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

PM Modi attacks TMC over 'torture of Sandeshkhali women'

• "The alliance between TMC and **Congress follows** a similar pattern. TMC members are concerned about securing positions for their relatives"

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit West Bengal' public event in Siliguri on Saturday. During the event, he inaugurated and dedicated several developmental projects in the rail and road sectors, with a total worth exceeding Rs 4500 crore in West Bengal.Addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit West Bengal' program, the Prime Minister emphasised the commitment of the central government to the state's development. He criticised the Congress, pointing out that the progress of eastern India had been

Eastern India was negneglected for lected for an extended an period. extended period post-



independence. Here are the key quotes from the Prime Minister's address at the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit West Bengal' event: There was a period during which trains entering the northeast experienced a reduction in speed. However, the government has been making concerted efforts to enhance train speed in North Bengal, aligning with the nationwide push for increased railway speeds. Following independence, the development

First the left did not listen to your concerns, and subsequently, the TMC also overlooked your needs. They were preoccupied with exploiting the resources of the underprivileged. onsequently, when presented with the chance, I gave back all those facilities to you all.TMC government is looting you at every step. Modi sends the money for MNRE-GA wages from Delhi but the TMC government here has looted you at every step. To benefit the TMC's of 'tolabaz', 25 lakh fake job cards were made and given to the people. If Modi sends money to the poor's houses, then the TMC government gives your money to the people chosen by 'tolabaz'.

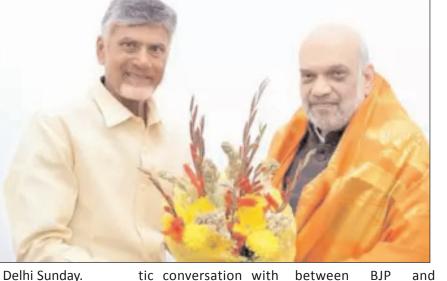
Modi is creating opportunities for the impoverished, a move met with disapproval by family members who entered politics solely for power. Consequently, they conspire to maintain their family's dominance in politics. The alliance between TMC and Congress follows a similar pattern. TMC members are concerned about securing positions for their relatives.

BJP clinches pact with Chandrababu Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena

NEW DELHI: BJP on Saturday sealed a seatsharing agreement Chandrababu with Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party (JSP) in Andhra Pradesh, in what can fetch it important gains in Lok Sabha and assembly elections to be held simultaneously in a state where it is weak.

While the joint statement said modalities of seat-sharing would be deliberated soon, sources in state circles told TOI BJP okayed Naidu's offer of 30 assembly (out of 175) and eight LS seats (25) to allies.

As Jana Sena has already been given 24 assembly and three LS seats, BJP is likely to get six assembly and five LS seats. In Odisha, BJP's talks with BJD are delicately poised as the former resorted to muscle-flexing by signalling it could go it alone. BJD leaders, however, are optimistic and headed



NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

for Delhi Sunday. BJD leader set to meet Shah & Nadda, attend NDA dinner

The latter (BJD), which has been in office in the state for more than two decades, projected reasonableness and optimism about alliance. BJP state in-charge Vijay Pal Tomar went to the extent of saying that the two parties never discussed an alliance. The denial,

tic conversation with his aide, V K Pandian where the BJD chief is describing seen "rumours and lies as worst things in politics". In Andhra, the alliance partners said PM Modi has been working tirelessly for development and progress of the nation for past 10 years and BJP's coming together with TDP and JSP will help in fulfilling aspiraunconvincing to many, tions of people of the was seen as trigger of state. The alliance, video of Odisha CM which brings to an end Naveen Patnaik's crypthe coordination

YRSCP in Andhra Pradesh where the governing party consistently helped the saffron outfit in Raiva Sabha, is rooted in the estimate about CM Y S Jagan Reddy battling huge anti-incumbency. This is the second time

and

TDP has walked back to NDA. In the last instance it walked out on an aggressive note, with the party boss, then the CM of AP, taking the lead to rally opposition parties against BJP.

Indian tourists in Maldives decline by 33% amid diplomatic row



NEW DELHI: Expressing shock at the resignation of election commissioner Arun Goel iust ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha elections Congress alleged govt pressure and lack of transparency prevailing in the poll watchdog, and demanded that the Centre explain the issue.

