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

Bihar abuzz ahead of key JD(U) meet today



The future of the Grand Alliance hung by a thread on Saturday as a change of guard appeared imminent in Bihar, with hectic parleys continuing through the day in Patna as well as the national capital, people aware of the developments said. Legislators emerging from an informal meeting of chief minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) indicated that a return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) could happen as early as Sunday, when the proposal is set to be tabled at a crucial meeting. People familiar with the

consultations between the JD(U) and the BJP said the latter proposed the names of Renu Devi and Tarkishore Prasad for the posts of deputy chief minister, but it is likely that Prasad may be replaced by Sushil Modi who is preferred by Kumar. "There is a chance that both BJP and JD(U) MLAs may come together at the CM's house on Sunday, where a final announcement will be made if Nitish gives the go-ahead," one of the people cited above said.

READ | As Nitish Kumar keeps everyone guess-

ing, what is RJD, Congress's game plan for Bihar? If Kumar makes the switch, it will be his fourth such move in the past decade and the second this term. Speaking to reporters in Delhi, JD(U) spokesperson KC Tyagi said, "The INDIA bloc is on the verge of collapse. The alliance is almost over in Punjab, West Bengal and Bihar," and added that he could not see how the INDIA bloc parties could fight the "all-powerful" BJP. "Kumar never hankered after a position in the alliance (INDIA), but a section of the Congress leadership repeatedly

"The RJD has decided to adopt a 'wait and watch policy' till there is more clarity on Kumar's next move, and authorised"

insulted him," he said. The developments came as other constituents of the Mahagathbandhan appeared to display a united front, with the Rashtriya Janata Party remaining tight-lipped on the evolving situation, and the Congress hailing Kumar as the architect of the larger INDIA bloc. But, learned that Kumar did not take calls from either RJD chief Lalu Prasad or Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

The RJD has decided to adopt a "wait and watch policy" till there is more clarity on Kumar's next move, and authorised former CM Lalu Prasad to decide on the future course of action.

Congress hopes to find 'middle path' in Bengal as fissures widen in INDIA bloc

New Delhi: Amid growing discontent in the opposition INDIA bloc and increasing pressure on the Congress, the party on Saturday said it was the responsibility of all constituents to strengthen the alliance, and announced that the party was hopeful that INDIA will fight as an alliance in West Bengal.

() In some states, the allies are in a "very good fix" and will announce the seats at an appropriate time, Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said. Stay



tuned for all the latest updates on Ram Mandir! Click here Ramesh said that Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge has "established contact" with Banerjee and as

"she always said she wants to defeat the BJP, that's what gives us hope that we can find a middle path... We are hopeful that INDIA bloc will fight in an alliance in Bengal". Ramesh's

comments came two days after Banerjee declared that her party will go solo in West Bengal and claimed that the Congress has rejected her offer of two seats.

Maratha quota stir ends as govt accepts demand

The Maharashtra government has accepted the demand of Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil to extend OBC quota benefits to the community. The Maharashtra govern-

ment on Saturday accepted the demand of Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil to extend OBC quota benefits to the community, a decision that was aimed at mollifying an agitation that

was on the brink of bringing hundreds of thousands of protesters to the heart of India's financial capital. Jarange-Patil called off his strike after parleys and deliberations between the two sides

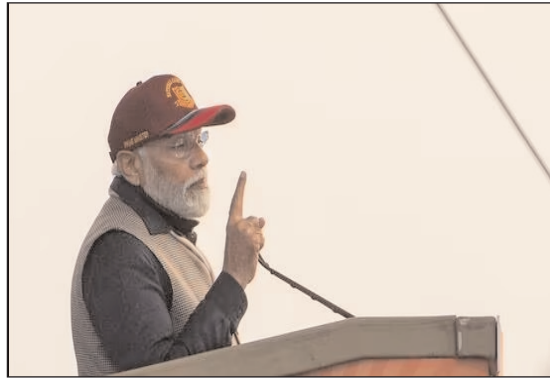
stretched overnight, which yielded into the Eknath Shinde-led administration announcing that people from the Maratha community will be eligible for reservation in jobs.

Akhilesh's cryptic post on seats for Cong triggers speculation

With the political temperature gradually beginning to rise in the run-up to this summer's Lok Sabha elections, Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav's post on Saturday saying that his party's alliance with the Congress is "off to a good start with 11 strong seats (to the Congress)" has triggered speculation in political circles in Uttar Pradesh. Indications are that the SP is not willing to give more than 13 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress even as the Bihar political developments and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's tough talk against the Congress have made the INDIA bloc alliance in those states uncertain. Uttar Pradesh has 80 Lok Sabha seats, the highest in the country. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP and its ally Apna Dal (S) won 62 out of the 80 seats in the state. The Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance won 15 seats (SP 5 and BSP 10) and the Congress could only bag one seat. In a post on X on Saturday, Akhilesh Yadav said: "Our cordial alliance with the Congress is off to a good start with 11 strong seats (to Congress). This trend will move forward with the winning equation. 'INDIA' team and 'PDA (backwards, Dalits, and minorities)' strategy will change history." However, in their statements, none of the Congress leaders in Uttar Pradesh or Delhi made any mention of the 11 seats though all said that positive talks are on between the two parties. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (in charge of UP) Avinash Pandey said: "The seat-sharing talks between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress were progressing well with all the positivity." He also said he had seen the SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's post about seat-sharing, but had no further information on the issue.

Some parties defend leaders who breach House rules: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need to maintain the dignity of the House as he targeted "some political parties" for allegedly defending the lawmakers who break the rules of Parliament and state legislatures. Addressing the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), the PM said that earlier senior



members of the House would take the initiative to ensure that decorum is maintained, but it

was no longer followed. "There was a time when, if any member in the House broke the rules and action was taken against that member, senior members of the House would talk to them so that in the future they did not repeat the mistake. But these days, some political parties stand in support of such members and defend their mistakes. The situation is not good for Parliament or the state legislature," he said.

SC stays proceedings before Cal HC benches amid tussle

The SC has halted proceedings in a case involving the CBI and the Bengal govt, after contradictory orders were issued by two benches of the Calcutta HC. Highlighting that the turn of events warranted its intervention with a special five-judge bench sitting on a weekend, the court put in abeyance the direction issued by the single judge bench of justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay for an

investigation by the CBI into an alleged fake caste certificate scam, which was made despite the division bench led by justice Soumen Sen annulling the probe order. "We have taken charge now...this order will suffice the interest of justice for the time being," said the bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, as it took up the proceedings drawn on its own motion in the special

hearing. The bench, which also comprised the four most senior justices - justices Sanjiv Khanna, Bhushan R Gavai, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, issued notices to the West Bengal government and the CBI, seeking their replies by January 29 when the court will hear the matter again. "Pending further orders of this court, there shall be a stay of all proceedings in the writ petition.

PM Modi hails Nari Shakti at NCC rally, says govt removed obstacles for women

The world is watching how India's women are projecting Nari Shakti and proving their mettle in every field, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, a day after women stole the limelight at the 75th Republic Day parade, with ample representation in every element of India's

biggest ceremonial event: in the flypast, in mechanised columns, in marching contingents, in bands and in the cultural show. "The 75th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path was dedicated to 'Nari Shakti'. We have opened up opportunities for daughters in sectors where

their entry was previously restricted or limited," the PM said addressing the customary National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally at the Cariappa parade ground in Delhi Cantt. He highlighted the contribution of women to different fields including the armed forces, the country's space pro-

gramme, start-ups, banking and insurance. The PM said the government has removed obstacles to the entry of women in different areas, while speaking about the opening of front-line roles to women in the military, including command roles, combat positions and permanent commission.

British-Indian man who threatened to blow up plane acquitted by Spanish court

A Spanish court has acquitted a British-Indian man of public disorder after he joked to friends about being a member of the Taliban and planning to blow up a flight from London's Gatwick to Menorca in Spain in 2022. Aditya Verma admitted to telling his friends in July 2022: "On my way to blow up the plane. I'm a member of the Taliban."

He however said he had made the joke in a private Snapchat group and never intended to "cause public distress", the BBC reported. A judge in Madrid ruled on Friday that "no explosive... was found.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu says elimination of Hamas is his goal in Gaza

"If we don't eliminate the Hamas terrorists, these 'new Nazis,' the next massacre is only a question of time," Netanyahu said. Speaking at an evening news conference, Netanyahu noted that it was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. He held up a copy in Arabic of Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and said it was found, along with other Nazi and propaganda, by Israeli soldiers in Gazan homes. Stay tuned for all the latest updates on Ram Mandir! Click here When Israel finishes in Gaza, he said, such anti-semitic education will not continue. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns is set to join fresh hostage talks in coming days, seeking a deal that US and regional officials say would be part of a cease-fire of at



least two months. Netanyahu didn't mention such talks or any pause in fighting. Instead, he said he'd "instructed the ministers of defense and finance to bring before the government an unprecedented plan, a huge plan, to strengthen our defense industries for decades to come." As he spoke, Israeli troops were fighting intense battles around the central Gaza city of Khan Younis and thousands of Palestinians there were seen trying to evacuate to safety.

Countries pause funding for UN refugee agency in Gaza amid staff's Oct 7 involvement claims

Britain, Italy and Finland on Saturday became the latest countries to pause funding for the United Nations' refugee agency for Palestinians (UNRWA), following allegations its staff were involved in the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel. Set up to help refugees of the 1948 war at Israel's founding, UNRWA

provides education, health and aid services to Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. It helps about two thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million population and has played a pivotal aid role during the current war. The United States, Australia and Canada had already paused funding to the

aid agency after Israel said 12 UNRWA employees were involved in the cross-border attack. The agency has opened an investigation into several employees severed ties with them. The Palestinian foreign ministry criticised what it described as an Israeli campaign against UNRWA.

