mandir coverage, calls for debate in House of Commons

LONDON: A British MP has slammed BBC's coverage of the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Conservative MP Bob Blackman said on Thursday, on the floor of the House of Commons: "Last week

Ram Mandir was consecrated in Ayodhya—the birthplace of Lord Ram—in Uttar Pradesh in India. That caused a great joy to Hindus across the world. Sadly, BBC reported that it was the site of the destruction of a mosque, for-

getting that it had been a temple for more than 2,000 years before that, and that the Muslims had been allocated a five-acre site adjacent to the town on which to erect a mosque."

He called for a debate on "the impartiality of

the BBC and its failure to provide a decent record of what is going on all over the world."

Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt responded that a recent BBC review had raised very important "issues".

India to 'replace' military in Maldives by May 10: Male



NEW DELHI: The Maldives will retain Indian aviation platforms - two naval choppers and a Dornier aircraft - but India will "replace" its military personnel involved in operation and maintenance work by May 10, according to a readout posted by Male of the second India-Maldives high level core group meeting that took place here on Friday.

While India only said both sides agreed on a set of "mutually workable solutions" to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms, Male said India had agreed to replace its military personnel in one of the platforms by March 10, and would do the same for the remaining two platforms by May 10.

This effectively means India has agreed to withdraw its military personnel, giving in to President Mohamed Muizzu's persistent demands for the same, but there is no clarity on who will replace the staff. Indian govt did not confirm if it will be Indian civilians, including maybe ex-servicemen. The platforms provide humanitarian and medvac services to Maldivians. Muizzu had earlier warned that the presence of Indian military in any form on Maldivian soil would be detrimental to democracy in his country.

He had told India that withdrawal of Indian forces was the democratic will of Maldivian people. India, however, was keen that Male retain the choppers and the aircraft that have saved over 500 lives through medical evacuations in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Muizzu apparently believes the removal of Indian forces will boost his party's prospects in the upcoming parliamentary polls.

Allahabad high court refuses to stay puja in cellar of Gyanvapi

PRAYAGRAJ:

Allahabad high court did not give any immediate relief on Friday to the Gyanvapi Masjid committee that had challenged the order of the Varanasi court allowing Hindu prayers in the southern cellar of the mosque. The court will now hear the matter on Feb 6.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agrawal passed the order while hearing



an appeal filed by the Anjuman Intizamia Masjid Committee (AIMC) — which looks after the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque — against the Varanasi district court's order.

The Varanasi court had ruled Wednesday that a priest can perform prayers before idols in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque. DM to maintain

Gyanvapi law & order, UP tells court UP advocate general Ajay Kumar Misra, appearing for state govt in Allahabad high court on Friday, gave an undertaking that the Varanasi district magistrate would maintain law and order at the Gyanvapi mosque site following a district judge's Jan 31 order allowing 'puja' in the southern cellar of the complex.

Not dignified for ex-judges to take test for consumer panel posts: CJI D

NEW DELHI: High court judges can examine every issue under the sun and even top bureaucrats in a given case, but are reluctant to clear a written test followed by an interview to head state consumer forums.

The Supreme Court and govt on Friday were on the same page that it was below



dignity of constitutional court judges to appear in written tests, a subsequent interview and secure minimum 50% marks

in both the examination and viva voce to get selected as presidents of state consumer redressal commissions (SCDRCs). A bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud said, "It is rather undignified to make retired HC judges sit for examinations. Their competence should be considered based

on the judgments rendered by them as sitting judges." The CJI said even retired district judges are reluctant to go through such a selection process. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta agreed with the CJI, but pointed out that the govt by an amendment to the selection rules had done away .

Social pressure forces 142 girls to end fight against predator principal

JIND: After mustering courage to accuse their principal of sexual harassment in the deputy commissioner's report, 142 of those 148 schoolgirls from the district have now succumbed to societal pressure and refused to pursue the case, leaving only six to fight for justice.

The girls who stuck to their statements recorded before the magistrate, include one from the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe community. The fear of the rest came out in the child welfare committee's social investigation report prepared by the women and child welfare department.

The accused principal moved a local court for bail, which was denied. The report was based on visits to all the girls and their families who were involved in this process and they were questioned about pressure, allegations, harassment, trauma, and mental toughness.

Breaking marriage promise after parental opposition not rape: HC

NAGPUR:

A man withdrawing from his promise to marry a woman after parents' opposition to their relations does not constitute the offence of rape, observed the Nagpur bench of Bombay HC and acquitted a 31-year-old man from a case registered against him for allegedly raping a woman on the pretext of marriage.

"There is no material on record to show that the petitioner



had no intention to marry the survivor since beginning (of relationship) and he had made a false promise only to satisfy his lust. Allegations men-

tioned in the FIR make it clear that it was the petitioner who was ready to marry.

Merely because he resiled from his promise to marry, since his parents disagreed to the marriage, it cannot be construed as that he committed offence punishable under Section 375 of IPC (intercourse with a woman against her will, without her consent)," Justice Mahendra Chandwani noted.

US strikes Iraqi areas to avenge soldiers' death



NEW DELHI: US President Joe Biden on Friday issued a stern caveat to militant groups in Iraq and Syria as the United States launched retaliatory strikes against the anti-Washington outfits, which have carried out sporadic but sustained attacks on the US and its allies in the battle-gripped Middle East.

American airstrikes at the Iraqi border areas come days after a drone attack by Iran-backed militants on a US military outpost in Jordan, which claimed the lives of three US

service members and the injuries of over 40 others.

Confirming the action against the militant groups in the region, the US President said he had directed military strikes on facilities in Iraq and Syria affiliated with the groups that attacked US forces and said the response would continue.

The US president, who attended a ceremony honouring the killed US soldiers, said "If you harm an American, we will respond". "Our response began today.

Suburban rly gets fund boost, Rs 25,000 crore for bullet train

MUMBAI: A total of Rs 798 crore has been allocated for capacity expansion projects under execution across Western Railway (WR) and Central Railway (CR) in the interim budget presented by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. These include a new Panvel-Karjat suburban corridor, quadrupling of Virar-Dahanu line, Kalyan-Badlapur quadrupling, and laying the fifth and sixth lines from Borivli to Virar.



received Rs 19,592 crore. The corporation has acquired land and awarded all the civil work contracts for the 508-km long corridor. 40% of the work is complete. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been entrusted with the task of executing majority of the projects under MUTP. MRVC chairman and MD SC Gupta said, "The budget allocation will further give impetus to MUTP works." Suburban rly gets fund boost, Rs 25,000 crore for bullet train. According to MRVC, all contracts for improvement work at 17 stations have been awarded. "We've also started

work on the ground on Kalyan-Badlapur quadrupling and Borivli-Virar fifth and sixth lines," said Gupta. According to railway ministry, outlay for Maharashtra in 2024-25 is 15,554 crore, almost 13 times more than average annual outlay for the state during 2009-2014 (1,171 crore). Total allocation for Mumbai is 10% of Maharashtra's share. Apart from funds for MUTP, WR received 1,196 crore for road safety works, which includes regrading of Dadar and Prabhadevi Road Over Bridges and construction of a four-lane bridge to eliminate level crossing.

Delhi Public School (DPS), RK Puram gets bomb threat; case registered

DELHI: Delhi Police has initiated an investigation after receiving a bomb threat call at Delhi Police School in R K Puram. As a precautionary measure, all students were evacuated from the premises. The police have commenced a search operation, but nothing suspicious has been found so far.

Last year in May, a bomb threat was received via email at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road. After conducting thorough searches, the police concluded that the email threat was a



hoax. It was later discovered that a student had sent the email. Similarly, in April last year, a hoax bomb threat was reported at the Indian School in Sadiq Nagar, Delhi.

Cyber frauds taking hawala route: Police

Kolkata: After arresting two traders from city in connection to a cyber fraud of Rs 1.2 crore, the bank fraud section of detective department busted a new modus operandi adopted by the fraudsters for transfer of the swindled amount. So far, six persons have been arrested in this case. The fraudsters were depositing the

swindled amounts in unconnected accounts belonging to the nabbed traders—Satish Patel of Madan Mohan Burman Street (Jorasanko) and Sekhar Balmiki of Asansol—and employees of trading and textile firms. Money was also transferred to a mobile and a garment store in Chattisgarh. Later, the amount was being distributed among the swindlers through the hawala route, cops said. This made tracking the money trail difficult for cops. The traders were arrested with the help of the information shared by a bar dancer in Kolkata, who was also arrested in the case earlier. The mastermind was previously arrested from Bengaluru.

CAPSULES

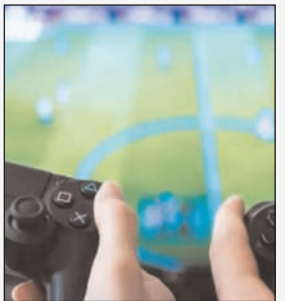
Digital detox initiatives to promote responsible gaming environment

Bengaluru: Barely 24 hours after announcing its animation, visual effects, gaming and extended reality policy, the state govt Thursday announced it will ensure a responsible gaming environment by pursuing 'digital detox' initiatives.

IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge, at the valedictory function of GAFX2024-Bengaluru, said that the initiative is aimed at building a digitally empowered Karnataka through responsible use of technology.

The govt plans to launch the detox initiative in collaboration with All India Game Developers' Forum (AIGDF).

He said the digital detox programme will focus on the time people spend in gaming and on social media. "Although the initiative looks counter-productive to the industry, ours is a responsible govt and will spread awareness on the ills of the sector." He went on to say, "Mental health issues, shrinking attention spans and fraying real-world relationships are outcomes of digital dependence. Technology has woven itself firmly into the fabric of everyone's lives and being glued to screens has become a norm. This is largely because gadgets offer convenience and connection at the fingertips. At the same time, it is exacting a heavy cost." The minister clarified that the programme will enable meaningful and constructive use of technology while minimising its adverse effects on individuals and society.



