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

ED arrests Soren an hour after party names his CM successor

RANCHI: Hemant Soren was arrested in a land scam by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday, becoming the first sitting chief minister of Jharkhand to be taken into custody in a corruption case. Hours before he was whisked away by ED officials, Hemant handed over his resignation to governor CP Radhakrishnan around 8.30pm, even as the governing Jharkhand Mukti Morcha announced the name of his close aide and transport minister Champai Soren as the next CM. The arrest was a finale of the the cat-and-mouse game played by Hemant with the central agency for the last two days over his questioning in the alleged money laundering in a land scam that involved transfer and settlement of land parcels by forging records and documents. A consensus could not be reached over the name of Hemant's wife Kalpana



Soren for the top post due to a family feud, with his sister-in-law and three-term MLA Sita Soren opposing her name, sources said. This led to six-term MLA Champai emerging as Hemant's successor. Equipped with a letter pledging support of 47 MLAs to Champai in the 81-member house, the governing coalition sought an appointment with the governor.

However, till the time of going to press, the governor had not met the governing coalition and was silent about giving them an audience. JMM leaders

said that in case the governor refused to meet the coalition members, they are prepared to parade the MLAs before the Raj Bhavan and demonstrate their strength. "We are ready for a floor test as per time allowed by Raj Bhavan but before that, it has to pay credence to the fact that even after Hemant's resignation, the existing coalition enjoys a majority," said a JMM leader. Earlier, flanked by ED sleuths, Soren went to Raj Bhavan, sporting a smile, and was taken away soon after he submitted his resignation.

Later, JMM filed a case in high court, challenging his arrest. Nearly three hours after Hemant submitted his resignation, he tweeted from his X handle @HemantSorenJMM: "...haar manunga nahin (Will not accept defeat)." Ahead of the resignation, ED made elaborate security arrangements to counter any backlash from Soren's supporters. ED sleuths came to the CM's residence at 1.20 pm in SUVs, less than an hour after Hemant met his father Shibu Soren to take his blessings.

Government will present full Budget after LS polls, says confident Modi

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi on Wednesday again asserted he would get a third term as PM and a full Budget would be presented after formation of a new government. "As you know, traditionally, when elections are imminent, the complete Budget is not presented. We will adhere to this tradition... This time, Nirmala ji will present the Budget with some guiding points," the PM told journalists in his customary remarks on the opening day of Budget session, greet-



ing them with "Ram Ram". Though Modi has sounded bullish on equalling the record of first PM Nehru by winning a third consecutive term after conclusion of Lok Sabha polls

in May, his sunny remarks on Wednesday came against the backdrop of disarray in the ranks of rival INDIA bloc and a groundswell in large parts of the country owing to the consecra-

tion of Ram Lalla - factors that are supposed to have sharpened the edge BJP already appeared to have. PM Modi on Wednesday said the country was progressing on all counts and spoke about his government's focus on inclusive development; specifically referring to measures like 33% quota for women, and the decision to make women the centre-piece of this year's Republic Day parade. "A journey of inclusive development is underway.

At over Rs 1.72 lakh crore, GST collection 2nd highest

NEW DELHI: GST collections rose 9.3% to Rs 1,72,129 crore during January, according to preliminary numbers released by the finance ministry on Wednesday. The collections, based on transactions in Dec, are the second highest since the introduction of the GST in July 2017 and

only the third time that the kitty has gone past the Rs 1.7 lakh crore mark. The numbers are expected to be higher as full data is yet to come in with collections up to 5 PM recorded so far, the ministry said. GST collections have stayed strong and the revised estimates for the cur-

rent financial year, which is due to be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, are expected to see an upward revision. "The GST collections are in line with the other macroeconomic parameters, which indicate a significant uplift

in economic activities, with even the IMF upgrading the growth forecast to 6.7% for FY 2023-24. The same collection trajectory in the next two months will ensure that the tax collection targets for the year are comfortably surpassed," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte.

RBI orders Paytm Payments Bank to stop FASTag, wallet services, here's why

Paytm Payments Bank has been barred by RBI from onboarding new customers and accepting deposits across its services. The restrictions were imposed after a system audit report and compliance validation by external auditors. The RBI has terminated Nodal Accounts belonging to One97 Communications Ltd and Paytm Payments Services Ltd.

In what would come as a significant blow to its operations, Paytm has been barred by RBI to onboard new customers and not accept deposits across many of its services. Following a thorough system audit report and subsequent compliance validation by external auditors, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank, effective February 29. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) will no longer be permitted to accept deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, or FASTags. "Withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, National Common Mobility Cards, etc. are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance," the RBI said in a statement said.

Users who have balance in their accounts, wallets or FASTags don't have to worry as RBI has said they can continue to withdraw or utilise it without any restrictions. The RBI's decision stems from the identification of persistent non-compliance issues and significant supervisory concerns within the bank. In response to these findings, the RBI announced the termination of Nodal Accounts belonging to One97 Communications Ltd and Paytm Payments Services Ltd. These terminations must be executed expeditiously, no later than February 29, the apex banking institution noted. Furthermore, the RBI directive mandates the completion of all pending transactions and nodal account settlements (pertaining to transactions initiated on or before February 29, 2024), by March 15, 2024.

President Murmu: Ram Mandir can shape course of coming centuries

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Wednesday reverberated with full-throated chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' with members applauding President Droupadi Murmu as she said construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya marked the fulfillment of the country's centuries-old desire and a defining moment which could shape the course of coming centuries. She also referred to the



removal of Art 370 in J&K, law against triple talaq and CAA. President Droupadi Murmu: 'Construction of Ram Temple was awaited for centuries and Today, it has

become a reality' "There come junctures in the history of civilisations which shape the future for the coming centuries. There have been many such defining

moments in the history of India also. This year, on January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment... This was a matter of aspiration and faith for crores of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner," the President said concluding her speech after referring to the Ram temple twice earlier.

'Kolhan Tiger': Champai Soren, 6th-term MLA, minister thrice

JAMSHEDPUR: Arjun Munda, Madhu Koda, Raghubar Das, and now Champai Soren - Jharkhand's mineral-rich Kolhan division has sprung its fourth CM in the state's 23 years of political history. Meet 'Jharkhand Tiger' Champai Soren, who would be sworn in new CM of state Champai, aged 68, is a six-term MLA representing Seraikela (ST reserve) constituency in Seraikela-Kharsawan district. He entered the



Bihar assembly for the first time as an independent legislator in 1991 and has since retained the seat, except for a loss in 2000 to Anantram Tudu of BJP. Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar on Nov 15, 2000. Champai joined JMM and won the seat in the 1995 assembly

polls. After his defeat in 2000, he has clinched victory in all subsequent polls held in 2005, 2009, 2014, and 2019. Notably, Champai unsuccessfully contested Lok Sabha elections from Singhbhum in 1999 and Jamshedpur in 2019. He served as a cabinet minister in the Arjun Munda government starting from 2010. He continued his ministerial roles in Hemant Soren's cabinets in 2013 and 2019, respectively.

Congress seeks 3 Mumbai LS seats, UBT Sena willing to give just 1

MUMBAI: Consensus is eluding Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) over drafting a seat-sharing formula for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections after Congress staked claim to three out of the total six seats in Mumbai, while Shiv Sena (UBT) rejected the proposal, saying it was willing to part



with only one. Elsewhere in the state, a top Congress leader said, a consensus has been reached

on 38 seats, and it is expected that most of the disputes on the remaining seats will be resolved in the next meeting of the MVA on Feb 2. If there is no decision, then NCP president Sharad Pawar, UBT Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and AICC observer Ramesh Chennithala will resolve the row

over seat-sharing, the leader said. Maharashtra has 48 Lok Sabha seats in all. Scr The Congress leader said that during the last MVA meeting, Congress leaders staked claim on three of Mumbai's seats - North-Central, North-West and South-Central.

Priest hails verdict: 'Pleasant moment for all Sanatanis'

VARANASI: The Varanasi priest whose petition led district judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha to allow regular worship of Shringar Gauri and other Hindu deities in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque described Wednesday's verdict as a "most pleasant moment for my family and all Sanatanis". Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas, head priest of Acharya Ved Vyas Peeth temple, said his ancestors had been performing puja at the cellar since 1551 before access was barred in 1993. He recalled regularly visiting the southern cellar, referred to in

Why an 'invitation to tea' is cause for fear in China



NEW DELHI: An invitation to a cup of tea is usually a cause for happiness, but in China the phrase has taken on a vastly different connotation. In a country where political elites, ministers and prominent public figures can 'disappear' overnight without a trace -- only for Beijing to disclose weeks later that they are embroiled in an anti-corruption or security case -- Chinese netizens have come up with creative ways to discuss the disappearances without incurring the wrath of the authorities. 'Invitation to tea'

For years now, Chinese netizens have used the phrase 'invitation to tea' as an euphemism for 'someone being summoned or investigated for suspected illegal activities by law enforcement departments', said a South China Morning Post (SCMP) report. The usage has become so widespread that China's Ministry of State Security recently acknowledged the usage by releasing a list of '10 Cups of Tea' - basically ten offences that will invite investigation from intelligence agencies.

VHP hails order, AIM says have 'lost hope

VARANASI/NEW DELHI: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Wednesday welcomed the Varanasi court's decision to allow a priest to worship deities in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque while Anjuman Intejamia Masjid (AIM) joint secretary SM Yaseen said, "Ab humein insaaf ki ummid nahi rahi (Now, we have lost hope for justice)."