Congress alleges government pressure, lack of transparency in EC

Dharavi youth who fought

faced "relentless harassment" from the Modi govt after world's he dissented against democracy the clean chit to Election Prime Minister Narendra Modi for violation of model It said then election code of conduct in Sabha commissioner, Ashok the 2019 elections. There is absolutely



Record registration in NEET-UG with 25 lakh application

NEET-UG MUMBAI:

registration crossed 25 lakh for the how a constitutional institution like the first time, 4.2 lakh ECI has been funcmore than last year. While Saturday was the tioning and the manner in which govt last day of registration for the May 5 medical pressurises them," said Congress gener- entrance examination, National Eligibility cum al secretary KC Entrance Exam (NEET-Venugopal. UG-2024) being con-Venugopal added, "During the 2019 ducted by National Testing Agency, a large elections, Ashok number of students Lavasa had dissented against a clean chit were still applying until to the PM for violatlate in the evening. ing the model code "Even on the last day of conduct. [Saturday], a large



number is linked to their Aadhaar card. Also, the other option is PAN card but that too is not available to many students," said Allen Career Institute's career counseiiing expert Parijat Mishra said.Over 13 lakh applications have been made by women candidates for about 2 lakh seats, including 1.09 lakh MBBS, 26,000 dental, along with Unani, Homeopathy, Veterinary.

NEW DELHI: Amid an ongoing diplomatic row, the number of Indian tourists visiting the Maldives has dropped by 33 per cent as compared to last year, Maldivian website Adhadhu reported, citing data from the Maldives Tourism Ministry.

Decrease in market share

According to Tourism Ministry statistics for the year 2023, the number of Indian tourists visiting the Maldives by March 4 last year was 41,054. However, as of March 2 this year, the number has decreased to 27,224, which is 13,830 less than the previous year, as reported by Maldives-based Adhadhu. Last year, India was the second largest source market for tourists to the Maldives, accounting for 10 per cent of market share during the same period. However, India has now dropped to the sixth position on the list, with a market share of 6%. India was the top tourist market for the Maldives, with over 200,000 tourists per year from 2021 to 2023. Diplomatic row led to decline in Indian tourist market in Maldives The diplomatic row began hours after President Mohamed Muizzu, a pro-China leader, took oath in November 2023 and vowed to ensure Maldives' 'sovereignty' and one of the first steps was to demand India to withdraw all its troops. He also broke from tradition and decided to go to Beijing on his maiden foreign trip instead of New Delhi.

"It is concerning for the health of the largest that

Commissioner Arun Goel has resigned on the cusp of the Lok elections.

Tea, timber, tourism: PM Modi woos North Bengal

PM Modi touched on the three Ts close to North Bengal's heart tea, tourism and timber - while intertwining them with broader issues plaguing Bengal, including allegations of "corruption" and "misrule" by TMC, as he made another targeted appeal to women. at his first election rally in Siliguri on Saturday.

In his fourth speech within nine days in the state, the PM reiterated themes from his previous addresses, aiming to sustain BJP's momentum in North Bengal, where it won seven of eight LS seats in 2019.

Speaking on BJP's commitment to the region's progress, Modi outlined plans for enhancing business opportunities .

number of students are getting registered and are also demanding extension of the last date as several aspirants could not apply due to lack of Aadhaar card and mobile link. Some are not able to get OTP as their old

Asked to choose Gandhi or Godse, HC ex-judge says 'need time to think'

NANDIGRAM: Former Calcutta HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who joined BJP on Thursday, came under fire on Friday after a question from a TV anchor to choose between Mahatma Gandhi and Nathuram Godse prompted him to say he "needed to think about it".

Gangopadhyay's name appeared in poll graffiti in Nandigram as BJP's prospective Lok Sabha candidate for Tamluk. During an interview with a Bengali news channel, Gangopadhyay was asked to pick between "Gandhi and Godse".

He took a deep breath and said: "I will not reply to this now. I need to think over it."

In another reply, while referring to his family's long links with Left, Gangopadhyay said that he had "asked" for a job, but while others got it, he did not. He then dubbed CPM a party of "slogans and dogmas". The two statements kicked off a social media storm, with senior TMC leaders singling them out for their sharpest attacks.

TMC MP Saket Gokhale said: "A man who was a high court judge until four days ago can't decide between Gandhi and Godse. Imagine how this man must have delivered his judgments in court and what his mindset has been."

