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Rahul Gandhi: BJP, RSS have turned Ram temple event into Modi function

"I follow religious principles, but I don't have to wear religion on my sleeve. Those who don't believe in religion have to make a show of it"



KOHIMA: In his first remarks on the raging issue of Ram temple consecration, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Shankaracharyas have spoken the "truth" that the function has been designed for political projection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is also the reason why Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has turned down the invite to attend it. He said it's very difficult for Congress to attend the function that has been "captured" by its arch-rival RSS-BJP for political and electoral reasons. He, however, added that Congress has told the leaders in

the party and among alliance partners that those who want to attend it are welcome to go. Congress is open to all religions and practices, he added. "RSS and BJP have turned the January 22 function completely into a Modi function. It has become an RSS-BJP function. Even the biggest authorities of Hindu religion have said that they will not be able to attend it, as it has become a political function. So, it is very difficult for us to go for a

political function which is designed around the PM and the RSS... who have given it a political, electoral flavour," Rahul told a press conference here on the third day of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. At the same time, when asked about the BJP campaign to paint Congress and the Gandhis as "anti-Hindu" despite he being a "Shiv Bhakt" and a regular at pilgrimages, Rahul said those who wear religion on their sleeves actually

don't believe in religion and milk it for political gains. He said he believes in a "personal relationship" with religion and uses its principles as the guiding light of his life, like by treating people with respect, not responding to others with arrogance, by not spreading hatred. "I follow religious principles, but I don't have to wear religion on my sleeve. Those who don't believe in religion have to make a show of it," he remarked.

Supreme Court stays high court order for Mathura mosque survey

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed Allahabad High Court's order to appoint a commission to survey Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura near Krishna Janmabhoomi, saying the application filed by the Hindu side was "very vague" and the HC should not have passed an order based on it. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, however, made it clear that the HC could continue to hear the civil suit pertaining to Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute.



"There are legal issues that arise. That apart, the application for local commissioner is very vague. Can an application be made like this? We are staying the operation of the impugned order. Do not implement the order," the bench said. It issued notice to the Hindu bod-

ies on the Idgah committee's plea and posted the matter for January 23. Maintainability of suit must be decided first: Idgah committee Responding to the application filed by the Committee of Management Trust of Shahi Masjid Idgah claiming that the high

court passed the order when the issue of maintainability of the suit was still pending, the bench said the order on appointment of a commission would not be executed. Senior advocate Taneem Ahmadi and lawyer R H A Sikander, appearing for the petitioner, said the HC could not have passed the order as the plea was barred by law and its very existence was under challenge. They said the court must first examine the issue of maintainability of the suit before granting any interim relief.

Supreme Court refuses to quash FIR against Naidu, but split on application of PC Act

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to quash FIR and criminal proceedings against former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu in the skill development corporation case with respect to charges lev-

elled under the IPC, but a division bench disagreed over his prosecution under Prevention of Corruption Act. Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi were divided in their interpretation of Section 17A of PC Act, which mandates

that sanction is to be taken from competent authority for starting proceedings against a public servant. The point of contention in arose as the alleged scam took place in 2017 but Section 17A was introduced in July 2018 and

the question was whether the provision is applicable in this case. Due to split verdict, Naidu case referred to larger Supreme Court bench Justice Bose said that Section 17A was to be applied retrospectively.

Iran bombs 2 Baluchi militant group bases in Pakistan; kills 2 children

NEW DELHI: Iranian state media on Tuesday said two bases of the Baluchi militant group Jaish al Adl in Pakistan were targeted by missiles. Pakistan's foreign ministry reported that the "unlawful" airstrike conducted by Iran "resulted in death of two innocent children while injuring three girls."

In response to this incident, the ministry summoned Tehran's chief diplomat to Islamabad, expressing strong condemnation for the "unprovoked violation" of its airspace.

Pakistan's foreign ministry in a statement said, "This violation of Pakistan's sovereignty is completely unacceptable and can have serious consequences."

"It is even more concerning that this illegal act has taken place despite the existence of several channels of communication between Pakistan and Iran," Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

"Pakistan has always said terrorism is a common threat to all countries in the region that requires coordinated action. Such unilateral acts are not in conformity with good neighbourly relations and can seriously undermine bilateral trust and confidence," the statement added. This comes a day after Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards launched missile attacks on targets in Iraq and Syria.

Jaish al Adl has been known to carry out attacks on Iranian security forces in the border region with Pakistan.

Iranian state media stated, "These bases were hit and destroyed by missiles and drones," without providing further details.

Jaish al-Adl is a Sunni militant group that operates in Iran's restive south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. It says it seeks greater rights and better living conditions for ethnic Baluchis in Iran.

The group, which was formed in 2012 and is designated as a "terrorist" organization by Tehran, has launched numerous attacks on Iranian security forces over the years.

Trust in government made reluctant taxpayers loosen purse strings: PM Modi

TIRUPATI/VISAKHAPATNAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the priority of his government is to fight corruption and corrupt people. "Fight against corruption, action against corrupt people has been the priority of government," Modi said, adding that the poor have the power to defeat poverty if they



are given resources. He was addressing a meeting after inaugurating the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics campus at Palasamudram village in Gorantla man-

dal, Andhra Pradesh. "Our tax reforms have led to a drastic increase in tax collections in the last decade. We have instilled confidence in taxpayers who were otherwise being harassed by the previous regimes. Even reluctant taxpayers are forthcoming about paying taxes as they are confident their money will be put to

proper use by the present government, which has changed the country's infrastructure landscape in the last decade," Modi said. "The Niti Aayog report released yesterday throws light on the fact that about 25 crore people were lifted above the poverty line by the present government in the last nine years," Modi said.

Sudden death for cheetah at Kuno, 10 of the cats dead so far

BHOPAL: Cheetah Shaurya, aka Freddie, the most flamboyant of the lot and a bundle of energy, died suddenly in Kuno National Park, in MP's Sheopur, on Tuesday afternoon. It's the 10th cheetah death since March 2023. It's not yet known what killed Shaurya, said officials, adding



that they are awaiting the autopsy report. The signs that preceded its death were alarming. Around 11am, a

tracking team noticed Shaurya staggering about in an uncoordinated manner. They alerted officers who decided to bring it in

for medical evaluation. It was tranquilised and taken to Kuno vets, but it never recovered consciousness, say sources. Shaurya died at 3pm. Originally named Freddie, it formed a formidable coalition with brother Elton, aka Gaurav, as the two hunted and lived together.

Bhopal gas tragedy case: High Court charges 6 top government officials with contempt

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh HC has issued a strongly-worded chargesheet against former state chief secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, two secretaries of the Union government and three other senior officials in a contempt case over non-compliance of court orders for medical care of Bhopal gas tragedy victims, saying that



their conduct shows "insensitivity towards gas victims", reports Ashutosh Shukla.

Apart from Bains, those issued a chargesheet include Union health secretary Rajesh Bhusan, Union chemical & fertilisers secretary Arti Ahuja, Indian Council for Medical Research's senior deputy director R Rama Krishnan, former director of Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre Dr Rajnarayan Tiwari.

Uddhav group moves SC seeking to quash Maharashtra speaker's orders

NEW DELHI: The Indian Railways will launch special trains from 66 places across the country as "Aastha Specials" for bringing pilgrims to Ayodhya after the inauguration of the Ram Temple. The operation of these trains will start from January 22, coinciding with the consecration ceremony. Sources said 66 rakes (trains) with 22 coaches each will be pressed into service from different parts of the country and later more rakes will be



added depending upon the demand. A circular issued by the railways said the tickets in these trains will be booked for round trips. The railways has decided to not feed the train's particulars in its Passenger Reservation System (PRS) due to security reasons though

the bookings will be done by the IRCTC. These trains will be launched from four stations in Delhi - New Delhi, Old Delhi, Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar. Other cities include Agartala, Tinsukia, Barmer, Katra, Jammu, Nashik, Dehradun, Bhadrak, Khurda Road, Kotayam, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kazipet. There would be nine stations in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, Salem and Madurai.

Man stuck in aircraft loo for entire Mumbai-Bengaluru flight

BENGALURU: A male passenger on a Mumbai-Bengaluru SpiceJet flight was trapped inside a toilet for nearly 100 minutes early Tuesday as the door lock allegedly malfunctioned.

He was rescued after engineers broke open the loo door at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here. Stuck in the toilet, especially during landing, the passenger was in shock. KIA sources said the incident unfolded on Flight SG-268, which took off from Mumbai airport at 2 am Tuesday. The flight was scheduled to take off at 10.55 pm Monday. The details of the passenger could not be immediately ascertained. SpiceJet was yet to comment. "It was known that the passenger on 14D seat had gone to the toilet soon after takeoff and the seatbelt signs went off.

Donald Trump kicks off president race with Iowa win



WASHINGTON: Donald Trump stamped his authority on the Republican Party nomination process for the 2024 presidential election with a crushing win in Iowa caucuses on Monday

The former US President's annihilation of party rivals by more than 30 points included a rout of Indian-American opponents Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy, the latter immediately dropping out of the race to endorse Trump. Trump supporters braved sub-zero temperatures and icy winds to turn up in strength and give him 51% votes. Although Iowa accounts

for just 1.6% of the total delegates at stake, as the first state to kick off the nomination race, it provides the momentum in a long process that now moves to New Hampshire next week. Eye on rematch with Biden, Trump urges Republican opponents to drop out of race. Instead of his trademark gloating and smackdown of opponents following his big win in the first Republican contest in Iowa for 2024 presidential race, Donald Trump congratulated them for doing "very well" and said the "big night is going to be in November when we take back our country".

Manipur govt. approves Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Yatra on a conditional basis



The directive also called for the planning of a state celebration to honor Armed Forces Veteran Day and the execution of Section 144 of the CrPC in the Imphal East district

Delhi: After eight days of uncertainty and political strain, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra" was given conditional sanction by the BJP-led Manipur government. Only the "flagging off of the yatra with a limited number of participants" at a public

ground in the Imphal East district is permitted under the terms of the consent, though. Rahul is expected in Imphal with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, although the location has not yet been finalized by the state Congress leadership due to the constraints. Congress is looking into holding

the event somewhere other than Imphal. Keisham Megachandra, the president of the Manipur Congress, had earlier in the day stated that chief minister N Biren Singh had refused to allow the yatra's flagging-off ceremony to take place at Hatta Kangjeibung. The purported refusal of authorization set off a

political brawl. Bhupen Borah, the president of the Assam Congress, claimed that the BJP-led administration in the state is also trying to stop the yatra. Following a discussion between CM Singh and Congress leaders, the Manipur administration communicated its decision. The Imphal East district magis-

trate's office issued an order imposing limitations, citing the anticipated large audience for the opening ceremony and the current state of peace and order. The directive also called for the planning of a state celebration to honor Armed Forces Veteran Day and the execution of Section 144 of the CrPC in the Imphal East district. The action was taken in response to a report that the SP filed predicting a sizable turnout at the location on the day of the yatra's opening ceremony. In 66 days, the yatra is expected to travel 6,713 km on foot and by bus, passing through 110 districts, 100 Lok Sabha seats, and 337 assembly segments.