AIM advocate Akhlaque Ahmed said the district

judge's order will be challenged in the high court. VHP president Alok Kumar said: "Today, a court in Kashi has given a very important decision. We are glad that the court said the petitioner and Kashi Vishwanath can together appoint a pujari to ensure conduct of regular 'puja-archana' there. This has happened after 31 years."

Government will look for funding to build the Narela jail



The home department in Delhi has approved the jail's plan and set aside 40 acres of land for it. According to the official, work on the first phase of the 11 acres will shortly start. There will be 250 cells in the new penitentiary. From a central watch tower, its wings will radiate, giving the entire complex the appearance

Delhi: The government of Delhi will request funding in the next budget to build a high-security jail in Narela. The jail's layout is modeled after Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Given the impending Lok Sabha Elections, the Delhi budget, which is typically given in mid-

March, will be delivered between February 15 and February 20 this year. According to a top government official in Delhi, the department would insist on the funding for the jail. The official stated that the Delhi government is required to cover

around 20% of the costs. The home department in Delhi has approved the jail's plan and set aside 40 acres of land for it. According to the official, work on the first phase of the 11 acres will shortly start. There will be 250 cells in the new penitentiary.

From a central watch tower, its wings will radiate, giving the entire complex the appearance of a wheel's spokes. Modern high-security technologies like body-worn cameras, X-ray baggage scanners, full-body person scanners, and auto-

mated locks will be installed.

These will support law enforcement in preventing gang formation and reducing violence on the property. Approximately Rs 100 crore has been approved for the project by the Union Home Ministry. The Port Blair jail is strikingly similar to the architectural drawing created for the project. English philosopher Jeremy Bentham's concept of the panopticon—a structure planned so that a lone guard may reach a strategic location to watch over prisoners—had an impact on the construction of Cellular Jail. Since they couldn't see the guard, the prisoners would believe they were under constant observation.

The city will launch its long-awaited registry of flats, with 1,084 buyers



After much anticipation, the city will launch its long-awaited registry of flats, with 1,084 buyers who have already taken possession of their properties receiving the initial go-ahead. Consent letters from seven real estate companies, which agree to paying off 25% of their entire debt within 60 days and the remaining amount in installments in accordance with the relief package announced by the state government last month based on the recommendations of the Amitabh Kant committee, are clearing the way for this. Around Rs 100 crore in total adjusted dues would be given to the Noida Authority. The developers of more than fifty housing projects that have been put on hold were met earlier this month by the Noida Authority, who

informed them of their recalculated dues after extending to them a two-year zero-period waiver accrued during the Covid epidemic (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022). Real estate agents were promised a 21% rebate. Five builders have paid 25% of amended dues upfront, according to officials: IITL Nimbus (Hyde Park, Sector 78); Capital Infraprojects (The Golden Palm, Sector 168); Divine India Infrastructure (Divine Meadows, Sector 108); HR Oracle (Elite Homz, Sector 77); and Aims RG Angel (Eco City, Sector 75). The

revised dues have also been accepted by two additional developers: Sunshine Infrawell (Helios, Sector 78) and Gulshan Homes (Ikebana, Sector 143). Authorities claim that Divine India Infrastructure has paid in Rs 3.5 crore, Aims RG Angel Rs 99 lakh, Capital Infraprojects Rs 1.65 crore, and HR Oracle Rs 8.2 lakh. IITL Nimbus was released from any obligation to pay following the zero-period waiver. Manoj Sharma, the director, stated, "We have no dues to pay to the Authority. and the registry of the

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



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

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

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

MP and Maharashtra

GRAP Stage-3 limitations lifted as Delhi pollution improves

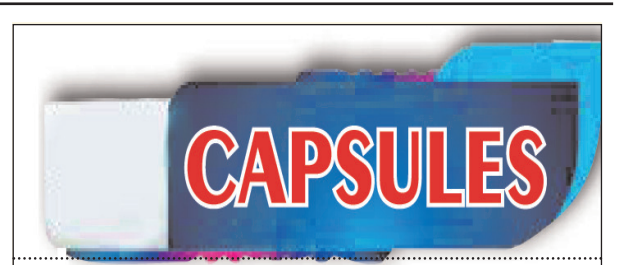


Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) subcommittee revoked Stage-3 of GRAP in the Delhi-NCR with immediate effect, halting construction and demolition projects, mining, and stone crushing, and banning BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles in Delhi and surrounding areas. "AQI of Delhi has been progressively improving and has been recorded as 316 at 2.00 pm, which is about 85 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the Grap Stage III actions (Delhi AQI 401 - 450). Preventive/mitigative/restrictive actions under all Stages up to Stage III are underway, so there is likelihood of

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

development in Greater Noida was opened by PM Modi

Delhi: During a rally in the Bulandshahr region of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the 750-acre "Integrated Industrial Township, Greater Noida" (IITGN). According to PM Modi, this smart township can compete with the world's top manufacturing centers since it has all the essential infrastructure needed for commerce, trade, and industry. The Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida Limited (IITGNL), a joint venture between Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Greater Noida Authority, has created the IITGN at a cost of around Rs 1,700 crore. Prior to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, PM Modi announced and dedicated a number of other development projects



Cost-effective prosthesis to restore their voice

NEW DELHI: In what could prove to be a boon for patients who have lost their ability to speak due to throat cancer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has developed a cost-effective prosthesis to restore their voice. According to doctors, many throat cancer patients are unable to speak after the removal of their larynx due to advanced stages of laryngeal disease. Larynx, or voice box, contains vocal cords and helps a person speak, breathe and swallow. A study conducted on 20 patients over three years has yielded positive outcomes, said AIIMS doctors. Until now, patients have been implanted with commercially available voice prosthesis costing between Rs 20,000 and Rs 40,000. However, the AIIMS-IIT prosthesis is free of cost for AIIMS patients. Following successful trial completion and approvals, it may be made available for other patients and could cost a few hundred rupees. Dr Alok Thakar, head and professor of otolaryngology and head/neck surgery, said the aim of developing the device was to ensure patients who lost their voice due to cancer in the larynx can speak again without shelling out thousands of rupees on an artificial voice box. "During the tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP) procedure, we create a small hole in the wall between the trachea and esophagus, the tube that moves food from mouth to the stomach. A small one-way valve, called tracheoesophageal prosthesis, is placed inside the hole to direct air into the throat," he said, adding the valve is made of silicon.

He said the vocal cords are completely removed during total laryngectomy surgery and the sound source is lost. The TEP surgery with a prosthesis creates a path for air to move from lungs to the esophagus. This air causes the top of the esophagus to vibrate, producing a new tracheoesophageal voice, he explained. The device, weighing a few grams, enables throat cancer patients who had their larynx removed to speak.

Prof Rakesh Kumar from the ENT department said on an average, annually four-five out of 25 patients suffering from larynx cancer face voice box removal risk. Usually, cancer occurs in the 50-60 age group.

"It's not difficult to learn how to use the prosthesis. After surgery, patients just need guidance and practice. The prosthesis valve lasts six-eight months on an average. The replacement procedure doesn't require surgery. It is usually painless and can be done in OPD," he said. Doctors said TEP's main advantage is it generates the most intelligible, fluent and natural voice compared to other laryngeal speech methods.

The story of Lord Ram will be made a part of the new syllabus for madrassas

Delhi: The story of Lord Ram will be made a part of the new syllabus for madrassas affiliated to the Uttarakhand Waqf Board from the new academic session commencing this year. Of the 117 madrassas under the board, the new syllabus will be introduced initially in four madrassas in Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts.

After the recruitment of teachers, it would be taken up in the remaining 113 madrassas, officials said. "We'll teach the Quran as well as Ramayana. When we can tell our students about Lakshman, who gave up everything for his elder brother, then what is the need to tell them about Aurangzeb, who killed his brothers to get the throne? A proper dress code will

also be introduced in the four identified m a d r a s s a s , " Uttarakhand Waqf Board chairman Shadab Shams Shams added that the board would appoint principals for the four madrassas soon. "These principals would be authorised to recruit teachers well-versed with Ramayana so that they can teach the students well. We are making elaborate

Smart cards are Delhi Metro passengers' favorite

Delhi: The travel smart card was utilized by 73.6% of Delhi Metro riders in October. QR-based paper tickets were second at 24.6%, while 1.8% commuters used it, Paytm, and WhatsApp, according to DMRC data. About 45% of people use cashless purchases. This shows that individuals are adopting cashless or digital travel in big numbers, since DMRC has implemented many digital initiatives "DMRC official. He noted that smart cards are the most popular since people are used to them. DMRC has launched QR ticketing via its smartphone app, ticket vending machines

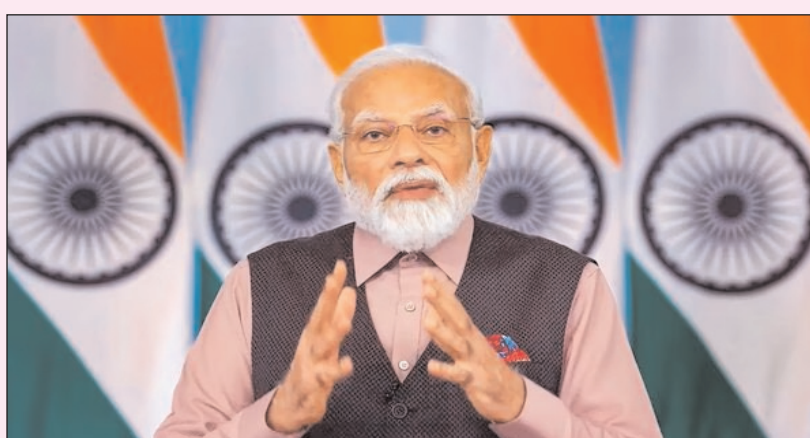
(TVM), ticket windows, WhatsApp, Paytm, and PhonePe, which support popular digital payment methods. NCMCs are available alongside smart cards. NCMC will soon be linked to Delhi Transport Corporation and Cluster Scheme buses and autos and Namoo Bharat trains. QR tickets via WhatsApp were introduced by DMRC on October 5.