Unfazed by this, local BJP workers started canvassing support for Gangopadhyay as the party's Tamluk candidate in Nandigram 2 block's Haripur anchal. Nandigram is state leader of opposition Suvendu Adhikari's assembly constituency.

poverty now an Army officer MUMBAI: The industrious inhabitants of Dharavi-Sion Koliwada were a proud lot Saturday. A tenacious 26-yearold named Umesh Dillirao Keelu became the first youth from the precinct to be commissioned in Indian Army.Nine members of his family, including his mother and attack a day before I married sister, had to report for attended Saturday's Army training, in passing out parade March at OTA (Officers Umesh

phone Chennai. Chennai. "Today I Years before wearing completed my 11the olive uniform, month training and Umesh fought handbecome a commisto-hand combat with sioned officer in the poverty and misfor-Army."His sunburnt tune. "My father, a upbringing, in fact, became painter, fuelled his appetite paralysed in 2013 for success. Right worked at Tata and died of heart from his teens, the

Training Academy) in



determined student

self-funded his edu-

scholarships, work-

ing at a local cyber

cafe. He received

assistance from Tata

Trusts, PF Davar

Trust and Mahalaxmi

Trust. Umesh com-

pleted his BSc in IT

and took a Masters

degree in computer

science. "I also

Consultancy Services

acquiring

cation,

2023,"

from

said by

for three years fol-

lowed by a stint at

British Council on

What the youth

modestly does not

mention is that he

responsibility of his

entire family and

funded his father's

treatment by this

Early training in the

NCC had set his

sights on a career.

shouldered

multitasking.

weekends."

the

the

NATIONAL

Radhe Radhe group created a blast in Nageshwar temple on Mahashivratri

Sunday 10 March, 2024



Prayagraj. occasion of Shivratri, the famous bhajan singer Surya Prakash Dubey ji, who came from Mumbai, enthralled the entire temple council by chanting 'Har Har Mahadev' at the Nageshwar temple in Chhatnag. Let us tell you that bhajan singer Surya Prakash Dubey honored with ji, Prayag Gaurav Run. has created a distinct identity not only in the region but also in

02

On the the city of Maya, On the Mumbai. occasion of Shivratri festival, many bhajans were presented on in the Friday Nageshwar temple located in Chhatnag area. Lyrics of bhajans like Mera Bhola Hai Bhandari Kare Nandi Ride, O Shambhu Baba Mere Bholenath, Get milk from the whole village and give Pindi a bath, Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari, many bhajans were presented. Let us tell

you that Surya Dubey ji has released many albums under the banner of T-Series while living in Mumbai. During the same program, along with him, singer Roma ji and famous singer Prem Prakash Dubey ji also sang many bhajans. During the proorganizers gram, Chaurasia, Kishan Bablu Yadav, and Preeti Hospital owners Amit Tripathi and Preeti Tripathi honored all the artists.

Canvas and connections: Indian galleries think global

Rakesh Kumar collects both Indian and Emirati art, (right) Volte's Tushar Jiwarajka shows works of Manjit Bawa in Dubai.

'International' Dubai, with its multitude of accents, is now keen to broaden the conversation about art. At the recently concluded Art Dubai, there wasn't just a bigger Indian representation but also a greater focus on the Global South. The booths of Indian galleries reflected that global flavour. Besides their roster of desi artists, Mumbai-based gallery Chemould was showing Saudi-Palestinian artist Dana Awartani. Shireen Gandhy, director of Chemould, says she recently signed Awartani.



"I have been following her work for a while and her themes strike home." The series on show was titled 'Let Me Mend Your Broken Bones', in which the artist displays fragile silk dyed and darned in India.

Each rafu (darned) bit of silk represented a heritage site in Gaza that had been destroyed by Israeli forces. Delhi's

Several countries possibly planning nuclear testing, India & Pakistan may also follow

MUMBAI: Nucleararmed nations are not just upgrading their atomic weapons, but also possibly planning a test explosion, and India and Pakistan, too, "may seek any opportunity to test another nuclear been device", says a report in the current issue of 'Bulletin Of The Atomic

nuclear affairs, and a Scientists', a journal started in 1945 by Albert nuclear security expert. Einstein and scientists According to the report, associated with the despite an international Manhattan Project treaty banning nuclear the design and developdetonations, the issue of ment of the first atomic nuke weapons testing "is bomb. The report has taking centre stage" prepared by once again. Satellite Francois Diaz-Maurin, imagery has shown scientific adviser to the increased construction European Parliament on activities happening.