BJP claims illegal parking rampant in Chandni Chowk

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Thursday alleged that rampant illegal parking had been happening around the Town Hall and Hardayal Library complexes in Chandni Chowk and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was aware of it.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed that illegal parking was a problem from Bankhandi Temple to Town Hall and around Hardayal Library. "After AAP started running MCD in Jan 2023, illegal encroachments have increased in the entire Old Delhi. In the Town



Hall-Hardayal Library area in Chandni Chowk, 700-800 vehicles are parked illegally every day," he alleged, claiming that the parking was probably being operated by some people in connivance with MCD officials of the Sadar-Paharganj zone. "We have brought the issue to the knowledge of commissioner Gyanesh

Bharti, DCP (north) Manoj Kumar Meena and the DCP (traffic)," Kapoor added. At the parking, attendants are charging Rs 200 per vehicle for eight hours and Rs 100 for three hours, said the Delhi BJP spokesperson. "MCD officials as well as the remunerative project cell are aware about the activity, but are silent

due to the pressure from the ruling party," he alleged. Now this illegal parking has become so regular that the people parking their vehicles there leave the keys with the attendants, who even wear the yellow jacket like the staff of parking facilities, Kapoor said. Delhi BJP has urged the MCD commissioner and the DCP (north) to stop the practice, otherwise local party workers will protest against it, he said. A Delhi Police official said they were checking the situation on the ground and would take action.

Bengaluru's first rotary flyover near Sir MV Terminal receives nod

BENGALURU: The decks have finally been cleared for construction of the city's first rotary flyover at IOC junction near Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Byappanahalli. On Thursday, the state cabinet approved the project aimed at providing seamless access to the swanky terminal, connecting important roads in and around Byappanahalli area, east Bengaluru. The project is estimated to cost Rs 263 crore. The flyover will be 1.5km long and along



with it, a two-lane railway overbridge (ROB) will be constructed. This is one of the major road projects in the city approved by the Congress government.

BBMP engineer-in-chief BS Prahlad told TOI that the presence of operational railway tracks and space constraints at the spot necessitated a rotary flyover.

"A comprehensive plan has been prepared to integrate prominent roads in the area. At IOC junction, we are not in a position to build road infrastructure at grade level due to the presence of multiple rail lines, and a rotary flyover is the most suitable option for us. This type of infrastructure can be seen in Chennai," he said. As per the proposal, the road infrastructure will be built from ITC Limited (towards Fraser Town) to IOC junction.

UP: 15 get life term for razing Dalit homes, killing infant

AGRA: A special SC/ST court in Mathura has sentenced 15 men from an upper caste community to life imprisonment after over two decades, in one of the worst instances of caste violence in the district. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 73,000 on each convict.

The case dates back to January 23, 2001, when a group of men in Datiya village of Mathura had opened fire on Dalit villagers and burnt down their houses following a dispute over gram panchayat land. A six-month-old child was burnt alive, a man hit by a bullet and several others from the Dalit community injured.

Special public prosecutor Suresh Prasad Sharma said that on the basis of a complaint filed by one of the victims, an FIR was registered at Narholi (now Highway) police station. "Sixteen men were booked and fol-



lowing state orders, the case was taken up by the crime investigation department. Names of eight others found involved in violence were later added to the FIR," Sharma said. The court of additional district judge (SC/ST) convicted 15 of the men under IPC sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 436 (mischievous fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house) and 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), and section 3(2)(V) of the SC/ST Act, he said.

He added: "First chargesheet was filed in December 2005, and a supplementary chargesheet the next month. Twenty-four people were held and nine of them died during the trial... Most of the 15 convicts are aged above 60 years. They were out on bail for a while after securing a HC stay order over the local court's hearing.

This caused a long delay." "Fourteen witnesses, including a doctor who conducted the postmortem of the child, testified in court.

Opposition leaders reach consensus on visiting Ayodhya's Ram temple

LUCKNOW: Opposition leaders across party lines on Thursday drew a broad consensus for visiting the newly inaugurated Ram temple in Ayodhya soon. The development came during the all-party meeting convened by Speaker Satish Mahana ahead of the budget session of the UP assembly scheduled to begin on Friday. The issue cropped up even as CM Yogi Adityanath underscored how the consecration ceremony became a globally watched event while bolstering tourism potential of the UP in a big way. The state cabinet was scheduled to visit the Ram temple on February 1, which



was postponed by the government on account of heavy rush of devotees to the shrine. While leader of the opposition and SP president Akhilesh Yadav was not present in the meeting, his party was represented by chief whip Manoj Pandey. The Congress and RLD were represented by Aradhana Mishra and Rajpal Baliyan, respectively. Likewise, BSP sent its sole MLA Uma Shankar Singh, while Janta Dal (Loktantrik) was repre-

sented by Raghuraj Pratap Singh aka Raja Bhaiyya. The BJP-led NDA constituents who participated in the meeting included Apna Dal (S) legislative party leader Ram Niwas Verma, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar and Nishad party president Sanjay Nishad. The state government is scheduled to table the state budget on February 5. Mahana sought adequate cooperation from the opposition as well as treasury benches for the

smoother and peaceful conduct of the session which is scheduled to last till February 12. Yogi stressed the need for a healthy discussion in the House, which, he said, played a pivotal role in development of the state and solving problems of the people. He urged all parties to cooperate in running the proceedings of the House, which, he said, was a medium of meaningful discussion. The session is scheduled to start with governor Anandi Ben Patel's joint address to the both Houses of assembly. A week ago, SP MLA from Gainsari assembly seat in Balrampur, Shiv Pratap Yadav, died after a spell of prolonged illness.

Final year BArch student of IIT (BHU) found dead in Varanasi

VARANASI: A student of IIT (BHU) in Varanasi was found dead in his hostel room late Wednesday, police said Thursday. Final-year BArch (architecture) student Utkarsh Raj, 23, was reportedly suffering from depression and undergoing counselling sessions. Utkarsh's father Rajendra Prasad is a section officer at BHU and the family is based in Varanasi. IIT-BHU was yet to issue a statement.

Police said some of Utkarsh's friends broke open the door of his room when he didn't respond to their calls. Doctors at BHU hospital declared him dead on arrival. This follows three suicides in IIT-Kanpur since mid-Dec. PhD scholar Priyanka Jaiswal (29) allegedly died by suicide on Jan 18, MTEch student Vikas Kumar Meena (31) on Jan 10 and researcher Pallavi Chilka (34) on Dec 19.

3 Telugu inscriptions on Gyanvapi mosque walls shed light on mandir

HYDERABAD: The Archaeological Survey of India's epigraphy wing in Mysuru found three Telugu inscriptions on the walls of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

A team of experts led by ASI director (epigraphy) K Muniratnam Reddy deciphered 34 inscriptions, including the three in Telugu, and submitted a report on the existence of Kashi Vishwanath temple. Muniratnam told that one of the inscriptions, dating back to the 17th century, clearly mentioned names of individuals like Mallana Bhatlu, son of Narayana Bhatlu. "It is interesting to note that Narayana Bhatlu is a Telugu Brahmin who supervised the construction of Kashi Vishwanath temple in the 15th century. The temple was



reconstructed in 1585. Raja Todarmal is said to have asked Narayana Bhatlu, an expert from south India, to supervise the temple's construction. The present inscription supports the

fact," Muniratnam explained. Damaged & incomplete "This inscription is engraved on a wall of Gyanvapi mosque and it written in Telugu language. Though it is damaged and incom-

plete, it mentions Mallana Bhatlu and Narayana Bhatlu," the ASI director said. The second Telugu inscription, which was found inside the mosque, made a mention of a 'govi'. Govis are shepherds. The third inscription, dating back to the 15th century, was found by the ASI experts at the main entrance on the northern side of the mosque. It has 14 lines, which are completely worn-out. "They are damaged. They seem to record some gift for burying perpetual lamps. Other details are lost," said an expert. Apart from Telugu, the inscriptions were in Kannada, Devanagari and Tamil languages.

15 PFI activists sentenced to death for killing BJP leader Ranjith Sreenivasan in Kerala

KOTTAYAM: Fifteen members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) were on Tuesday sentenced to death for killing local BJP leader Ranjith Sreenivasan in Kerala's Alappuzha town. They were sentenced to death by Mavelikkara additional sessions judge V G Sreedevi. He was state secretary of BJP's OBC Morcha. Awarding death sentences to so many convicts at one go is for the first time in the state. The Kerala high court needs to confirm the verdict.

Sreenivasan was brutally murdered at his home in front of his wife, mother and child on December 19, 2021. All the convicts are from Alappuzha. The convicted accused from 1-15 in that order are Komalapuram native Naisam, Mannanchery



Ajmal, Alappuzha West native Anoop, Aryad Thekku native Mohammed Aslam, Mannanchery native Abdul Kalam (Salam), Adivaram native Abdul Kalam, Alappuzha west native S a f a r u d d i n , Mannanchery native Manshad, Alappuzha West native Jaseeb Raja, Mullakkal native Navaz, Komalapuram native Sameer, Mannanchery North native Naseer, Mannanchery native

Zakir Hussain, Thekkevelyil native Shaji (Poovathil Shaji), Mullakkal native Shernaz Ashraf. Earlier on January 20, the additional sessions court in Mavelikkara had convicted all the accused in the case. According to the prosecution, Sreenivasan's killing with a sword was in retaliation to the murder of an SDPI state secretary, KS Shan, the night before. SDPI is PFI's alleged political wing.

ED seizes luxury car, Rs 36 lakh from Jharkhand CM Soren's Delhi residence

NEW DELHI: On Monday night the Enforcement Directorate team recovered Rs 36 lakh in cash from the Delhi residence of Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, a benami BMW car besides other case documents related to laundering charges he has been facing in multiple investigations. A search team from ED and police of different states are on his trail after he went missing from his house in South Delhi early on Monday. One security official with him is also not traceable while other security staff accompanying the CM have now



left for Ranchi, sources said. After a search at his Delhi residence and unsuccessfully waiting for the CM to surface, the ED team had left his house late at night on Monday, taking away the car with them with other seized materials. As reported, in an unprecedented development, the ED on Monday roped in Delhi Police to look for Soren after they did not find him at his residence.

The ED team had reached Soren's residence in connection with their probe into a case of alleged money laundering of hundreds of crores. Sources in ED said that the investigators, who were told that Soren had left moments before they reached his residence, sounded an alert when they found phones of CM and his personal security officers switched off.