Previously exclusively offered on Airport Express Line, this service now includes all stations, including Gurgaon Rapid Metro. Delhi Metro added Paytm-based QR code ticketing on October 12.

The government has committed Rs 800 crore for SC complex expansion

Delhi :

At the Supreme Court's diamond jubilee inauguration in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 800 crores for expansion. "I know about your Supreme Court building issues. He spoke on the Rs 800 crore Supreme Court building expansion approved this week. PM Modi remarked, "By abolishing the colonial criminal laws, the government started the system of 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita,' 'Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita,' and 'Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam.'" "These reforms have transformed our legal policing and investigative processes. I suggest the Supreme Court hold a similar capacity-building exercise "He added. PM Modi stressed the



need for a trustworthy judiciary, "The Jan Vishwas Bill helps. This reduces unnecessary judicial burden." PM Modi stressed justice's importance in India's global standing, saying, "Laws made today will illuminate India's future. Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud also spoke on

'democratised access to the Supreme Court' due to e-filing. He said, "It offers a host of improved features that have made 24x7 filing of cases simpler, faster, and more convenient." Nearly 1,28,000 e-files have been made, with a steady increase in e-filings over physical filings.

3 Telugu inscriptions on Gyanvapi mosque walls shed light on mandir



HYDERABAD: The Archaeological Survey of India's epigraphy wing in Mysuru found three Telugu inscriptions on the walls of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. A team of experts led by ASI director (epigraphy) K Muniratnam Reddy deciphered 34 inscriptions, including the three in Telugu, and submitted a report on the existence of Kashi Vishwanath temple. Muniratnam told that one of the inscriptions, dating back to the 17th century, clearly mentioned names of individuals like Mallana Bhatlu, son of Narayana

Bhatlu. "It is interesting to note that Narayana Bhatlu is a Telugu Brahmin who supervised the construction of Kashi Viswanatha temple in 1585. It is said that Hussain Sharqi Sultan of Jaunpur (1458-1505) ordered the demolition of Kashi Viswanatha temple in the 15th century. The temple was reconstructed in 1585. Raja Todarmal is said to have asked Narayana Bhatlu, an expert from south India, to supervise the temple's construction. The present inscription supports the above fact," Muniratnam

explained. "This inscription is engraved on a wall of Gyanvapi mosque and it written in Telugu language. Though it is damaged and incomplete, it mentions Mallana Bhatlu and Narayana Bhatlu," the ASI director said. The second Telugu inscription, which was found inside the mosque, made a mention of a 'govi'. Govis are shepherds. The third inscription, dating back to the 15th century, was found by the ASI experts at the main entrance on the northern side of the mosque. It has 14 lines.

ED gets its own office space in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been allotted a Rs 362 crore plot in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) for its office in the city. Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has decided to charge Rs 3.4 lakh per sq m of the 10,500 sq m permissible built-up area on the half-acre (2,200 sq m) plot. At present, ED has its offices and store rooms in three buildings, two of which are in Ballard Estate and one in Worli. All three buildings house other private offices too and it is difficult for the agency to keep tabs on visitors. ED had sent a request for its own office space in April 2022 and it was approved by MMRDA on

May 30, 2023.

It was agreed that ED will deposit 30% upfront payment by Sept 30, 2023, but the date has now been extended. To be given on a lease of 80 years, the plot price was decided on the basis of the rate the last property auction fetched in BKC, which was Rs 3.4 lakh per sq m of permissible built-up area. "There is no provision to give the property below market rates in the BKC area and hence we have levied the charges as per the rate at which a land parcel was last sold in BKC," an official said. "The decision to allot

the plot was taken in May 2023 but we have now given an extension to make part payment by April 2024." While

the Ballard Estate offices are on rent, the Worli office is in an attached property belonging to deceased drug smuggler Iqbal Mirchi which ED had confiscated in a money laundering case. Having a dedicated office building in BKC may help ED maintain confidentiality of its work and safeguard its documents along with attached assets. It will help reduce travel time of officials as today they need to travel from Ballard Estate office to Worli, where special director's office is located. An official said a court complex will also come up in BKC. Having its own office in the area will help ED officials frequently travelling between their office and court.

Two youths take to snatching to fund lavish lifestyle, held

New Delhi: Two youths, a disc jockey and a salesman, teamed up to commit snatchings in outer Delhi, to fund their lavish lifestyle. However, their luck ran out and they were arrested on Jan 23 from Sultanpuri. The accused, identified as Ajay (24) and Tushar

Kumar (24), were residents of Sultanpuri. The victim, an employee of a cosmetic company in Noida, was walking home after stepping out of a cab at midnight when the incident happened. "He had taken out his phone to answer a call when the motorcycle-borne

accused snatched it from him," an officer said. DCP (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said they scanned more than 400 CCTV cameras and zeroed in on one of the suspects, Ajay. Police identified Ajay, a school dropout, who worked as a disc jockey at weddings and parties.

IndiGo pilot refuses to fly after getting news of grandma's death



New Delhi The aircraft, with 162 passengers on board, had left the parking bay to prepare for take off when the first officer got the news about his grandmother's demise. Amid delays due to fog and poor visibility, an IndiGo flight (6E-126) from Patna to Pune was delayed by over three hours on Wednesday, as the pilot of the aircraft refused to fly it soon after getting the news of his grandmother's death, said airlines sources. The aircraft,

with 162 passengers on board, had left the parking bay to prepare for take off when the first officer got the news about his grandmother's demise.

The distraught pilot, aborted the flight as he was not in the right frame of mind to fly, and returned to the parking bay, said the an airport source. "The first

officer received information of sudden demise of his grandmother. Alternate crew was arranged for the flight, and the passengers were served refreshment," said an airlines source.

The aircraft, which was scheduled to leave at 1.25pm from the Jay Prakash Narayan International airport in Patna, finally left at 4.41pm. The IndiGo did not issue any statement till the filing of this report at 11.30 pm on Wednesday.

BJP functionary fails to get relief from HC in defamation case

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has refused to stay the trial court proceedings against Bharatiya Janata Party national secretary Manjinder Singh Sirsa in a criminal defamation case filed by former Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) president, Manjit Singh GK. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma stated that prima facie, there was no infirmity in the order passed by the magistrate summoning Sirsa or the sessions court order dismissing a revision petition filed by the BJP leader against the magis-



trate's order. "Thus, upon a prima facie examination of the impugned order and without going much into the merits of the case, lest it affects

the case of the petitioner or respondent no. 2 (the complainant) at a later stage before this court or trial court, this court finds that the learned ASJ

has examined in detail, the issue of registration of FIR in relation to letter dated April 4, 2016 and simultaneous proceedings in the present complaint case for commission of offence of defamation, and at this stage, this court does not find any reasons to stay the proceedings in the present complaint case," said the single judge bench. On June 30 last year, the court of additional sessions judge (ASJ) Harjeet Singh Jaspal issued summons to Sirsa, Harmeeet Singh Kalka and Jagdeep Singh Kahlon in the case.

18 trains, several flights delayed as Delhi sees no respite from dense fog

New Delhi A layer of fog continues to shroud north and northeast India on Thursday, obstructing visibility and lowering it as low as zero metres at several places, affecting air and rail traffic. A passenger train moves in early morning fog and chill in South West Delhi of dwarka. A passenger train moves in early morning fog and chill in South West Delhi of dwarka. Dense to very dense fog prevailed in parts of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam and Odisha. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the current weather conditions are likely to prevail in the next five days. "Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are likely to continue over north-west India for five days," it said.



18 trains running late A total of 18 trains arriving in Delhi were delayed by up to six hours due to heavy fog enshrouding the railway tracks, the India Railways spokesperson said. The visibility was reduced to only 50 metres, which impacts the flight operations. Only the CAT III-B-compliant runaways

can enable a plane to take off-landing under such conditions. Several flight operations were delayed at IGI airport due to low visibility amid the fog. Passengers stranded at the airport awaited the turn of their flights that were running late from the scheduled time. "I have come from Bahrain.

The Delhi high court has rejected a plea by Jaideep Singh Sengar

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court has rejected a plea by Jaideep Singh Sengar, the brother of expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, to suspend his 10-year prison sentence in connection with the death of the father of the 2018 Unnao rape victim, during the pendency of his appeal. Kuldeep and Jaideep, along with five others, were convicted in the case by a Delhi court in March 2020. The high court declined relief on the grounds of his period of custody, the severity of offence and public confidence in the judiciary. It underlined that the case "revolves around the attempt on part of accused persons and the present applicant to brutally assault the father of a minor rape victim, leading to his unfortunate death, who had dared to raise



his voice against Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was an MLA from Bangarmau in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh". The CBI had opposed Jaideep's plea for relief, highlighting that he had served only about 30 per cent of

his ten-year sentence. While in custody, Jaideep claimed he had been diagnosed with oral cancer and was granted interim bail in Nov 2020, which was extended till Jan 18 last year. The court had temporarily

suspended his sentence in June, citing his fragile health. In HC, Jaideep argued for parity with the five co-accused whose sentences were suspended, but the court found no merit in his plea.