CAPSULES

Did Kangana Ranaut's 'Tejas' feature in Republic Day parade? Actress educates fans on REAL inspiration for tableau



At a time when 'Fighter' and movies on pilots of the Indian Airforce are hitting the headlines, those tuning in to watch the Republic Day parade were in for a surprise to find a tableau with the same theme. The float of Madhya Pradesh, which was a part of the parade on Friday, featured the theme of 'Self-reliant and progressive; women' of the state. It saw an IAF fighter pilot with a jet by her side. Fans on social media misinterpreted the float as a recreation of Kangana Ranaut's 2023 film 'Tejas' which was based on the story of India's first female fighter pilot. On seeing the viral clip from the parade, a fan asked, "Was that Kangana & Tejas in Madhya Pradesh Tableau?" The tweet caught the attention of Kangana, who candidly replied, "I wish!!" The actress then went on to humbly explain and educate fans about the real inspiration behind the float. She tweeted, "It was depicting Avani Chaturvedi the first female fighter pilot of India from MP." The post prompted shocked responses from many. "So many of us thought it was you!! You also portrayed Role of female Fighter Pilot in Tejas so remarkably," read a reply. "Nice to know this," said another. Kangana ushered in a wave of aerial films in Bollywood with the release of 'Tejas' in October 2023. The film saw the actress play the role of an Indian Air Force officer who sets out on a mission to rescue an Indian spy from Pakistan. The film, made on a Rs 60 crore budget, failed to hit the mark at the box office.

AP making remarkable progress in all sectors, says guv on R-Day

Vijayawada: Despite facing numerous challenges, Andhra Pradesh has made remarkable progress in various sectors, surpassing our past achievements with the cooperation of people, said governor S Abdul Nazeer. Delivering the 75 Republic Day speech after unfurling the national flag at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium here on Friday, the governor said that the state government was committed for delivering welfare schemes effectively without any discrimination of caste, religion, class, region, and political affiliations. Asserting that the key feature of the state government was to deliver welfare schemes promptly and ensuring that they reach end beneficiaries in a transparent manner, the governor highlighted various schemes that are being implemented by the state government.

2 arrested for smuggling FICN from Bangladesh

LUCKNOW: A team of the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested two people for smuggling fake Indian currency worth Rs 97,500 from Bangladesh via West Bengal to Uttar Pradesh. The arrested people were identified as Chandan Sainik and Deepak Kumar, both natives of Pratapgarh district. They were arrested from Varanasi based on information provided by an informant. "The duo confessed to bringing the notes from Bangladesh and circulating them in UP and Delhi. The notes seized from their possession were of Rs 500 denomination," said Additional director general of police, ATS, Mohit Agarwal. Agarwal added that the accused Deepak Kumar has previously been sent to jail by Pratapgarh police in a case of ganja smuggling, and the other accused, Chandan Sainik, has been jailed twice for ganja smuggling and vehicle theft. ATS recovered six smartphones, fake currency and air tickets from West Bengal.

75th Republic Day celebrated with great pomp at Meza Energy Corporation

Employees do for the corporation in the future and Good work - Sarit Maheshwari

Prayagraj. On Friday, the 75th Republic Day was celebrated with great pomp and joy in Meza Energy Corporation. During this, colorful cultural programs based on patriotism were presented commendably by the children of St. Joseph's School. On this



occasion, GMO&M Sarit Maheshwari was the first to hoist the flag and then in his address to the employees, he appreciated the efforts of all the departments of the corporation and also explained in detail about the achievements of the last year. Also motivated the employees to do better for Meza Energy Corporation in future.

On this auspicious occasion, the book 'Best Practices and Achievements 2023 of Meza Energy Corporation', organized by P&S Department, was also released. During the program, under the Corporate Social Responsibility, GM (O&M) honored the disabled people of the project affected villages by providing them tricy-

cles. Along with this, he honored the employees of Meza Energy Corporation on this auspicious occasion for their meritorious and commendable work. During the program, children from Bal Bhavan, Bal Srijan, and Little Kingdom, St. Joseph's School also presented wonderful patriotic artworks and colorful cultural programs which enthralled the attendees. On the occasion of Republic Day, heads of all departments, all members of Aparajita Mahila Samaj, CISF employees and all residents of Srijan Vihar Township were prominently present.

Republic Day celebrated with pomp at St. Peter's School, Sirsa



Prayagraj. St. Peter's School Chhatwa, Sirsa-Prayagraj Republic Day celebrated with full patriotism. Went. Students participated in various patriotic songs and to make the Republic Day cel-

ebrations successful Gave his best contribution. Miss Nishi Trained students for parade performance. And dance performance under the guidance of Miss Srishti Singht to be done.



Praveen Upadhyay at the end of the program Speech was given by, he told the students Gave information about the importance of 26th January. School Principal Mrs. Shivani Kheda Soni wishes

Republic Day to all students Best wishes and this information to the students Why do we celebrate Republic Day? They Students and teachers also for their cooperation Gave thanks.

Salary due for 15 months, 250 UP forest watchers threaten work boycott

PILIBHIT: The tiger conservation effort in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) is facing a crisis due to 15 months of unpaid salaries for its 250 dedicated forest watchers. Each forest watcher receives a monthly salary of Rs 9,634 for diligently safeguarding the reserve's vast 730-sqkm area. The accumulated arrears from Oct 2022 to Dec 2023 amount to Rs 3.6 crore. Since the last payment in Sept 2022, assur-

ances to expedite salary disbursement have replaced action. Forest watchers' salaries are integral to the reserve's 'annual plan of operation (APO)', aligned with the tiger conservation plan. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) covers 60%, with the state government contributing the remaining 40%. Pilibhit divisional forest officer (DFO) Naveen Khandelwal said, "The APO for 2023-24, requesting funds of Rs

10.2 crore has partially been approved. An approved amount of Rs 8 crore will be disbursed in four equal instalments. The first installment will soon transfer to PTR's account, releasing 25% of forest watchers' salary for Oct 2022 to March 2023." The leaders of forest watchers' union have warned of an indefinite work boycott before the festival of Holi, pressing for full payment of arrears and regularized monthly salaries.

AGRA Prajapati, a 47-year-old artisan in Agra's Pratapura locality, is busy crafting diyas for the upcoming Ram temple consecration event in Ayodhya on January 22. "It's an early Diwali event for us," he said. The event proves to be a boon for artisans creating earthen lamps, saffron 'Ramnam' flags, and firecrackers, experiencing a sudden surge in demand. Mridul Agarwal, a Mathura-

based supplier, noted, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people to light special diyas — Shri Ram Jyoti — in their homes to celebrate the consecration ceremony as 'Deepawali,' we expected a hike in demand for religious items related to the event. So, we started our preparation accordingly." Virendra Kumar, a 50-year-old potter, is pleasantly surprised by orders for more than

20,000 earthen lamps featuring Lord Ram's name, surpassing typical Diwali demand. "My whole family is engaged in making them," he said. Agra's potters cater to large orders from Delhi-NCR, offering designer diyas ranging from Rs 5 to Rs 50 per piece. Traders report a sudden demand for Ayodhya's Ram darbar and temple models, miniature idols of Ram, and gold-framed temple photos.

Man ends life after wife refuses money for liquor in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA: A 33-year-old man hanged himself from a ceiling fan allegedly after his wife refused him 500 for consuming alcohol. The incident was reported in Gudivada town of Krishna district. It is said that the man was in an inebriated state when he committed suicide. According to local police, the deceased was identified as Sheikh Kanna Saheb, a native of Chebrolu village in Unguturu mandal in Eluru district. He had moved to Karmika Nagar with his wife and children about four years ago. He worked as a daily

wage labourer here. Kanna Saheb's children had been to their relatives' house for their Makar Sankranti holidays. On Wednesday, his wife went to bring the kids home. Kanna Saheb was an alcoholic. He had earlier taken a loan of 2,500 from his employer and given the amount to his wife. Before his wife left for their relatives' house On Wednesday, Kanna Saheb had asked her to give him 500 and she denied. This led to a heated argument between the couple and the man threatened his wife with dire conse-

quences. However, after his wife left, Kanna Saheb borrowed money from another acquaintance and consumed alcohol. On Thursday night, when his wife returned home with the children, she found the main door was locked. She asked some neighbours for help and they came together to break the door open. On entering into the house, the woman found her husband's body hanging from the ceiling fan. Gudivada One Town police registered a case and are currently investigating into the matter.

Prayagraj: The hurdle in the construction of Begum Bazaar rail over bridge (ROB) has been finally removed. The expenditure finance committee of the government approved the budget of Rs 97 crore. Now a budget of Rs 67 crore will be given to the Indian Air Force, following which the air strip will be shifted. The district administration will give approximately Rs 30 crore as compensation for the construction. It is believed that traffic will start on this ROB before Maha Kumbh 2025. Begum Bazaar ROB was to be constructed for Kumbh

2019. This ROB, which was estimated for Rs 46 crore, is 92% complete. As soon as the construction of the upper part of the ROB, spanning over the trunk New Delhi-Howrah route, was undertaken by railways, the work stopped by IAF. Thereafter continued efforts were being made to remove the hindrance and recently, a proposal for a revised budget was sent to the government after getting conditional approval from the Defense Ministry. This proposal was put up for approval in the expenditure finance

committee meeting. Chief Project Manager of Setu Nigam, Manoj Aggarwal said that the committee has passed the budget. The Air Force will shift the airstrip and the district administration will remove obstacles on the way. After that, Railways will start the work. This ROB connects Jhalwa Marg. Three other proposals were also placed before the expenditure finance committee in, which a budget was also sought for construction, sanitization of 668 pontoons for the 25 pontoon bridges proposed for Maha Kumbh.

Blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra; 1 killed

BHANDARA: An employee died in blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara on Saturday morning, officials said. The incident occurred at 8am. The deceased has been identified as Avinash Meshram, a 52-year-old employee. Meshram was on duty during the first shift when the blast took place. He was in his department alone at that time.