Shinde is really Sena

"The Shiv Sena's constitution doesn't have a 'paksha pramukh,' and the 'rashtriya karyakarini,' or national executive, has full power," Narwekar said.



Delhi, Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar said that Shinde's faction was "the real Shiv Sena" when he made his decision about Sena MLAs. He did not dismiss any lawmakers from the rival factions run by CM Eknath Shinde or Uddhav Thackeray, though. Narwekar turned down all 34 requests to remove 54 Sena lawmakers from office—40 Shinde and 14 Thackeray. Team Uddhav takes another big loss, but its MLAs will stay, which makes Shinde stronger and his

government more safe. Narwekar came to his conclusion by looking at the Shiv Sena's constitution, its leadership system, and its majority in the legislature. In May, the Supreme Court told Narwekar to look at dismissal pleas and judge the party's case based on what was known at the time. Speaker Narwekar talked about Sena's constitution in detail. He said that the 1999 text that was given to the EC was real, despite the Thackeray group's claim that the 2018 version should be used. Narwekar said that disagreements between Sena groups started on

June 21, 2022, and were brought to the Speaker's attention on June 22, 2022. He said that there were no organizational votes in 2013 or 2018. Narwekar said that after the Sena revolt in June 2022, MVA CM Uddhav could not get rid of Shinde. It was said by Uddhav's supporters that the paksha pramukh's choice was the will of the party in case the leadership split. "The Shiv Sena's constitution doesn't have a 'paksha pramukh,' and the 'rashtriya karyakarini,' or national executive, has full power," Narwekar said.

Owners, operators of 13 hotels, PG lodgings booked for not preserving guest records before R-Day



Strict directives have been given to keep thorough information about people entering computer cafes, PG lodgings, hotels, offices, guesthouses, restaurants, etc.

Delhi: The owners and managers of 13 paying guest accommodations, guest homes, and hotels in Gurugram were

arrested for negligent guest records. Drone and microlight restrictions apply. Compliance is monitored by almost 3,000 police officers. They also said drones and microlights are restricted. Police said a special team will surprise check all such lodgings to guarantee compliance with district administration security measures under sec-

tions 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Police assistant commissioner (crime) Varun Dahiya said the intelligence department tracks all international visitors to the city. Drones, aircraft, gliders/power gliders, air balloons, kites, and micro-lights are banned in the district until January 26.

Strict directives have been given to keep thorough information about people entering computer cafes, PG lodgings, hotels, offices, guesthouses, restaurants, etc.

PM Modi is fasting for 11 days in preparation for an event at the Ram Temple



Delhi: To get ready for the pran pratishtha (consecration service) of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya on January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi began an 11-day fast. He said that the day would be the fulfillment of the promise and the dream of generations who made "tremendous sacrifices" for it. "Our scriptures tell us that in order to do yagya and worship God, we need to awaken divine awareness within ourselves. In the texts, there are fast and strict rules that must be followed before pran pratishtha, which is what the PM said. In the moving message, Modi talked about how "Ram bhakti" was sweeping the country in the days before the pran pratishtha. The PM said, "I am overwhelmed with emotion." He said that this moment was a blessing from God and the result of over 500 years of patience, sacri-

ifice, and penance. I have a different kind of dedication right now. This emotional journey of my inner self is not a chance to show myself, but to learn. I want to be able to describe its depth, breadth, and passion in words, but I can't. As he thanked everyone for the chance, Modi said, "I have the honor of being here when the dream that many generations have held in their hearts like a promise for years comes true." I am a tool that God used to speak for all the people of India. It is a huge duty to do this." The PM said these things in a recorded message that came out right before he left for Nashik, where he prayed at the Kala Ram Temple in Panchvati, which is where the story goes that Lord Ram spent a lot of time while he was on exile. Happy that the process can begin from Panchavati to begin with.

Raut advises Shinde and Pawar to start their own party and not steal

Delhi: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut accused chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Ajit Pawar of "stealing parties" after the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party separated. Shiv Sena broke in June 2022 after Shinde rebelled, while NCP split in July last year after Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs joined the state administration. Some take their uncle's party, some steal someone else's. Have the guts to build your own party and challenge us "He called out Pawar, whose uncle Sharad Pawar founded the NCP, and Shinde, whose Sena was founded by Uddhav Thackeray's father Bal Thackeray. CM Shinde replied, "We advance Balasaheb's party.



BS III petrol and BS IV diesel cars and non-essential construction activities are banned in Delhi-NCR

Delhi: The Centre banned non-essential construction work and BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi-NCR due to poor air quality. The Commission for Air Quality Management reported a sharp jump in Delhi's AQI (458 and 457 between 10 and 11 am) due to "unfavourable climatic conditions and local pollution sources" The committee, a governmental organization that develops and implements regional air pollution reduction policies, opted to adopt GRAP Stage-III limits ('severe' AQI range) immediately to prevent further worsening. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the Centre's winter air pollution control plan, divides actions into four stages: 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and 'Severe Plus' (AQI>450). The ban does not apply to national security, defense, healthcare, trains, metro rail, airports, inter-state bus terminals, highways, roads, flyovers, over-bridges, power transmission, pipelines, sanitation, and water supply.

Purchase of Delhi liquor fined by Noida administration

Delhi: Noida officials encouraged locals to report incidences of Delhi or Gurugram liquor purchases for Uttar Pradesh use. The district government wants to increase liquor sales and stop importing cheaper booze from neighboring states. The administration has assured Noida residents of anonymity. The authorities further noted that bringing or drinking booze from outside Uttar Pradesh is a crime punishable by jail time. "Bringing or drinking liquor from Haryana, Delhi, or another state is illegal in Uttar Pradesh. Section 63 of the Uttar Pradesh Excise Act 1910 allows a person to be jailed for this act, and Section 72 allows the vehicle of the person transporting illegal liquor to be seized "District Excise Officer Subodh Kumar said.

A Rs 10 lakh insurance policy for BRO's casual laborers is approved by Rajnath.

Delhi: A plan to introduce a Group (Term) Insurance Scheme for Casual Paid Laborers (CPLs) hired by the Border Roads Organization (BRO), General Reserve Engineer Force for the ongoing project works was approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Defence Ministry states that in the event that a laborer dies while working on the project, the next of kin will receive an insurance payout under this policy, which will provide a guaranteed value of Rs 10 lakh. "Keeping in view the severe risk posed to the lives of CPLs posted in hazardous work-sites, inclement weather, inhospitable terrain and occupational health hazards, and considering the deaths that occurred, reported during their engagement. " the defense ministry stated. For the CPLs, hav-

Navi Mumbai To Mumbai India's Longest Sea Bridge Opens in 20 Minutes

Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, which spans 21.8 km and connects Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava Sheva in the Raigad area. The trans harbor connection, also called the Atal Setu, is the longest sea bridge in India.

It will take about 20 minutes instead of the

present hour and a half to travel between the two locations. The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), which was built for ? 17,840 crore, has six lanes and is 16.5 km long across the water. In addition to bringing Mumbai and Navi Mumbai closer together, officials stated the Atal Setu, which bears the name of the former prime minister,

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will improve transportation, reduce traffic, and stimulate economic growth. Travel times from Mumbai to Pune, Goa, and South India would be shortened by the MTHL, which will also offer quicker connectivity to the Navi Mumbai International Airport and the Mumbai International Airport.

Milind Deora joining Shiv Sena: Eknath Shinde's first reaction. 'Welcome...'

Delhi: In response to news that Congress veteran Milind Deora may join Shiv Sena today, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde said he will "welcome him". Former Congress MP Deora resigned from the party's primary membership amid allegations that he will join the Shinde faction of the divided Shiv Sena. "I heard about his transfer. Eknath Shinde stated he would welcome him to the party. Deora, whose family had supported Congress for over 50 years, congratulated the party. I finished a major political chapter today. Resigning from



Congress' primary membership ends my family's 55-year affiliation with the party. For their years of support, I thank leaders, coworkers, and karyakartas "He posted on X early this morning. Former Maharashtra CM Ashok Chavan claimed Milind Deora wanted to run for Lok Sabha from South Mumbai, but the coalition partners wanted Arvind Sawant.

Punjabi exiles advised to seek US asylum on Khalistan plea, Donkey fly

Delhi: CID (Crime) officers investigating the human smuggling case after France grounded a chartered flight carrying 303 Indians, including 96 Gujaratis, during a refueling stop at Vatry airport near Paris last month said the smugglers had told Punjabi illegal immigrants to seek asylum in the US by claiming to be Khalistan supporters. This is because Khalistan supporters have been protesting the Indian state. Police sources stated Gujaratis were told to seek shelter as Congress or AAP workers due to political persecution. Young couples were advised to seek asylum for inter-caste marriage or family feuds. Rajkumar Pandian, Gujarat ADGP CID (Crime), stated 14 agents were booked for human smuggling, evidence destruction, and crim-



inal conspiracy. "The procedure to issue look-out circulars against the 14 agents, many of whom are abroad, will be taken up very soon," said Pandian. He said the agents forced the emigrants to delete texts and destroy evidence, but the CID recovered some. Joginder alias Jaggi Paji and Joginder Mansaram from Delhi; Salim Dubai and Sam Paji from Dubai; Chandresh Patel, Sandip Patel, and Kiran Patel from Mehsana;

Bhargav Darji, Jayesh Patel, Biren Patel, Arpit Jhala, and Piyush Barot from Gandhinagar; and Raju Panchal and Raja Bhai from Mumbai. A tip led France to halt the chartered jet for suspected people trafficking. After leaving Dubai, it headed for Nicaragua. On December 24, a Vatry airport judge released the passengers and permitted the airplane to go to Mumbai. However, just 276 arrived in Mumbai.

Riots case: HC asks police to file chart on Sharjeel's role

A bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain elaborated that police can mention the history of the accused, his role and other details distinguishing his case from others



Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday asked police to file a chart distinguishing the role of student activist Sharjeel Imam, arrested in a UAPA case linked to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 communal riots, from those of co-accused Natasha Narwal, Devangana

Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha.

A bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain elaborated that police can mention the history of the accused, his role and other details distinguishing his case from others.

It was hearing Imam's plea seeking bail in the case and will now take up the plea for further hearing on February 19. Imam sought bail on the grounds of parity, saying six of the 18 accused named in the FIR have already been granted

the relief. However, the prosecution opposed the plea and argued that different roles have been attributed to different accused in the case involving the larger conspiracy behind the riots. Police argued that "the kind of speeches

Imam has delivered and activities he engaged in make him ineligible for any relief and he can't be compared to the other accused." The prosecution maintained that it is for Imam to convince the court about the merit of his case and it is not for the prosecution to prove how his role was different from those who secured bail in the case. The court then asked the counsel for Imam and police to file their written submissions before the next date of hearing. Sharjeel Imam, United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi and several others, including student-activist Umar Khalid, have been booked under the anti-terror law, UAPA.