Irked by frisking, flyer utters 'bomb', detained

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

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

Editorial

How Indian education could benefit from more equitable, comprehensive?

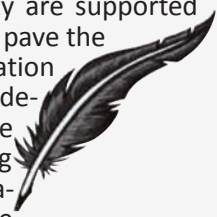
Education is the pillar of economic growth. In developed countries in the West, investments made in education and related infrastructure – especially during the middle of the previous century – have played a critical role in the overall development of these countries. In India, the most significant overhauls of the education system were undertaken in 2020, 1986, 1968 and 1948. Today, the Indian education system is considerably larger than it was in 1950. Back then, we had 20 universities, 496 colleges, and approximately two hundred thousand students enrolled in higher education. Today, India has more than 1,150 universities, 43,000 colleges, and 41.14 million students enrolled in higher education! Yet having so many students enrolled in higher education has led to a crisis – the crisis of numbers. Consider that today, the US spends approximately 6 per cent of its \$25 trillion GDP on education. That country produces just 132,000 engineers annually. India, whose economy is approaching the \$3 trillion mark, produces 1.5 million engineers annually. Many such engineers aren't employed productively in India because they are too numerous and chase too few jobs. The crisis of numbers extends to graduates as well. Most studies by the World Bank and FICCI have found that a mere 35 to 36 per cent of Indian graduates are employable. With high enrolment numbers in India, education has become less relevant. Together, the crisis of numbers coupled with the crisis of relevance has led to a crisis of identity for the higher education system in India. These three crises have laid the seeds of a financial crisis.

National Education Policy

The NEP is highly innovative and pathfinding because it's designed to make learning more flexible, and it has an interdisciplinary approach, creates multiple exit points, defines the three tiers of education, catalyses research in a unique manner, and perhaps most importantly, focusses on improving support to faculty – the backbone of any education system. Unlike earlier policies that focussed on brick-and-mortar solutions, the NEP focuses on educators who nurture young minds. The NEP is the first education policy in India that's incorporated with all these unique features. With NEP's introduction, the education system in India is expected to take a different direction. It was only in 2020 that India came to comprehend what higher education system was best for the country. Though such an understanding was present in 1986 and 1968; however, when it came to imbibing the practices of what was needed, we fell short. The NEP signals a paradigm shift in terms of higher education in India because it makes education more quality-driven and relevant to society's needs. What remains to be seen is how well the NEP is implemented.

How to catalyse change in Indian education

What is needed more than ever today are technology solutions that can scale higher education without compromising on quality. Equally important is recruiting faculty and professors who are highly passionate about teaching and learning. Currently, many in India become educators because they don't find opportunities elsewhere. Conversely, in leading education institutes abroad, those who become teachers or join academia are passionate about teaching. When passionate faculty are supported by technology in India, it will pave the way for a far superior education system. Also, research in academia needs to become more fruitful. Thus far, concerning research, the Indian education system has been the least innovative of all sectors in India.



How Lutyens' Delhi derailed Nitish Kumar's political career?

In 1991, American economist Robert Reich wrote an article highlighting the growing social divide in the US. He called it the "secession of the successful". A year later, he expanded the idea into a book, *The Work of Nations*, wherein he wrote how the "new elite is linked by jet, modem, fax, satellite and fibre-optic cable to the great commercial and recreational centres of the world, but it is not particularly connected to the rest of the nation". These 'successful' ones tend to 'secede' from society as they get richer and more successful. They tend to retreat into a reclusive, private world. Former diplomat and writer Pavan K. Varma highlights this "aggressive, selfish, insular" lifestyle of the Indian elite in his book, *The Great Indian Middle Class*, where he points out how they live in their bungalows surrounded by high walls, with secured water from personal borewells and electricity from diesel-powered gensets. When they need to socialise, they go to private clubs, use private transport, and have for all practical purposes cut themselves off from the larger Indian realities. They have not just seceded from their surroundings but are also eager to migrate abroad. The most popular alternative homes of Indian business families outside India can be found in the



UK, Singapore, Dubai, and Switzerland.

The traditional Lutyens' elites owe their existence and sustenance largely to the Nehru-Gandhi family that has been in power, directly or indirectly, till 2014. In fact, as author-journalist Sanjaya Baru writes in *India's Power Elite: Class, Caste and a Cultural Revolution*, "(N)o one represented this elite better than the country's first political family, the Nehru-Gandhis, and the many families cutting across professions that benefited from serving the family's successive generations."

Baru continues, "From Motilal to Jawaharlal, on to Indira and Rajiv, and then Rajiv's widow Sonia and her children, the Nehru-Gandhi family symbolised this continuity in pre-Independence and post-Independence

power elite. Nehru, with his Allahabad Brahmin origins and upbringing, British education and his circle of friends from the British upper class – including the last British Viceroy and his family – was the quintessential representative of the pre-Independence upper class."

Till 2014, this power elite—disdainfully called Lutyens' Club or Khan Market Gang by those on the other side of the ideological divide—retained power and pelf irrespective of which party was running the country. Even when Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed the first BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre in the late 1990s, the Lutyens' elite still called the shots. Baru writes, "Vajpayee ... was himself a long-standing member of the Lutyens' elite and indeed belonged to what

Modi and his groupies would dub the 'Khan Market Gang', so to speak. For, my own first glimpse of Vajpayee in the early 1980s was in, of all places, Khan Market. He was carrying a Pomeranian in his arms and walking into a veterinarian's, simply smiled and walked on, as if he was running an errand in a familiar neighbourhood."

He continues, "The ease with which senior BJP leaders, including Jaswant Singh, Arun Jaitley and Brajesh Mishra, interacted with a range of the (India International Centre's) IIC's usual suspects and then went on to become powerful members of the Vajpayee government further reassured Lutyens' Delhi. Lal Krishna Advani and wife were frequent diners at the IIC dining room, and Arun Jaitley loved his walks around the Lodhi Garden and the long chat sessions with friends over tea and snacks at the IIC lounge. Jaswant Singh was a regular in the IIC's seminar circuit. Even after Vajpayee became [prime minister], one could find many [Prime Minister's Office] PMO officials at the watering holes of the Gymkhana Club and the IIC." Nothing had changed for India's traditional power elite. If anything, the Vajpayee regime had only reinforced a sense of invincibility in this class: That the more things change, the

more they remain the same...

But it's not that Lutyens' Delhi got everything on a platter. It took a lot of planning and plotting and intense negotiations and lobbying sessions to get the 'right person' for the job. N.K. Singh is a classic example. The son of an ICS officer, NK or Nandu as he would fondly be called by his close friends, worked closely with different Congress regimes, but it was under Vajpayee that he arrived with a flourish. Baru writes, "When Vajpayee was defeated and Manmohan Singh took over, there was a shake-up in the bureaucracy and many Vajpayee loyalists were moved out of important positions, but the Lutyens' elite very quickly adjusted itself to the new dispensation, with 'our friend Nandu' (as N.K. Singh was called by his friends) replaced by a 'our friend Montek.'" But the NK story doesn't end there. In 2013, it was he who, in order to stop the Modi juggernaut in the following year's Lok Sabha elections, pulled up the Nitish Kumar card. In his book, *Single Man: The Life and Times of Nitish Kumar of Bihar*, senior journalist Sankarshan Thakur recalls how "three nights before" Nitish Kumar parted ways with the BJP for the first time in 2013, N.K. Singh, by then a Janata Dal (United) (JDU) MP, was hosting a dinner at Cambridge.

Why the Ayodhya Ram temple matters

The 22nd of January 2024 saw an extraordinary celebration of exuberant splendour as the Ram Mandir was inaugurated in Ayodhya. India's stock market was shut for the day, government offices were only open for half a day as the country celebrated the consecration of Ram Lalla amidst much fanfare. The event was attended by 3,000 plus people including the top brass of the country's leadership as well as celebrities from the film industry, music industry, the sporting world and pretty much all the important names in India's little black book. The Pran Pratishtha was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the 'yajman', in the presence of 4,000 sadhus, as Hindus all over the world celebrated the

grand Ram Mandir estimated to have cost Rs1,800 crore, on a site believed to have been the birthplace of Lord Ram.

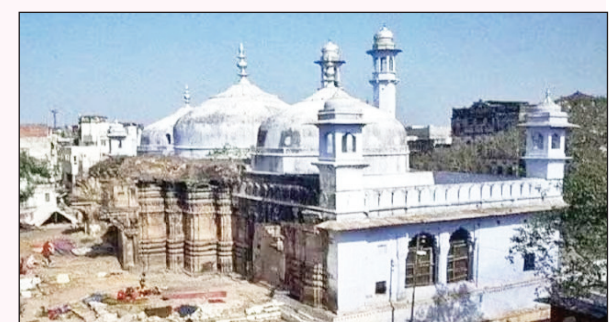
However, despite the joy and effervescence this event was celebrated, as always there were murmurs of disagreement and disapproval that bubbled. Very rarely has urban India been this divided on an event of such a festive nature, on ideological grounds. The temple was built on a controversial piece of land that is celebrated by Hindus for centuries as Ram's birthplace. It is also where Mughal Emperor Babur's commander Mir Baqi, ordered for the Babri Masjid to be built in 1528-29 (according to the mosque's inscriptions), in the name of Babur. In 1992, this

mosque was razed by Hindu nationalists, in what can be described as a campaign that led to violent results. In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that the land be handed over to a Hindu trust for a temple dedicated to Lord Ram to be built on what is believed, for thousands of years, by one of the oldest practising belief systems in the world, Hinduism to be the birthplace of their spiritual saviour Lord Ram. January 22nd was the event celebrating the completion of this building. Critics argue against the legal judgement delivered by the highest court of the land, there are louder than whispered assertions fearing communal disharmony, the rise of a right-wing state, threats to democracy amongst others.