Give Marathas free education till quota rolled out: Jarange



MUMBAI: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Friday made a fresh demand that the Maharashtra government amend its free education policy to include all Marathas until the benefit of reservation becomes available for the entire community. He and his supporters would enter Mumbai on Saturday for their planned protest at Azad Maidan ground if their demands were not met by tonight, he warned.

Addressing a rally at Shivaji Chowk in Vashi area of Navi Mumbai, Jarange said he will stay put for the day. "I am taking a step backward," the 40-year-old activist said, adding that he had stopped having food from Friday and was taking only water. "If an ordinance (to meet his various demands) is not promulgated tonight, I will come to Mumbai tomorrow," he said.

"I will take decision on going to Azad Maidan (in Mumbai) tomorrow at noon. Once I set out, there will be no turning back," the activist warned.

The free education policy should be amended so that boys also get free education besides girls, and all Marathas should get free education from KG (kindergarten) to postgraduation until the entire community gets reservation, he said. He has sought data of the 37 lakh Kunbi certificates issued by the state government, Jarange further said.

Potters, artisans, & traders thrive as demand surges before Ram temple consecration event

AGRA Prajapati, a 47-year-old artisan in Agra's Pratapura locality, is busy crafting diyas for the upcoming Ram temple consecration event in Ayodhya on January 22. "It's an early Diwali event for us," he said. The event proves to be a boon for artisans creating earthen lamps, saffron 'Ramnam' flags, and firecrackers, experiencing a sudden surge in demand. Mridul Agarwal, a Mathura-

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Begum Bazaar ROB to be completed before 2025

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French President Emmanuel visits Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah in Delhi



NEW DELHI: French President Emmanuel Macron visited the Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah in south Delhi. The dargah is dedicated to the Sufi saint Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya and is situated in Delhi's Nizamuddin West area. During a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu, Macron expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to his delegation and reaffirmed the long-standing friendship between India and France. He emphasized the

unique bond that transcends time and shared values. Macron acknowledged the exceptional welcome and reminisced about the five years since his last state visit, expressing pleasure at returning to India after the success of India's G20. He highlighted the deep honor of having French soldiers participate alongside their Indian counterparts, considering it an unforgettable memory for the entire delegation. Reflecting on the special relationship between India and

France, Macron mentioned the recent joint celebration of Bastille Day and the reciprocal visit during the 75th Republic Day. Earlier on the same day, Macron attended the Republic Day Parade as the chief guest at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was warmly greeted by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi upon his arrival at Kartavya Path, where French contingents marched alongside Indian forces during the parade.

Approach central tribunal, court tells Civil Defence volunteers

New Delhi: Protesting their removal from service, Civil Defence volunteers have been directed by Delhi High Court to approach the Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT) to seek interim relief.

"...petitioners are directed to approach CGIT with an application, if not filed, within two weeks from today seeking interim relief, and the learned CGIT is directed to decide the dispute in relation to the entitlement of petitioner for the grant of any interim relief as expeditiously as possible in accordance with law without being influenced by any of the proceedings before this court.



It is further directed that the CGIT shall not grant any unnecessary adjournments to either party," said the court in the order dated Jan 24, 2024. The single-judge bench of Justice Chandra Dhari Singh was hearing the petition of 300 odd volunteers who alleged that the state government had removed them from service despite the court's direction to maintain the

status quo in the services of similarly situated workmen. Appearing for the petitioners, advocate Rajiv Aggarwal requested the court extend the protection granted by the predecessor bench on Dec 6, 2023, until any decision was made by CGIT. He also requested interim relief in cases where it had not been granted in the order dated Dec 6, 2023,.

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.

SE Delhi's Baansera to get cafe soon, convention centre also on the cards

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has completed work on its cafe project at Baansera in Sarai Kale Khan. In line with the theme of this park, Cafe Bamboo Oasis has been made in an eco-friendly manner. It has an indoor seating capacity of around 100 people as well as ample seating space outdoors. DDA has recently initiated a process for leasing out the place on licence fee basis and the cafe is likely to become operational by next month



when the place will be blooming with varieties of seasonal flowers, including tulips. With around 20,000 tulip plants, the park will be a feast for the eyes. "On Jan 22, we commenced the registration process, which will continue till Feb 17. The e-

auktioning of Cafe Bamboo Oasis will be done on Feb 20," said a DDA official. The cafe is being constructed with a temporary light-weight structure in mild steel with polyurethane foam roof panels. "To make the surface look attractive, there will be wooden flooring. People can soak up in the sun and enjoy the green space in the middle of the city at Baansera," said the DDA official further. Besides the cafe, there is also a plan to construct a convention centre at the

park and designing for this has been done by NBCC. "It is still in the initial stage. The centre is likely to be spread over an area of 3,000 square feet. We are expecting this to be completed by next year," said the official. The centre, which will be made entirely with bamboo, will be air-conditioned and will comprise a meeting hall and an interpretation room, among other rooms. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 2.1 crore, according to sources.

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.

Delhi Police issues traffic advisory for Beating Retreat ceremony

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has announced extensive traffic arrangements for the Beating Retreat ceremony, which will take place at Vijay Chowk on Monday, according to officials. The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the official conclusion of the Republic Day celebrations.



In a traffic advisory released on Friday, the police stated that traffic restrictions would be in effect from 2 pm to 9.30 pm on Monday, with Vijay Chowk closed to traffic. The advisory specified that traffic would be prohibited on Rafi Marg between the Sunehri Masjid roundabout and Krishi Bhawan roundabout, as well as on Raisina Road from Krishi Bhawan roundabout to Vijay Chowk, beyond Dara Shikoh roundabout, Krishna Menon Marg roundabout, and Sunehri Masjid towards Vijay Chowk. Additionally, traffic will

be limited on Kartavya Path between Vijay Chowk and 'C' hexagon, the advisory noted. Commuters are advised to consider alternative routes such as Ring Road, Ridge Road, Aurobindo Marg, Madrasa T-Point, Lodhi Road, Safdarjung Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Rani Jhansi Road, and Minto Road. From 2 pm to 9.30 pm on Monday, buses will be diverted from their regular routes to accommodate invitees' and spectators' vehicles and to prevent traffic congestion around the ceremony venues and India Gate, the advisory stated.

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.

Vivaldo for Delhi event

Chennai: The Prasanna Kumar-trained Vivaldo has been in scintillating form and could clinch the Global Stud Mahender North India Derby (Gr.3), the major classic event of the races to be held in Delhi on Saturday. Selections: 1) The Icelandic Plate (1200M), For 3 years old only, 1pm. (4) My Darling Bobby (3) Maria Teresa (1) Ode To Nature. 2) The Daring Don Plate (D-1), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 1:30pm. (8) Guarnerius (5) Peaceful (2) Galway Bay. 3) The Daring Don Plate (D-2), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 2pm. (8) Little More (4) Jaat Hero (1) Ustaad Ji. 4) The Best Of All Plate (1400M), Rtd (60-86) 2:30pm. (6) Golden Sun (7) Accumulate (3) Lodge Keeper. 5) The Turf Hawk Plate (D-1), (1000M), Rtd (40-66) 3pm. (7) Master Stepper (9) Winning Legacy (10) Player. 6) The Global Stud Mahender North India Derby (1600M), For 4 years old only, 3:30pm. (8) Vivaldo (10) Aralina (11) Ashwa Kanchenjunga.

Editorial

Shadowy alliances and the expected reemergence of ISIS

ISIS has been an interesting entity for conflict watchers. The group's lightning-fast emergence and equally impressive consolidation of a working structure, the disproportionate barbarism that they displayed, or their superhuman ability in establishing military dominance over a sizeable chunk of Iraq and Syria in record time, remained lined with suspicion in the minds of those who were watching them: these Toyota-driving-thugs were not their own masters; they had some solid backing. Indications towards the identity of the backers started floating in as the months progressed. The US made 8,000 strikes against ISIS but their missiles and drones religiously failed to track or destroy their mile-long Toyota convoys (how were they getting so many Toyotas?) in flat deserts. Not only that; Uncle Sam kept air-dropping ammunition 'by mistake' in their midst. Continuously. It helps to remember that the US was supposed to be 'fighting the ISIS' during those days. Then came the news of oil racketeering. When they began stealing oil from the Syrian oilfields, Turkey stood there by their side buying all that oil from them. When injured, they received treatment in Israeli hospitals. So, as the West, with all its tech advancements kept 'trying hard' to minimise the ISIS threat, these guys went from strength to strength. They increased the size of their army, their territorial influence, and their wealth – all in the span of just a couple of years (between 2012 and 2014). And they would have probably taken over Syria were it not for Russian president Vladimir Putin who decided to wade into the conflict in September of 2015. US is the biggest loser in Israel-Hamas war. However, whispers about the story of ISIS or their backers don't end there. When Russia began its aerial assault, it took them about a few months to achieve what the West was 'trying' for years, and, by the end of 2016, it became clear that the previously elusive (and invincible) ISIS had taken a series of quite serious hits; at that rate, their survival could be at stake. By the end of 2017, most of them were gone – they dropped off the radar as mysteriously as they had popped up!

Who could be their backers?

To understand that a little more, we have to track the movements of these black-masked, nameless and faceless terrorists, and their acts of appearances and disappearances. Let us take the case of Iraq. A recently published analysis notes that during its height, ISIS had 35,000 fighters in Iraq. Though 25,000 of them were killed, it is the remaining 10,000 whose movements attracted a lot of attention. Most of these terrorists fled to Syria and Turkey as the tables turned. Syria is still fairly lawless – an easy place to hide, while Turkey has always enjoyed good relations with ISIS (recall the oil racketeering). And when Abdullah Qardash began as the new caliph of ISIS in 2019, these terrorists were summoned back to Iraq, so they began returning. But Iraq borders had become quite stringent by then. Slipping past was difficult. This crossing over would be facilitated by American shelling of the Iraqi border posts and that would allow the terrorists to slip in in the ensuing chaos. The analysis also reports on a place in Iraq called the Houran Valley. It is the largest one in Iraq and is one of the most dangerous places in terms of lack of security. Apparently, according to Iraqi politicians, the Americans have transferred from different locations hundreds of ISIS fighters and are responsible for their protection and training. The rest of the story is similar to the Iraq border shootings: an Iraqi MP, Hassan Salem calls for an army-led clean-up of the Houran Valley; Iraqi PMU units approach the area; American aircraft target them, shoot at them, and push them back. A little south-east along the map, and away from Iraq is Afghanistan, and any observation about ISIS and their backers would be incomplete without the mention of ISKP – ISIS in Khorasan Province.