Vadehra Gallery showed canvases two by Amsterdam-based Indian artist Praneet Soi that juxtaposed a view of a playground with one of a Gazan landscape. There were other artistic connections established that went beyond borders. While it's difficult to ship Pakistani artists to India and vice versa, here there's a meeting ground.



Officer-in-charge of Sandeshkhali police station transferred

DELHI: The officer-in-charge of NEW Sandeshkhali police station in West Bengal,

Biswajit Shanpui, has been transferred by the state government amid the ongoing controversy surrounding allegations of sexual abuse and land grabbing



against local TMC leaders. Gopal Sarkar, who previously served as the OC in the Basirhat police district, has been appointed as Shanpui's replacement. While police authorities claim that these transfers are routine administrative actions due to a reorganisation of additional officials in the district, it is worth noting that on March 1, two officers from the Basirhat police district were also removed following the arrest of TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh.Sheikh, who was on the run for 55 days, was apprehended by the West Bengal Police for his alleged involvement in sexual assault and land grab cases in Sandeshkhali. The state government subsequently handed over the case to the CID after Sheikh's arrest. Recently, the CBI obtained custody of Sheikh from the

West Bengal CID, following orders by the Calcutta High Court. The Sandeshkhali region, located on the fringes of the Sunderbans, has been engulfed in turmoil for over a month due to the allegations against Sheikh and his associates. These allegations include sexual abuse and land usurpation. It is important to note that the Basirhat police district has jurisdiction over this area.

Lok Sabha elections: DMK finalises seat-sharing pact

NEW DELHI: The ruling DMK on Saturday it had announced reached a seat-sharing deal with the Congress in Tamil Nadu ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.The Congress will be fighting on 9 seats in Tamil Nadu and the seat lone in Puducherry.

The seat formula is a rerun of the DMK's 2019 formula. The Congress had won nine the presence of AICC and Puducherry and out of the 10 seats it fought in 2019. DMK president and chief minister M K Venugopal Stalin and TNCC chief K confidence of the Selvaperunthagai DMK-led combine win- declare a formal



finalised the deal. in ning all 40 seats in TN

alliance with Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Congress will contest elections on 9 seats in Tamil Nadu and one seat in Puducherry. On the remaining seats, we will support the candidates of DMK and alliance parties.

We will win all 40 seats of Tamil said Congress Nadu,"

Karnal : On the occa-Women's Jitendra occasion

Where women are worshipped, gods also reside there: Ahlawat

sion of International Day, Singh Ahlawat, Managing Director of Genesis Classes, while extending hearty greetings to all the countrymen on the auspicious of International Women's Day, said that where women are worshipped, gods are also there. Live and where women are worshipped, not doing all the work is futile. Today women are walking shoulder to shoulder with men



have the capacity to let

3,000 cars and 2,000

trucks pass daily. They

are of strategic impor-

tance as they will allow

speedy troop deploy-

ment along the eastern

sector of Line of Actual

weapons, supplies and

heavy machinery to

forward areas in winter

had become a priority

after the Army's skir-

mishes with People's

Liberation Army (PLA)

between 2020 and

2022. Army has recent-

ly ordered Zorawar

light tanks for deploy-

ment along LAC as the

terrain is unsuitable for

main battle tanks like

T-90, T-72 and Arjun.

Zorawar would be able

to use such roads for

along the border.

Topography

faster

deployment

troops,

Control (LAC).

Moving

(T2)

а

but

and Ajoy Kumar. Addressing reporters,

leaders KC Venugopal said the 'bonding' between the Congress and the DMK "is exuded intact". "We are happy to MP KC Venugopal.

Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam is also part of the DMK-led alliance but has not been allotted any Lok Sabha seats.

and making their tics, in our country Gandhi, dreams come true. women have shown Swaraj, Sonia Gandhi, Shri Ahlawat said that their talent on all the Nirmala Sitharaman, today women are key positions from becoming dominant in President to Chief every field, be it edu- Minister. In which cation, sports or poli- names like Mrs. Indira

Sushma Mayawati, Smriti Irani, Sumitra Mahajan, Vasundhara Raje can be taken.

Himachal crisis: 11 lawmakers, including 6 from **Congress reach Uttarakhand**

NEW DELHI: A total of 11 MLAs, including six rebel Congress legislators who were suspended from the party for cross-voting for BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls, arrived in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand on Saturday.