ASI gyan on Gyanvapi has finally nailed a lie

The ASI report says its recent survey of the Gyanvapi premises revealed 34 inscriptions on spolia used in the mosque commissioned by Aurangzeb, in Devanagari, Grantha, Telugu and Kannada, and that they mention deities such as Rudra, Umeshvara and Janardhana. It also claims that sculptures of Hindu deities and carved architectural members were found buried under the soil in a cellar inside the compound. A stray remark by my young Bihari driver in Kolkata added a new dimension to the issue of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, for me. Only, he was talking about Ayodhya, not Kashi. Voicing his intention to visit Ayodhya with some of his friends as soon as the rush wanes a bit, he was surprised to learn from me that there used to be a Mughal-era masjid on the spot where the new grand Ram Mandir now beckons a wide range of devout Indians. What followed, obviously, was a potted history of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, which he listened to with a mixture of concern and amazement.

Why was a mosque built where Sri Ramji was born, he asked, clearly unaware of the tumultuous events of the early 16th century, much less the last decade of the 20th century. Born in the 1990s, he was also



bemused by the fact that there could be any resistance to a Ram temple being built there again.

But at least he—his friends' motivations and emotions are unknown—does not seem to harbour any animus towards those who had thwarted the rebuilding of a temple, through the courts and otherwise. That is probably because the medieval era mosque at that site did not retain any architectural remnants—spolia—of any older preceding structure, so there was no immediate recall or incontrovertible proof of what had been there. **What will he make of Gyanvapi?**

For decades a tiny but influential minority of 'historians' have tried to paper over the grim truth of the oddly named Gyanvapi masjid, denying evidence in Maasir-i-Alamgiri, written by Saqi Mustaid Khan, of Aurangzeb ordering the destruction of the Vishwanath temple and the building of the extant mosque. These historians even cancelled the brilliant Sir Jadunath Sarkar for highlighting

Aurangzeb's zealotry, calling the Bengali historian communal instead!

Had the temple been entirely destroyed (like the one in Ayodhya) the fiction that Gyanvapi was not an act of communal vandalism could have been maintained. But Aurangzeb's decision to retain an entire wall of Kashi's most prominent temple in the design of a new mosque that would sit on the plinth of the razed Hindu place of worship, however, reveals that he wanted the Hindus to feel the pain of that demolition for centuries and generations to come. The temple was the target of earlier Muslim rulers too, with the first demolition ordered by the Ghurid conqueror Qutubuddin Aibak in the 12th century. It was rebuilt a few decades later, away from the original site, only to be destroyed again in the late 15th century in Sikandar Lodi's reign. Akbar's Rajput generals, Raja Man Singh and Raja Todar Mal rebuilt it yet again in the late 16th century only for Aurangzeb to zealously decree its final humiliation in 1669.

India's game-changing jet engine deal with France

On the sidelines of President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India, India's Ambassador to France, Jawed Ashraf, announced a significant development in the field of defence and aerospace collaboration between the two countries. Safran, a prominent manufacturer of fighter jet engines, has agreed to a complete technology transfer to India, covering all stages of their collaborative project. This move is notable for its potential to enhance India's self-sufficiency in defence technology and represents a deepening of the strategic partnership between the two nations.

The technology transfer agreement between Safran and

India regarding the Shakti jet engine project is notably comprehensive, setting it apart from India's previous jet engine collaborations. Safran's commitment to a 100% technology transfer encompasses not only manufacturing processes but also extends to critical knowledge in design, development, certification, and production phases. This level of comprehensive transfer, including the focus on the actual design phase and metallurgical aspects, is crucial for developing advanced jet engines and goes beyond the scope of traditional technology transfers that might primarily focus on assembly or production techniques. Furthermore, this deal

is strategically aligned with India's long-term defence requirements, ensuring that the technology transfer integrates seamlessly with India's future defence visions. This strategic alignment is part of a broader context of defence cooperation between India and France, reinforced by the discussions during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with French President Emmanuel Macron. The cooperation extends to various aspects of defence technology, including the joint development of combat aircraft engines and industrial cooperation for heavy-lift helicopters under the Indian Multi Role Helicopter (IMRH) programme, illustrating a mul-

tifaceted partnership that transcends a single project focus and aims at building a collaborative development and production ecosystem. But why is it so difficult to manufacture and design a jet engine? First, jet engines operate at extremely high temperatures, making thermal management critical. The development of materials and coatings that can withstand temperatures exceeding 1,800 Celsius, such as the carbon-based coatings mentioned for China's military jet engines, is crucial.

These materials must maintain structural integrity and mechanical properties at these temperatures to ensure engine reliability and longevity.

Croma celebrates Republic Day with Great deals on TV, Refrigerators

New Delhi: In honor to celebrate 75th year of India's Republic Day, Croma, India's first and trusted omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, proudly announces its most affordable and attractive Republic Day Sale. This week-long extravaganza, starting from January 20th to January 28th, 2024, highlights Croma's expansive range of electronic gadgets and its commitment to affordability. Croma offers a host of exciting deals and offers on TVs, Refrigerators, ACs, Washing Machine, Mobile Phones, Laptops, Geyser, Micro Oven, Air Fryer, Mixer Grinders, and much more from Croma branded products and other popular brands such as Apple, Philips, LG, Samsung, Daikin, Redmi, Faber, IFB, etc. Make purchases more affordable with EMI starting at INR 999. Exchange any old electronics and get benefits up to INR 5,000. Enjoy an additional 10% discount on select bank offers. Croma's selection



There is a 10% flat discount on Croma-branded products. Upgrade your washing machine to a Croma branded 7.5 Kg Front Load

of top-brand electronics is sure to have something for everyone. There is a 10% flat discount on Croma-branded products.

Upgrade your washing machine to a Croma branded 7.5 Kg Front Load Washing Machine starting at INR 1510 per month* and a Croma 50inch Google TV EMI starting at INR 1,694 per

month*. Croma delights tech enthusiasts with attractive offers in its mobile and technology range. For all Apple lovers, the iPhone 15 starts at INR 1,954* per month. Also, Apple Watch SE 2023, starting at INR 28999, is an excellent option for wearable technology users. The sale features the Redmi 13C 5G smartphones, beginning at an affordable INR 12499. For laptop buyers, Croma has introduced an exceptional deal, providing free accessories worth INR 9990 with each laptop purchase. In the home appliances category, Croma has lined up an impressive selection for this sale.

Pakistani police use tear gas to disperse pre-election rally by supporters of former leader Imran Khan

KARACHI: Pakistani police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the southern city of Karachi on Sunday, less than two weeks before a national parliamentary election that Khan was blocked from running in because of a criminal conviction. An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw between 20 and 30 people getting arrested at the rally. A dozen workers from Khan's political party were arrested for attacking officers and blocking the road, police said. Although Khan will not



be on the ballot for the Feb. 8 election, he remains a potent political force because of his grassroots following and anti-establishment rhetoric. He says the legal cases against him were a plot to sideline him ahead of the vote. Senior police superintendent Sajid Siddozai said workers from Khan's

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI party organized the rally without obtaining permission from authorities and blocked the road. Siddozai confirmed the use of tear gas. "When police officials attempted to negotiate and persuade them not to block the road, they attacked the police."

33 people have been killed in separate traffic crashes in eastern Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Separate traffic crashes in eastern Afghanistan have left at least 33 people dead and 16 others injured, authorities said on Sunday. Ten collisions occurred in the Sorabi district of Kabul province, on the main highway linking

the Afghan capital, Kabul and the eastern Nangarhar province, killing 17 people, including two children and four women, said Khalid Zadran, spokesman for the Kabul police chief. Ten others were injured in the crashes and they

were hospitalised for treatment, Zadran said. Meanwhile, four additional collisions happened in the eastern Laghman province near the end of the same highway between Kabul and Nangarhar, killing 15 people.

Arya Samaj -7 organized 200 Kundiya Yagya

Chandigarh: Arya Samaj Sector 7B, Chandigarh organised 200 Kundiya Yagya under the guidance of Aryaratna, Padmashree Dr. Poonam Suri - President of Arya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Sabha and D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi. Principals, teachers of various schools, officials and members of various Arya Samajs participated in this event. In the programme, 200 Kundiya Yagya was performed with Vedic mantras in the size of 200 whose beauty was worth seeing. President of Arya



Samaj chief Ravinder Talwar said that Maharishi Dayanand has made an important contribution in the upliftment of

Indian Vedic culture. He was not only the founder of Arya Samaj but also a social reformer. Maharishi Dayanand

was in favour of nationalism.

He strongly opposed the ostentation and evil practices prevalent in the society. He emphasized equality in society. He has made a special contribution in women's education. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati was the creator of modern India. He was rich in versatile talent. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's efforts in awakening India's self-respect were extraordinary. He was truly the creator of modern India. He gave a new dimension to Indian society through Vedas.

HDFC Bank Starts with Comprehensive Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops

AMBALA/HISAR: HDFC Bank as a part of its ongoing digital banking awareness drive, conducted a series of secure banking workshops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Bank started 2024 by organizing over 900 such workshops sensitizing over 28,000 citizens on safe digital banking practices. These workshops were aimed at educating school cum college students, customers, law enforcement agencies,



senior citizens, self-help groups, and employees. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital banking practices so that they don't fall prey to Cyber Frauds. The workshop covered an array of

pertinent topics, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of digital security: 1. IFAW's Background: Attendees were introduced to the mission/role of International Fraud Awareness Week in advocating digital

awareness.