The NGT tells the DDA, and the forest department not to cut down trees

Delhi: The National Green Tribunal told the secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the principal chief conservator of forests, and the vice-chairman of the Delhi Development Authority that they need to stop cutting down trees while clearing 8.7 hectares of land on the Central Ridge. "The news item discloses a substantial issue relating to environmental norms," Justice Prakash Shrivastava's bench said. The case was heard on January 8, but the order was shared. The forest department said, "A



report has been received regarding clearing of trees at Central Ridge, whereas it has been observed with periodical analysis of Google Earth images that an area of approximately 8.7 Ha has been cleared, the same is a violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980". The letter said that the Quarter Master General, Army

Headquarters, had to say why they shouldn't be charged. Part 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 made the Central Ridge a reserve forest on May 24, 1994. The Army said, "The Army is looking into the violation reported by the Department of Forests and Wildlife on Central Ridge.

"Actions that follow the rules will be taken. The army sets up "Watch and Ward" of all land pieces and protects trees. Trees can't be cut down in Army construction zones without a permit from the forest department.

Sukhbir says when Akali Dal weakens, Sikhs lose shrines

Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal alleged that whenever the SAD had weakened, Sikhs had lost their shrines, which could happen again now if they didn't learn from history and the Akali factions didn't reunite.



For evidence, he pointed to how Haryana and Delhi had formed their own gurdwara man-

agement committees and Akalis had lost control of the Takhts (Sikh

temporal seats) outside Punjab. Addressing an extended Maghi rally at the historical gurdwara of Takhtupura village in Moga district, he said: "Any wrong decision taken now will take Punjab back even further. Already, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party are regaining their political ground after betraying and looting Punjab."

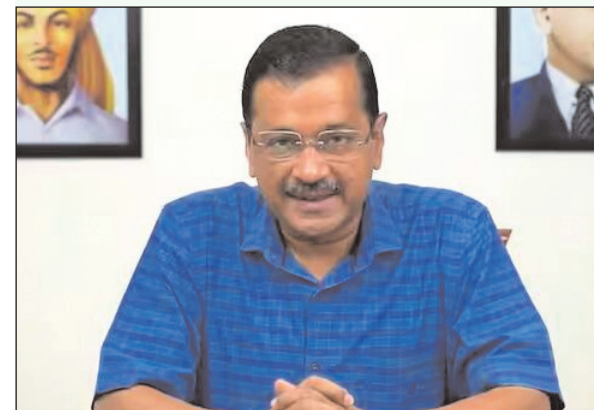
The city village board gives the go-ahead for two new road projects worth 250 crore

Delhi: In a meeting led by development minister Gopal Rai, the Delhi Village Development Board cleared projects worth Rs 250 crore that have to do with building new roads. It will be most important to build roads in the villages of Delhi... According to Rai, all the officers involved have been told to finish the village development projects on time. In order to speed up the job of improving the villages of

every week because there have been complaints about delays. Also, all departments have been told to finish the files on time. The meeting was also attended by the minister of irrigation and flood control, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and his staff, as well as the MLAs who represent these places and staff from the village development board and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. "Till the last meeting, 564 projects worth about Rs 759 crore were approved in 2023-24 and development works are being carried out in 194 villages," said Rai.

Delhi: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has chosen to hire outside drivers for the Violet, Red, and Green lines as well. They already hired outside drivers for the Yellow Line. But the DMRC will train all of the pilots and will still be in charge of overseeing the whole process. The metro will run without drivers on the three new lines that are being built as part of Phase IV. At the moment, a third-party company is running the Yellow Line trains from Samaypur Badli to Millennium City Centre in Gurgaon. But DMRC officials said that when their current outsourcing deal ends next year, the Yellow Line driver service

DJB will not charge for 7 lakh water bills



Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that 11.7 lakh home users would have their water bills waived all at once. 7 lakh consumer debts would not be charged again. There are 27.6 lakh residential customers listed with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), and 11.7 lakh of them owe a total of ₹5,737 crore. We looked at the water bills of these 11.7 lakh homes and used our one-time settlement program estimate to find that more than seven lakh homes should not have to pay for water. Their use is less than the 20 kiloliters per month cap set by the State government. The plan will help the last 4.7 lakh customers who are behind on their payments, the CM said.

The AAP gave all homes with working water meters 20 kiloliters of water every month on January 1, 2014, after taking power. "Water bills for some people have been going up." He said that during the spread, the meters of some homes could not be read. Mr. Kejriwal said that meter readers often wrote down wrong numbers. Unfortunately, this meant that customers got wrong bills. He also said that people in Delhi had been waiting for this plan for months because 11.7 lakh homes failed to pay their bills. Mr. Kejriwal said that the DJB board agreed with the present choice, which needs to be approved by the Delhi Cabinet.

Ads for coaching centers don't offer a 100% selection rate



Delhi: Experts believe that student competition and false claims of great success push candidates to commit suicide. The official Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) put out draft rules for commercial coaching schools that say ads can't make guarantees like getting into the next round or getting certain grades and ranks. Because of the high demand for engineering and medical places and the false promises of success, many applicants end their own lives. This is why the government wants to tighten regulations. A person who did not want to be named said that the CCPA talked to people from the biggest coaching schools about the proposed rules because "we want it to be a democratic and participatory process." India has a huge indus-

try of coaching institutes that give courses for almost every competitive exam. These include exams for government jobs, bank jobs, law, engineering, and medical schools, the Indian Administrative Service, and school board exams. A National Sample Survey found that almost 70 million kids, or 26% of all students, get coaching. The official said that there are more misleading ads that promise entry to college and "100% selection" to government jobs that require difficult entrance exams. In a separate

interview with HT, Rohit Kumar Singh, secretary of the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, said that the suggested standards are meant to give potential students a full and honest picture of the school's credentials. "Advertising that lies or exaggerates must be misleading." Kota is a famous coaching town in Rajasthan, but a lot of students have killed themselves there. The most students to kill themselves in Kota since 2015—26—did so in 2023. In Kota, 15 people who were taking challenging tests will kill themselves in 2022.

Four central hospitals get health services worth 1,140 crore

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya officially opened health services worth Rs 1,140 crore at four central government hospitals in the city. A doctors' hostel for the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Research and Dr. RML Hospital, an emergency block for Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), a sports injury center at Safdarjung Hospital, and a hostel and academic blocks for Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Nursing College were all opened. Dr. Subhash Giri, who is in charge of LHMC and the hospitals that are connected to it, said that the 864-bed emergency block that was built at the secondary facility Sucheta Kriplani Hospital was part of a larger plan for the institute's growth. Besides that, he said that the multidisciplinary center started working on July 24, 2023.



The sale of generic copies of cancer drugs has stopped because the Delhi High Court has banned patent infringement

Delhi: All over the country, the sale of generic versions of the leukemia drug Ibrutinib has been stopped. This means that patients can't get cheap treatment. Six Indian companies—Natec Pharma, Hetero, BDR Pharma, Shilpa Medicare, Alkem, and Laurus Labs—were recently told by the Delhi high court that they can't sell generic copies. The order was made because the drug's patent was being broken. Pharmacyclics, a part of US company AbbVie, owns the Ibrutinib patent. The drug is sold in India by Johnson & Johnson, which is an Indian branch of Janssen Biotech. The patent on Ibrutinib is good until 2026, and the drug is offered under the registered trademark Imbruvica. One thing that is clear is that the defendants are making and selling Ibrutinib without a license from the claimants. If a given patent is clearly being violated and is being used without permission from the patent holder, stopping further infringement is always the most practical thing to do. I know that the drug in question is needed to treat many dangerous illnesses, such as cancer.

8 flights diverted to Jaipur from Delhi

Delhi: Since the wee hours of Monday, eight Delhi-bound flights including three international flights were diverted to Jaipur International Airport due to poor weather conditions and low visibility in the national capital.

The diverted flights included two international flights from Dubai and one from Hanoi. The domestic flights included flights from Hyderabad, Goa, Bengaluru and two flights from Pune. Most of the flights were diverted after 1am on Monday till early morning hours. "Due to low visibility and poor weather conditions in New Delhi, eight flights were diverted to Jaipur on Monday. Three international flights were also diverted here. As the weather was clear here, landings could be done easily," said an official of the airport. Passengers on Monday took to social media platform X and shared that they had to wait for hours at the airport without any proper facilities due to the diversions. Ashok Srivastava, a passenger, shared, "...due to bad weather at Delhi airport, our flight from Dubai is now landed at Jaipur. Staff deplaned all of us without any further information. We all are standing here between plane and entry gate of Jaipur airport..." Passengers alleged 'mismanagement' by the airlines after a Dubai-Delhi flight that was diverted to Jaipur early morning on Monday, was in the air for hours and then after landing passengers were made to wait at the airport without any proper information.

Three more lines of the Delhi Metro hire outside drivers



will be outsourced again. "Everyone who drives the trains will be trained by the DMRC and given a certificate of competency by the DMRC first." The training covers everything you need to know to operate the train, as well as system-specific training courses. "The contract is based on current Indian labor laws, and the contractor

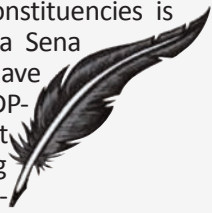
will make sure that all of those rights are given to the outsourced staff," a DMRC official said. The DMRC will still be in charge of overseeing the whole process. "The existing DMRC staff of train operations will be deployed suitably in trains so as to provide troubleshooting, major faults handling, rescue operations and emer-

gencies and counselling of private staff engaged in train operations and will also be deployed on Phase IV lines," said the official. Officials said that the choice to hire private drivers was made in line with the DMRC Act in order to see what the private sector can offer. "As per Metro Rail Policy 2017, outsourcing is needed to involve private participation in operation and maintenance to explore the expertise for managing the services in the private sector as this will bring in the managerial efficiencies and entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector in the delivery of service," said a top DMRC worker.