Amid the ongoing crisis within the Congress Party in the state, a bus carrying the legislators arrived in Rishikesh's Taj Hotel and the 11 MLAs, including six rebel rebel congress MLAs and three independent MLAs, were seen entering the hotel under heavy security. The 11 MLAs landed at Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun on Friday at around 2:40 PM, from where they left in a car towards the hotel in Rishikesh. The development comes two days after chief minister met the Sukhu Congress top brass in

racy

chief



Delhi and gave a report where it will land. This about the current is because their family political situation in the members were putting state. "Some MLAs are pressure on them to sad. They have been return," Sukhu added. kept under CRPF secu-Disqualified Himachal assembly rity. Is this how democspeaker Kuldeep Singh will remain strong? Horsetrading Pathania, the six Congress members weakens the democracy," Himachal Pradesh Rajinder Rana, Sudhir minister Sharma, Inder Dutt Sikhvinder Singh Sukhu Lakhanpal, Devinder said on Friday. "I have Kumar Bhutoo, Ravi just come to know Thakur and Chetanya through social media Sharma - were ousted that they (rebel MLAs) after they abstained were taken away from from voting on the the hotel in Panchkula budget soon after they and a charter plane had cross-voted flew from Chandigarh against their party canairport. I don't know didate Abhishek.

Rain or snow, new tunnel will take troops to China frontier anytime

Rain or snow, new tunnel will take troops to China frontier anytime The road to Tawang, where Indian and Chinese troops clashed in December 2022, passes through Sela, a mountain pass in Arunachal Pradesh set at almost 14,000 feet. The temperature drops to -20 degrees C sometimes, even diesel freezes, and it snows so heavily that getting through becomes impossible. But now, with the completion of the all-weather Sela Tunnel, Indian Army will have year-round connectivity between Guwahati in Assam and Tawang.

bv

The Sela Tunnel is actually two tunnels or three if you count the escape tunnel built along the longer of the



two main tunnels. The (T1) measures tunnels have been 1003.34m and the bored through the longer tube mountain at 13,116 1594.90m. Because of feet. They will reduce T2's length, the distance between 1584.38m-long Tawang and Dirang in narrower tunnel has been built parallel to it West Kameng district by to let users escape if 12km, saving almost 90 there's a cave-in.

Arunachal's

minutes one way.

sela tunnel The project is said to For the safety of users, be the longest bi-lane the tunnels have a ven-(two-lane) tunnel in tilation system, powerthe world at such altiful lighting, and firetude. The shorter tube fighting systems. They

'Government doesn't want free and fair election': KC

CHENNAI: Congress General Secretary, KC Venugopal, expressed shock over the abrupt resignation of the Election Commissioner ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, saying that the entire nation is anxious about the upcoming elections. He also said that the government doesn't want a "free and fair election.'

Election Earlier, Commissioner Arun Goel resigned from his post on Saturday, with his resignation being accepted by the President."This is quite shocking; just before the declaration of elections, the Election Commissioner has resigned. Now, only one Election Commissioner is there... What is happening in this Election Commission? The entire country is anxious. The government of India doesn't want a free and fair election," said Venugopal while speaking to ANI. "Earlier, they removed the Chief Justice of India from the selection body of the Election Commission and Election Commissioner.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

REGION



Corporate honcho offloaded at Delhi's IGI airport for 'being rude' to Air India crew



NEW DELHI: In a possible first, the head of a prominent financial services company was offloaded from an international flight out of India for allegedly speaking rudely to the crew and arguing with them. It was only after receiving an assurance about her behaviour that the airline agreed to accommodate the passenger on the next available flight. The executive, also in the midst of a controversy, had boarded the business class of Air India's Delhi-London flight on Tuesday (March 5) when she is learnt to have started speaking to the crew rudely, sources said. When the behaviour persisted, cabin the crew

informed the captain. "Some of the other passengers in business class also found her to be rude. Being a long, nearly nine-hour flight, the captain decided not totake off with what could be a potential troublesome passenger and she was offloaded," a source said. The checked-in baggage of a person not on board an aircraft has to be offloaded and this takes time. The flight's departure was delayed by about an hour because of this procedure. An AI spokesperson said: "We are aware of an incident on flight AI-161 of March 5, 2024. A passenger travelling in business class was off the

boarded on the advice of the captain, following some argument with members of the crew before the scheduled push-back. AI accords top priority to the safety and security of all passengers and crew, and strictly adheres to rules governing the same." "Following the off-boarding, flight AI-161 departed after a delay of about an hour. The passenger who was off-boarded was travelling for some compelling reasons and was accommodated on a subsequent flight following a written assurance. We regret any inconvenience caused to the other passengers due to the delay," spokesperson