Trump 2.0: How it may impact India-US relations



The Republican presidential nomination race is almost over with Donald Trump winning the New Hampshire primary. While the Granite State has less than 2 per cent (22) of the 1,215 delegates needed (out of 2,249) for the nomination, its early spot on the calendar plays a significant role. A Trump win in the South Carolina primary on 24 February would deal a nearly irreversible blow to Nikki Haley's presidential ambitions for now. He already leads her by 37 points among Republicans nationwide, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll. Trump's nomination is assured but doesn't guarantee an Oval Office return. Recent polls show him and Biden in a dead heat or a one to two-point difference. In the most recent Reuters/Ipsos poll earlier this month, an equal percentage of respondents, 35 per cent, said that they would vote for Trump and Biden. A Gallup poll showed Trump leading Biden (41 per cent) by only one point (42 per cent). In The Hill/Decision Desk HQ's national polling average, both were neck-and-neck in a hypothetical rematch with Trump at 44.3 per cent and Biden at 43.1 per cent. If Trump snags the White House in a stunning Clevelandish comeback in November, would India-US relations become better,

worse or remain the same? That's the big question for India—especially if Prime Minister Narendra Modi romps home for the third time in 2024. Trump is a maverick and radically non-conformist. His equations with world leaders—like Modi, the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Russian President Vladimir Putin or North Korean leader Kim Jong-un—are well-known. Trump and Modi kicked off during their first meeting at the White House in June 2017 with the US president saying that bilateral ties were "never stronger" and India "has a true friend in the White House". "During my campaign, I pledged that if elected, India will have a true friend in the White House

and that's now exactly what you have—a true friend," Trump said. Around two years later, in September 2019, the 90-minute "Howdy, Modi!" show in Houston, Texas, featured 400 performers and a 50,000-strong crowd. "I'm so thrilled to be here in Texas with one of America's greatest, most devoted and most loyal friends, Prime Minister Modi of India," Trump said. Modi returned the effusive praise by vouching for Trump's second term in 2020. "Ab ki baar, Trump sarkar," he said. Less than six months later, their friendship was cemented further during the "Namaste Trump" event in Ahmedabad in February 2020. "America loves India, respects India. India gives

hope to all of humanity," said Trump as 125,000 people cheered him on. Modi is an "exceptional leader, a man I am proud to call my true friend". Modi also emphasised the new dawn in the US-India relationship. "India-US relations are no longer just another partnership; it's a far greater and closer relationship." **America first, personal equation second** For Trump, it's only "America First" and "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" even if he develops a personal rapport with a leader. Trump's relationship with Abe was the best example of how maintaining American interests was his prime goal despite their bonding. Tough trade talk clouded his

Japan visit in May 2019 as Trump teed off with Abe in Tokyo. While Abe hoped to make the US-Japan alliance "even more unshakeable", Trump was unhappy with the trade imbalance and the agriculture and beef trade differences. Therefore, several factors will decide the future of India-US ties in Trump's second term. First, the India-US trade imbalance annoyed Trump in his first term. America was India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 with bilateral trade rising to \$128.55 against \$119.5 billion in 2021-22 and \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. But since 2018, the US trade deficit with India has been rising—\$20.9 billion in 2018, \$23.3 billion in 2019, \$24.1 billion in 2020, \$33.1 billion in 2021 and \$45.7 billion in 2022. In his second innings, Trump will try to reduce the trade imbalance with India. Despite trade and investment being one of the main components of thriving bilateral relations, the US is concerned about market access and other trade barriers. In May 2019, Washington suspended the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme for India following New Delhi's price caps on medical equipment. India was the largest GSP beneficiary and exported duty-free goods worth \$6 billion to the US annually.

Dangerous Chinese presence in Indian Ocean Region

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has increasingly become a crucial juncture to the ongoing strategic competition within the broader Indo-Pacific. Engagement from regional powers like India is insufficient and China's growing influence is a worrisome development. Even extra-regional powers like the US have been unable to match the surging influence of a growing and assertive China in the IOR. China's outreach in the IOR has been distinct and comprehensive. China perceives the region to be one continuous zone that secures its sea lines of communication through the Indian Ocean to Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Under the playbook of China's

"Two Oceans Strategy", the role of IOR for China has been evolving in securing the passage of raw materials, which if interdicted, could wreck China's pursuit of regional hegemony in the region. China is keen on mobilising its military and naval resources in the IOR to secure supplies of oil and gas from the Gulf region and to maintain a steady flow of merchandise exports to European countries. Actuating its military in the IOR is also prompted by the fear of an overarching Indian presence in the region, backed by the US, which might end up encircling and controlling these vital trade arteries through the region. Commensurate with China's commercial and strategic goals within the Indo-Pacific,

there has been a re-evaluation of its strategy from "near-seas defence" to "open seas projection", which Beijing consistently demonstrates by undertaking non-military operations in the Indian Ocean. China has been augmenting its outreach towards the small island nation states, anchoring its diplomatic outreach to address non-traditional security challenges like climate change, infrastructural development, or counter-piracy interventions. To that end, initially, China has deployed PLAN, PLAAF, PLAA, and SSF in the region to handle the problem of maritime security operations including anti-piracy missions, counter-terrorism ops, HA/DR, and peace-keeping missions.

Iranian praxis and the ongoing West Asian crisis

There is no doubt that Iran is pivotal to security and stability in the Middle East (West Asia). The Israel-Hamas war has once again proved it even though it is often concluded by many analysts and experts that both Tehran and the political leadership of Hamas were kept in the dark by the Hamas Military leadership steered by Yahya Sinwar before undertaking the unprecedented 7 October terror attacks which led to the killing of over 1,200 Israeli civilians along with 240 hostages. Hamas in a report did admit to some mistakes. Of course, even if somewhat miffed Tehran regime came out in support of their protégé Hamas which got engaged in existential warfare with Israel and the synergy of their objectives was obviously against the ultra-rightist-run Jewish state. Iran has an asymmetrical advantage given its 3H +KH+ SM expanse in the Arab world that includes Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria; Houthis in Yemen and Hamas in Gaza as well as Kataib Hezbollah and several other Shia militias in Iraq.

These have an umbilical relationship with Tehran but do not necessarily take all orders from them which has been evident from Hamas and Houthi attacks and escalations in Palestine and the Red Sea respectively. Even



Hezbollah, the most well-trained and equipped, of all these non-State actors, is keeping the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) engaged in a low-key and psychological warfare. On the other hand, militia groups in Iraq are continuing to target US bases most recently being the Al Asad base forcing retaliation by the US on them. These regular attacks and counterattacks can be germane to a wider conflagration in the region which no one seems to be interested in even though some argue that Netanyahu could try any trick in his toolbox to prolong the war which would keep the currently disenchanted US stuck in the game in the Middle East.

Biden-Bibi discord on 'Day after' scenario and vertically opposite positions on the fate of Gaza and Palestine with the Two-State solution has been pretty evident as Bibi continues to test US patience and capability to stretch.

Whether it will snap is anybody's guess although quite unlikely! Escalation by Houthis

and attacks on commercial ships in support of Hamas and Palestine has reached dangerous levels and has wider ramifications for the safety of important maritime routes and safety of trading lanes especially energy transit which have become more expensive as major companies are trying to detour and several value and supply chains in the West have already been ruptured. The general assumption is that further escalation must be contained but that needs to be done by addressing the genesis of it all i.e. the Israel-Hamas war and ongoing civilian casualties and humanitarian strife which is provoking and stoking the cinders in other volatile areas in the region. For this Tehran's acquiescence is essential since despite sanctions, socio-economic problems and its running battle with the West it has been able to consolidate its hold through the rather powerful non-state actors as it has also mended ties with Arab countries and Turkey.

To build a new 'horizon' in Indo-French ties, Paris needs to fasten implementations

The participation of French President Emmanuel Macron as the chief guest at India's 75th Republic Day was symbolically and substantively an appreciation of the steady and growing partnership. In the last year, Modi and Macron have met several times. This included a special gesture by inviting Modi as the chief guest at the Bastille Day Parade in July 2023. After the G20 Summit in Delhi, they met again at the COP28 in Abu Dhabi. It was the sixth time that a French dignitary was the chief guest at Republic

Day, a record for any country. Driven by pursuit of strategic autonomy, Modi, Macron take India-France ties to new heights **Driven** Time-tested friendship: How military aviation is closest connection between India and France **France** India and France have a strategic partnership of 25 years. Under Horizon 2047, a diversifying partnership is envisaged. France is India's best friend in Europe, a steady partner among the Permanent Five (P5) of the UN Security

Council, and the most important defence partner after Russia.

In India's strategic autonomy, France plays an important role in a multipolar world that India prefers. Indian diversification from dependence on Russia for defence equipment makes France a leading alternative. It is also the strategic pole that gives India heft in the Indo-Pacific without being called upon to participate in big-power rivalry and criticise Russia or China. Macron's visit was gracious in the sense that

the French knew that India's first choice of guest was US President Biden. That visit was to be the cornerstone of a Quad summit in India. Due to domestic compulsions, Biden desisted, thus delaying the Quad summit and opening up the Republic Day chief guest issue. Already for two years during the pandemic, there was no chief guest. At short notice, Macron accepted to be the chief guest, despite his own domestic preoccupations. Credit has to be given to the French for standing by India on such occasions.