Editorial

Plan to drop sitting MLAs, MPs backfires on Jagan; rocked by flurry of exits

Delhi: The YSR Congress Party's strategy to drop several sitting MLAs and MPs in Andhra Pradesh for the forthcoming polls has triggered a spate of resignations. Machilipatnam MP Balasouri Vallabhaneni resigned from the party amid indications that he might be dropped. Balasouri is likely to join the Jana Sena Party (JSP) led by actor-politician Pawan Kalyan. This is the latest resignation to hit the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led party ahead of the simultaneous polls to the state Assembly and the Lok Sabha, likely to be held in April-May. Kurnool MP S. Sanjeev Kumar resigned from the party. The general surgeon and urologist resigned both as MP and also from the primary membership of YSRCP. This followed the party's decision to field sitting MLA and state minister Gummanur Jayaram as the party candidate from the Kurnool Parliament seat. The MP, who remained low profile throughout his stint, alleged that there is no respect for backward classes in the party. He is likely to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Two MLAs have also quit the ruling party over the denial of tickets. Last week, Rayadurgam MLA Kapu Ramchandra Reddy resigned from YSRCP. He alleged that the party leadership betrayed his loyalty to the party. Alla Ramakrishna Reddy was the first YSRCP MLA to quit the party. The MLA from Mangalagiri has declared his support to Y. S. Sharmila, who recently merged her YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) with the Congress. Sharmila, the sister of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, will likely get a key position in the party. A couple of MLCs have also quit YSRCP in the last few days. While MLC and senior leader C. Ramachandraiah joined the TDP, another MLC Srinivas Varma joined the Jana Sena. Earlier, cricketer Ambati Rayudu resigned from YSRCP. He quit the party 10 days after joining it. The cricketer said that he resigned from the YSRCP as their ideologies were not aligned. Rayudu met Pawan Kalyan on January 11. He claimed that he and Pawan Kalyan share the same ideologies and vision, hinting that he may join Jana Sena. The spate of resignations has come as a blow to the YSRCP. However, these were not unexpected considering the change of tactic by the YSRCP. YSRCP, which has 151 MLAs in the 175-member Assembly, has so far released three lists for Assembly polls. The party has announced candidates for 59 seats. It has denied tickets to as many as 23 sitting MLAs. The ruling party was earlier planning to go for elections with a majority of the sitting MPs and MLAs. Political analysts say the defeat of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the recent Assembly elections in neighbouring Telangana forced the YSRCP to reconsider its strategy. Like YSRCP, BRS too had an overwhelming majority in the 119-member Telangana Assembly. Aiming for a third term in power, BRS had renominated almost all sitting MLAs. However, 65 out of its 104 sitting MLAs were defeated. Analysts say unlike BRS, YSRCP may not be facing voter fatigue but still it does not want to take any chances. It is not only dropping the sitting MLAs and MPs but also fielding some sitting MPs in Assembly elections and shifting some MLAs to Lok Sabha constituencies. The revolt in the YSRCP camp in some constituencies is likely to benefit the TDP-Jana Sena alliance. A few legislators have already defected to either TDP-JSP. The revolt may also benefit the Congress, which is hoping for a reversal of its political fortunes in the state following the victories in Karnataka and Telangana.



Bilkis Bano's rapists are finally back in prison. Now, it's time to address the root cause

As I tuned into the news back in 2022, I was shocked to learn that the Gujarat government had granted remission to the 11 convicts who had gang-raped Bilkis Bano and murdered members of her family during the harrowing 2002 Gujarat riots. How could a state government extend mercy to criminals who had committed such heinous acts against a woman? My agony and horror only deepened when I learned that they were not only pardoned but also garlanded upon their release. However, a much-needed

wave of relief washed over me when the Supreme Court stepped in to remedy the situation on 8 January. By sending these convicts back to prison, it has restored the faith of millions in India's justice system.

In a scathing rebuke, the court expressed in no uncertain terms that the Gujarat government was not fit to decide on the remission plea of the 11 men convicted of a "grotesque and diabolical crime driven by communal hatred." This moment of justice, delivered in harsh, con-

demnatory language, serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder that the truth will always prevail over attempts to sweep heinous acts under the rug. "I have wept tears of relief. I smiled for the first time in over a year and a half. I have hugged my children. It feels like a stone the size of a mountain has been lifted from my chest, and I can breathe again," said Bano. And one cannot help but empathise deeply with her sentiments. However, it is also crucial to understand if we are truly addressing the

core of the problem. A closer examination of the Supreme Court judgment reveals that it highlighted a significant technicality in the case - that of an "appropriate government". Section 432(7)(b) of The Code of Criminal Procedure, which governs the power of remission, mentions that the state where the offender is sentenced holds the authority to pass an order of remission. This location is determined by the sentencing jurisdiction, and not necessarily where the crime occurred or where the convict is imprisoned.

Union Home Minister's Internal Security strategy paying rich dividends

It is a mark of the present Union Home Minister's farsightedness and dedicated leadership that in his direct guidance a three-fold strategy of strengthening the internal security of the country has already produced good results. In a nutshell, this can be described as combining development with security in dealing with Maoists, taking the zero tolerance approach to terrorism beyond 'policy' to the turf of 'action' and integrating internal security with border security and law & order management to ensure total handling of the task of securing the nation. With his hands-on approach, Amit Shah has lent speed to the efforts initiated in multiple spheres towards this objective and pursued them on an untiring note. This was reflected in his prompt visit to Sukma in Chhattisgarh in April 2021 to make an in-depth examination of the circumstances in which CPI (Maoist) had ambushed security forces led by CRPF in Sukma-Bijapur road and caused the death of 22 personnel, his address at the All India Police Science Congress at Dehradun in October this year, and the follow up directed by him on Police Technology Mission earlier announced by Prime Minister Modi at the DGPs Conference held at Lucknow in 2021. The crucial details of

this strategy need to be highlighted to get a proper understanding of what all was being done. The Home Minister has formulated a comprehensive strategy for tackling Left Wing extremism. While putting down the violence with all the might at the government's command, modernising police forces, providing them with helicopters and UAVs for surveillance and upgrading some 250 police stations in the Maoist-affected regions, had been given priority. The Centre has funded the development of road infrastructure, opened post offices, bank branches and ATMs and tried to enhance the financial inclusion of people there. To improve connectivity, mobile towers have been installed in 34 districts affected by the Maoist problem. The Ministry of Home Affairs has created a separate Left Wing Extremism Division to monitor the implementation of the new policy framework evolved by the present regime to deal with the problem. Tribal communities and Economically Backward groups were being exploited and even threatened by the Maoists to sustain the Protracted People's War against the Indian nation. The extremists take to targeting schools, health centres, railways, roads, and bridges to thwart the devel-

opment schemes of the government. The Home Minister has highlighted the need for CRPF and other security forces to adopt a people-friendly behaviour, handle welfare schemes for the locals and keep avenues for talks open wherever possible taking the help of civil society groups if available. It is the multi-prong responses combining counter-insurgency operations and development work, that have enabled the government to drastically curb the violence of Maoists and wean the population from the ideological influence of CPI (Maoist) in the Dandakaranya hinterland of the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been working on a 'National Policy and Action Plan' since 2015 to deal with Left Wing Extremism through a collaborative approach between the Centre and the states and there is no doubt that the leadership of the Union Home Minister has made all the difference. Addressing the Anti-Terrorism Conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in October last, Shah perceptibly underscored the importance of dismantling not just terrorism but the entire 'terrorist ecosystem' involving cryptocurrency, hawala, terror funding, organised crime and narco-terrorism. He lauded

the compilation of data regarding terrorism in the last few years and emphasised that the fight against terrorism would require collaboration from global to local levels including various states. He called upon the NIA and the IB to standardise training programmes for all Central and state counter-terrorism agencies to ensure uniformity in their methodologies. The Centre's initiative in building data finds reflection in the success of the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System in bringing over 90 lakh fingerprints on record. On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day on October 21, the Home Minister said that while maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, the government had framed strong laws to curb its spread. In the context of the modernisation of Police forces, he announced that a Police Technology Mission had been established with the aim of creating the "world's best anti-terror force". The focused attention given to the task of countering terrorist activities in the country, under the direction of Shah, has already resulted in a nearly 65 per cent decline in incidents of terrorism, insurgency and Maoist violence. In what should be considered a move of great

strategic importance in the area of national security, the Home Minister told the 49th All India Police Science Congress at Dehradun in October last year that internal security, border security and good law & order management were the integral components of the system that made the country secure. The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several measures to improve law & order throughout the country. The Home Minister has made a significant observation that "as we move towards becoming a robust economic power our police and security agencies must assume a more substantial role in safeguarding our economic institutions". This is an astute understanding of the reality that 'national security was inseparable from economic security' and that in the era of 'proxy wars' the adversary could take to attacking economic targets to weaken the opponent. The Prime Minister, who interacted recently with Army, BRO and ITBP personnel in the border region of Uttarakhand, said that India attached top priority to the development of border regions through infrastructure creation and provision of services there to establish an 'environment of fearlessness' as a defining feature of 'new India'.

Modi representing Bharat' Advani writes on 'cherished' Ram Mandir dream coming true

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

Shri Ram embodies the spirit of India. The true spirit of India and Indianness is discipline, truth, honesty, ethics, moral values, acceptance and celebration of diversity, respect for elders, strong family bonds and all such fine human values and Shri Ram is the epitome of all these impeccable human qualities. Hence the title 'Maryada Purushottam' (an exemplar among good human beings) by which he is known. He is an ideal for Indians' aspiration to live a life of higher values. Shri Ram was also an ideal king - the living embodiment of 'Dharma'. Hence the concept of 'Ram Rajya', the epitome of good governance, was extolled as the ideal for India. Although Shri Ram is the holy religious figure wor-

thy of worship for the Hindus, he is a pre-eminent symbol of India's cultural heritage and national identity - which belong to all citizens alike. The story of Shri Ram's life, the Ramayana, is both a source and a carrier of the continuity of India's cultural traditions and has greatly influenced the Indian mindset generation after generation. Therefore, for the last almost 500 years, the reconstruction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has been a deep desire for countless Indians. The Ramjanmabhoomi movement for the reconstruction of the temple at the Janmasthan of Shri Ram in Ayodhya proved to be a major watershed in the history of post-1947 India.

Maldives' Muizzu has joined camp China. Space for diplomacy with India has shrunk

After completing his first state-visit to China with great pomp and show, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu returned to Male to take stock of the soured relations with India. The ties between the two countries were already on rocky ground, with Muizzu demanding Indian troops leave the island nation and his government not renewing an agreement allowing India to conduct hydrographic surveys in Maldivian waters. But over the last six days, more dominoes have fallen in quick succession. The question is: will Muizzu pick up the pieces or leave them where they are? The latest controversy was triggered by disparaging remarks made by three Muizzu ministers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indians at large. References to Indians drinking cow urine were a low blow but it wasn't until Indians on social media began encouraging a tourism boycott of Maldives that Male issued a statement distancing itself from the ministers' remarks and then suspended them. Some Maldivian MPs like Eva Abdullah suggested issuing a formal apology to India, and former vice president Ahmed Adeeb told me

in an interview that all of this could've been avoided if Muizzu had rang Modi. If Muizzu's latest trip is any indication, it's that he's unabashedly in China's camp. He praised China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and, in what was perceived as a slight to India, called for Beijing to reclaim its number one spot as the country sending most tourists to Maldives. (Last year, India held the top spot with over 2 lakh tourists flocking to the island nation). Sure, Muizzu and Modi had a sit-down on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai last month, but his interaction with Chinese First Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang at the same event was far warmer. China-Maldives relations will "thrive" under Muizzu's leadership, a statement from the President's Office shortly after the meeting said. With Bollywood celebrities like Akshay Kumar weighing in on the controversy, hashtag #BoycottMaldives trending on social media, Indian travel agencies cancelling flights to Male, and Indian news outlets keenly covering every facet of Muizzu's visit to China makes the island nation ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. By choosing

China as his first official foreign visit since assuming office, Muizzu immediately set himself apart from his predecessors, most of whom picked India for their first trip. Even former president Abdulla Yameen, viewed as pro-China who even scuttled defence deals with New Delhi, had picked India as his first state visit in 2013. That said, reports indicate that Muizzu's government reached out to New Delhi in November for dates on a proposed visit.