2. Cyber Fraud Awareness: Detailed discussions were held explaining common cyber threats like Vishing, Phishing, Smishing, remote device access, SIM swap, and UPI frauds. Real-life examples were used to deepen understanding. 3. Secure Net-banking and Shopping Tips: The sessions highlighted best practices for secure online transactions, spotlighting the significance of Vigil Aunty and offering invaluable tips for safe online shopping

Greta joins hundreds marching in England to protest airport's expansion for private planes

LONDON: Climate activist Greta Thunberg joined a march in southern England on Saturday to protest the use of private jets and the expansion of an airport. Hundreds of local residents and activists holding banners and placards that read "Ban Private Jets" marched to Farnborough Airport, which mostly serves private aircraft. Some beat drums while others lit pink smoke flares. The airport, located in Hampshire County about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southwest of London, applied last year to increase its maximum number of flights from 50,000 to 70,000 a year. Groups working to fight climate change, including the



organizer of Saturday's protest, Extinction Rebellion, say private jets are much more polluting than commercial passenger airliners. Flights to and from Farnborough Airport carried an average of 2½ passengers per flight in 2022, the group said. "It is clear that private jets are incompatible with ensuring present and future living conditions on this planet," Thunberg said in a video that Extinction Rebellion posted on social media. "We're not going to let this continue. We're not

going to let the rich few who are responsible for the majority of aviation emissions get away with sacrificing people and the planet," she added. Farnborough Airport said that it was an important hub for business and corporate travel, and that it recognized the importance of reducing its environmental footprint. "The airport's environmental footprint is a fraction that of a traditional commercial airport, yet it serves as one of the largest employment sites in the region.

Vikas Lifecare Ltd. announces Acquisition of Substantial Stakes

CHANDIGARH: Vikas Lifecare Limited makes the largest investment till date, in acquisition of major stakes in the renowned "SKY2.0 Club", Dubai. The acquisition is a share swap deal signed between Vikas Lifecare Limited and the holding company M/s Blue Sky Event Hall FZ-LLC, Dubai, for acquisition of 60% stakes in the SKY 2.0 Club business and all future business ventures in the relevant business segment at an enterprise valuation of about USD 130 Million. The acquisition process shall be completed within this Fiscal Year. The SKY 2.0 is "The Largest Nightclub in the Middle East and Asia", a striking standalone, Open-Air Venue anchored in the heart of the upscale "Dubai Design District". The SKY 2.0 is unlike any other venue; is an experiential trailblazer that promises



memorable evenings literally under the Skies, offering world-class entertainment, ground-breaking technology and exemplary service are all guaranteed. Innovative and experiential, SKY 2.0 offers an interactive experience by employing modern technology in the venue. Bendable screens, Grand Lighting Design, and a Vivacious & Jaunty Sound System wrap the walls of the Sphere- Shaped Venue. Enigmatic and designed to perfection, the architectural

marvel of SKY 2.0 emerges from a seamless fusion of visionary nightlife experts and international architects, resulting in a masterpiece that captivates the senses.

Sky 2.0 Club has hosted hundreds of Star-Studded Events while The King of Indian Film Industry "Shah Rukh Khan", The Indigenous Rap Star "Badshah", The International Rap Sensation "Little Baby"; The American Rap King "50 Cent"; The Moroccan Star "French

Montana" and many more. SKY 2.0 recorded about USD 22.10 Million of gross revenues accrued from the business during 2023, with about 38.80 % Net Profit Margin and about 36 % Growth in revenues registered while comparing with the Preceding Year. The nightclub business on the global level aggregates about USD 31.46 Billion while accelerating at a CAGR of 8.07%, whereas on one hand the home turf for VLL, India with 25% of the Population aged below 25 Years surfing on the surge in disposable income of Indians, growing at an exorbitant 17.4%, and the shift towards modern cultural paradigm, offers a Huge, Virgin and Niche Market, which is merely a dot in the numbers put up by the global revenues generated from the Clubbing Businesses.

Is Europe ready for another Donald Trump presidency?

The more likely it seems that Donald Trump will be the Republican Party's nominee for the US presidency, the louder the voices become that warn Europe to prepare itself for a second Trump term in the White House. In an interview with French public broadcaster France 2, Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, described the possible election of Donald Trump as a "clear threat" to Europe. Belgian prime minister Alexander De Croo told the European Parliament in mid-January that "if 2024 brings us 'America First' again, it is really more than ever 'Europe on its own.'" In a paper published by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) think tank, former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt predicted far-reaching global consequences if Trump were reelected.

HEIs in India will no longer receive grades during accreditation

Delhi: HEIs in India will no longer receive grades during accreditation. They will be "as either accredited or not accredited" instead. Accreditation authorities will also use "Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation (Level 1 to 5)" to encourage accredited institutions to meet higher standards to become "Institutions of Global Excellence for Multi-Disciplinary Research and Education." In November 2022, the Ministry of Education (MOE) appointed K Radhakrishnan, the former ISRO chairman and chairperson of the IIT Council Standing Committee, to lead a committee to propose radical accreditation and assessment reforms to meet the National Education Policy 2020's 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio target. After public consultation, the committee submitted its final report to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on January 16. A top



A top MOE official said the group proposed revolutionary changes to improve Indian HEI approval, assessment, and accreditation

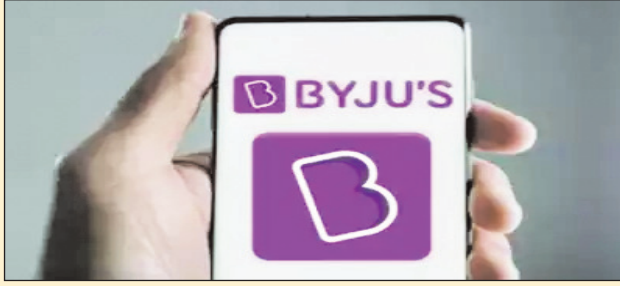
MOE official said the group proposed revolutionary changes to improve Indian HEI approval, assessment, and accreditation. Mentoring and reward programmes are also recommended to boost involvement and accreditation. The new process's major component is "binary accreditation," which follows global best

practices. Educational institutions will be labeled "accredited or not accredited." According to media reports, "Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation" will be used for recognized HEIs, leveling them from 1 to 5. "This is to motivate the accredited HEIs to continuously improve, evolve in-depth or in-breadth in disciplines to a higher level," said the official. The guidelines suggest that Binary and Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation metrics focus on processes, outputs, and impact across numerous aspects of Higher Education Institutions rather than inputs.

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

MUMBAI: Troubled

edtech startup Byju's has launched a rights issue to raise \$200 million from existing investors at a valuation of about \$225 million-\$230 million, a 99% drop from its peak valuation of \$22 billion as it struggles with a funding crunch. In a statement, the company said that the funds will be used to clear immediate liabilities and meet operational requirements. "It has been 21 months since



our last external capital raise, during which we have cut our burn and worked to become a lean organisation, razor-focused on execution. This capital raise is essential to prevent any further value impairment and to equip the company

with necessary resources to deliver on its mission," founder Byju Raveendran said in a note to shareholders which was reviewed. Raveendran claimed that the founders have infused over \$1.1 billion.

APAC businesses to nearly triple spends on GenAI

NEW DELHI: Asia Pacific businesses are sprucing up investments in generative AI (GenAI) and projected to nearly triple spends on this technology to USD 3.4 billion in 2024 across Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, India, and Singapore, according to

Inforsys Research. While the spending trails North America, APAC's adoption, effectiveness, and growth are among the highest globally, it said. "Companies across Asia-Pacific are quickly ramping up investments in generative AI and entering a higher stage of

maturity," the IT major's research arm, Inforsys Knowledge Institute (IKI), said in the research. While APAC companies currently lag behind their North American counterparts in GenAI spending, the research forecasts

Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value

Growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20, according to data analyzed by CRIF High Mark. Loans above Rs 75 lakh accounted for nearly 30% of new mortgage originations in April-June 2023. Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value. There are signs that growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20. According to data on home loans analysed by credit bureau CRIF High Mark, there is a shift in origina-



tions, both by value and volume, from the ticket size range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 75 lakh. The data shows that loans above Rs 75 lakh accounted for nearly 30% of new mortgage originations during April-June 2023, while loans between Rs 35 lakh and Rs 75 lakh constituted 31.4% of new loans. Less than

37% of the mortgages were for loans below Rs 35 lakh. In comparison, in FY20, only 19% of loans were above Rs 75 lakh, while 28% were between Rs 35 lakh and Rs 75 lakh. The bulk of the loans (53%) were below Rs 35 lakh in FY20. According to the "How India Lends" report released by the credit bureau.

District collector will dine with coaching pupils regularly

Delhi: Dr. Ravindra Goswami, Kota's district collector, will share a Friday dinner with coaching students at their hostel under his new program, "Kamyab Kota." This weekly meal addresses JEE and NEET student difficulties. The Kota district administration initiated the program to combat student suicides. At the Shiv Residency Girls Hostel in Kunhadi Landmark City, District Collector Goswami spent two hours with women students. He told the children that he came to



Kota for coaching as a student but left after not liking it and subsequently succeeded by studying on his own. He stated students experience perplexity, indecision, and worry. This requires strength and smart work. Problems

strengthen us. Face panic instead of avoiding it. He assured students of a bright future. He advised students to always consider alternatives. "Career goals are paths, not destinations. Don't give up when you

fail to reach your goal. Failure in a test shouldn't define you. Keep striving if you deserve it, but there must be limits. Keep alternative possibilities open, he advised. Instead of protracted study sessions, Goswami urged pupils to break up study time. He also advised kids to talk to hostel friends if they felt sick. Do what makes you confident and joyful. Create a family vibe with your hostel companions to avoid homesickness and aid with school.