Delhi to Host India's Largest Corrugated Packaging Machinery Expo from 7-9 March

GURUGRAM : The Corru Pack Print India Expo 2024, an exhibition dedicated to the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Industry, is set to unfold from March 7 to March 9 at the India International Convention and Expo Center in New Delhi. Jointly Organized by the Indian Paper Corrugated & Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association (ICPMA) and the Futurex Group, this event stands as the singular exhibition facilitated by India's foremost Corrugated Packaging Machinery Association. This expo will feature leading manufacturers in the Corrugated Packaging Machinery sector, showcasing their latest products with live demonstrations of cutting-edge machines. The event aims to bring together the entire spectrum of the Corrugation Industry, presenting a comprehensive display of products that cater



to the Packaging and Corrugated Industries. In his statement, Hitesh Nagpal Ji, the President of ICPMA, highlighted the unique significance of Corru Pack Print India as a specialized event catering exclusively to the corrugation segment. He emphasized that this exhibition marks a pioneering effort by the association, making it the first of its kind in bringing together Corrugated Packaging Machinery manufacturers. ICPMA, as India's first Paper Corrugated & Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association, has been a driving force since its inception in 2014 at New Delhi.

It stands as a modern and dynamic forum that provides valuable opportunities for Indian manufacturers engaged in the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Business on a global scale. Hitesh Ji outlined the association's ethos, underscoring the active involvement of its members in advancing the technological landscape of the corrugated industry in the country. He further expressed the association's vision of fostering growth for its members, ensuring that each participant in the association contributes to improving their business for the benefit of future generations.

Vikas Lifecare Ltd. announces Acquisition of Substantial Stakes in "SKY 2.0" Club, Dubai (UAE) for ~USD 79 Million

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 stand-alone, 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.

India Science Festival highlights the need for co-operation

GURUGRAM : The India Science Festival 2024 (ISF 2024) which concluded recently at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune on January 20 and 21, 2024 has marked another milestone in the celebration of scientific discovery and innovation.

Organized by the Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) in partnership with Bajaj Auto, the festival provided a platform for scientists, researchers, students, and the public to engage in various scientific activities, discussions, and demonstrations. ISF 2024

was inaugurated by Varun Aggarwal (Cofounder – FAST India, Founder – Aspiring Minds and The Change Engine), Prof. K Vijay Raghavan (Chief Scientific Advisor to ISF, former Principal Scientific Advisor to GoI), Atul Kirloskar (Chairman, Kirloskar Oil.

The coming time is for Congress, people are unhappy with BJP: Chanakya Sharma

Karnal: Under the Har Ghar Congress Ghar Ghar Congress campaign run by the Congress in Karnal, a program was organized at the residence of Vijay Kumar in Mangal Colony Part Two, nearby Ramdev Colony. This program was inaugurated by former President of Karnal City District Congress, Ashok Khurana. Chanakya Sharma, son of former speaker Kuldeep Sharma, was mainly present on this occasion. Regarding the people present in the program, former City District Congress President Ashok Khurana said that

Congress national leader Rahul Gandhi and President Mallikarjun Kharge, former Chief Minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda are going door to door with the message of State President Udaybhan Singh. He said that the coming time is for Congress. People are upset with the anti-people policies of BJP. He said that people of every section are troubled by the BJP government. On this occasion, the keynote speaker and son of former speaker Kuldeep Sharma, Pandit Chanakya Sharma said that the central and state

governments of BJP are harassing political people through ED. During this, he said that at present the people of Haryana and entire India are upset with the BJP government, due to which, in the upcoming elections, Congress government will be formed with public support. He said that on one hand, BJP's Vikas Bharat Yatra is going on and on the other hand, the youth of our state are crossing the seven seas and going to foreign countries on donkey. Unemployment is continuously increasing under this government.

When he was asked about the sanctity of the Ram temple, he refused to say anything, calling it a religious issue. He said that the BJP government has repressed every class, they have cut off the ration cards and BPL cards of poor people. Now, it is certain that Congress government will be formed in Haryana and Center in the coming time. Former working president of the Congress Party, Ashok Khurana said on this occasion that farmers are being cheated a lot in the name of the portal and he is very worried about it.

Celebrate this Republic Day with Vi Mega Offers

GURUGRAM / FARID-ABAD : On the occasion of the 75th Republic Day of India, Vi, a leading telecom operator, today announced a range of exclusive offers for its prepaid customers. Vi prepaid customers can enjoy special deals on select recharge packs while recharging through the Vi App. Vi prepaid customers will get special data benefits of upto 50GB at no extra cost and an instant discount offer of Rs. 75. On Pack Rs. 2899 and Rs. 3099, Vi prepaid customers will get 50GB of extra data. On Pack Rs. 1449, Vi prepaid cus-



tomers will get 30GB of extra data. In addition to this, for the youth of our country, Vi has introduced 'Job Mela' from January 26 to January 31, 2024, in collaboration with Job Hai, the leading blue-collar recruitment platform by Info Edge. Vi

Job Mela will offer over 5 lakh jobs across more than 45 categories such as telecaller, sales, business development, back office, graphic designer, delivery, and security guard, exclusively on the Vi App. Candidates with edu-

cational qualifications ranging from 10th grade to postgraduates can apply for the Jobs on the Vi App. Empowering the candidates to apply and crack jobs in top organizations, Job Mela will also offer tailor-made short videos on interview tricks and tips on the Vi app, thus ensuring thorough preparation for their job-seeking journey. Vi's Republic Day bonanza is a testament to its commitment to enhance the overall experience for its customers through exciting offers and innovative initiatives.

Castrol India Conducts 'CASTROL CRB TURBOMAX PRAGATI KI PAATHSHAALA' in Panipat to Empower Indian Truckers

Panipat: Castrol India Limited, India's premier lubricant manufacturer, has embarked on its next endeavour to empower Indian truck drivers with the launch of its purpose-led initiative, 'Castrol CRB TURBOMAX Pragati Ki Paathshaala'. The initiative is aimed at spurring entrepreneurial zeal and enhancing professional competencies of truck drivers with its on-ground leg targeted to upskill over 10,000 truckers across India. With two days of on-ground Paathshaalas in Panipat, the 'Castrol CRB TURBOMAX Pragati Ki Paathshaala' initiative has upskilled over (362) truck drivers through insightful and interactive knowledge sessions.



prised engaging educational and entertaining activities for truck drivers in the city. The knowledge sessions were organised to upskill truckers in four key aspects - Driving Safety, Truck Ownership, New Technology, and Business Profitability--empowering them to #BadhteRahoAagey. Mr. Sandeep Sangwan, Managing Director of Castrol India, said, "The trucking community has always been an integral part of Castrol India, and we have been continuously striving to ensure their safety and liveli-

hood through transformative initiatives. With this initiative, we want to empower and inspire truck drivers to become 'Chalak Se Malak'. We are thrilled to receive an encouraging response from Panipat which has encouraged us to organise such programmes in the future for the well-being of the trucking community." The 'Castrol CRB TURBOMAX Pragati Ki Paathshaala' initiative was supported by local transporters and associations in Panipat such as AIMTC. After the successful conclusion of the two-day programme, over (362) were honoured with certification of participation and reflective stickers that can be placed on their trucks, encouraging them to Drive Safe and #BadhteRahoAagey.

Vivaldo for Delhi event

Chennai: The Prasanna Kumar-trained Vivaldo has been in scintillating form and could clinch the Global Stud Mahender North India Derby (Gr.3), the major classic event of the races to be held in Delhi. Selections: 1) The Icelandic Plate (1200M), For 3 years old only, 1pm. (4) My Darling Bobby (3) Maria Teresa (1) Ode To Nature. 2) The Daring Don Plate (D-1), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 1:30pm. (8) Guarnierius (5) Peaceful (2) Galway Bay. 3) The Daring Don Plate (D-2), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 2pm. (8) Little More (4) Jaat Hero (1) Ustaad Ji. 4) The Best Of All Plate (1400M), Rtd (60-86) 2:30pm. (6) Golden Sun (7) Accumulate (3) Lodge Keeper. 5) The Turf Hawk Plate (D-1), (1000M), Rtd (40-66) 3pm. (7) Master Stepper (9) Winning Legacy (10) Player. 6) The Global Stud

Icelandic Plate (1200M), For 3 years old only, 1pm. (4) My Darling Bobby (3) Maria Teresa (1) Ode To Nature. 2) The Daring Don Plate (D-1), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 1:30pm. (8) Guarnierius (5) Peaceful (2) Galway Bay. 3) The Daring Don Plate (D-2), (1400M), Rtd (20-46) 2pm. (8) Little More (4) Jaat Hero (1) Ustaad Ji. 4) The Best Of All Plate (1400M), Rtd (60-86) 2:30pm. (6) Golden Sun (7) Accumulate (3) Lodge Keeper. 5) The Turf Hawk Plate (D-1), (1000M), Rtd (40-66) 3pm. (7) Master Stepper (9) Winning Legacy (10) Player. 6) The Global Stud Mahender North India Derby (1600M), For 4 years old.

Mahender North India Derby (1600M), For 4 years old only, 3:30pm. (8) Vivaldo (10) Aralina (11) Ashwa Kanchenjunga. 7) The Chairman Emeritus Cup (1200M), For 4 years

old & over, 4:15pm. (1) Ashwa Tenjing (4) Pride's Angel (3) Hukamori. 8) The Turf Hawk Plate (D-2), (1000M), Rtd (40-66) 4:45pm. (1) Niche Storm (12) Ashwa Mariya (4) Big Bang.

Day's Best: VIVALDO (6-8), Good Double: ASHWA TENJING (7-1) - NICHE STORM (8-1). Note: A sum of Rs 70, 132 will be added to the mini jackpot pool amount for Saturday's races. TNN

HDFC Bank Starts 2024 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



An Effective Road Safety Awareness Campaign by Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India at Ambala

Ambala: HMSI believes that Safety of every individual is a topmost priority. To ensure that awareness on road safety reaches lakhs of citizens, it frequently conducts Road Safety Awareness Campaigns across various regions of the country.