In UP, upset over demand for oral sex, woman bites hubby's private parts



KANPUR: Fed up with his insistence on oral sex, a woman allegedly bit her husband's private parts, causing severe injuries. The incident took place in Tikrauli village of Hamirpur district on Sunday. The 35-year-old was admitted to the government hospital but was referred to Kanpur. His condition is stated to be critical, police said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the woman's husband used to force her to have oral sex quite often, much against her will. According to the police, the incident came to light when the man went to the hospital and told doctors that he had injured his private

parts. Dr AK Singh, a doctor posted in the Emergency, gave first aid to him in a bleeding condition. Later, his mother, who was accompanying him, told the doctors about what caused the injuries. "We have detained the woman for questioning. Further action will be taken on the basis of a complaint, besides other necessary evidence and findings," said Sadar Kotwali police station's inspector Anoop Singh. The woman claimed that she fainted during the oral sex with her teeth cinched which resulted in deep injuries to the man's private parts, Singh said. Our probe is on, he added.

SDM murdered by hubby in MP: Washing machine helped solve mystery

JABALPUR: A subdivisional magistrate was murdered by her husband because she did not include him as a nominee in her service records, insurance policies and bank accounts, police in MP's Dindori district said on Monday. The victim, 50-year-old Nisha Napat, was the SDM of Shahpura, around 55km from the district HQ and 400km east of Bhopal. Police say her husband, Manish Sharma, 45, tried to dodge investigators by claiming that he found her unresponsive after returning from his morning walk but forensic examination and the autopsy busted his lie. Sharma was arrested and charged with murder. The couple had met on a matrimonial site and married in October 2020. Nisha celebrated her 50th birthday barely a month ago.

Rahul hits out at PM over privatisation

PATNA: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said caste census was needed for social justice and development of the country. Addressing a public gathering in Kishanganj during his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', Rahul promised to take up this issue. However, he did not utter a single word about chief minister Nitish Kumar, who only a day before dumped RJD and Congress and formed a new government with BJP in Bihar. It was the Nitish government with RJD and Congress as partner which conducted a caste-based headcount in Bihar and increased the job quota limit up to 75% to set a poll agenda for the Congress in the recently held assembly elections in five states. "We have decided to take up a revolutionary step of conducting caste census for social justice. It is much needed to help people know how many OBCs, Dalits, scheduled castes and poor people in general category are there in the country, rahul said.



Rahul hits out at PM over privatisation

"And when we talk of social justice, the entire country looks towards Bihar, which has always taken a lead for social justice," Rahul added. Elaborating further, he said, "The maximum population in the country is of OBCs, who are around 50%. There are 15% Dalits, 12% scheduled tribes and around 15% minorities. I want to tell the OBCs here that only 90 IAS officers decide the budget of the country. They decide as to how much has to be spent on defence, education or farmers. Of them, only three IAS officers are from OBCs." He hit out at the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for privatising public properties. "They have handed over the country's port, airport, hospitals and colleges to the corporate houses and left the poor and suppressed section to face the brunt of privatisation. While the doors of banks as well as PM's office are opened for a select few corporate giants, doors are closed for those running small shops," the Congress leader said. Rahul said while the BJP talks about hatred and works to divide the country, he talks about love, brotherhood and harmony. "I have seen the BJP's ideology in Manipur, where they have divided the state, which has been burning for the past six to seven months, but country's PM has no time to go there," he added. While Rahul did not take Nitish's name, Congress state president Akhilesh Singh lashed out at the Bihar CM for his betrayal. "One who had come forward to fight against Narendra Modi and criticised BJP for its ideology has gone back to their lap. People of Bihar are ashamed," said Singh.

Irked by frisking, flyer utters 'bomb', detained at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU: Irked upon being frisked multiple times at Kempegowda International Airport before departure, a 38-year-old Kerala passenger asked airline personnel if they thought he was carrying a bomb or a knife in his baggage. Alarmed by his utterance of the words "bomb" and "knife", the airline staff



detained him and handed him over to the police, reports Chaithanya Swamy. He was later allowed

to go, only after he assured the police that he would make himself available whenever summoned for the probe. The passenger, Saju K Kumaran, was flying home after receiving news about his younger sister and her newborn's death during delivery. He took a bus from Madiwala to his hometown in Thrissur, Kerala.

India can aspire to be \$7 trillion economy by 2030: Review

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy is likely to achieve a growth rate of 7% in fiscal year 2025 after growing at or above 7% in 2023-24, driven by resilient domestic demand despite risks and uncertainties in the global economic landscape, according to a review of the economy unveiled on Monday. It also said India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six-seven years (by 2030) asserting that this would be a significant milestone in the journey to delivering quality of life and standard of living that match and exceed the aspirations of the Indian people.

"If the prognosis for FY25 turns out to be right, that will mark the fourth year post-pandemic that the Indian economy will have grown at or over 7%. That would be an impressive achievement, testifying to the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. It augurs well for the future," V Anantha Nageswaran, chief economic advisor in the finance ministry said in the review. National Statistical Office (NSO) estimates the economy will grow 7.3% in 2023-24 while Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a 7% growth rate for the current fiscal year.

SARAS fair kicks off amid massive enthusiasm among women entrepreneurs

Chandigarh With clear weather on Friday, the SARAS Fair which is being organized by the Himachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development has formally started at the Exhibition Ground, Sector 34 on Friday. Apart from the Self Help Group from Himachal Pradesh, the handmade products prepared by small entrepreneurs from the states of North India and Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan and other states are put on exhibition and sale. The remarkable features of the fair are the handicraft products made by the women hailing from the tribal areas of the hill states. They have also



brought the organic farming products grown there. The fair is also serving the traditional

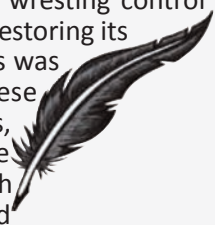
Himachali cuisines wherein locals can relish fresh dishes prepared by these women entrepreneurs.

Cultural programs will also be organized in this fair which will run till 12th February.

Editorial

Myanmar civil war enters third year: What it means for India's North East

The civil war in Myanmar entered its third year on 1 February and has been fanning unrest and insurgency in India's North East, especially Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Home Minister Amit Shah's decision last month to fence the entire 1,643 km border with Myanmar and suspend Free Movement Regime (FMR) has been rejected by both chief ministers of Nagaland and Mizoram as these measures will divide their kith and kin across the border. In the last few months, fighting between the Junta and Resistance Forces spilled over to North East from Rakhine and Arakan states in Myanmar and nearly 800 Junta soldiers who had taken refuge on the Indian side were flown back. Manipur's insurgent groups sheltering in border regions of Myanmar have exploited the intense violence (since 3 May last year) that has been fuelled by the loss of 6,000 weapons from Manipur state armouries. India's once dormant eastern border has become live and vulnerable due to the Junta losing operational control to Resistance Forces. This is the sixth successful coup since 1962 in February 2021 by the Myanmar military, also called Tatmadaw or Sit Tat. Junta forces have inflicted coups more times than any other military in the world with profound coup expertise. But this is the first time that a national resistance has been cobbled to try to unhinge the coup and military rule though the opposition hasn't thought about the end game. Resistance Forces consist of Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), local militias and People's Defence Force (PDF) a majority Burman ethnic group created by the National League of Democracy's (Aung San Su Kyi) parallel National Unity Government (NUG). EAOs have enjoyed autonomy following ceasefire agreements with the military. Not all have submitted to ceasefire arrangements. For instance, the powerful Arakan Army (AA) which operates in Rakhine and Arakan states broke its ceasefire in November last year and went on the offensive to defeat the Junta in these two states. It is believed that Rohingyas may have joined AA. Take a look back. On 7 September 2022, the Special Advisory Council of International Experts Supporting Democracy released a paper which showed Junta controls 72 of 333 major towns and 17 per cent of the land area. EAOs was reportedly controlling 52 per cent of the territory while 23 per cent was contested. Those were early days. Two major offensives were launched in October and November last year called 1027 and 1111, (the last two figures denoting the month and the next two figures the date of operation) by an Alliance of three EAOs along with PDF and militias, these operations stretched from Rakhine in the south to all of the North East up till Lashio. The AA seized control of territory bordering India including the Sagaing region, and pockets in Mandalay and Bago. The biggest setback for the Junta was in northern Shan state and Kokang Special Region where Junta lost Laukkai, one of its seven operational command centres. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) which spearheaded attacks in the north scored major successes and closed down five border trade centres and crossing points with China. Several Chinese living in the north had to flee to Yunnan (China). Gen Peng Deren commander of MNDAA said wresting control of the north from Junta and restoring its writ to end criminal activities was sweet revenge. The Chinese after a series of negotiations, brokered a ceasefire with the Junta on 12 January which some EAO's in MNDAA did not acknowledge.



Interim Budget demonstrates confidence and continuity

Political stability is often a precursor to economic stability. Scholars like Robert Higgs have argued that political stability reduces uncertainty, which in turn encourages investment and economic growth. When the political environment is stable, businesses and individuals are more likely to make long-term investments, leading to economic growth and stability. In the context of interim budgets, they are often seen as a tool for political parties to woo voters with promises of economic benefits, leading to a surge in populist measures and freebies. However, this has not

been the case with the current government in India. The interim budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman demonstrates the incumbent government's confidence about its electoral outcomes in upcoming general elections. One might argue that this is the rationale behind the government's reluctance to indulge in giveaways, but the present administration prioritises fiscal responsibility and long-term economic growth through reforms. The focus of the government in the last decade has been on an inclusive welfare model and eco-

economic reforms. This is precisely why the Indian economy has witnessed profound positive transformation, with the fruits of development reaching the people at scale. The government's development philosophy covers all elements of inclusivity, including social inclusivity through coverage of all strata of society, and geographical inclusivity through development of all regions of the country. According to empirical evidence, based on the National Family Health Survey, there's no evidence of the government playing favourites with any particular

religious group or discriminating against any minority groups. There's also no bias in providing bare necessities. The idea is to target each and every household and individual, through initiatives such as 'housing for all', 'har ghar jal', electricity for all, cooking gas for all, bank accounts and financial services for all, in record time. The 'Direct Benefit Transfer' of Rs 34 lakh crore from the government using PM-Jan Dhan accounts has led to savings of Rs 2.7 lakh crore for the government, realised through avoidance of leakages prevalent earlier.