GlobalLogic eyes \$5 billion in revenue by 2028

BENGALURU: Hitachi group company GlobalLogic has set its sights on becoming a \$5 billion enterprise by 2028 that underscores the demand for digital engineering services. Its CEO Nitesh Banga said the company is close to a \$2 billion revenue run rate, ahead of Hitachi's forecast of \$1.7 billion for the 2023-24 financial year, which is a 22% jump compared to the corresponding period last year. "We stick to our lane and excel in our lane. We've moved from outsourced product development to design-led digital engineering and we're now advancing toward intelligent engineering. Every enterprise will continue to need this kind of expertise," he said. "I often say that software has evolved from being a third-class citizen in an enterprise 20 years ago to a sec-

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

tal engineering services space. GlobalLogic has closed its first \$100 million account last year and it's signing up another one soon. "The key focus for us is the supersizing of our top accounts." GlobalLogic counts BMW, Volvo, and Continental as some of its key customers. Hitachi has a "sell together" approach with GlobalLogic where they co-create and collaborate to stitch solutions for clients unlocking cross-selling and upselling opportunities. GlobalLogic has over 30,000 employees and over 500 customers. Piyush Jha, MD and head of India and APAC in GlobalLogic said the company is betting big on working alongside global capability centres (GCCs). "It's a partnership of equals. We have grown our GCC business by 60%.

Board Exams Will Be Held Every Two Years Beginning in 2024-2025, Per CBSE

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will hold board exams twice a year starting with the 2024-25 academic year. The format of the twice-yearly board exams will be familiar to students who take the CBSE Class 10 and 12 exams during that session. However, students will not be required to take the twice-yearly CBSE board exams.

The program is designed to lessen students' anxiety about passing up once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. A candidate may decide not to take the next exam if he is ready and happy with his results from the last



round of tests, according to officials. In a statement, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the twice-yearly board structure will go into effect for the 2024-2025 school year. This indicates that the Class X

and XII board exams in 2025 will use this. This will take effect for current students in Classes IX and XI," Pradhan stated. The multiple board test approach, according to the officials, is being implemented to lessen the stress on

pupils who worry about missing a single opportunity. A candidate may choose not to take the second exam if they are ready and happy with their performance on one of the exam sets. Exams will be given twice a year under the new system, however it is not required for students in classes 10 and 12. The final result and merit list will be decided by utilizing the results of the best of two exams, according to reports in the media. It is anticipated that the November-December 2024 board exam will take place, and the February-March 2025 test will take place.

Medical devices: A case for make-in-TN

Chennai Medical devices can become Tamil Nadu's next growth story in manufacturing. The sector's market size in India is projected to hit \$50 billion by 2030, though at present 75-80% of medical devices are imported from the US, China and Germany. It's this huge potential for growth that is drawing the attention of companies in Tamil Nadu with expertise in mechanical engineering, electronics, and information technology. There is a natural synergy between auto and electronic component sectors and the smart medical equipment industry. And with Tamil Nadu being the country's largest exporter in electronics, among the top three players in the IT sector, and an automotive hub, an ecosystem already exists. State industries secretary Arun Roy says multinational companies in medical devices manufacturing are showing interest in establishing facilities in Tamil Nadu.

CAPSULES

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

NEW DELHI: Finance ministry on Monday said the Indian economy has remained resilient amid global headwinds on the back of robust domestic demand, an investment-led strategy due to a transformed climate and high level of public spending, macro-economic stability, apart from a spate of reforms initiated by government over the last 10 years. A review of the Indian economy released by the ministry said inflation has been reigned in within 2-6% band because of steps taken by government and RBI.

It, however, warned of risks to the external sector from sticky inflation, sluggish growth and fiscal pressures in the global economy, with the tension around Red Sea seen as a potential threat. "Potential risks are expected to emanate from ongoing geopolitical tensions and the recent surge in shipping costs due to re-routing to avoid security risks in international waters, which contains the potential for triggering inflation, especially in terms of energy costs," the 63-page document released ahead of the interim Budget said. When it came to India, it appeared upbeat on the overall prospect. "Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices. Today, it is the 5th largest with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion (estimated FY24), despite the pandemic and inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector. This ten-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental, which have significantly contributed

Australian Open: Qinwen Zheng looks to stun champion Aryna Sabalenka



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

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

Sabalenka and Zheng practiced together before the start of the tournament. They've played once before, in the US Open in quarterfinals four months ago, and the 25-year-old triumphed in straight sets. The title match promises to be an explosive contest, both players will look for openings. 14 Zheng, in her maiden Grand Slam final, said this has been her dream all her life. Her face mirrored the ecstasy. "My dream is not just (making) the final," she told the media. "I'm almost there, but I know this little distance, still far away."

Juergen Klopp to leave Liverpool at the end of the season

Juergen Klopp, who recently guided Liverpool to the final of the League Cup, has communicated his decision to the club's leadership, bringing an end to his eight-and-a-half-year tenure at Anfield. The departure is not limited to Klopp alone, as assistant managers Pepijn Lijnders and Peter Krawietz will also be leaving Liverpool simultaneously, according to the club's statement. The trio, who have played integral roles in Liverpool's recent successes, will be bidding farewell to the club at the end of the ongoing campaign. In a significant announcement,

Liverpool confirmed on Friday that Manager Juergen Klopp will be departing the club at the conclusion of the current season. Klopp, who recently guided Liverpool to the final of the League Cup, has communicated his decision to the club's leadership, bringing an end to his eight-and-a-half-year tenure at Anfield. The departure is not limited to Klopp alone, as assistant managers Pepijn Lijnders and Peter Krawietz will also be leaving Liverpool simultaneously, according to the club's statement. The trio, who have played integral roles in Liverpool's recent successes, will

be bidding farewell to the club at the end of the ongoing campaign. This announcement marks the end of an era for Liverpool, and Klopp's departure will undoubtedly be a significant moment for the club and its supporters. "It is that I am, how can I say it, running out of energy," Klopp, 56, said on Liverpool's website. "I can understand that it's a shock for a lot of people in this moment, when you hear it for the first time, but obviously I can explain it - or at least try to explain it. "I love absolutely everything about this club, I love everything about the city.

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

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp plans to take a break from football for a year once his time in charge at Anfield finishes at the end of the season. Klopp said he lacked the energy to go on as he made a shock announcement on Friday that he will step down in May. The 56-year-old German has previously been linked with the German national team. But Klopp, who has won the Champions League and Premier League among seven trophies since taking over at Liverpool in 2015, said his immediate plan was for a break and that he would never manage another English club. "Whatever will happen in the future I don't know now but no club, no country for the next year. No other English club ever, I can promise that," said Klopp at a press conference.

The former Borussia Dortmund coach could go out on a high with Liverpool five points clear at the top of the Premier League and in the running for three other trophies.

Thanks to a series of summer signings, the Reds have bounced back to form this season after a turbulent 2022/23 campaign and Klopp said he was leaving with a squad in place that would succeed even without him.

"It's too important to do it with 50 percent, it is just too important and this team is set up for the future," he added on his reasoning for stepping down.

"When I said Liverpool 2.0 that didn't include me obviously for the next 10 years, but the team is there, the basis is there.

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

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

NEW DELHI: Daniil Medvedev staged a remarkable comeback from the brink to defeat Alexander Zverev 5-7, 3-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(5), 6-3 in a captivating semi-final match on Friday, securing his spot in the Australian Open title clash.



The third seed is now vying for his second

Grand Slam trophy after facing heartbreak in consecutive final defeats at Melbourne Park in 2021 and 2022 against Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. Medvedev aims to turn his fortunes around when he faces Italian youngster Jannik Sinner in the final on Sunday.

Jasprit Bumrah's delivery to uproot Ben Duckett's off-stump

NEW DELHI: After bowling out India for 436 in their first innings, England went to lunch at 89/1 in their second innings with Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope fighting it out in the middle. Duckett was particularly swift in run-scoring and along with Pope, took England's deficit under 100. Duckett and Pope put up a fifty-run stand off just 43 deliveries. On the last ball of the second over after lunch, Jasprit Bumrah bowled a superb ball from round the wicket that had sharp seam



movement from a length cramping Duckett for room. Duckett stayed in his crease to dab it into the off-side and didn't account for the inward movement and was trapped in front of mid-

dle. The Indians appealed but the umpire turned it down and captain Rohit Sharma didn't go for the review. But ball-tracking in the replays showed that the ball was hitting leg stump.

An undeterred Bumrah in his next over got his man with a more vicious delivery that didn't need the umpire's nod. The Indian pace spearhead bowled a snorter at 142.4kph that swung in at good length and further nipped back in off the seam. Duckett (47) went for a shot away from his body without accounting for the movement, got beaten on the inside edge and the ball uprooted the off-stump, much to the delight of Bumrah, his teammates and the Hyderabad crowd.