One such campaign was recently held in the city of Ambala which left a lasting impact on the participants. In the grounds of Army Public School, HMSI achieved one of its milestones where it saw an active participation of more than 3000 school students and staff members.

The campaign was an amalgamation of activities such as slogan writing, poster making contest, road safety quiz and article writing competition that kept the participants engaged throughout the campaign. HMSI strongly believes that children are the future of this society and their awareness of road safety at an early stage can contribute to making the roads accident free. It frequently conducts road safety awareness programs that are interactive and engaging, catering to a wide range of age groups, from children to youth and are conducted in schools, colleges, government institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Since inception, in the state of Haryana, HMSI has imparted education to nearly 3 lakhs adults and children, focusing on promoting responsible road usage and cultivating safe riding habits.

Indian Railways: 10 surprising facts that every student should know about

NEW DELHI. The Indian Railways boasts of a legacy spanning more than 163 years. IRCTC, its online ticketing arm, books 1 million tickets in just a few hours. The railways hold a significant presence, not just in our daily lives, but also in literature and the cinematic world, often playing a vital role in Indian movies. They've seamlessly woven themselves into the fabric of life across India. The most extensive daily transportation provider Indian Railways, renowned as the largest daily traffic carrier, boasts an extensive network connecting the diverse tapestry of India. Operating over 12,817 trains on an average day, this colossal system serves as a lifeline, transporting approximately 24 million passengers across the nation. Beyond its sheer scale, the railways weave through varied landscapes, from bustling cities to



serene countryside, offering a glimpse into India's rich cultural mosaic. Despite challenges, it remains a testament to engineering prowess, cultural into The Indian Railway's bridge over River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir stands as an engineering marvel. Spanning the picturesque Chenab Gorge, it's the world's highest rail bridge, towering at around 359 meters above the riverbed. This stunning architectural feat, part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, symbolizes India's engineering prowess IRCTC portal

has heavy traffic The IRCTC portal experiences substantial traffic due to its popularity among millions of users booking train tickets daily. Indian Railways stands as a colossal employment provider globally, boasting a workforce of over 1.3 million individuals. This mammoth workforce not only drives the day-to-day operations but also embodies the diverse talent contributing to the railway's multifaceted functionalities. From engineers, strength, reliability, and the enduring bond between the railways and the nation.

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

NEW DELHI. In preparation for Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, a nationwide painting competition engaged over 60,000 students across Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. Themed around "Exam Warriors," the event aimed to alleviate exam stress and inspire patriotism on 'Parakram Diwas.' The competition, part of a larger stress-free education movement, precedes the interaction program led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, scheduled for January 29, 2024, this program will involve students, teachers, and



winners of the Kala Utsav, fostering a unique environment for student engagement and interaction. Over 60,000 Students Participate in Nationwide Painting Contest Ahead of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 Students are participating in a painting competition organized

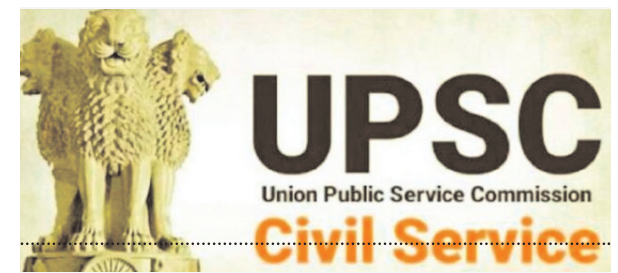
by the Union Education Ministry. In preparation for Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, an initiative aimed at alleviating examination stress among students, competition, themed around exam mantras from the book "ExamWarriors" authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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

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

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

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



NEW DELHI. UPSC Civil Services Exam 2023: Second Phase Schedule for Personality Test Released; Interviews for 1003 Candidates from February 19 UPSC announces the schedule for the second phase of Personality Tests (Interviews) for Civil Services (Main) Exam 2023, covering 1003 candidates from February 19 to March 15, 2024. The first phase schedule for 1026 candidates was disclosed earlier. Details including Roll Number, Date, and Session of the interview are available. Candidates are urged to adhere to DAF-II submission deadlines to avoid candidature cancellation. Travel reimbursement guidelines are outlined for interviewees. UPSC's Website provides essential resources for candidates. UPSC Civil Services Exam 2023: Second Phase Schedule for Personality Test Released; Interviews for 1003 Candidates from February 19 Screenshot of the official website. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has unveiled the second phase schedule for Personality Tests (Interviews) of the Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2023. Spanning from February 19 to March 15, 2024, the schedule covers interviews for 1003 candidates as directed by the UPSC. The first phase schedule for 1026 candidates was disclosed on December 19, 2023, with interviews starting on January 2, 2024. Additionally, the Personality Test (P.T.) schedule for an extra 1003 candidates from February 19 to March 15, 2024, is revealed in this article, providing details like Roll Number, Date, and Session. The Reporting Time for the Forenoon Session is 0900 Hours, and for the Afternoon Session, it is 1300 Hours. The remaining candidates' P.T. schedule will be uploaded in the third week of February 2024. The e-Summon Letters for the 1003 candidates' Personality Tests will be accessible soon on the UPSC's Website.

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

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

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

tial victims with offers for part-time work from home or part-time jobs. In these fraudulent schemes, scammers are enticing users to engage with videos on YouTube by liking and subscribing. Protect yourself: Avoid clicking on links in suspicious messages. Verify notifications directly on the official YouTube website or app. Online Shopping Scam How it works: Fraudsters make fake websites that seem like real online stores. These sites usually tempt people with attractive discounts on popular products to trick them. When people enter their payment details, the scammers take their money and vanish.

5 lesser-known tidbits about Napoleon's hat

NEW DELHI. In a recent auction held in Paris, a bicorne hat, famously worn by Napoleon Bonaparte during his reign as the French emperor, was sold for a staggering €1.932m (£1.69m). This particular hat is among the estimated 20 that have survived out of the 120 believed to have been owned by the renowned French military leader throughout his lifetime. Napoleon had several hats of the same style, known as bicornes. They varied in size and



quality, ranging from more practical, everyday wear to ceremonial or specially crafted pieces for significant events. After Napoleon's exile, some of his hats were collected and preserved. Today, a few of them

remain in museums and private collections, serving as historical artifacts. These iconic pieces have several interesting stories and facts surrounding them. Here are 5 lesser-known tidbits about Napoleon's hat.

This style was popular among military officers of the time for its practicality and distinctive appearance. The two points helped deflect rainwater away from the wearer's face and shoulders. Exaggerated Angle: Napoleon's hats often had a more pronounced angle than typical bicornes. This exaggerated angle contributed to its unique and recognizable silhouette. The design also allowed for better visibility on the battlefield. Made by Poupard:

Black Friday: Do you know why this day is celebrated in November?

NEW DELHI. Black Friday, celebrated globally but especially in the USA, falls on the final Friday of November. This year it is today, 24th November. Originating there, it's a pre-Christmas sale filled with special deals and surprise discounts at various stores and online platforms. Exploring its history and traditions helps uncover the essence of this consumer-friendly event. What is Black Friday? Black Friday symbolizes an annual shopping frenzy, erupting the day after Thanksgiving in the United States. It's a retail extravaganza renowned for colossal discounts and unparalleled deals across stores and online platforms. Originating from its ability to propel businesses 'into the black,' this event unleashes a consumer



feeding frenzy. Shoppers eagerly anticipate slashed prices on electronics, clothing, and more, often queuing for hours before stores open or scouring the internet for lightning deals. This day transcends borders, embraced globally as a phenomenon heralding the holiday shopping season. Black Friday isn't just about bargains; it's a cultural spectacle and a shopper's paradise. History of Black Friday Black Friday traces its roots back to mid-

20th century Philadelphia, where police used the term to describe the chaotic crowds flooding the city the day after Thanksgiving. It marked the Army-Navy football game and the influx of shoppers, causing traffic gridlock and headaches for law enforcement. Over time, retailers co-opted the term, giving it a positive spin to signify the moment their annual sales pushed them into profitability or "the black."

Assembly Election vs. General Election: What's the difference?

NEW DELHI. Assembly Election vs. General Election: What's the difference? Representative Assembly elections in Rajasthan have kicked off today. Understanding the differences between Indian Assembly elections and Indian General elections illuminates the diverse layers and complexities within India's democratic system. These are the twin pillars of the country's democratic framework, each playing a distinctive role in shaping the nation's political landscape. Here's a low-down on these two electoral processes. Assembly Elections: Regional Dynamics at Play Assembly elections in India are conducted at the state level, determining the composition of the state legislative assemblies. India, being a fed-



eral country, consists of 28 states and 8 union territories, each with its own legislative assembly. These elections are held periodically, usually every five years, unless the assembly is dissolved prematurely. One of the primary distinctions of assembly elections is their focus on regional issues, local governance, and state-specific development. Political parties tailor their campaigns to address the immediate concerns and aspirations of the state's pop-

ulace. These concerns could range from agricultural policies in agrarian states like Punjab to industrial development in Gujarat or regional autonomy in states like Assam or Jammu and Kashmir. Assembly elections are not only about electing representatives but also about choosing a government that will oversee the state's administration. The outcomes have a direct impact on state policies, development initiatives, and the overall governance

within the particular state. General Elections: National Vision and Leadership Contrasting the regional focus of assembly elections, Indian General elections are a grand affair encompassing the entire nation. These elections determine the composition of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament, which then forms the central government. They occur at a national level and are held every five years, unless there's a premature dissolution. The stakes are higher in general elections, not just in terms of national governance but also regarding international perceptions and relations. The outcomes of these elections shape India's policies on the global stage, influencing trade, diplomatic ties, and alliances.