Did New Delhi respond with radio silence? Even if it did, one may argue that a line in the sand had already been drawn at Muizzu's swearing-in ceremony, which Modi skipped. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju instead. It was during this meeting that Male formally requested India to withdraw military personnel from the island nation, which was Muizzu's step in the "India-out" campaign. Inherited from Yameen, this campaign wasn't just election rhetoric; Muizzu meant business. Now that he has inked 20 agreements with China, including one on grant assistance, the space for diplomatic manoeuvring with India has only shrunk.

How do EB-5 visa policy changes affect Indian students seeking US education?

EB-5 VISA

Delhi: The minimum investment duration has changed dramatically due to the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022. These USCIS reforms, enacted on October 11, 2023, allow Indian students greater opportunities to study in the US. The EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 requires investors to put their capital at risk for two years after deployment to the job-creating organization.

Due to RIA reforms, investors no longer need to maintain their investment throughout their conditional resi-

According to research fellows, close to 1,900 beneficiaries across India are awaiting stipends for the last three months and a revision of fellowship amount for the last six months

dence, which may be many years away and contingent on visa availability. The investment must now last at least two years if job creation standards are reached. This policy change streamlines US Green Card applications for investors.

US Immigration Fund

(USIF) President and CMO Nicholas A. Mastroianni III said "the reformed EB-5 program is particularly advantageous for Indian students seeking educational and career opportunities in the US." EB-5 Green Cards allow students to attend top US universities with lower acceptance rates and in-state tuition. The curriculum also offers unlimited job options, allowing students to work off-campus, intern, and get vital work experience to improve their career prospects in the competitive US labor market."

Indian universities ranked A by NAAC are 1 in 3

Around 30 colleges' grades rose significantly between accrediting cycles, prompting NAAC to re-DVV or examine them. Data validation and verification (DVV) is a standard operating process that verifies an institute's figures. Possibly an NAAC first, re-visit sends a new team of academics to campuses to verify scores. published articles in 2023, NAAC admitted "inflated" grades. "Over two cycles, HEIs should improve. The standing committee suggests a re-DVV or revisit if the increase is sufficient to ensure accuracy "NAAC executive committee chairman professor Anil



Sahasrabudhe stated. Before making a decision, an internal staff evaluates the assessment and advises the standing committee. As needed, a different partner or peer-team performs the assessments "said. NAAC's weak standards were highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in March 2023 for "discrepancies"

in its assessment procedure. The grade inflation has left 140 of India's authorized universities with A grades, long coveted. A closer inspection shows that 42 lead with an amazing A++. Eight, mostly private and reputed universities, have scored higher by NAAC than the Indian Institute of Science, the country's top campus according to NIRF.

Canada plans to restrict international student admission

Delhi: The Canadian government plans to reduce overseas student enrollment. "It's really a system that has gotten out of control," Minister for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Marc Miller said, suggesting freezing international student admissions in the coming months.

"That volume is disconcerting," he said CTV News of the 900,000 international students studying in Canada. The Canadian government may have targets, but Miller did not reveal them. We can imagine their numbers and their reduction. As a courtesy to my provincial counter-

parts, we'll have those discussions over the bargaining table first, he told CTV News in a Sunday interview. India has the most international students. By November 2023, they made up 215,910 of 579,075, almost 37%, according to IRCC figures.

CAPSULES

Beyond security, DU's new degree includes the mother's name

Delhi: Respect for both parents is shown by adding the mother's name. University of Delhi (DU) will soon offer 'currency-like', non-tearable polythene degrees with an invisible ink logo and hidden image for security. In addition to strengthened security to prevent forgery and duplication, DU has opted to emphasize the mother's name in the degree. After UGC's 2014 directive to include a mother's name on college, institute, and university degrees and certificates, the topic has gained attention. The UGC issued the directive to help children of unmarried, divorced, and separated moms escape the column father's name shame. DU degrees delivered in 2024 will include the mother's name, student's name, and colored portrait. Students raised by single mothers asked the institution to incorporate their mother's name in their degrees. Arora said the University answered their needs one-on-one, but this year we integrated it in the degree to provide a permanent solution. Arora said the directive is about respecting moms or both parents. New security features help identify legitimate certificates. Furthermore, these certificates will be waterproof, heat-resistant, chemical-resistant, and color-resistant and quality-retaining up to 200 degrees Celsius. The convocation trencher (gown) will also change at DU. We are constructing a traditional Indian ethnic attire for the convocation ceremony to add an Indian touch. Arora said this will enable pupils to showcase their rich Indian culture.

Mate, kem cho! the first foreign institution to open a campus in India, Deakin institution in Australia visits Gujarat

● "The University Grants Commission (UGC) gave international universities permission to establish and run campuses in India"



Australia's Deakin University has become the first foreign university to open a campus in India. Philip Green, Australia's High Commissioner to India, officially opened the GIFT City campus in the Gandhinagar area of Gujarat. "It fills me with great pride that Deakin University in GIFT City, Australia, is the first university in the world to open a campus in India. This is just the start of

a new chapter in the educational relationship between Australia and India, according to a statement from Green. The University Grants Commission (UGC) gave international universities permission to establish and run campuses in India two months ago. This was in keeping with the 2020 National Education Policy

(NEP) recommendations. Deakin University is a public university in Victoria, Australia, that was established in 1974. At its new branch campus in Gujarat, Indian students will be able to study Master of Business Analytics and Master of Cybersecurity (Professional) courses commencing July this year.

Courses Increase, But SOL Lacks Space

Delhi: With more courses provided under the National Education Policy 2020 and more students at Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL), infrastructure upgrades are needed. SOL's North Campus building is so crowded that students had to take exams in tents last month. Exam space is a serious concern for SOL students, who only see teachers on weekends. There are 15 weekend honours and 15 pass classes, sometimes overlapping. Two



courses were added. The Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course is now offered online on Saturdays. Core discipline-specific and generic electives are taught in person on Sundays. In 2019, SOL

built a seven-story facility in Tahirpur, east Delhi, for student convenience. Two further centers in Rohini and Uttam Nagar were planned. Protests by first-year students after the Choice Based Credit System prompted the

decision. Students complained that the study centers were far away and didn't have adequate space for weekend personal contact program classes. Tahirpur's building is unfinished. We got no land in Rohini or Uttam Nagar, says SOL director Payal Mago. The new building opens in June for the new academic year. The school contains 1,000 seats and two labs with 250 computers. Four classrooms on each floor allow 1,500 students to take exams."

Blue Tigers lost Group B opening 2-0 to Australia



The AFC Asian Cup 2023 has begun. After the opener, India and Australia played the Group B curtain-raiser. The Socceroos won 2-0. India fought hard and exceeded expectations after holding Australia to 0-0 at half-time. Defending with heart, the Blue Tigers let nothing through. Australia made it through in the 50th minute when Jackson Irvine scored. Left back Jordan Bos added a second in the 73rd minute to seal the win

for Australia. In addition to affecting both clubs' group standings, the result affected their FIFA Rankings. After losing 2-0 to Australia in their opening AFC Asian Cup 2023 game, the Indian football team would slide to 106 from 102. This applies regardless of their next two group matches against Uzbekistan and Syria. The Blue Tigers will drop four places to 106th in the latest FIFA rankings in a few days. India lost 7.47 points

due to their loss and goals surrendered. However, the Socceroos have started their AFC Asian Cup 2023 campaign well and are poised to rise in the FIFA Rankings. Following their 2-0 win over India, Australia will rise to 24th. The Australian men's rankings haven't changed much, but this will improve their confidence heading into the event. They have 7.47 points after their first tournament win.

DU orders colleges to install CCTV 'in front of girls' washrooms, dressing rooms' during fests

Delhi: The Delhi University has ordered colleges to install CCTV cameras outside women's bathrooms and changing rooms during fests. After IIT-Delhi ladies were secretly filmed changing, the advise was issued. To prevent accidents, the university has urged its colleges and departments to install CCTV cameras at every institute and hostel entrances. In light of the IIT-Delhi incident, we added fest guidelines per Delhi Police suggestions. We urged institutions to install CCTV in front of females' washrooms and dressing rooms during fests for student safety "DU proctor Rajni Abbi said. In October 2023,



10 Bharti College students from Delhi University claimed they were surreptitiously caught changing in an IIT-Delhi restroom during a fashion presentation at the fest. Police detained a 20-year-old contractu-

al sweeper and placed him in judicial detention. Kishangarh police registered a voyeurism case under Indian Penal Code section 354C.

The amended guidelines require colleges to inspect their

perimeter walls before large events and install low concertina wires to prevent strangers from scaling them. The advice recommends centralized public announcements at all institute entrances. Any institute must organize an advanced security liaison meeting with all stakeholders before inviting outside students to a large event. The advise also limits event attendance, hires door frame metal detectors, and covers gloomy spots with lights. Google Forms should restrict event entry, and copies must be sent to the police and other departments, the warning said.

IIT, NIT experts to help AICTE evaluate engineering college seat increases

Delhi: A top official said the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has hired over 700 faculty from the Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology to evaluate its affiliated technical colleges before increasing seats. Last month, the technical education regulator lifted the intake cap for top-performing institutions that maintained high education quality. Technical colleges may have 240 seats in any one branch before. Member secretary Rajive Kumar said the council has begun 2024-25 seat clearance. He said it hired top experts to inspect universities before providing authorization. Kumar added, "The council has specified some quality parameters for all technical Institutions, including sufficient faculty, fully equipped laboratories and updated infrastructure."