What kind of a shot was that! - When Gavaskar fumed at Gill's shot-selection

Gill commenced the second day of India's first Test against England on his overnight score of 14. However, debutant spinner Tom Hartley managed to dismiss him, getting him caught at mid-wicket on 23. Gill's painstaking innings of 66 deliveries included only two boundaries. The way Gill got out, after putting in the hard work, left Gavaskar, who was doing commentary at that moment, frustrated. India eventually scored 436 to take a first-innings lead of 190 runs. "What kind of a



shot was that! - When Sunil Gavaskar fumed at Shubman Gill's shot-selection Shubman's Gill's rash shot that led to his departure on day two of India's first Test

against England in Hyderabad annoyed batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, who questioned the young Indian batter's shot-selection. Gill took a fresh guard

to begin the second day on his overnight score of 14 but was dismissed by debutant spinner Tom Hartley, caught at mid-wicket on 23 having played 66 deliveries in his laborious knock, which included just two boundaries. The manner of Gill's dismissal after having done all the hard work annoyed Gavaskar, who was doing commentary at that point. "What kind of a shot was he looking to play! One can understand if he was looking to play it in the air, but it was just a badly executed on-drive.

Ponting's reminder to Kemar Roach - 'Still owes me about 1.5 million dollars'

Perth The discussion in a 'Channel 7' segment traced its origins to the 2009 Australia vs West Indies Test in Perth, where Roach subjected Ponting to a relentless series of bouncers. That memorable spell ultimately contributed to Roach securing an Indian Premier League (IPL) contract shortly thereafter.



The ongoing day-night Pink Test between Australia and West Indies saw some healthy banter between veteran West Indies pacer Kemar Roach and former Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting at the end of the second day's play in Brisbane, where the Australian batting legend joking said that the pacer owes him 1.5 million dollars. The conversation in a 'Channel 7'

feature found its context dating back to the 2009 Test in Perth when Roach tormented Ponting with a barrage of bouncers, and the spell eventually played a role in Roach bagging an Indian Premier League (IPL) contract soon after. "I have actually said forever, Kemar, he still owes me about 1.5 million dollars because on the back of that (spell), he was picked up in the IPL auction straight after," Ponting said as the duo had a hearty laugh. "You could've dealt with it better," quipped Roach to give a even funnier touch to the banter. "I remember telling the boys, he (Roach) actually bowled a faster spell in Adelaide (during that tour) than Perth," said Ponting, who was hit by one of Roach bouncers in Perth and was forced to retire hurt

The spin duo of Ashwin and Jadeja became the most successful bowling pair for India in Test cricket

NEW DELHI: The spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja became the most successful bowling pair for India in Test cricket.

During the opening day of the first Test against England in Hyderabad on Thursday, they scalped four wickets together, surpassing the legendary partnership of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Ashwin and Jadeja now boast a remarkable record of 504* wickets in 50 Tests, surpassing the previous milestone of 501 wickets in 54 Tests held by the iconic Kumble-Harbhajan duo. This remarkable feat solidifies their place as one of the most prolific bowling combinations in Indian cricket history. Harbhajan Singh and pacer Zaheer Khan occupy the third spot with 474 wickets in 59 Tests.

Overall, the list is led by England's pace duo of James Anderson and Stuart Broad, who have accumulated a staggering 1039 wickets in 138



matches, followed by Australian legends Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath with 1001 wickets in 104 Tests.

In the ongoing Test match in Hyderabad, Ashwin and Jadeja combined forces to dent England's progress after an initial aggressive start by the visitors. England, having opted for the "Bazball" approach, reached 108/3 at lunch, with Joe Root (18) and Jonny Bairstow (32) at the crease, providing stability after losing three wickets in quick succession. But soon after lunch break, Axar

Patel and Jadeja removed both the batter to reduce them to 125/5.

England's bold strategy includes three specialist spinners, and with Root contributing as a part-time bowler, Mark Wood stands as their sole fast bowler in the five-match series.

The Ashwin-Jadeja partnership is expected to play a pivotal role as the Test match progresses, setting the stage for an intriguing battle between bat and ball. Wisden picks 2023 men's ODI team of the year, includes 7 Indians in the XI.

Ravichandran Ashwin's brilliant delivery to dismiss Ben Stokes

NEW DELHI: Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin led India's surge to victory on the third day of the first Test against England in Hyderabad by dismissing their captain Ben Stokes.

After bowling out India for 436, England were 140/4 at the dismissal of Jonny Bairstow when Stokes arrived at the crease.

With the situation demanding to stay at the wicket, Stokes was cautious in his strokeplay and England's first innings top-scorer had scored just 6 runs when Ashwin struck.

Ashwin tossed up a delivery on the middle, the ball hit the top and disturbed the surface, the length drew Stokes forward, but it then gripped and turned past the outside edge - crashing into the off-stump.

The school's young talents sang a devotional rendition of the lovely bhajan



Delhi: Pioneer Senior Secondary School celebrated the 75th Republic Day with much fanfare and good cheer. Principal Dr. Seema Bajaj raised the flag to officially launch the program. This time, the school held a number of competitions, including speech, singing, essay writing, poster-making, poetry recitation, and dance. The school's young talents sang a devotional rendition of the lovely

bhajan "Ram aaye angana sajaungi" on this particular occasion. Through Rani of Jhansi, the girls demonstrated the courage, renunciation, and sacrifice of women. As she wished everyone a happy Republic Day, Principal Dr. Seema Bajaj explained that the primary objectives of the Republic are to uphold the Indian Constitution and honor the nation's liberation heroes who

gave their lives in the fight for freedom. Every Indian feels pride in the country's history and heritage today. Following their independence, Indians have accomplished a great deal. It is appropriate to recognize and honor their accomplishments today. In addition to congratulating everyone on the 75th Republic, Vice Principal Kamlesh Kaur stated that Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, who was instrumental in the creation of the.

EPACK Durable Limited Initial Public Offer to open

Gurugram: EPACK Durable Limited ("EPACK" or the "Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares. 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, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on 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 proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares to fund 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 cor ("Objects of Issue"). The offer for sale of up to 10,437,047 Equity Shares ("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 Rajat 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").

Law students participate in LU's contest

U.P Lucknow: Lucknow University's Moot Court Association witnessed an impressive response to its second Dr Avtar Singh Memorial National Online Article Writing Competition with the participation of 65 teams and participants from all corners of the nation. The competition prompted students to articulate their perspectives on a

broad spectrum of topics, including the Digital Data Protection Act versus Right to Privacy and the role of mediation in consumer disputes. Law student Anjana from Mar Gregorious College of Law, Thiruvananthapuram, clinched the top position in the competition. The first runner-up position was jointly shared by

Sanskriti Jaiswal from LU and Sanskar Jaiswal from GNLU, Gujarat. Anubhuti Awasthi from Amity University, Lucknow, secured the second runner-up position. Professor Dr Banshi Dhar Singh, the head and dean of the Faculty of Law, motivated students to actively engage in such competition.

Chinese military bodies, purchased Nvidia semiconductors banned by the US

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 include its

● "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"

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 efficiently 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. The former purchased six Nvidia A100 chips in May to train a deep-learning model.

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

Delhi: The GH-13 Residents Welfare Association in Paschim Vihar, Delhi, planned a cultural program to commemorate Republic Day. This program was organized by R.W.A. President R.K. Mittal and General Secretary J.P. Sharma. Councilor Monica Goyal and former Councilor Vinay Rawat were also present on this occasion. This society has full boom barring and parking amenities. The Delhi Government artists contributed to the



program with a patriotic presentation. On this occasion, they performed dance and

music portraying the culture of all of the country's states, which the attendees

thoroughly liked. Many luminaries attended the event and were honored.

Over a lakh people attended Nirankari Sant Samagam



Delhi: "Real devotion begins only by seeing God through Brahman, whatever His name may be." Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj spoke this heavenly speech to devotees on the first day of the 57th annual Nirankari Sant Samagam of Maharashtra. Lakhs of Indians and foreigners attended this three-day Saint Samagam in Nagpur's Mihan SEZ region to

receive Satguru Mata Ji's divine darshan and holy teachings. Satguru Mata Ji blessed us by saying that when we become united with the formless God who is everywhere, in whom every particle of the universe is contained, stable, infinite, and omnipresent, in our emotional form, we automatically acquire human qualities. Besides physical workouts, this rally featured Yoga.

Adani Group to provide Dharavi residents 350 sqft homes with independent kitchens and toilets

Dharavi redevelopment: Eligible residential tenements, existing before January 1, 2000, will have separate kitchens and in-built independent toilets in each flat. D h a r a v i Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL), a collaboration between the Adani Group and the government of Maharashtra, announced that eligible residential tenements in Dharavi will receive flats featuring independent kitchens and toilets, with a minimum area of 350 sq ft. This compensatory area is almost 17% larger, marking the highest among slum redevelopment proj-



ects in Mumbai, as stated by the developer. In November 2022, Adani Properties, the real estate development company under the Gautam Adani-led Adani Group, secured the rights to redevelop the 600-acre Dharavi slum in Mumbai. With an 80% stake held by an Adani Group entity in DRPPL, the govern-

ment of Maharashtra holds the remaining 20%. Previously, informal settlement dwellers in Maharashtra were allocated houses measuring 269 sq ft. However, since 2018, in adherence to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for urban poor housing, the state government began providing homes ranging from 315 sq ft to 322 sq ft, accord-

ing to an ET report. Eligible residential tenements, existing before January 1, 2000, will have separate kitchens and in-built independent toilets in each flat. The dwellings will prioritize being well-lit, ventilated, hygienic, and secure. Ineligible residential tenements in Dharavi will be accommodated under the proposed affordable rental housing policy, following the defined norms of the Maharashtra government. The Adani Group has indicated similar development plans for the various Navi Dharavis is being considered, addressing the substantial demand for dwelling units.

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

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