ICAI CA 2024: Foundation, Inter and Final course exam schedule out; registration begins on Feb 2

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

Root surpasses Tendulkar, becomes highest run-scorer in India-England Tests



NEW DELHI: England batter Joe Root surpassed cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar to become the highest run-scorer in India-England Test matches during the series opener at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Hyderabad on Thursday. Root, entering the field needing just 10 runs to outshine Tendulkar's record of 2,535 runs in 32 matches against England, achieved the milestone in the 21st over. Scorecard: IND vs ENG

1st Test With a boundary off Axar Patel, the 33-year-old former English captain surpassed Tendulkar's record. Root etched his name in the history books as the highest run-scorer in India-England Tests, accumulating 2,555 runs in 48 matches. Adding to his list of achievements, Root also made history in the World Test Championship by becoming the first batter to breach the 4,000-run mark, amassing a staggering 4,016 runs from 48

Tests. In the ongoing first Test against India, Root's innings concluded with a score of 29 off 60 balls. He attempted a sweep shot off the bowling of Ravindra Jadeja but got caught at short fine-leg. This significant achievement solidifies Joe Root's stature as one of the premier batters in modern-day cricket and adds another chapter to his illustrious career. Wisden picks 2023 men's ODI team of the year, includes 7 Indians in the XI

India vs England: Mohammed Siraj's meteoric career comes full circle with first Test at home

NEW DELHI: Less than a decade ago, Mohammed Siraj was just another boy in tattered shoes on Hyderabad's streets, playing tennis ball cricket. Playing at the Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Stadium a few km from home was a dream that could not be realised. Or so it seemed at the time. On Thursday, the 29-year-old pacer will play his 24th Test, but only his first on home turf when he takes the field against England at what is popularly known as Uppal stadium. For the record, Hyderabad's other legend VVS Laxman, who played most of his first-

class matches at the Gymkhana, had to wait for 116 matches before playing a Test at home. Uppal is where Siraj learnt the ropes of first-class cricket, playing here right through his career. Indian skipper Rohit Sharma lauded the pacer for the way he has matured into a world-class cricketer. Siraj has come up through the ranks and has in the last few years proved himself in various conditions. He's performed really well. And he's taken his game to another level for sure," Rohit said on Wednesday ahead of the Test against England.

Laxman summed up the feeling of playing at home. "It's a special feeling for every kid who grows up wanting to represent his country," the NCA director told TOI from Bloemfontein, where he joined the India U-19 team in their World Cup campaign. "The state association, coaches, family and friends, all help you in your journey to the top. They're the ones willing you to succeed and realise your dreams." Laxman added that it's a rare moment to play at home. Especially after the way his career has gone from strength to strength."

Lionel Messi makes MLS preseason debut, but Inter Miami fall to FC Dallas

NEW DELHI: Lionel Messi showcased his skills in an MLS preseason game for Inter Miami, where they faced a 1-0 defeat against FC Dallas at the Cotton Bowl. Messi made an impact with three shots on goal during the first half before leaving the

game about 15 minutes into the second half. FC Dallas secured an early lead with forward Jesús Ferreira's uncontested shot three minutes into the match. Despite Messi's efforts, his first two shots were saved by FC Dallas goalkeeper Maarten Paes, who

made a diving save to deflect Messi's second attempt in the 12th minute. Messi's third shot in the 27th minute went wide left. The match, played in a drizzle with a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, attracted an announced crowd of 32,221.

AFC Asian Cup: India go down to Syria in last group match for 3rd straight loss

NEW DELHI: India ended their AFC Asian Cup campaign with another defeat, failing to open their points or goal account in three group-stage games at the continent's biggest football tournament. AFC Asian Cup: India go down to Syria in last group match for 3rd straight loss Photo credit: Indian Football's Twitter handle India ended their AFC Asian Cup campaign with another defeat, failing to open their points or goal account in three group-stage games at the continent's biggest football tournament. If 2019 had shown promise with an opening win against Thailand and a last-minute heartbreak against Bahrain, this edition turned out to be disastrous as Igor Stimac's side tasted a solitary goal defeat at the hands of Syria at the Al Bayt Stadium on Tuesday. Both teams had failed to score in their first two games and the first 45 minutes were played on expected lines. There were chances at either end, but as Syria persisted, Omar Khrbin rose from the bench to score the only goal of the match in the 75th minute. The former AFC Player of the Year's goal was enough for Syria to finish third in the group and qualify for the knockout stage for the first time in seven attempts. Stimac made three changes with Lallianzuala Chhangte and Deepak Tangri returning to the midfield while Subhasish Bose partnered Sandesh Jhingan at the centre of a makeshift four-man defence. Like the previous two games, Hector Cuper persisted with an unchanged lineup for Syria. In a must-win game, India did not lack in effort or intensity but had just one shot on goal. It came early in the game as Mahesh Singh tried and failed to beat the Syrian goalkeeper from an acute angle after receiving a cross from Manvir Singh inside the box. A powerful header from forward Pablo Sabbag was punched away to safety.

2nd Test: Starc's fiery spell puts Australia in control against West Indies

NEW DELHI: Mitchell Starc spearheaded Australia's charge in the second Test against the West Indies, reducing the visitors to 64/5 at the dinner break on the opening day in Brisbane. Starc's lethal pace and aggression troubled the West Indies batsmen, who found themselves in trouble, with poor shot selection adding to their woes. Scorecard: AUS vs WI 2nd Test Opting to bat first after winning the toss, West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite aimed for a solid start at the crease.



Despite surviving an early leg-before-wicket scare, Brathwaite's unsettled stay ended at four runs in the eighth over when an edge off Josh Hazlewood's delivery found the gloves of keeper Alex Carey.

While Tagenarine Chanderpaul showed promise, an aggressive Kirk McKenzie fell victim to Pat Cummins after attempting one big shot too many. Chanderpaul, having looked comfortable,

succumbed to Starc's delivery, edging to Steve Smith at second slip. Alick Athanaze became Starc's 350th Test victim, caught behind by Carey for eight, further denting the West Indies' innings at 57/4. Justin Greaves added to their woes by edging Starc to first slip, where Usman Khawaja took the catch. Kavem Hodge remained unbeaten on three, but with the West Indies struggling at 64/5 at the dinner break, Australia firmly asserted their control over the proceedings.

Axar Patel bamboozles Jonny Bairstow with a beauty

NEW DELHI: England were 60/3 at the fall of Zak Crawley's wicket when Jonny Bairstow walked to the crease in the first Test against India in Hyderabad on Thursday. With former captain Joe Root for company, Bairstow looked to steer England out of trouble and took his team to lunch at 108/3 in their first innings. Bairstow was batted particularly well on the back foot keeping the Indian spinners at bay. Till Axar Patel struck in the fifth over after lunch. Axar bowled a delivery



that drifted in, landed on a fuller length around middle and Bairstow played for the angle but he was half-forward to block. The ball, however, spun

away to beat the outside edge and hit the top of off, leaving Bairstow stunned. The wicket broke the 61-run stand between Bairstow and Root. And

it was a crucial breakthrough as Bairstow (37) was looking in good touch. The Indian cricket board (BCCI) shared a video of Bairstow's dismissal on X: England have come into the game with three specialist spinners and Root, who also bowls. Mark Wood is their only fast bowler. India, who remain unbeaten at home in a Test series since 2012 when Alastair Cook's England beat them 2-1, have three spinners and two seamers in the playing XI.

1st Test: Indian spinners disrupt England's 'Bazball' ambitions on Day 1

NEW DELHI: Indian spinners exploited the turning track to hinder England's 'Bazball' strategy in a gripping first session of the opening Test, reducing them to 108 for three at lunch on Thursday. Joe Root (18*) and Jonny Bairstow (32*) held their ground for England after the duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja orchestrated a challenging session for the visitors. Scorecard: IND vs ENG 1st Test England's openers, Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley, initially amassed 41 runs in the initial eight overs. However, Ashwin made a decisive impact, dismissing Duckett (35) with a delivery that skidded on, catching him in front of the wicket. Jadeja followed suit by inducing turn and



bounce, securing Ollie Pope's wicket with a catch at first slip by skipper Rohit Sharma. Ashwin continued his dominance, claiming Crawley's wicket (27) in the next over as he tried to assert himself, resulting in a catch at mid-off by Mohammed Siraj. England found themselves at 60 for three, but Root and Bairstow guided them through the remainder of the session.

Despite the challenging start, Duckett and Crawley provided a promising opening stand for England. Duckett's elegant off-drive off Jasprit Bumrah stood out as the shot of the morning. However, the turning point came when India introduced their spinners, altering the complexion of the game and setting the stage for an intriguing contest in the subsequent sessions.

Ashwin and Jadeja overtake Kumble-Harbhajan as most successful bowling pair for India in Tests

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.

Carlos Alcaraz faces Australian Open quarterfinal setback against Alexander Zverev: 3 key takeaways

NEW DELHI: World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz faced a formidable challenge from the sixth seed, Alexander Zverev, ultimately succumbing in four sets, 6-1, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-4. Alcaraz had achieved a career-best result in Melbourne prior to the quarterfinals, but Zverev's early dominance set the tone for the match. Here are the three key takeaways from Alcaraz's defeat to the German maestro: 1. Zverev's Outstanding Performance Alexander Zverev delivered a masterful display of tennis, showcasing arguably two of his best sets in Melbourne. Zverev's precision and powerful strikes left commentators and spectators impressed. His first two sets were marked by impeccable points.

CAPSULES

Construction of Tent City underway in Ayodhya, to accommodate 25,000 devotees

Ayodhya
In view of the large flock of devotees heading towards Ayodhya after the consecration ceremony, the Yogi government is building a sprawling Tent City, which will accommodate 25,000 devotees. Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal inspected the Tent City being constructed by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation in the Greenfield Township on Thursday to ensure that the Tent City had all the basic facilities for devotees who are coming for the darshan of Lord Shri Ram Lalla from outside. Instructions were given to put numbers on all the beds in the dormitories, ensure an adequate number of mobile charging points, and maintain all arrangements appropriately. The Divisional Commissioner stated that all standards of safety, including electrical and fire safety, would be followed in the dormitories and the premises, and sufficient ventilation would be maintained. He directed to ensure the availability of drinking water, maintain continuous cleanliness of the toilets and the premises. The roads within the Tent City have varying elevations, posing a risk of waterlogging during rainfall. Therefore, instructions were given to fill these potholes and use a roller to make the roads smooth. Gaurav Dayal directed the officers to take special care of the quality of the tent city and make it attractive and clean. Regular cleanliness should be ensured in the entire Tent City complex. It should be equipped with all the basic facilities along with clean toilets and availability of pure drinking water.