Duty to flag people's woes, says LG; dirty politics, claims AAP

between Raj Niwas and elected govt escalated yet again Wednesday after lieutenant governor V K Saxena tagged chief minister Arvind Kejriwal while posting pictures of the dilapidated condition of Qalandar Colony in northeast Delhi on social AAP media. govt responded by asking LG not to play "dirty politics" with the problems of people. "Yesterday evening, I went to Qalandar Colony in northeast Shahdara, Delhi, and saw the condition worse than hell. It is not possible to express in words the plight of the people living amidst potholes, clogged drains, heaps of garbage and bad

New Delhi: The tussle smell in the name of roads," Saxena posted on social media platform X, formerly Twitter. Stating that as LG, it was his constitutional responsibility to highlight people's issues and to bring CM's attention to the problems they faced, Saxena said, "Locals complained that 35,000-40,000 people live a brutal life in 4,000 houses. It was the responsibility of DUSIB, of which CM is the chairman, to provide basic public facilities and cleanliness was under MCD."LG's latest post on X came amid continuing tensions between him and CM since Tuesday, when he had complained on the social media platform about the living con-

action against the officials responsible for the area's upkeep, saying "services" and "vigilance" was under LG. Hitting back at the latest post, AAP govt said it was unfortunate that LG was "playing dirty politics" with the problems of the common people of Delhi. He raised certain issues about Sangam Vihar, Burari and Kiradi, CM, in good faith, directed the chief secretary.

ditions at Sangam Vihar

and posted pictures of

the area. In response, CM

had said that despite

holding a constitutional

post, LG was "playing the

role of opposition", which

was ideally meant for BJP

MPs and MLAs. Kejriwal

had also demanded strict



BENGALURU: A white while for him to realise hatchback moving towards Mehkri Circle on Ballari Road direction was about to emerge from the road underbridge near Windsor Manor around 1.30pm on Tuesday when the driver's vision went blank as the car's windshield was shattered. The driver applied the brakes immediately and it took a

police reached the spot. that a man had fallen on They shifted the man on his car's front windshield to the pavement even as from the railway tracks an ambulance arrived. above. The passenger, However, the man had already died of severe Gourishwaran, was a resident of Vellore in Tamil head injuries. Nadu. He rolled on to the Grounds police, who road from the car's bonalerted the railway police, net. As passersby began searched the man's pocktrying to resuscitate him ets and found a mobile by pouring water into his phone that was switched mouth, High Grounds off.



Online friendship costs woman Rs 12 lakhs

BENGALURU: A 35-year-old married woman's friendship with another man from her community has proved costly. The friend took Rs 5 lakh cash and 118 grams of gold ornaments worth Rs 7.2 lakh from her by promising to return them but began demanding money by threatening her that he would inform her husband about their secret friendship. Charmi (name changed), mother of two and wife of a businessman, told police she and the accused Suvesh (name changed) became friends in Jan 2022. The duo used to text each other and talk over phone. After they became close, Suvesh started visiting her home when her husband was away on work. She claimed that despite her opposition, he forced her to be intimate with him. He then borrowed Rs 5 lakh from Charmi, claiming that he owed it to someone. After a few weeks, he approached her for more money. When she told him that she didn't have cash, he convinced her to give him gold ornaments to clear his loan. Charmi gave him three necklaces, six bangles and a pendant worth Rs 7.2 lakh. When Charmi asked him to return her ornaments and cash, he kept borrowing time. Two weeks ago, Suvesh visited Charmi's house and sexually harassed her, and later demanded Rs 1 lakh. When she refused, he threatened her that he'd inform her husband about their friendship. An alarmed Charmi shared her ordeal with her brother, and with his help, lodged a complaint with police. A senior police officer said, "We registered a case under IPC Sections 354 C (voyeurism), 384 (extortion) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), and questioned Suvesh.

36-year old shoots himself in South Delhi, family claims murder

NEW DELHI: A 36-yearold man allegedly shot himself to death in Jawahar Park area of South Delhi's Neb Sarai, police said on Wednesday.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan, a distress call reporting the incident in Jawahar Park was received at the Neb Sarai Police Station at 11 pm on



caller said someone to drive and auto and

investigating further." The body has been sent to the mortuary at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) for a post-mortem examination.