Fifteen young individuals were conferred with the National Youth Award at 27th National Youth Festival 2024

New Delhi : The 27th National Youth Award was successfully held in Nashik on January 15, 2024, during the 4th day of the National Festival. Fifteen youth from across the country were honored with the National Youth Award 2021 during this event, presented by the esteemed Hon. Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Nisith Pramanik. The ceremony was attended by Hon. Ms. Vanita Sood, Director of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Hon. Mr. Radhakrishna Game, Commissioner of the respective department, and Hon. Dr. Suhas Diwase, the respected Sports Commissioner of Maharashtra. The recipients of the National Youth Award during the National Youth Festival in Nashik are as follows:

1. Mr. Adhi Daiv (17), Gurugram, Haryana
2. Mr. Ankit Singh (29), Chhatrapur, Madhya Pradesh
3. Mr. Bisathi Bharat (28),



4. Mr. Keval Kishorbhai Pavara (27), Botad, Gujarat
5. Ms. Pallavi Thakur (26), Pathankot, Punjab
6. Mr. Prabhat Fogat (25), Jhajjar, Haryana
7. Mr. Ram Babu Sharma (28), Jaipur, Rajasthan
8. Mr. Rohit Kumar (29), Chandigarh
9. Ms. Sakshi Anand (26), Patna, Bihar
10. Mr. Samrat Basak (28), Dhalai, Tripura
11. Mr. Satyadev Arya (30), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
12. Ms. Vaishnavi Shyam Gotmare (26), Akola, Maharashtra
13. Ms. Vidhi Subhash Palsapure (26), Latur, Maharashtra
14. Ms. Vinisha Umashankar (17),

Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu

15. Mr. Vivek Parihar, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

The National Youth Award is conferred upon individuals aged 15 to 29 for outstanding contributions in the fields of national or social service. This award aims to instill a sense of responsibility towards their community, fostering personal growth as responsible citizens. Presented annually during the National Youth Festival, it marks the beginning of the celebrations commemorating Swami Vivekananda's birthday. The ceremony took place at the Maha Yuva Gram Hanuman Nagar in the city.

EPACK Durable Limited Initial Public Offer to open on January 19, 2024



Gurugram: EPACK Durable Limited ("EPACK" or the "Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Friday, January 19, 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares of face value 10 each aggregating up to comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to 4,000 million [400 crore] ("Fresh Issue") and offer for sale of up to 10,437,047 Equity Shares. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Thursday, January 18, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Friday, January 19, 2024 for subscription and close on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 218 to 230 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 65 Equity Shares and in multiples of 65 Equity Shares thereafter. The Company pro-

poses to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares to funding capital expenditure for the expansion / setting up of manufacturing facilities, repayment and / or prepayment, in part or in full, of certain outstanding loans of our Company and general corporate purpose (the "Objects of Issue"). The offer for sale of up to ("Offered Shares") comprising up to 1,172,976 Equity Shares by Bajrang Bothra, up to 666,798 Equity Shares by Laxmi Pat Bothra, up to 748,721 Equity Shares by Sanjay Singhania, up to 748,721 Equity Shares by Ajay DD Singhania (collectively, the "Promoter Selling

Shareholders"), up to 286,351 Equity Shares by Pinky Ajay Singhania, up to 286,351 Equity Shares by Preity Singhania, up to 442,905 Equity Shares by Nikhil Bothra, up to 442,905 Equity Shares by Nitin Bothra, up to 379,633 Equity Shares by Rajjat Kumar Bothra (collectively, the "Promoter Group Selling Shareholders"), up to 4,630,284 equity shares by India Advantage fund S4 I and up to 631,402 Equity Shares by Dynamic India fund S4 US I (collectively, the "Investor Selling Shareholders", and together with the Promoter Selling Shareholders and the Promoter Group Selling Shareholders, the "Selling Shareholders", and such offer for sale of Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholders, "the Offer for Sale").

Abu Dhabi Chamber obtains three ISO certificates

DUBAI: The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has obtained three ISO certificates for its dedication to upholding the highest international standards and optimal global management practices in quality, environmental sustainability, and occupation-

health. The certificates include the ISO certificate for quality management systems (ISO 9001:2015), the ISO certificate for environmental management systems (ISO 14001:2015), and the ISO certificate for occupational health man-

agement systems (ISO 45001:2018), after successfully passing all requirements and conditions for external auditing. Ahmed Khalifa Al Qubaisi, Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Chamber, said, "The success of the Abu Dhabi Chamber in passing the external audit.



Paving the digital highway: Netplus and the future of connectivity in Punjab

As the digital landscape evolves, the telecom industry stands at the forefront of this transformation, reshaping how people connect and communicate. In Punjab, a region embracing technological advancements, Netplus, under the visionary leadership of Gurdeep Singh, is playing a pivotal role in revolutionising connectivity.

Netplus, a broadband service provider subsidiary of Juhar Group is known for its connection speeds and customer retention rate.

Netplus Broadband is one of the fastest-growing ISP in the region, providing next-gen services such as high-speed broadband, smart telephony & OTT. With an exponential rise in data consumption, the introduction of 5G technology, and a growing emphasis on seamless connection, the telecom sector is undergoing a seismic transformation. It is no longer enough just to be connected; it is also necessary to be connected quickly, reliably, and securely. Netplus has been at the forefront of this transformation in Punjab. Speaking on this, Gurdeep Singh, Chairman, and Founder, shares Netplus's story and its role in influencing the future of connectivity. "Netplus has been proactive in embracing technological advancements. We recognized the burgeoning demand for high-speed internet and expanded our infrastructure to provide reliable fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) services. Moreover, we're closely monitoring the 5G landscape, preparing to integrate this cutting-edge technology into our services as soon as it becomes available in Punjab. Our priority has always been customer satisfaction and technological innovation.

China's military and government acquire Nvidia chips despite US ban

BEIJING: Chinese military bodies, state-run artificial intelligence research institutes and universities have over the past year purchased small batches of Nvidia semiconductors banned by the US from export to China, a Reuters review of tender documents show. The sales by largely unknown Chinese suppliers highlight the difficulties Washington faces, despite its bans, in completely cutting off China's access to advanced US chips that could fuel breakthroughs in AI and sophisticated computers for its military. Buying or selling high-end US chips is not illegal in China and the publicly available tender documents show dozens of Chinese entities have bought and taken receipt of Nvidia semiconductors since restrictions were imposed. These

● "The graphic processing units - a type of chip - that are built by Nvidia are widely seen as far superior to rival products for AI work"

include its A100 and the more powerful H100 chip - whose exports to China and Hong Kong were banned in September 2022 - as well as the slower A800 and H800 chips Nvidia then developed for the Chinese market but which were also banned last October. The graphic processing units - a type of chip - that are built by Nvidia are widely seen as far superior to rival products for AI work as they can more effi-

ciently process huge amounts of data needed for machine-learning tasks. The continued demand for and access to banned Nvidia chips also underlines the lack of good alternatives for Chinese firms despite the nascent development of rival products from Huawei and others. Prior to the bans, Nvidia commanded a 90% share of China's AI chip market. Purchasers included elite universities as well as two entities subject to US export restrictions - the Harbin Institute of Technology and the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, which have been accused of involvement in military matters or being affiliated to a military body contrary to US national interest.

Lord Shri Ram is the great hero of our Sanatan culture: Amarjeet Chhabra

Kaithal: President of Haryana Pradesh Rice Millers and Dealers Association, Haryana, Amarjeet Chhabra said that Lord Shri Ram resides in every pore of our being and today the years old dream of our ancestors is coming true and on January 22, Ayodhya Ramlala is going to be seated in the huge and grand Shri Ram temple built in 1915. Pran Pratishtha program is also organized on the same day and every Indian has excitement and enthusiasm about this program. Amarjeet Chhabra was speaking at a meeting in the town today after Guru Gorakh Nath Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Bhandara Samiti Kaithal joined the 60-



day-long Bhandara Samagri Yatra in Ayodhya in Karnal. During this, Amarjeet Chhabra and other members were also honored by giving mementos by BJP District President Karnal Yogendra Rana and Brahmin Sabha Karnal President Surendra Sharma. While talking here, State President Amarjeet Chhabra said that Lord Shri Ram is the great hero of our Sanatan culture, which is the oldest culture in the world. Ram is present in

every particle and every particle is Ram. Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Ram accepted exile for 14 years to fulfill the promise of his father and at that time he demonstrated the unity of Sanatan culture by eating the false berries of Mother Shabari.

State President Chhabra said that under the guidance of the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a grand temple of Lord Shri Ram has been built in Ayodhya, a Pran Pratishtha

program will be organized there on January 22, to fulfill whatever Narendra Modi had said before. Have done the work. For example, removal of Article 370, abolition of triple talaq and now construction of Ram temple. He said that we have now got real independence and Ram Lalla is going to reside in Ayodhya. People all over India have faith in Lord Shri Ram, our ancestors struggled a lot for the construction of Ram temple. Amarjeet Chhabra said that now after 34 years, we are getting a chance to go to Ayodhya again and when Lord Shri Ram, who resides in every pore of all of us, is going to be present in the grand temple.

Two incidents of skirmishes between Indian, Chinese troops along LAC come to light

NEW DELHI: There have been recent revelations of two previously undisclosed instances of clashes between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

These incidents were brought to light through citations for gallantry awards bestowed upon Indian Army personnel. The citations were read out during an investiture ceremony by the Army's Western Command, which took place last week.

They provided brief accounts of how Indian troops responded firmly to the aggressive behaviour exhibited by soldiers from China's Liberation Army (PLA) along the LAC. The Army's Western Command, headquartered in Chandimandir, had initially uploaded a video of the ceremony on its

YouTube channel, featuring commentary on the gallantry awards. However, the video was deactivated on Monday. The incidents mentioned in the citations occurred between September 2021 and November 2022. The Army has not yet issued any official statement regarding these developments. Since the clashes in Galwan Valley in June 2020, the Indian Army has maintained a high level of combat readiness along the 3,488 km-long LAC. Over the past three and a half years, there have been multiple skirmishes between Indian and Chinese troops following the border dispute in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020. The Chinese troops also attempted a transgression in the Tawang sector of the LAC. On December 9, 2022, PLA

troops made an unsuccessful attempt to transgress the LAC in the Yangtse area of the Tawang Sector, resulting in a unilateral change in the status quo. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed Parliament four days later and confirmed that the Indian troops firmly contested the Chinese attempt. Several Indian Army personnel involved in countering the transgression were honoured with gallantry awards during the investiture ceremony. Singh stated, "The ensuing face-off led to a physical scuffle in which the Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts." He further mentioned that the scuffle resulted in injuries to personnel from both sides.

Canada sees drastic fall in Indian student visas amidst ongoing diplomatic row

Canada

Canada's issuance of study permits to Indian students plummeted in the latter part of last year, influenced by the expulsion of Canadian diplomats from India, pivotal in the permit processing. This dip also reflects a dip in applications amidst diplomatic tensions tied to the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil, as disclosed by immigration minister Marc Miller to Reuters. Diplomatic tensions linger. Minister Miller doesn't foresee a quick recovery in the number of study permits issued to Indian students. The diplomatic rift was ignited when Canadian Prime



Minister Justin Trudeau, in June, implicated Indian government agents in Nijjar's murder in British Columbia. "Our relationship with India has really halved our ability to process a lot of applications from India," Miller remarked. In October, a directive from New Delhi led Canada to withdraw 41 diplomats, shrinking

its Indian staff by two-thirds. Concurrently, the diplomatic dispute has nudged Indian students towards educational prospects in other nations, a phenomenon noted by a spokesperson for the minister. The repercussions were stark, with an 86% plunge in study permits issued to Indians in the last quarter compared to

the previous, tumbling to 14,910 from 108,940.