Yogi govt to organize Nature & Bird Festival in UP to celebrate World Wetlands Day Festival

Lucknow
Under the leadership of the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh, a Nature & Bird Festival is being organized to mark World Wetlands Day, which is celebrated every year on February 2 to make the general public aware about the importance of conservation and promotion of wetlands. In this sequence, the Nature and Bird Festival 2024 will be celebrated from January 27 to February 2. Festival to be opened in Unnao. The festival will be inaugurated at Chandrashekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary in Nawabganj, Unnao, on January 27, which will be followed by a series of events taking place in various districts of Uttar Pradesh this week. Minister of State for Forests KP Malik will be present during the opening on behalf of Yogi government. The festival will be organized on January 28 at Govind Sagar Dam, Lalitpur Forest Division, Lalitpur and on January 29 at Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Sant Kabirnagar Forest Division. Similarly, on January 30, there will be an event at Lakhbhoshi Bird Sanctuary in Kannauj. On January 31, a state-level event will be held at Surajpur Wetland, Gautam Buddha Nagar Forest Division. Events related to this will be held on 1st February at Prayagraj Sangam area, Social Forestry Division, and on February 2 at Haiderpur Wetland, Muzaffarnagar Forest Division. Several competitions will also be organized. Along with the Forest Department, other departments and institutions like educational institutions, wildlife photographers etc. will participate in organizing the Bird Festival. Besides, rangoli competition, debate competition, poster and slogan competition, painting competition, photography competition and exhibition etc. will be organised. Government officers/employees doing excellent work will also be rewarded during the festival. Previous year's event was organized in Mohoba. The festival was last organized in Mahoba in 2023, and before that, it was held at various locations in Uttar Pradesh, such as Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Lakhimpur Kheri in 2017, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary in Unnao in 2019, Susarovar Bird Sanctuary in Keetham-Agra in 2020, and Okhla Bird Sanctuary in Gautam Buddha Nagar in 2021.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Bird Festival could not be organized in 2022.

Devotees' surge natural, our duty to ensure safety: UP CM Yogi Adityanath

AYODHYA : Taking note of large scale gathering of devotees at Ram temple, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to streamline arrangements for 'darshan' of Ram Lalla. On Tuesday, the CM visited Ayodhya to review the situation and deputed director general (law and order) Prashant Kumar and principal secretary, home, Sanjay Prasad to supervise arrangements. Though heavy deployment of police was made, confusion prevailed among devotees when the doors were opened for devotees for the first time on Tuesday. Holding a review meeting with



senior officials on Wednesday to reiterate instructions, the CM said: "Ayodhya Dham is witnessing influx of devotees from across the nation, creating a profound 'sea of faith'. The heartfelt desire to have 'darshan' of their beloved Ram Lalla unites everyone. Given the natural surge of devotees, it becomes our collective responsibility to ensure arrangements for their safety, convenience, and unhindered 'darshan'." "A holding area should be created where devotees can be accommodated before being

allowed to move towards the temple complex," he said. The CM said that the queue system should be followed, and devotees should be allowed to walk towards the holding area only when one batch exits after 'darshan'. "Queues should be formed along Ram Path, Dharm Path, and Janmabhoomi Path wherever visitors are present, ensuring an orderly flow without overcrowding. Special consideration should be given to the elderly, children, and women," he said. Yogi asked officials to ensure that 'Ram bhajans' and devotional songs are played at low volume on Ram Path and Bhakti Path.

UP Police gets two gallantry medals

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh police has been awarded two medals for gallantry, seven President's medals for distinguished services and 74 medals of meritorious service, on Republic Day this year. The coveted gallantry medal was awarded to director general, law and order, Prashant Kumar during his stint as Additional DG Meerut Zone and then SSP Meerut Manzil Saini, who is currently on a deputation with the National Security Guard (NSG) in



Delhi. Both the officers were involved in supervision and subsequent rescue of a Delhi based doctor Shrikant Goud in July 2017 who was kidnapped by an Ola cab driver and held captive for 14 days in Meerut for a five-crore ransom. After a cat-and-mouse chase and two misses, the Delhi police in joint operation with Meerut police had rescued Shrikant Goud in a half-constructed building

in Meerut and arrested four of the kidnapers after a shootout. The arrested accused were Pramod Kumar (44), Amit Kumar (37), Sohanveer (49) and Nepal (44). The police team, which rescued Goud, had posed as representatives of Ola and negotiated with the kidnapers. Until his rescue on July 19, Goud was held captive in places such as Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Meerut, Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar and Haridwar.

Devotees' surge natural, our duty to ensure safety: UP CM Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow
Devotees from different parts of India continued to arrive at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya to seek the blessings of Ram Lalla, three days after the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony. Despite the fog and cold, devotees showed their dedication by braving the early morning chill. Priyaram, a devotee from Bengaluru, expressed his emotions by saying, "We had been waiting for years and finally got the opportunity to have the darshan of Ram Lalla today. I can't put it into words. I am very emotion-

al. I arrived here at 2 am." Siddhalingeswar, another devotee from Bengaluru, shared his happiness and gratitude towards chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, "I am very happy. We have been eagerly waiting for this darshan. I want to thank CM Yogi Adityanath and PM Narendra Modi." Satyanarayana, another devotee, said "This was a 500-year-long wait. We are very happy and emotional. We are not facing any problem, the government has made good arrangements." IG

Praveen Kumar, Ayodhya Range, elaborated on arrangements made for effective crowd management. Kumar explained the arrangements made for crowd management, including the installation of baggage scanners and physical frisking centers. He also emphasized the improved public transport system for the safe travel of devotees. Kumar assured that the administration and police personnel are working diligently to ensure the safety and security of the devotees. He appealed to the people to bring fewer belongings to save time.

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.

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों व नगरवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

मेजा तहसील क्षेत्र का नं. 1 इंग्लिश स्कूल

मेजा पब्लिक स्कूल

डा. अमरेश तिवारी (डायरेक्टर)

आँधियारी नगर, मेजारोड, मेजा, प्रयागराज

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों व नगरवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

सिरसा का नं. 1 इंग्लिश मीडियम स्कूल

सेंट पीटर्स स्कूल

श्रीमती शिवानी खेड़ा सोनी (प्रिंसिपल)

छतवा सिरसा, मेजा, प्रयागराज

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों व नगरवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

मेजा का नं. 1 इंग्लिश मीडियम स्कूल

सेंट पीटर्स को एजुकेशनल इंग्लिश मीडियम स्कूल

श्रीमती अंकिता खेड़ा (प्रिंसिपल)

26 JANUARY INDIA

अभिषेक खेड़ा (प्रबंधक)

जनवार मेजारोड, मेजा, प्रयागराज

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों व नगरवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

दुर्गा प्रसाद गुप्ता (प्रदेश अध्यक्ष)

परिवर्तन समाज पार्टी

निवास- खानपुर बरी, मेजा, प्रयागराज

भोला नाथ सोनकर (प्रदेश संगठन मंत्री)

परिवर्तन समाज पार्टी

निवास- छतवा सिरसा, मेजा, प्रयागराज

STF arrests Gorakhpur man for financial fraud

LUCKNOW: The UP special task force (STF) nabbed a wanted accused involved in embezzlement of crores of rupees from the bank by submitting forged documents in Gorakhpur, from near Sports College in the city on Monday. The accused Rudransh Pandey of Gorakhpur, was arrested on a tip off. The team seized an SUV, a laptop, identity documents, PAN card, cheque books and other items. Additional SP, STF, Vishal Vikram Singh said an informer told the STF that Pandey was planning to flee from Lucknow. He confessed to his crime and disclosed that he had embezzled the money which he had taken as loan from a bank while mortgaging a plot in the name of another person. In this connection, regional head of ICICI Bank, Gorakhpur, Ashutosh Kumar Mishra had lodged a complaint of fraud against Riyaz Khan, Sharif Khan, Rudransh Pandey, Archana Pandey and others.



Visitors get to know about UP through cultural events

Lucknow: An array of cultural performances was organised at Awadh Shilpgram in Lucknow on the first day of UP Diwas programme on Wednesday. Artists from Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Sikkim and Goa performed folk dances while Bhojपुरी singer Suresh Shukla rendered Ram bhajans. As Shukla began rendering bhajans, the chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' reverberated in the air.

This woman reaches Ayodhya with 'tulasi' on head

AYODHYA: Ratnabai from Aurangabad in Maharashtra, an ardent devotee of Lord Vishnu, reached Janmabhoomi Path with a pot of 'Tulasi' plant on her head walking about 10 kilometres. "No 'bhog' (food offered to the deity) can be served to Lord Rama without 'tulasi'. I have looked after this plant all my life and brought it here. "I will take a bath in Sarayu before Ram Lalla's 'darshan'. I do not mind leaving it behind in the temple if somebody is ready to take care of it," said Ratnabai.



Gaurav Samman to Dr Ritu, Naveen Tiwari

Lucknow - Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conferred Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman on Lucknow-based scientist Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava and Kanpur's Naveen Tiwari. Dr Ritu Karidhal played an important role in the development of India's Mars Orbiter Mission and Chandrayaan as deputy director operations for the mission. Dr Ritu has been working for ISRO since 1997. Naveen Tiwari, is credited with

establishing the largest independent mobile Ad tech platform in the world, connecting local businesses in Uttar Pradesh and India with national and international audiences. The lock screen software developed by his enterprise is actively featured on over 400 million smartphones worldwide. The CM further pointed out that in the past, markets used to get flooded with sub-standard Chinese products during festivals.