How interim Budget empowers women in Indian agriculture

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda emphasised that the interim budget mirrors the advancement of the nation's farmers, impoverished women and youth. He asserted that the Government of India remains steadfast in its commitment to their development. Munda highlighted the diverse initiatives undertaken by the Central government, expressing confidence that they will significantly enhance the quality of life for our farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unequivocally declared that addressing the needs, aspirations, and well-being of the underprivileged, women, youth and farmers stands as a top priority. The ethos of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas resonates throughout the interim budget. In the Interim Budget, the allocation for the agriculture ministry in 2024-25 has been set at Rs1.27 lakh crore, exhibiting an increase from the revised estimates of Rs1.16 lakh crore in 2023-24 and the budget estimates of Rs1.15 lakh crore for the same period. The budget underscores a commitment to intensify initiatives focused on value addition in the agricultural sector, enhancing the role of



women and increasing farmers' incomes. The pivotal role of women in agriculture is increasingly being recognised as a driving force behind India's agrarian economy. As per the Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021-2022, agriculture has the highest estimated female labour force participation of 62.9 per cent. This numerical prominence underscores the indispensable contribution of women to the entire agricultural value chain. Women find themselves stepping into more significant roles, particularly among small and marginal farmers. The Agriculture Census 2015-16 also verified an increase in the number of operational holdings held by women to nearly 14 per cent. While the advent of mechanisation has brought about shifts in traditional agricultural practices and the introduction of gender-sensitive labour laws has undoubtedly marked

progress, women still bear the brunt of labour-intensive tasks rooted in gender inequalities. The feminization of agriculture, coupled with biases ingrained in rural development reflects a global concern. The unequal distribution of resources, especially land, continues to hinder women's access to improved agricultural methods. Globally, the disparities experienced by women in the face of economic changes call for active public policies aimed at closing these gender gaps. The NITI Aayog has already acknowledged the need for female-centric agriculture progress. The Government of India has implemented several initiatives to support and empower women farmers in agriculture. Recognising the pivotal role played by women in various aspects of farming, the government has introduced specific schemes and policies aimed at enhancing their

participation and well-being. In a bid to empower and support women farmers in India, the government has rolled out a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing their participation and well-being in the agricultural sector. The Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), situated in Bhubaneswar under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is at the forefront of gender-focused agricultural research. Through its All India Coordinated Research Project Centres (AICRP), CIWA collaborates with 13 research centres nationwide to identify challenges faced by farm women. Research activities conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA) on a national and state level have identified critical issues affecting women in agriculture. These challenges range from drudgery in farming activities, occupational health hazards, and a lack of women-friendly farm tools to issues like inadequate technical knowledge, climate change impacts, and anaemia prevalence. To address these concerns, ICAR-CIWA has taken significant steps.

by Taboola Sponsored Links The institute has introduced ergonomically designed gender-friendly tools, including

the Head Load Manager, cycle weeder, easy harvest bag, maize sheller, sapling transplanter, UV protective farm apron, and paddy grain picker. These tools aim to enhance comfort, increase efficiency, and boost production for farm women. ICAR-CIWA has also established women-led small-scale custom hiring centres in Odisha, involving members of self-help groups (SHGs), focusing on reducing drudgery and fostering entrepreneurship.

Resource centres on "Ergonomic Agricultural Small Tools and Implements" have been set up in AICRP-adopted villages across 12 states to disseminate knowledge. Sensitization programmes continuously raise awareness about government schemes in agriculture and allied sectors, empowering farm women. Farm Women Knowledge Groups have been formed, conducting intervention programmes to impart knowledge and skills in using ICT, especially mobile applications, for agriculture. Capacity-building programmes are organised to popularise women-friendly technologies, cover marketing aspects, and promote the approach of SHGs and women groups. ICAR-CIWA has developed 18 nutrient-dense food products, including high-calorie.

Interim Budget: A pleasant non-surprise

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented on Wednesday, 1 February, 2024, was a pleasant non-surprise. Pleasant because she was able to stay the course of fiscal consolidation without cutting capital expenditure, thus ensuring that infrastructure building (which is the characteristic feature of the India story) is not adversely affected. So, the capital expenditure outlay for 2024-25 has been increased by 11.1 per cent to Rs 1,111,111 crore, which would be 3.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). At the same time, emphasis on fiscal prudence and targeted welfarism persists. Sitharaman pegged the fiscal deficit in 2024-25 at 5.1 per cent of GDP. This doesn't look unrealistic as the revised

estimate of the fiscal deficit for the current fiscal is 5.8 per cent is an improvement over the 5.9 per cent of the Budget estimate. In fact, she hopes to bring it down to 4.5 per cent in 2025-26. Budget 2024-25 is also unsurprising, given the Narendra Modi government's commitment to fiscal prudence and infrastructure building. It may be recalled that even during the Covid-19 pandemic when economic experts of statist disposition (that is, most of them) were beseeching the finance minister to loosen the purse strings on the grounds that the situation warranted it, the government didn't oblige them. Neither the purse strings were loosened nor capital expenditure went southwards. February

2024 is also different because the general elections are a few months away, but the government doesn't seem bothered about that. It believes that there would be continuity, as Prime Minister Modi said that on Wednesday—that is, a day before the Budget. Since liberalization in 1991, seldom has an incumbent government seemed so confident. So—unlike in the last Interim Budget of 2019 in which it announced Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) and a hike in the standard deduction for salaried persons raised from Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000—there was no relief to the middle class in terms of income tax. In general, no tax rates, corporate as well as personal income, were touched.

A growth-oriented Budget that aims to reduce fiscal deficits and counter inflation

No, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman did not run away with the ball. This is for an interim budget and vote-on-account with its constraints and conventions. Everybody kept their remarks short, from Sitharaman to the prime minister. Many other government bigwigs didn't speak on the interim budget at all, leaving it to the denizens enjoying the CII lounge. Still, like a good shepherd, the government, acutely aware it has the fastest-growing economy in the world now, intends to keep it safe, with all its gains intact. It also aims to keep all its emphases and thrust areas on course and has upped the ante slightly in all of them. There is an effort to broad base the growth drivers to various other parts of the economy, such as dairy farmers, fisheries, housing, Rs 600 crore more for the hydrogen mission, Rs 8,500 crore more to Solar, more aviation and aeroplane orders and more airports. This is in addition to the main thrust areas of infrastructure and connectivity, like roads, railways, bridges, metros and ports. Include therefore the people-friendly many yojanas, with several mentions of Nari Shakti with attendant incentivisation.

The BJP must be surveying the reception to such yojanas for efficacy, but for the media-



reading public, much of it appears like a propagandist jamboree that somehow delivers more BJP votes. Playing it close to the chest is practically DNA to the top brass. There is now a general call for greater private sector participation in various areas to introduce competitiveness, efficiency, design, and style. But, apart from the bigwigs, we cannot be sure whether they will attend. Congress will carve on crony capitalism, but why don't they get one of their own to come forward? The habit in the private sector is to ask for interest reductions and other concessions, never mind what it does to the budget deficit. They could miss the bus, of course, with the Sarkar continuously doing all the heavy lifting. But, as Nadir Godrej said, the private sector will first build additional capacity, if required, in whatever they are involved in. Unsaid is the fact that the last time the private sector went into infrastructure, the projects were stuck for funding, as were their bills. But this was when their favourite ideological UPA government was in charge, corrupt

but ruling, and well before Modi Raj began in 2014. The development of Lakshadweep has been mentioned here for both tourism and strategic reasons, most prominently for the first time. Manufacturing, slated to grow into another 5 per cent of GDP, will get a basic, enabling thrust with a large sum of Rs 1 lakh crore for research and development (R&D) for the first time. It is repayable in 50 years, making it practically a grant. With automobiles accounting for about 50 per cent of manufacturing in India, this R&D funding could come in handy for the development of components and other items in the value chain, both for industry consumption and export. Companies like Volvo, Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Toyota, Suzuki and Hyundai, which are ensconced in automobile manufacturing and assembly in India, need to be further encouraged to become global hubs operating out of India. Will the government take Arvind Panagariya's advice in July and lower tariffs at least in line with the ASEAN countries?

Samvad Sahitya Manch organized a poetry symposium in Malhotra's honour



Chandigarh: Samvad Sahitya Manch organized a poetry symposium in the honour of New York-bound poet Sushma Malhotra at the Community Centre, Sector 43. The chief guest in the program was Acharyakul President K.K. Sharda and the special guest was councilor Premlata.

The program was started by Somesh with Saraswati Vandana. The program was conducted by poetess Neeru Mittal 'Neer' and welcomed by poet Dr. Vinod Sharma. While introducing Sushma Malhotra, senior litterateur Prem Vij said that she is active in studies and writing. Has worked in poetry, short stories and story writing. Nirmal Roshan Sahitya Manch is running a

The program was started by Somesh with Saraswati Vandana. The program was conducted by poetess Neeru Mittal 'Neer' and welcomed by poet Dr. Vinod Sharma. While introducing Sushma Malhotra, senior litterateur Prem Vij said that she is active in studies and writing.

literary platform from New York for the promotion and dissemination of Hindi literature in America. More than two dozen Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu poets participated in the poetry symposium.

Sushma Malhotra said that her love for her motherland is everlasting. She engaged with

Indian culture throughout her life. She cannot be different from this. Poet Dr. Sarita Mehta said in the poem - Together we promised to hoist the flag of Hindi language on foreign soil. Ashok Nadir, Anu Rani Sharma, Pragya Sharda, Sarika Dhupar, Urmil Kaushik Sakhi, Daisy Bedi, Vimla Guglani, Neelam Tripathi, Balkrishan Gupta, Annu Rani Sharma, Sangeeta Sharma, Kundra, Lajpat Rai Garg, Rashi Srivastava, Sushma Malhotra, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Prem Vij, Neeru Mittal Neer, Gurdarshan Mavi, Dr. Anish Garg, Rajesh Ganesh, RK Bhagat, Usha Garg, Lalita Puri etc. presented poems, ghazals and songs and won a lot of applause.