Gurusubramanian, counselor for the High Commission of India in Ottawa, highlighted a growing trend of Indian students exploring alternatives due to concerns about living and educational amenities in some Canadian institutions. Dominant demographic Traditionally, Indians have been the largest cohort among international students in Canada, seizing over 41% of all permits in 2022, equating to 225,835 individuals. Uncertain horizon "I can't tell you about how the diplomatic relationship will evolve, particularly if police.

Fewer flights cancelled at key airports, delays persist

NEW DELHI: The impact of the fog in Delhi appeared to thin out Tuesday at other major airports, with most reporting fewer cancellations even as long delays continued to pile on terminal trauma.

In Mumbai, only a small fraction of the flights were hit. The city saw 17 cancellations, down from 50 on Monday and 30 on Sunday. Market leader IndiGo accounted for most of Tuesday's cancellations. Pune's pain seemed lesser but only just, with 12 cancellations on Tuesday -- five departures and seven arrivals. The affected flights were to and from Delhi, Chandigarh, Guwahati and Goa, airport director Santosh Dhoke said. The delays led to chaos and furious passengers demanding answers from airline staffers. Praphul Kumar reached the Pune airport at 4am for a 6.05am flight to Ranchi.

Mahesh Babu is great as the horny Ramana in Trivikram Srinivas' movie

Delhi, the makers of Guntur Kaaram finally showed the movie's trailer. The movie has Mahesh Babu, Sreeleela, and Meenakshi Chaudhary in the lead parts. It was directed by Trivikram Srinivas. Fans of the actor have been dying to see him on screen since 2022, so the video got a lot of views. Mahesh Babu is in great shape in the video as Ramana, who says a lot of lines and throws punches with ease. The movie would also be shown, and some of the other personalities would be shown. Ramya Krishnan is a woman who has left her oldest son, Ramana, who grows up in Guntur. Jagapathi Babu seems to play her father, and Sreeleela is the girl he falls in love with. A look at the video also shows that the movie might be sad when it comes to Ramana's family. As Vyra Venkat Ramana Reddy in Guntur Kaaram, Sreeleela plays Keerthi aka Ammu, and Meenakshi Chaudhary



Sethupathi says his Merry Christmas role with Katrina startled people

Delhi: Katrina Kaif googled Vijay Sethupathi after Sriram Raghavan told her he would feature opposite her in Merry Christmas: 'I didn't make this initial connection...' Katrina Kaif and Vijay are rejoicing as

reviews and audiences love Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas. Katrina recently revealed that she had to research Vijay when the director told her he might place him opposite her.

Vinod. Since pre-production began, the film went through a lot, with cast and team changes. It was first planned for Pooja Hegde to play Sreeleela's part, but the actor was meant to play Meenakshi's. But things didn't go as planned, and Pooja quit the project.

plays Raji. The movie has important parts for Jagapathi Babu, Ramya Krishnan, Jayaram, Easwari Rao, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Brahmanna, Mahesh Achanta, and Raghu Babu. Music for the movie was written by Thaman S, and it was shot by Manoj Paramahansa and PS

Glad I Suggested HanuMan Title: Chiranjeevi

Director Prasanth Varma and hero Teja Sajja's superhero film Hanu-Man opens this month. The crew had a grand pre-release celebration with megastar Chiranjeevi as the guest of honor. Teja Sajja looked emotional when speaking to his idol Chiranjeevi, his biggest influence. "I grew up watching Chiranjeevi garu and his films. Being his Ekalavya Sishya. I get to make 4 movies with him. My existence depends on him. He treated me like family. Prasanth Varma is essential to the film. He portrays me as a superhero in the film. Just like Rajamouli is for Ram



Charan, Puri is for Ravi Teja, Prasanth Varma is for me. I starred with Mahesh Babu, Nagarjuna, Venkatesh. I wish Hanu-Man and all Sankranthi movies fare well. Movie offers fun, action, and other entertainment. Many movie scenes will give you goosebumps." Director Prasanth Varma thanked producer Niranjan Reddy for believing in the film most. I advised my father to become a

director in a year. I became a director 12 years after entering the field. Teja aided my journey. He loves movies more than me. Getting a movie deal is great, but making and releasing it is hard. Hanuman supports us. Sri Chiranjeevi supported our film like Hanuman. Socio-fantasy film Hanu-Man." Chiranjeevi recounted his youth and Hanuman's influence on

Tom Cruise is "working on Top Gun 3" with a fresh production

Actor Tom Cruise is collaborating with Paramount on "Top Gun 3" in spite of his lucrative contract with a competing company. The 61-year-old actor, who is most known for playing Pete Mitchell in "Top Gun" and IMP agent Ethan Hunt in the beloved series "Mission:

Impossible," is working on a new Top Gun sequel, according to Mirror.co.uk. According to rumors, Tom is producing a new "Top Gun" film with Paramount even though he recently inked a Warner Brothers pact. Tom and David Zaslav, the head of Warner Brothers, shook hands a few days

ago when they revealed that the "Mission: Impossible" star would be joining the venerable film companies as a key producer for numerous franchise projects. He will star in the films that he works on; the agreement is being referred to as a "strategic partnership".

Rakhi Sawant's request for pre-arrest bail was denied

Delhi: Actor Rakhi Sawant's request for anticipatory bail was recently denied by a sessions court in Mumbai. The actor's spouse had filed a case saying that Sawant had leaked their personal videos. Sawant was charged with violating the Indian Penal Code's defamation provisions as well as the pertinent provisions of the Information Technology Act. The complaint states that on August 25, 2023, Sawant displayed two videos on a TV broadcast.

Sawant filed a pre-arrest bail plea, alleging that her spouse was facing accusations, including harassment. She said that



she had assisted with the investigation and that no crime had been proven against her. Given that the allegedly in question videos were shared on WhatsApp, the prosecution objected to her

plea. The court stated that the electronic equipment that were allegedly used to transfer the material have not yet been confiscated and considered a case that was comparable to one that was brought against Sawant.

For Lay's, Ranbir and Neetu Kapoor

Delhi: Lay's "Issey Kehte Hain Pyaar" campaign is clever and relatable. In the campaign, brand ambassador Ranbir Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor play a comical battle between love and taste as Lay's tempting taste tests unbreakable connections. The commercial vividly depicts the mother-son duo's humorous tussle for a bag of Lay's chips. Lay's taste is irresistible, testing even the strongest relationships. No one abandons their Lay's. In the first film of the humorous 'Issey Kehte Hain Pyaar' series, brand spokesperson Ranbir Kapoor and his mother, Neetu Kapoor, compete



for their favorite Lay's. Ranbir begins as the perfect son, helping Neetu with chores every day. Neetu seeks for her lost Lay's, a pack Ranbir left with him, thickening the amusing narrative. The film is just the appetizer;

expect suspense, hilarity, and unexpected twists in their epic snack showdown. In this thrilling series, love, loyalty, and a bag of Lay's are tested to the limit.

he Raid 2 cast includes Riteish Deshmukh.

Raid 2's cast is solidifying. Riteish Deshmukh will join Ajay Devgn in the update. Role details are out. Riteish Deshmukh will play Raid 2's antagonist opposite Ajay Devgn. This is an intriguing shift from their comic picture cooperation. Devgn took photos with Riteish Deshmukh and the film crew. He wrote, "Brothers by bond, rivals by choice."

We write most performers' Hindi dialogues in English



At 'Hindi and Urdu: Siamese Twins' in Delhi, Javed Akhtar discussed linguistic origins, forms, and use. Akhtar noted that most young performers can only read English, thus all dialogues are now written in Roman type (English). "Now we write Hindi dialogues in English for most new actors." Punjabi was taught to the writer and lyricist in Maharashtra. Main film industry mein '60s

mein. Director, cameraman, assistant director, and actors—main Punjabi Maharashtra mein seekha hoon!" There are no Urdu phrases without Hindi: Akhtar "I challenge you to think of an Urdu phrase without using Hindi terms," Akhtar stated, discussing Urdu-Hindi ties.

It's impossible to discover such a term. You can't speak Urdu without Hindi. Syntax and

90% vocabulary are identical. Why can't scholars, writers, and researchers create a Hindustani dictionary for the vanished language? A dictionary of Hindi and Urdu best terms. Our vocabulary will be rich!" He said he writes for Indians, not language speakers. He said, "I write Hindustani for Hindustanism, not Urduwallahs or Hindiwallahs. Writing for Hindus."

Review of Captain Miller

Delhi: Dhanush plays tribal, illiterate villager Annalesan (Eesa) in Captain Miller. Eesa is from a village ruled by the monarchs before the British took over. The people, who cannot enter the Shiva temple, think they must defend the shrine and the land their ancestors gave them. Eesa joins the military to get respect and independence after his family betrays his mother and he witnesses the kings' horrors. His brother Sengolan (Kannada star Shiva Rajkumar) tries to convince Eesa to join the liberation fight instead of serving the British in an intriguing discourse. Eesa wonderfully describes why he chose British slavery over his own humiliation. Eesa rebels after being told to slaughter and bury his people and joins a gang of dacoits who plunder the British and lead India's freedom fight. Eesa's rise from reluctant commoner to purposeful leader is intriguing. G V Prakash Kumar's background score is perfect, amplifying the plot and characters. The writing and cam-



ECI national symbol Pankaj Tripathi retires

Pankaj Tripathi was appointed as the National Icon of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 2022. The actor has now stepped down from the role because of his upcoming film Main Atal Hoon, in which he plays former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The actor said he "had written to the ECI before the

erawork shine. Dhanush rescues this epic and delivers a social epilogue that almost justifies his misdeeds, just as you start to yawn. Good female characters are in the supporting

release of the film's trailer." The ECI spokesperson said in a statement, "Acknowledging his role as a political leader in an upcoming film, actor Pankaj Tripathi has voluntarily stepped down as ECI National Icon as per terms of MoU. ECI expresses gratitude for his impactful contribution.

cast. We expected more from this director than dialogue-only female roles. The characters' erudite conversations on equal rights, life's dignity, and freedom are Captain Miller's heart.

Vivek Oberoi recalls Dabangg



Delhi: The highly anticipated Rohit Shetty cop series Indian Police Force premieres this month. Sidharth Malhotra leads this action-packed show, with Shilpa Shetty and Vivek Oberoi playing key roles. Vivek recalled Dabangg and discussed working on the Rohit Shetty-directed series. The Indian Police Force squad played a cop quiz at the Pinkvilla Masterclass, guessing popular cop movies from tips. Even Sonakshi's thappad dialogue." Vivek Oberoi, a former cop, was excited to join Rohit Shetty's cop universe. He said, "Being part of Rohit bhai's cop-verse was the most thrilling thing I looked forward to straight away.