However, the family of the deceased has alleged murder. "I have come here, but the police is not letting me see the body of my son," the dead man's father claimed

Exploring Indian design heritage in graphic design

High

The book 'Inspirations for Graphic Design from India' by Jaya Jaitly and Dimple Bahl Dr. explores the intersection of graphic design and craft in India. It advocates for decolonisation in design education and proposes a seamless integration of Western concepts with traditional Indian practice. Ms Jaya Jailty and



craft. The book advointegration of Western cates for a shift from concepts with tradithe Western-centric tional Indian practice. approach in graphic From rekha to bindu, Dr Dimple Bahl design education in aakaar to trikon, this Inspirations for Graphic India to reconnect with Design from India," a the country's rich collaborative effort by heritage. design Jaya Jaitly and Dr Emphasising the need Dimple Bahl, explores for decolonisation in the intersection of graphic design and proposes a seamless mitment to creating a

meeting point of timeless craft and modern graphic design stems from a long and dedicated association with the fields. The coauthors bring a wealth of experience to the project. Jaitly, founder of Dastkari Haat Samiti is deeply involved in heritage and livelihood issues, with a notable career in politics. Dr. Bahl, an academician and graphic designer, focuses on visual brand strategy and publication design, with an emphasis on traditional Indian folk media. Their collaboration has led to

Tuesday. Both the Crime Team and Forensic units were immediately dispatched to the site.

"A call was received at the Neb Sarai Police station in which the

had come to meet his had recently lost his brother and bullets were fired. Police on According to prelimiarriving at the scene nary investigation, the find that Bharat DCP said, "it seems the Sachdeva, around 36 years old, had taken there is an entry and his own life. He used exit wound. We are

"With two young chiljob," the DCP said. dren left behind, why will my son take his own life by shooting himself? man shot himself as

It is a murder," said the deceased's father.

book explores how references from Indian history can design inspire design in today's world. The codesign education, it authors and their com-

Water woes grip Bengaluru as city faces severe crisis ahead of summer



after

BENGALURU: India's Silicon Valley, is facing a water crisis. As the sweltering summer approaches, the plea for government intervention grows louder, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable solutions to address the escalating water shortage in the tech hub. Speaking to ANI, resident Suresh emphasized the rising costs and inadequate water supply, expressing concerns about potential health risks in the upcoming hot The water scarcity is

weather. 'It's been 6 severe, and people are months, we have not struggling even to received corporation bathe. In a few days, water, and Kaveri people won't be able water pipe connecto bathe due to the water shortage. The tions have been provided, but still the situation will worsen water connection is during the upcoming hot weather, and peonot been given, causing difficulties. For ple might face health water tankers, booking risks. We request the has to be done two government address the water days in advance, and the cost of water delivproblem and provide a ery has increased from solution to the scarcity 1600 to 2000. Even issue.' Another resipaying this dent Deepa highlightamount, the water ed the severity of the situation stating that doesn't arrive on time. for the last 3 months.

A sangam of filth and apathy: This wasteland actually exists in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Because Sangam Vihar is in the news, it is being looked at with special scrutiny. Indeed, it would appear that the south Delhi locality isn't part of the capital. On Wednesday, TOI found the internal lanes there broken, garbage strewn nonchalantly on every available vacant land, a pervasive foul smell in the air and unusable roads. But is it really all that different from other unauthorised areas in the city?

Wasteland in Delhi

In Aam Aadmi Party's election manifesto of 2020, basic amenities unauthorised for colonies was one of the 10 promises of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, just as other political parties too have canvassed votes on the promise of delivering civic development. But despite these claims, these residential areas lack good roads,

to

clean drinking water, working sewage system, medical facilities and security. After the public exchanges between LG and CM about the colony, some Delhi Jal Board workers started removing the accumulated waste on the D Block lane from Wednesday morning. Santosh, a paan shop owner, grumbled, "For three months, because of sewer work, the lane has been dug up. I don't understand why the

work is so slow. But even otherwise, every monsoon the drains are choked and the road get flooded with dirty, stinking water. The garbage vans do not come for three-four weeks sometimes." The rampant unplanned constructions have left Sangam Vihar congested and the main road of Mangal Bazar is a nightmare for pedestrians. "After the LG's visit, the main road was cleaned up a bit," said Javed Khan, who

has a shop in Mangal Bazar. "The internal roads are in poor condition. But Delhi govt has done satisfactory work here in the past few years. Our water problem has been solved and we get potable supply once in the morning. There is, however, a need for more garbage vans." Almost a decade ago, Sangam Vihar colony was the hub of the illegal water tanker business and many tubewells were sunk .