This budget is roadmap to achieve PM Modi's vision of a Developed Bharat: Shah

Chandigarh: The Union Interim Budget 2024 presented in the Parliament on Thursday, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced new schemes for farmers, women, and the middle class. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah emphasised that 'The Union Budget draws the roadmap to achieve PM Modi's vision of a Developed Bharat.' He believes that this interim budget for the second term of the Modi government in the Amrit Kaal will prove to be the budget of 'Sankalp se Siddhi'. The budget brings new hope for farmers,



women, and the middle class by highlighting the achievements of the Modi government in the last 10 years on the journey to make India a leading nation in every sector. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, the budget sets the goal

of making India completely Aatma-Nirbhar and developed by the year 2047. It introduces new opportunities for prosperity for farmers, focusing on promoting self-reliance in oilseeds on one hand and emphasising on nano DAP usage and dairy development on the other. The plan to start the con-

Cyber frauds taking hawala route: Police

Kolkata: After arresting two traders from city in connection to a cyber fraud of Rs 1.2 crore, the bank fraud section of detective department busted a new modus operandi adopted by the fraudsters for transfer of the swindled amount. So far, six persons have been arrested in this case. The fraudsters were depositing the

swindled amounts in unconnected accounts belonging to the nabbed traders—Satish Patel of Madan Mohan Burman Street (Jorasanko) and Sekhar Balmiki of Asansol—and employees of trading and textile firms. Money was also transferred to a mobile and a garment store in Chattisgarh. Later, the amount was being dis-

tributed among the swindlers through the hawala route, cops said. This made tracking the money trail difficult for cops. The traders were arrested with the help of the information shared by a bar dancer in Kolkata, who was also arrested in the case earlier. The mastermind was previously arrested from Bengaluru.

CAPSULES

The budget passed by BJP is against the expectations and hopes of the people of the country: Ramchandra Gurjar

Kaithal: Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Executive Member

Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand termed the interim budget announced by the Central Government as anti-people and said that the budget passed by the BJP government is against the hopes and expectations of the people of the country. In which there is nothing for the public. Apart from mere false election announcements. While talking in an interview at his establishment located in the town, Ramchandra Gurjar said that in the interim budget, only a joke has been played on the poor, labourers, farmers, youth and students. In the name of developed India, a slogan has been raised to mislead the people of the country. Due to which the public is well aware.



The tax exemption limit for employees and middle class has not been increased, nor has any announcement been made regarding the restoration of the old pension scheme. Congress state executive member Ramchandra Gurjar said that the rights and farming of the son of the soil farmers have been grossly ignored in the budget. The upliftment and development of farmers is being done only through claims and announcements. They have cheated again by making MSP guarantee and crop insurance farmer friendly. The budget is completely directionless, which will not provide any benefit to the public.

Reaction on Interim Budget of Mr. Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank

Chandigarh: The Government stuck to the protocol of delivering no major big bang announcements in an interim budget. The finance minister delivered a balanced announcement with an account of the Government's progress over the last few years while also laying down the roadmap ahead. The Government promised to continue its focus on infrastructure building - setting an allocation of 11.1 lakh crore rupees for 2024-25 -- along with targeting



inclusive growth. Its roadmap for 2024-25 includes an extension of the rural housing scheme, push

towards rooftop solarisation, housing for the middle class, and long-term low interest financing in

sunrise domains among other things. The push towards developing tourism at the state level.

The India tooling market is projected to exhibit a growth rate (CAGR) of 8.5% during 2024-2025

Mr. Sheregar, President of TAGMA sets the Stage for the Grandest Die Mould India Expo Yet!

Gurugram: Die Mould India, the event showcasing the latest advancements in the die and mould industry, is gearing up for its most monumental edition this year. Organized by the Tool and Gauge Manufacturers Association of India (TAGMA), the 2024 edition promises to be a groundbreaking event, setting new benchmarks in the industry. The India tooling market is prima-



rily driven by the robust expansion of the manufacturing sector in India. As industries such as automotive, aerospace and consumer electronics continue to grow, the demand for high-quality tools and dies also escalates, serving as a primary impetus for the

tooling market. Moreover, government initiatives play a vital role in the market. Various incentives and policy reforms are encouraging both domestic and foreign investors to set up manufacturing units, which, in turn,

amplifies the demand for tooling solutions. Die Mould India 2024 scheduled to take place from February 14th to 17th, at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. The exhibition is poised to be the largest gathering of its kind, with over 300 exhibitors converging on a sprawling area exceeding 25,000 square meters. This impressive showcase will feature a diverse range of cutting-edge technologies, products, and solutions spanning various sectors of the die and mould industry.

Bombay High Court Affirms Music Licensing Authority: PPL Prevails in Historic Legal Battle

HISAR: In a groundbreaking judgment, the Bombay High Court has unequivocally upheld the authority of music licensing giants Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) and Novex Communications Pvt. Ltd. (Novex) to issue licenses as copyright owners, transcending the need for registration as copyright societies. The landmark decision, rendered on January 24, 2024, settles a prolonged debate surrounding the scope of owner rights to license sound recordings. "PPL's victory in this legal battle is not just a win for us but a triumph for the entire music industry. The Bombay High Court's verdict firmly reinforces the rights of copyright owners and exclusive licensees, providing PPL with the tools to protect against the widespread infringement that undermines the hard-

earned investments of genuine music labels. This win underscores the importance of respecting and preserving the creative endeavours that drive the music industry, securing a future where investors in copyrights, artists and their creations are duly valued and protected," said G.B. Aayeer, MD & CEO at PPL. PPL, founded in 1941, has emerged victorious in multiple suits against over 200 establishments, including notable names such as Social, Farzi Café, and Olive Bar & Kitchen.

The court's order, a paradigm shift in copyright dynamics, has far-reaching implications for the music industry. Key findings of the court include the affirmation of PPL's status as the owner and exclusive licensee, recognizing its power to grant licenses under Section 30, and validating assignment

deeds and exclusive license agreements. The judgment interprets Section 33(1) not as a restriction on the owner's rights but as a means to protect and facilitate them. This legal triumph empowers PPL to continue its licensing operations unhindered, preventing infringement and seeking remedies against unauthorized use of its vast catalog comprising more than 70 lakh songs from renowned labels like Aditya Music, Lahari Music, Sony Music, and T-Series.

The verdict not only brings clarity to PPL's legitimate business operations but also sets a significant precedent in the Indian copyright landscape. It reinforces the notion that the Copyright Society provision was enacted to safeguard the owner's rights, not to curtail or diminish them.

Announces plotted development under Hero Earth

SONIPAT: Real estate major Hero Realty Pvt Ltd (HRPL) has entered Sonipat real estate market with its flagship premium plotted development brand Hero Earth with a strategic tie-up with Spiti Group from Gurugram. This new tie-up will be the second project under Hero Earth after the astounding success it received for 'The Ark' in Gurugram Sector 85 where all the premium plots were sold out in a single day. Cushman & Wakefield was the transaction advisor for this deal. "Hero Realty's entry into the Sonipat real estate market will prove to be a game-changer. The company's commitment to excellence, innovation, and community development set a new benchmark for the industry. HRPL not only builds premium homes but also creates a thriving commu-

This premium land on the outskirts of NCR surrounded by lush green fields and picturesque landscapes, Hero Earth offers a wide range of plots in Sector 33 Sonipat, with plot sizes ranging from 1115 sqft to 1615 sqft. The project boasts abundant common open spaces, creating a harmonious environment for residents. Hero Earth presents an enticing opportunity for individuals seeking their dream homes or investment opportunities. This location was chosen meticulously to provide residents with a serene and peaceful environment away from the chaos of the city.

nity that fosters a sense of belonging and togetherness," said Dr Dharmesh Shah, CEO, Hero Realty Pvt. Ltd. This premium land on the outskirts of NCR surrounded by lush green fields and picturesque landscapes, Hero Earth offers a wide range of plots in Sector 33 Sonipat, with plot sizes ranging from 1115 sqft to 1615 sqft. The project boasts abundant common open spaces,

creating a harmonious environment for residents. Hero Earth presents an enticing opportunity for individuals seeking their dream homes or investment opportunities. This location was chosen meticulously to provide residents with a serene and peaceful environment away from the chaos of the city. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rohit Dalal and Ashish Dalal, the Promoters of Spiti

Group said "We are excited to partner with an iconic brand like Hero Realty. This venture would offer best in category plots to consumers in the Sonapat region." Gurugram based, Spiti Group has diversified interests in education, retail, farming and real estate development. Spiti has up coming projects of plotted developments in Sector 99-A Gurugram, Farukhnagar and Pataudi. Hero Realty, which has a reputation for delivering exceptional projects across the country, went above and beyond to ensure that every aspect of the project is meticulously planned and executed. From the construction materials to the landscaping, no detail was overlooked. The company's commitment to quality was evident in every corner of Hero Earth.

Final year BArch student of IIT (BHU) found dead in Varanasi

VARANASI: A student of IIT (BHU) in Varanasi was found dead in his hostel room late Wednesday, police said Thursday. Final-year BArch (architecture) student Utkarsh Raj, 23, was reportedly suffering from depression and undergoing counselling sessions. Utkarsh's father Rajendra Prasad is a section officer at BHU and the family is based in Varanasi. IIT-BHU was yet to issue a statement.

Police said some of Utkarsh's friends broke open the door of his room when he didn't respond to their calls. Doctors at BHU hospital declared him dead on arrival. This follows three suicides in IIT-Kanpur since mid-Dec. PhD scholar Priyanka Jaiswal (29) allegedly died by suicide on Jan 18, MTech student Vikas Kumar Meena (31) on Jan 10 and researcher Pallavi Chilka (34) on Dec 19.

HEIs in India will no longer receive grades during accreditation

Delhi: HEIs in India will no longer receive grades during accreditation. They will be "as either accredited or not accredited" instead.

Accreditation authorities will also use "Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation (Level 1 to 5)" to encourage accredited institutions to meet higher standards to become "Institutions of Global Excellence for Multi-Disciplinary Research and Education." In November 2022, the Ministry of Education (MOE) appointed K Radhakrishnan, the former ISRO chairman and chairperson of the IIT Council Standing Committee, to lead a committee to propose radical accreditation and assessment reforms to meet the National Education Policy

2020's 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio target. After public consultation, the committee submitted its final report to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on January 16. A top MOE official said the group proposed revolutionary changes to improve Indian HEI approval, assessment, and accreditation.