CAPSULES

Ramnagari will provide a glimpse of 'navya' Ayodhya along with the grand Ram temple CM Yogi

Ayodhya

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has transformed Ayodhya in the past few years. The Yogi-led government has implemented development projects worth thousands of crores in Ayodhya and the city is ready to welcome devotees and tourists with open arms. It is noteworthy that grand temple of Lord Shri Ram is ready in Ayodhya, while the city is being adorned in view of the consecration ceremony to be held on January 22. With majestic entrance gates, shining sun pillars on the road, classic mural paintings, clean and wide streets, clean Sarayu river, beautiful ghats, supernatural aura of Ram Ki Paidi, and shops built in uniform pattern, the 'Navya' Ayodhya is set to leave visitors awestruck. Welcoming devotees with clean roads as one enters the city of Ayodhya, well-maintained paved roads warmly greet them. Sun pillars lining the road enhance the beauty of the city even in the darkness of the night. The entrance gate itself gives the feeling of entering a divine city. Throughout the way, devotees will encounter exquisite wall paintings depicting the glory of Lord Ram, filling them with devotion. In contrast to previous governments, CM Yogi, upon taking office, has revitalized the Sarayu River and its ghats. The Yogi government has not only cleaned the river, but also constructed clean ghats here spending several crores of rupees. The government is trying to ensure a certain water level at the ghats throughout the year with the help of a team of experts. Cleanliness is also being maintained at all the ghats so that people can take bath at whichever ghat they want to. The daily Sarayu Aarti contributes to the sanctity of the ghats. Now, the government is also planning to introduce cruises and boat rides which will further enhance the experience of devotees. Lata Chowk becomes the center point of Ayodhya at the intersection leading from Sarayu Ghat to Ram Lalla's temple, a large veena is prominently placed at Lata Mangeshkar Chowk or Veena Chowk. In the course of Ayodhya's development, the double-engine government has established it as a central point of the city. It also attracts heavy coverage from national and international media. It further attracts people to take selfies with veena. Additionally, various activities are currently taking place, such as students from the Fine Arts department creating rangolis on the road leading from here to the Ram temple. The vicinity of the intersection is bustling with tea and snack shops, creating a lively atmosphere. Ram Ki Paidi serves as a centre of devotion. Serving as a link between ancient and 'navya' Ayodhya, Ram Ki Paidi is not only a center of devotion but also a delightful spot for families to spend time together, enjoying cultural events along the riverbank. The water of Sarayu River has been brought here through an artificial channel and it has emerged as a positive medium towards realizing the lost glory of Ayodhya as a heritage city. The Uttar Pradesh government has invested Rs 105.65 crores in various restoration and development projects, adorning Ram Ki Paidi with a new and grand appearance. Ram Ki Paidi is a series of ghats located along the banks of the Sarayu River, believed to be the place where Lord Ram used to bathe. Currently, various stages have been set up here, hosting a variety of programs, interviews, and discussions with saints and sages. Devotees are amazed after seeing the splendor of Ayodhya. The entire Ayodhya is being decorated, leaving devotees astounded with its majestic appearance. The route towards Hanuman Garhi Temple includes well-paved road, shops adorned in saffron on both sides, create a consistent theme leading up to the Shri Ram Temple. Notably, cleaners are working in three shifts, dedicating 8 hours each. Even late into the night sanitation workers are diligently carrying out their duties. Along the path to the Ram Temple, there are free lockers provided to store shoes, sandals, and belongings. There's an ongoing bhandara near the temple. It is noteworthy that devotees from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala are arriving in large numbers in Ayodhya. Sikh pilgrims are also reaching for darshan of Lord Shri Ram. Sadhus and saints are deeply immersed in devotion, chanting prayers and hymns. The song 'Nagri ho Ayodhya si' resonates with devotees' feelings, leaving them fulfilled and thrilled.

No bullets will be fired in Ayodhya now, devotees will be given laddoos: CM Yogi

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that curfew would no longer be imposed in the new Ayodhya, rather there would be 'Sankirtan' (devotional songs' rendition) in the name of Lord Shri Ram. Bullets will never be fired here now, instead Ram devotees will get laddoos, he added, pointing out that now no one will dare to stop Panchkosi, 14 Kosi and 84 Kosi parikrama in Ayodhya. Chief Minister Yogi was expressing his views on Tuesday on the occasion of handing over of the special clothes prepared for



Shri Ram Lalla by 12 lakh handicraftsmen of the country to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust under an innovative effort of the Heritage Handweaving Revival Charitable Trust. Speaking at the program held at the Chief Minister's residence, Chief Minister Yogi said that no work is done in

the consecration ceremony of the new idol of Ram Lalla in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple on January 22, the Chief Minister said that though Ram is the Supreme God who is omnipresent with his essence in every particle, the consecration of his idol in the new temple symbolizes re-establishment of public faith and trust. The issue of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi has always been alive over the past 500 years, sometimes because of revered saints, sometimes kings and princes and sometimes religious warriors.

In a first, Yogi govt to operate solar-powered boat in Sarayu

Ayodhya

In pursuit of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to transform Ayodhya into a model solar city, for the first time in the country, a solar power-enabled e-boat has been launched in the Sarayu River. In accordance with the directives of Chief Minister Yogi, the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Agency (UPNE-DA) has prepared the outline for the regular

operation of this boat service in the Sarayu River of Ayodhya. This boat has been assembled on the banks of Sarayu Ghat and its spare parts and other accessories have been procured from different corners of the country. Currently, one boat has been fully assembled, and it is undergoing the testing phase.

It is expected that it will be inaugurated by CM Yogi before the consecration program to be

held at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple on January 22, paving the way for regular operation of other such boats in the coming days. Solar power enabled boat special in many ways. This solar-powered boat works on the concept of operating through clean energy. It is a dual-mode operating boat that works on a 100 percent solar electric power base. In addition to solar charging, it can also be operated

using electric energy. Notably, this boat belongs to the catamaran category, under which two hull structures can be converted into one boat structure by joining them. Constructed with a lightweight and durable fiberglass body, this boat ensures a noise-free and environmentally friendly operation. Accommodating up to 30 passengers, it will operate from the Naya ghat.

CM warns officials against negligence in helping victims: Chief Minister

Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to address public issues with utmost seriousness, sensitivity and attention as well as ensure satisfactory solutions and also warned of action in case of negligence in helping victims. He added that the land mafia who illegally encroach on land and exploit the weak should not be spared under any circumstances.

During his stay in Gorakhpur, the Chief Minister met about 150 people at the Janata Darshan organized at Gorakhnath temple on

Tuesday morning. After listening to their issues patiently, the Chief Minister referred their prayer letters to the concerned officials and instructed them for prompt and satisfactory disposal of all their issues. He assured everyone that no injustice would be done to anyone during his tenure. Some people complained about land grabbing by the land mafia.

In response, CM Yogi assured that no weak or poor person would be oppressed during his tenure. He further directed the administration and police officials

present in the vicinity to identify and take strict legal action against those forcibly occupying land.

The Chief Minister assured of providing full help in the treatment of all those seeking financial aid from the government. He directed officials to expedite the estimation of cost of treatment and to make it available to the government as soon as possible so that the required funds could be released. He also directed officials to resolve matters related to revenue and police with complete transparency and impartiality.

Artisan of Kashi creates Ram Temple's replica with gold, silver & diamonds

Varanasi

As the consecration ceremony is around the corner, everyone is trying to make whatever contribution they can, to connect themselves with the Shri Ram Temple. In this sequence, national award winning handicraftsman Kunj Bihari from Kashi, who has expertise in Gulabi Meenakari, has crafted a replica of Shri Ram Temple with gold, silver, and diamonds in 108 days. Notably, Gulabi Meenakari is included in GI and ODOP products. A resident of Gai Ghat in



Varanasi Kunj Bihari claims that, for the first time, the replica of the Shri Ram Temple has been created using Gulabi Meenakari. "It took 108 days to create this artwork. Gulabi

Meenakari involves the use of gold and silver. The replica weighs approximately 2.5 kilograms, measuring 12 inches in height, 8 inches in width, and 12 inches in length.

Govt sets up tribunal to assess if J&K-based Tehreek-e-Hurriyat should be banned

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday set up a tribunal, led by a judge from the Delhi High Court, to assess whether there are sufficient grounds to declare the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), a pro-Pakistan separatist group based in Jammu and Kashmir, as an unlawful association.

The government had previously banned the organization for five years on December 31, citing its involvement in terrorism and anti-India propaganda under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

According to a notification by the Union home ministry, exercising the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 read with sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (37 of 1967), the Central government constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Sachin Datta, Judge, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), Jammu and Kashmir, as an unlawful association.

The government's decision to ban the group was based on its involvement in fostering terrorism and spreading anti-India propaganda within the Union territory.

The ministry of home affairs stated that the TeH aims to separate Jammu and Kashmir from India and establish Islamic rule in the region. It further noted that the organization's leaders and members have been raising funds from various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organizations, to support unlawful activities such as terrorism and sustained stone-pelting against security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ministry emphasized that the TeH and its members display a blatant disregard for the constitutional authority and framework of the country. Additionally, it highlighted that the group pays tribute to slain terrorists and actively supports terrorist activities, aiming to create fear and instability within the country, thereby endangering public order and security.

The notification further stated that the TeH and its leaders have engaged in unlawful activities that undermine the integrity, sovereignty, security, and communal harmony of the nation.

Agra sends 56 varieties of petha to Ayodhya in the form of offering for Lord Ram

Ayodhya

Many priceless gifts are being received in Ayodhya for Lord Ram's who is going to be seated in his grand temple on January 22. In this sequence, 560 kg petha of 56 varieties in fifty-six different flavors has been delivered by the famous Panchi Petha of Agra as an offering to Lord Ram. On Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's appeal for public participation, in every section of the society is contributing



for the Ram temple inauguration, in an expression of their devotion and happi-

ness. In addition to Petha, the temple trust has also received gem studded dress, silver plate, other puja material from various places. The 56 varieties of petha sent by Panchi Petha were brought by Agra Trade Board and was accepted at Karsevakpuram in the presence of All India Contact Head of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Ramlal ji and Rajendra Singh Pankaj of Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

CM Yogi kicks off Wall Writing Campaign with slogan "Ek baar phir Modi sarkar, is baar BJP"

Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on the instructions of the national leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), launched the Wall Writing Campaign with the slogan "Ek baar phir Modi sarkar, is baar BJP char sau paar" on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister first drew a lotus flower on the wall of Shri Vishwakarma Bhawan Panchayat temple in Jatashankar and wrote the slogan below it to start the campaign, which aims at enthusing party workers ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-

tions. Addressing the workers present at the event organised by the BJP Metropolitan unit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath exhorted party workers to take the campaign to new heights of success,

like the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programmes to communicate with the voters as well as three massive rallies to be held ahead of the election.

Notice

My real name is Ram Anoop, son of Rambhadra, resident of Raulikalyanpur police station, Bharatkup tehsil, Karvi district, Chitrakoot. Phoolchandra Dwivedi has been added to the Aadhaar card. I want to change my name from Phoolchandra Dwivedi to Ram Anup in Aadhaar card. My real name is Ramanup son of Rambhadra Dwivedi. Only this should be known and understood. My mobile number is-8957722194.