Mentoring and reward programmes are also recommended to boost involvement and accreditation. The new process's major component is "binary accreditation," which follows global best practices. Educational institutions will be labeled "accredited or not accredited." According to media reports, "Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation" will be used for recog-

nized HEIs, leveling them from 1 to 5. "This is to motivate the accredited HEIs to continuously improve, evolve in-depth or in-breadth in disciplines to a higher level," said the official. The guidelines suggest that Binary and Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation metrics focus on processes, outputs, and impact across numerous aspects of Higher Education Institutions rather than inputs.

The new procedure will consider the diversity of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) nationwide, classify them by heritage, vision, and direction, and then request information from the relevant HEIs. Mentorship and assistance will be given to rural and distant institutions.

Electoral bonds worth over 571.8 cr sold between Jan 2 and 11: SBI in RTI reply

Electoral bonds are sold four times a year – January, April, July and October, and for another 30 days in the year general elections are held. A total of 897 electoral bonds worth ₹571.8 crore were sold between January 2 and 11, with Kolkata having the highest share of 32.17% (415 bonds) worth ₹183.95 crore, the State Bank of India (SBI) said in a response to a right to information (RTI) request. SBI is the sole bank authorised by the government to issue and encash these bonds. Hyderabad branch ranked second with a

sale of 153 bonds worth ₹133.2 crore, or 23.29% of total value of bonds. Electoral bonds are sold four times a year – January, April, July and October, and for another 30 days in the year general elections are held. They allow political parties to accept money from donors whose identities are kept anonymous. The sale during the 30th tranche of electoral bonds issued last month was a 43% drop from the previous one. A total of 1,109 electoral bonds worth ₹1,006.03 crore were sold between in the 29th tranche between

November 6 and 20, ahead of and during the assembly elections in five states. In January, 581 (64.77%) electoral bonds were sold through digital payment instruments while 316 were sold through physical payment instruments like cheques and demand drafts. 872 bonds worth 570.05 crore, accounting for 99.69% of the total value, were encashed. A total of 336 bonds worth 237.9 crore were encashed in the Delhi branch, 158 bonds worth ₹138.2 crore (24.24%) were encashed in Hyderabad.

Govt, RBI measures have kept inflation in 2-6% range: Finance minister

NEW DELHI: Finance ministry on Monday said the Indian economy has remained resilient amid global headwinds on the back of robust domestic demand, an investment-led strategy due to a transformed climate and high level of public spending, macro-economic stability, apart

from a spate of reforms initiated by government over the last 10 years. A review of the Indian economy released by the ministry said inflation has been reigned in within 2-6% band because of steps taken by government and RBI. It, however, warned of risks to the external sec-

tor from sticky inflation, sluggish growth and fiscal pressures in the global economy, with the tension around Red Sea seen as a potential threat. "Potential risks are expected to emanate from ongoing geopolitical tensions and the recent surge in shipping costs."

CAPSULES

CBI raids activist Harsh Mander's office, residence in FCRA violation probe

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches at the office and residence of retired IAS officer and activist Harsh Mander in connection with a probe related to the violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had recommended a CBI inquiry last year into the foreign funding of Aman Biradar, a non-government organisation (NGO) founded by Harsh Mander. This follows a money laundering probe initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September 2021, where Mander's residence was previously raided. The investigation is centred around two NGOs associated with him.

Who is Harsh Mander?

- Harsh Mander is a rights activist associated with right to food, right to information, bonded labour and the right of advisability.
- He is the Director of Delhi-based think tank Centre for Equity Studies.
- He is author of several books including Between Memory and Forgetting: Massacre and the Modi Years in Gujarat, Partitions of the Heart: Unmaking the Idea of India, The Right to Food Debates: Social Protection for Food Security in India.
- Harsh Mander was also a member of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council during the erstwhile UPA government.

Byju's to raise \$200 million through rights issue at a valuation of under \$250 million

MUMBAI:

edtech startup Byju's has launched a rights issue to raise \$200 million from existing investors at a valuation of about \$225 million-\$230 million, a 99% drop from its peak valuation of \$22 billion as it struggles with a funding crunch. In a statement, the company said that the funds will be used to clear immediate liabilities and meet operational requirements. "It has been 21 months since our last external capital raise, during which we have cut our burn and worked to become a lean organisation, razor-focused on execution. This capital raise is essential to prevent any further value impairment and to equip the company with necessary resources to deliver on its mission," founder

● "Raveendran claimed that the founders have infused over \$1.1 billion into the company over the past 18 months"

Byju Raveendran said in a note to shareholders which was reviewed.

Raveendran claimed that the founders have infused over \$1.1 billion into the company over the past 18 months. "In these uncertain times, we have not shied away from taking several tough decisions in the best interest of the company, and we will continue to do so in the coming months," Raveendran said. The

Bengaluru-based startup which was once chased by investors who collectively infused more than \$5 billion into the firm has recently been dragged to the insolvency tribunal by its foreign lenders over the company's failure to repay a \$1.2 billion term loan it had raised in 2021. Over the past months, the startup has seen several senior-level employees exit the company, a series of valuation markdowns by investors and has been mired in litigation. In much delayed filings, the startup last week revealed over Rs 8,000 crore in consolidated losses for FY22. Raveendran said that Byju's is less than a quarter away from achieving operational profitability. The company is yet to file its FY23 results.

Warren Buffett's investment can be a double-edged sword for companies

Warren Buffett's investments cause executives' angst and geopolitical risk. Japanese trading firms aim to diversify shareholders amidst Buffett's holdings. These firms trace their roots to the late-19th century, with historically driven profits in commodity markets. They are now expanding earnings through diversification, including health care and new energy segments. Buffett's influence can cut both ways for companies. Warren Buffett can cause executives angst

when he invests in their companies.

Japan's trading firms illustrate this point. Berkshire Hathaway Inc bought stakes in them in August 2020, which raised their international profile and attracted other investors. Over the next four years, the five companies outperformed the broader market. Buffett's influence can cut both ways however. When Berkshire Hathaway pared its stake in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co last

year because of geopolitical risk, the chipmaker's shares quickly dropped as other investors followed in his wake. With that example in mind, Japan's trading companies are now taking steps to try and mitigate the impact if Buffett ever decides to sell.

"We don't think Berkshire will hold our stocks forever," said Yoshinori Takayama, Sumitomo Corp's head of investor relations. "We're aiming to diversify our shareholders, considering the risks of

a selloff."

There's no easy way to do that. Berkshire is one of the largest shareholders in all five of the country's biggest trading companies. It holds between a 7.5% to 8.4% stake in Itochu Corp, Sumitomo Corp, Mitsubishi Corp, Mitsui & Co, and Marubeni Corp. Berkshire has given no indication that it plans to sell. Buffett traveled to Japan last April for meetings with executives and afterward increased his holdings in the trading companies. Berkshire has raised fund.

GlobalLogic eyes \$5 billion in revenue by 2028

BENGALURU: Hitachi group company GlobalLogic has set its sights on becoming a \$5 billion enterprise by 2028 that underscores the demand for digital engineering services. Its CEO Nitesh Banga said the company is close to a \$2 billion revenue run rate, ahead of Hitachi's forecast of \$1.7 billion for the 2023-24 financial year, which is a 22% jump compared to the corresponding period last year.

"We stick to our lane and excel in our lane. We've moved from outsourced product development to design-led digital engineering and we're now advancing toward intelligent engineering. Every enterprise will continue to need this kind of expertise," he said. "I often say that software has evolved from being a third-class citizen in an enterprise

20 years ago to a second-class citizen in the last decade, and in the next decade, software will become the enterprise itself. In that sense, we have headroom to grow because we are very small, we are highly specialized, and the demand for our services will persist," he said. However, Hitachi's integrated report 2022 has estimated GlobalLogic's revenue to touch \$2.8 billion for the 2023-24 financial year. Banga's excitement in digital engineering is palpable. Combined with Hitachi's advanced digital solutions Lumada, and GlobalLogic's capabilities, it provides a range of services spanning solutions, design, system integration, connected products, and managed services. The Japanese conglomerate completed the \$9.6-billion acquisition of GlobalLogic in 2021,

one of the biggest acquisitions in the digital engineering services space.

GlobalLogic has closed its first \$100 million account last year and it's signing up another one soon. "The key focus for us is the supersizing of our top accounts." GlobalLogic counts BMW, Volvo, and Continental as some of its key customers. Hitachi has a "sell together" approach with GlobalLogic where they co-create and collaborate to stitch solutions for clients unlocking cross-selling and upselling opportunities. GlobalLogic has over 30,000 employees and over 500 customers. Piyush Jha, MD and head of India and APAC in GlobalLogic said the company is betting big on working alongside global capability centres (GCCs)."

Telangana government postponed the elections of gram panchayats

District collectors were directed to appoint special officers or persons-in-charge or a committee of persons-in-charge to perform the functions of the gram panchayat

The Telangana government on Thursday indefinitely postponed the elections to 12,777 gram panchayats in the state and placed their administration in the hands of special officers with immediate effect until further orders. The tenure of sarpanches and members of the gram panchayats came to an end on Thursday and they have been requesting the state government to extend their term by another six months on the ground that they were not able to do anything for nearly two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022. In a government order (GO No.



5), which was seen by HT, principal secretary (panchayat raj) Sandeep Kumar Sultania directed district collectors to appoint special officers or persons-in-charge or a committee of persons-in-charge from Friday to perform the functions of the gram panchayat. According to the order, the special officers or persons-in-charge could be of the rank of a tehsildar, mandal parishad development officer, agriculture officer, mandal educational officer, mandal pan-

chayat officer or similar rank officers. These officers or committees will perform the functions of the gram panchayat till the assumption of new members and sarpanches, who are elected by the people. The special officers have also been directed to take charge immediately. Meanwhile, some of the sarpanches also moved the Telangana high court on Wednesday, seeking to stop appointment of special officers to administer gram panchayats, but did not

get any relief, people familiar with the matter said. Justice Kaja Sarath refused to extend their term till the elections were conducted to the gram panchayats. The sarpanches also contended that they had spent their personal money running into lakhs to take up developmental works in their gram panchayats, but the state had not reimbursed them.

The judge, however, issued notices to the state government and the State Election Commission, asking them to submit their views on conducting elections to gram panchayats and appointing special officers, said sources. The president of Telangana's ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi, K T Rama Rao, said sarpanches were retiring from the post and not from public service.

Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value

Growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20, according to data analyzed by CRIF High Mark. Loans above Rs 75 lakh accounted for nearly 30% of new mortgage originations in April-June 2023.

Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value. There are signs that growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20. According to data on home loans analysed by credit bureau CRIF High Mark, there is a shift in originations, both by value and volume, from the ticket size range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 75 lakh. The data shows that loans above Rs 75 lakh.

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, but the team is there, the basis is there. "Whoever comes in, you cannot ever guarantee to win trophies, but has a really good chance to play really good football."

Sinner's victory speech was heartfelt, thanking his 'perfect parents'

Australia Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner spoke about leaving home at 14, his parents' support, and his growth on and off the court. Sinner's victory speech was heartfelt, thanking his 'perfect parents'. He trained at the Piatti Tennis Centre and now holds the prestigious Norman Brookes Challenge Cup. The 22-year-old said, "Growing up away from home was the fastest way to grow up." It was tough leaving home at 14, says Australian Open champion The intricately designed Norman

Brookes Challenge Cup sat before Jannik Sinner, but the Australian Open champion said it was all yet to sink in. Sinner delivered one of the most moving victory speeches, reaching out to his parents Johann and Siglinde Sinner, who he called 'perfect parents'. The 22-year-old said, "Growing up away from home was the fastest way to grow up." Sinner's father Johann works as a chef in a restaurant and his wife Siglinde also worked at the same restaurant as a waitress. Most of Sinner's childhood was spent with his grandparents, who looked after him when his parents were away at work. Simone Vagnozzi, Sinner's coach for the last three years, said the 22-year-old's parents should be held up as an example. "Sometimes they come to the tournament, and they do not speak one word about tennis. They are just there. They enjoy the life of the tournament, but never come to us (his coaches) and say, serve, volley, break-point." Vagnozzi said such people were always hard to find, more so in the internet age, where everyone thinks he's an expert.

Ranji Trophy: Jharkhand suffer huge loss vs Vidarbha

Ranchi Jharkhand's Ranji Trophy campaign went from bad to worse as they succumbed to a huge 308-run loss against Vidarbha at JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi. Conceding first-innings lead in all three matches earlier in the

season, Jharkhand had to be content with only a point from each game but on Monday they suffered a morale-crushing defeat at their home ground. Vidarbha registered a commanding victory on the final day thanks to India pacer Umesh Yadav and Aditya

Thakare's superb bowling exploits. Having declared their second innings on 374/9 on the penultimate day, thanks to fine knocks by Dhruv Shorey (113) and Atharva Taide (138), the visitors set the home side an improbable target of 429.

Madrid breeze past Valencia to move to third in La Liga



Samuel Lino and Memphis Depay each found the net, securing Atletico Madrid a comfortable 2-0 victory over Valencia at home on Sunday. This triumph propelled Diego Simeone's squad to third place in the LaLiga standings. Atletico might have secured a more decisive win if not for the outstanding performance of Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili, who thwarted numerous scoring attempts until Lino broke the deadlock with a low shot deep into first-half stoppage time. Maintaining their dominance into the second half, the hosts widened the gap in the 57th minute when Depay scored with a diving header off a Nahuel Molina cross. With this victory, Atletico climbed to third place in the standings, tied with Barcelona on 44 points but edging ahead on goal difference. Real Madrid currently occupies the second position with 54 points, trailing surprise leaders Girona by just one point, with Girona having played one additional game.

Qinwen Zheng is a problem solver in the mould of one who breaks it down

MELBOURNE: Qinwen Zheng is a problem solver in the mould of one who breaks it down before putting it together. An artist, who loves the lines. The 21-year-old Chinese, in her maiden Grand Slam final, has sparked the happy vibe of the Australian Open. Talking about her opponent in the final, defending champion Aryna Sabalenka, the 12th seed said the world No. 2 was a complete player. "I would say, most big hitter in

the tour right now. She got the most-big serve, most big forehand, big backhand," Zheng said. Just as well that the backhand isn't 'most big'. Zheng, from Shiyan in northwestern Hubei, is 5 ft 10 and is happy to karaoke in three languages - English, Spanish and Chinese. "I haven't faced a big seed in the tournament yet, she's the first one I will face," Zheng said. "But it is a match, so let's see what is gonna happen."

Sabalenka and Zheng practiced together before the start of the tournament. They've played once before, in the US Open in quarterfinals four months ago, and the 25-year-old triumphed in straight sets. The title match promises to be an explosive contest, both players will look for openings. 14 Zheng, in her maiden Grand Slam final, said this has been her dream all her life. Her face mirrored the

ecstasy. "My dream is not just (making) the final," she told the media. "I'm almost there, but I know this little distance, still far away." Zheng, who reached the final at Melbourne Park on the 10-year anniversary of Chinese legend Li Na winning the Australian Open, has been chatting with the superstar who is here. "She told me, 'don't think too much. Just go for it,'" Zheng said. Sabalenka might want to pay attention.

Ravichandran Ashwin's brilliant delivery to dismiss Ben Stokes

NEW DELHI: Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin led India's surge to victory on the third day of the first Test against England in Hyderabad by dismissing their captain Ben Stokes. After bowling out India for 436, England were 140/4 at the dismissal of Jonny Bairstow when Stokes arrived at the crease. With the situation demanding to stay at the wicket, Stokes was cautious in his strokeplay and



England's first innings top-scorer had scored just 6 runs when Ashwin struck. Ashwin tossed up a delivery on the middle, the ball hit the top and disturbed the

surface, the length drew Stokes forward, but it then gripped and turned past the outside edge - crashing into the off-stump. Stokes had the line covered and then

played the perfect looking defensive push, but was undone by a piece of magic, much to the delight of Ashwin, his teammates and the Hyderabad crowd. This is the 12th instance (in 25 innings) that Ashwin dismissed Stokes in Test cricket - the most by the bowler. Ashwin also equalled the record of the great Kapil Dev of an Indian bowler dismissing a batter most often in Tests.

Messi and Suarez on scoresheet but Inter Miami fall 4-3 to Saudi club Al Hilal

NEW DELHI: Inter Miami showcased their prowess as Luis Suarez netted his first goal for the Major League Soccer side at Riyadh's Kingdom Arena on Monday, and Lionel Messi converted a penalty. However, the efforts fell short, with Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal securing a 4-3 victory. The match's climax came with an 88th-minute header from Brazilian forward Malcom, ultimately settling the score after Miami fought back to level at 3-3 from a 3-1 deficit early in the second half. Former Fulham striker and Serbian international Aleksandar Mitrovic initiated the scoring for Al Hilal in the 10th minute, skillfully side-footing a finish past Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender following a well-executed offensive sequence. Saudi international forward Abdullah Al-Hamdan extended Al



Hilal's lead to 2-0 after 13 minutes, capitalizing on a misplayed clearance from Miami defender Noah Allen. Miami had an opportunity to pull one back in the 26th minute when Sergio Busquets volleyed over from a close range after a defensive lapse from Al Hilal. Julian Gressel's persistence paid off for Miami in the 34th minute, setting up Luis Suarez for a goal initially disallowed for offside but later validated by VAR, bringing the score to 2-1. However, Al Hilal swiftly restored their two-goal advantage just before half-time. Al-Hamdan delivered a cross into the area, finding Brazilian

forward Michael, who nodded home after a rushed clearance attempt by Miami's goalkeeper. Miami showcased resilience after the break, leveling the score with two quick goals. Lionel Messi converted a penalty in the 54th minute, and shortly after, a ferocious strike from David Ruiz made it 3-3. With the game poised for a draw, Malcom's decisive header in the 88th minute secured a 4-3 win for Al Hilal. The friendly served as part of Inter Miami's pre-season tour, preparing for the upcoming Major League Soccer season starting on February 21.

Bopanna, Ebden hit it off as a pair



MELBOURNE: Rohan Bopanna played his 61st Grand Slam doubles event with his 19th partner. The Indian has been around the block. Clearly. The 43-year-old's charge to the game's elite started with Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, he has also played with friends Mahesh Bhupathi and American Rajeev Ram. Bopanna was seated on the interview terrace at Melbourne Park, it was well past midnight. He was exhausted and giddy with relief, but he didn't miss a beat when asked who his best partner was. "Matt Ebden obviously no?" he said. "Not because we won a Grand Slam title today," the towering Kodava explained. "This partnership has been so consistent and that makes all the difference - week after week, Masters events and Slams, we are in contention. It's a very good feeling." "I am glad I found him at the age of 41," he said.

Australian Open: Medvedev outlasts Zverev to book Sinner showdown in final

NEW DELHI: Daniil Medvedev staged a remarkable comeback from the brink to defeat Alexander Zverev 5-7, 3-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(5), 6-3 in a captivating semi-final match on Friday, securing his spot in the Australian Open title clash. The third seed is now vying for his second Grand Slam trophy after facing heartbreak in consecutive final defeats at Melbourne Park in 2021 and 2022 against Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. Medvedev aims to turn his fortunes around when he faces Italian youngster Jannik Sinner in the final.

Cleiton delivers as East Bengal end title drought in Super way

Cleiton Silva's goal leads East Bengal to victory in the Kalinga Super Cup final, ending their 12-year trophy drought. The game was filled with drama, including five goals, two penalties, and two red cards. East Bengal's win guarantees them a place in the AFC Champions League-2 preliminary stage. Cleiton Silva took off his shirt and fell to the ground, face up. He was soon submerged in a flood of emotions, as his teammates rushed in and fell over him one by one. He just did what the doctor ordered, handing back the lead to East Bengal in the Kalinga Super Cup final. There were still 12 more minutes to play in the extra times but they could sense that the dream was truly and remarkably taking shape in red and gold hue again. Carles Cuadrat's bravehearts ended East Bengal's 12 years of hurt in stunning fashion at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, overcoming an early setback to get the better of hosts and defending champions Odisha FC 3-2 in 120 minutes of ping-pong football before laying their hands on the Super Cup. It was their first national trophy since winning the Federation Cup in 2012. It's also their return to Asian club football as Super Cup champions are guaranteed a place in the AFC Champions League-2 preliminary stage.



Ram Temple re-establishes the cultural pride of India: Governor

Lucknow Reflecting on the recently concluded 'Pran Pratistha' ceremony at Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandi Ben Patel said on Friday that the year 2024 has etched an indelible mark on the history of India. Addressing both houses of the Legislature, the Governor said, "Establishing 'Rashtra Mandir', in the form of the magnificent Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, stands as a profound realization of the unwavering resolve and deep-seated faith of the Indian people. It represents further affirmation of India's cultural pride." Governor Anandi Ben Patel's address also heralded the beginning of the Budget session in the UP State Assembly. The Governor also highlighted the tradition of organizing 'Uttar Pradesh Diwas' by the state government since 2018. She expressed the government's unwavering commitment to the interests of



farmers and elaborated on the recent increase in sugarcane prices. Shifting focus to the UP Global Investors Summit held in February 2023, the Governor highlighted that investment proposals exceeding Rs 40 lakh crore had been received from both domestic and international investors. "These proposals, spanning various sectors and encompassing all 75 districts of the state, hold the potential to

generate employment opportunities for approximately 1.10 crore people. To translate these proposals into reality, ground breaking ceremony will be conducted, fostering extensive employment opportunities," the Governor added. Discussing the state government's efforts to enhance the convenience and seamless pilgrimage experience for Ram devotees in Ayodhya, the Governor emphasized.

Muslims behind AMU gave up its minority status in 1920

Union government told Supreme Court that Muslims who lobbied with the British government for establishment of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) had voluntarily surrendered its denominational character, and acceded to overarching government control over its administration in 1920, as the aim and intent behind AMU was to establish an institution of national importance. Arguing against reconsideration of the 56-year-old five-judge SC judgment in Azeez Basha case, which had ruled in 1967 that AMU was not a minority institution, solicitor general Tushar Mehta said the events preceding establishment of the uni-

versity by the AMU Act of 1920 showed that the governing society of Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College, affiliated to Allahabad University, was dissolved by the 1920 Act and an institution of national importance, on the lines of Banaras Hindu University, was set up. SG Tushar Mehta said patrons of MAO College, historically referred to as British loyalists, faced stiff opposition from within the community for giving up AMU's denominational character and Muslim control over its administration and formed Jamia Millia Islamia which, unlike AMU, retained its minority status, like St Stephens

College, during pre and post-Constitution times. The aim of AMU patrons was to establish a university recognised by the British government to enable students obtaining degrees from the institution to be eligible for employment under the Crown, SG said. "It was wholly open for MAO College to continue as a college, avoid control by the British, and remain a minority institution. However, the said course was not adopted," he added. HC "Right of administration at the stage of incorporation and establishment of AMU was surrendered by 'loyalists' who sought an imperial legislative enactment at the time.

Gaurav Samman to Dr Ritu

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conferred Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman on Lucknow-based scientist Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava and Kanpur's Naveen Tiwari. Dr Ritu Karidhal played an important role in the development of India's Mars Orbiter Mission and Chandrayaan as deputy director operations for the mission. Dr Ritu has been working for ISRO

since 1997. Naveen Tiwari, is credited with establishing the largest independent mobile Ad tech platform in the world, connecting local businesses in Uttar Pradesh and India with national and international audiences. The lock screen software developed by his enterprise is actively featured on over 400 million smartphones worldwide. The CM fur-

ther pointed out that in the past, markets used to get flooded with standard Chinese products during festivals. Today, those products have been replaced by ODOP products. He added, "People now prefer to gift ODOP products, crafted by entrepreneurs and artisans, to their loved ones." He asserted that the spiritual and cultural heritage of India.

CAPSULES

Now no one can stop women from reaching Vidhan Sabha and the Parliament: CM Yogi

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that the Pran Pratistha of Lord Shri Ram is rather a dedicated campaign aimed at reestablishing public faith, and pristine glory of India than merely a ceremony. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Shakti Vandan Abhiyan' organized at Jupiter Hall in IGP, Lucknow, the Chief Minister said, "Today, as the entire world is drawn towards Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, you all will also visit the Ayodhya temple. The team will ensure all arrangements for this." CM Yogi said that the consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya is a crucial part of the campaign carried out in the country under the leadership of PM Modi in the last nine and a half years. Guided by the vision of Ram Rajya, PM Modi has devised inclusive schemes devoid of discrimination with the well-being of farmers, women, youth, and every segment of society in mind. These campaigns have been effectively implemented for the benefit of the people. Yogi added, "As a result, four crore poor families across the country have been provided housing without discrimination, with a significant emphasis on granting property rights to women." He further highlighted that under the Swachh Bharat Mission, 12 crore toilets have been constructed. Additionally, the Har Ghar Nal scheme ensures the provision of clean drinking water in every household. He said that for the first time in the country, the PM SVAMITVA Yojana was launched

India and France agree to work together to build and launch military satellites

Delhi: According to persons familiar with the situation, India and France have inked a bold and unprecedented Defense Space Agreement that may lead to the launch of military satellites with both offensive and defensive capabilities. Not disclosed or discussed, the agreement was quietly signed by India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, and French Defense Minister Sebastien Lacroix while French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were attending the "At Home" Republic Day reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The two nations have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on a Defence Space Partnership, which allows the two allies to work together to develop defense capacities and operational capabilities for improved

● "France and India have decided to invest in a long-term relationship with both countries on the same page politically on Houthis"

global situational awareness, the protection of communication and surveillance satellites, and increased transparency of the air, land, and sea battlegrounds. Although the Modi administration has not made public its defense space relationship with France—the country's longest-standing civilian space partner—the LoI opens the door for the two nations' space agencies to work together to design and deploy

military satellites in order to safeguard national security objectives. In the worst situation, India's military satellites would not only watch enemy movements but also safeguard the country's space assets. President Macron told his Indian counterparts that France will provide India with "no limits" when it comes to defense cooperation, including the creation, development, and certification of new platforms that will be manufactured expressly to meet the needs of both nations. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a key intermediary stated, "France and India have decided to invest in a long-term relationship with both countries on the same page politically on Houthis and the Gaza war, with nuanced differences over the Ukraine war given that France is part of the EU."

Yogi govt will equip Ayodhya with 'State of the Art Centralized GIS Data Centre'

Ayodhya/Lucknow, The Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh will establish a 'State-of-the-Art Centralized GIS Data Center' in Ayodhya. The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA), as per the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has initiated the development process for the necessary software and hardware infrastructure for setting up and operating a world-class GIS data center integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS). Notably, there are currently 141 projects

underway in Ayodhya with a total cost of Rs 30,977 crores to revive the city's ancient splendor. In such a situation, the way has been paved for evaluating the operations of more than 37 agencies involved in these projects, assessing project progress, and fostering the development of the geo ecosystem along with the compilation and integration of crucial information. Centralized GIS Data Center will be crucial for city's development. According to the process started

by ADA, an agency will be selected and entrusted with the task of setting up a Centralized GIS Data Center. Along with development, this chosen agency will also be responsible for the operation and management of the center for a period of five years, with the possibility of extension based on performance. It will focus on analyzing the infrastructure (hardware and software) available in ADA and equipping it with GIS solutions. This process will lead to the formation of GIS data

center and lab, which will further pave the way for 141 projects with a total cost of Rs 30977 crore in Ayodhya and monitoring of agencies working on all these projects and master plan execution. This will ensure that progress on each project, potential delays, and other relevant information are easily accessible, aiding ADA in efficiently completing all projects within the specified timeframe. Data Center will help in all assessment processes it is significant.

India has to rethink its system of import tariffs

Delhi: It is anticipated that Indian policymakers may reverse import duties on industries such as leather, textiles, and technical items, in order to prevent input costs from surpassing those of finished goods. It has been claimed that in order to correct these distortions for over a dozen items in the Union

budget, the commerce ministry has contacted the finance ministry. Since high input duties raise the cost of production locally, manufacturers have long called for changes, but government response has been sluggish. Nevertheless, it's encouraging that there might be a future attempt. Increased domestic prices can actually make imports more cost-effective in many situations, even when completed products are subject to tariffs. This is because they not only make it more difficult to compete internationally. Therefore, 'Make in India' tends to be hampered by an inverted duty regime. In any case, we need to streamline our tariff structure to ensure that Indian factories are not an exception among globally dis-

persed participants with reduced charges and to reassure investors of future rate stability if they are to participate more in global value chains. Undoubtedly, the government has already taken action against a number of duty inversions in previous years. However, in a few of these instances, the obvious solution was increased import tariffs on finished goods. Furthermore, attempting to sort through the disorganized mess we have created item by item has proven to be insufficient. In addition to standard customs duty, there are several levies, and various sectors are covered by duty drawback and remission programs. It is claimed that some input items serve several purposes that are subject to separate taxes.

Opposition should think above the parochial party politics when it comes to the broader cause of development: Yogi

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during the commencement of the session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature for the year 2024 on Friday, appealed to all opposition members to think above party politics and engage in constructive discussions in the House for the development of the state. Before the start of the session, he noted that the positive image cultivated about the state, both nationally and globally, would be advantageous for opposition parties as well. He urged them to actively participate in constructive discussions. CM Yogi expressed, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone on the suc-



cessful completion of the grand consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya. Today marks the beginning of the session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature for

the year 2024, and I extend a heartfelt welcome to all honourable members on this auspicious occasion." He further mentioned that the session would commence with the

address by the Honourable Governor. The Governor's speech is an important document highlighting the achievements of the government and the upcoming plans.

Jio Financial Services Q3 net profit falls 56 pc to Rs 294 crore

NEW DELHI: Jio Financial Services Ltd on Monday reported a 56 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 294 crore for the third quarter ended December 2023, compared to the previous quarter. The company had earned a consolidated net profit of Rs 668 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, Jio Financial Services said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue too moderated to Rs 414 crore, from Rs 608 crore in the September quarter. For the nine months ended December, the company's net profit stood at Rs 1,294 crore, the filing said. The total expenses increased sequentially to Rs 98.95 crore, against Rs 71.43 crore in the previous quarter. Jio Financial Services, carved out from Reliance.