2 detained for pasting posters of **PM illegally**

New Delhi:

Delhi Police has launched an investigation in connection with the posters that were put up in New Delhi carrying a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya. Cops have detained two people in the case. The posters had the caption "Modi ka asli pariwar" (real family of Modi) with "Bhartiya Yuva Congress" written at the bottom. A senior police officer said they got a complaint from an official from New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) that some posters were put up in unauthorised areas. A case under Delhi Prevention Defacement of Property Act has been registered against unknown persons at Tughlaq Road Police Station and the

posters have been

removed.

revealed.

Inquiry

EDITORIAL

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Editorial

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Post-Cold War era and Great Power competition

Post-World War II saw the emergence of two power blocks: the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), formed in 1949, and the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact, formed in 1955. NATO was meant to defend against the spread of Soviet-led communism. The Warsaw Pact was to counter NATO. The resultant Cold War saw huge military buildups and competition in the space and nuclear fields. At its peak between 1975 and 1985, the US and Soviet Union had a nuclear weapons stockpile of nearly 60,000 warheads. The collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought an end to the Cold War. The period saw arms control treaties and a significant reduction of nuclear weapons, and stockpiles between the two are now around 6,000 each. The period also saw the folding up of the Warsaw Pact, but a significant increase in NATO, which, as of date, has 32 members. The world became unipolar, with the US dominating the security scene. This was also the period when the world concentrated on the War against Terror. West Asia became the area of focus. By 2007, Russia had begun to consolidate its power under President Putin. China had started rising as an economic and military power. China unilaterally usurped nearly three million sq. km of the South China Sea (SCS), and became aggressive for Taiwan unification. The Quad was formed with the US, Japan, Australia and India to thwart China's expansionist designs in the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile in Europe, Ukraine was showing interest in joining NATO. This would have brought the alliance on the Russian doorstep. This was unacceptable to Russia. Initially to secure its Black Sea fleet, Russia arranged to annex Crimea in 2014. With Ukraine still not relenting on NATO, Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Effectively that brought an end to the post-Cold War era.

Post-Cold War Era Begins

Despite massive NATO support to Ukraine, Russia continues to hold nearly 20 percent Ukrainian territory. The American and European public opinion shows war fatigue, and are not keen to pump more money or weapons. Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and several militias in Syria and Iraq are part of Iran funded and backed "Axis of Resistance". Now, they have a new backer: Russia. Developments in West Asia (Gaza war and Houthis) have also complicated the US' desire to focus more on the Indo-Pacific. Russia has secured lifelines for its economy and defence enterprises, while navigating to retain its military influence outside of Europe. In spite of economic sanctions, Russia has once again emerged as a power to contend with. Russia supports legacy multilateral institutions, along with China. It is strengthening BRICS, and is pushing for the de-dollarisation of international finance. Russia and China want to prevent the US and its allies from writing international rules. Russia has recalibrated its entire foreign policy to fit the needs of a long struggle. Russia has already expanded its trade and political relations with non-Western countries. The pillars of Russia's global foreign policy are selfpreservation and global de-compartmentalisation. China has not only emerged as an economic power that is peddling influence around the world through Belt and Road and other economic initiatives, but has also become a significant military and Space power that wants to initially exert influence in Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, and later across the globe. China has also been modernising and expanding its nuclear arsenal. It is not willing to sit with the US and Russia to discuss arms control or evolve new treaties. The antagonism between Russia and the US has already put arms-control treaties on slowburner.

India and the Greater Indo-Pacific: **Balancing geopolitical equations**

Looking at the complex geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges the Indo-Pacific region is currently grappling it is necessary that there is a need to broaden the geopolitical concept of the Indo-Pacific to the Greater Indo-Pacific. The Greater Indo-Pacific can rebalance the global geopolitics and geoeconomics while checkmating China's hegemonic role. India, being the Centre of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, can play a central role in the formation of Greater Indo-Pacific.

Introduction The recent war between Israel and Hamas, as well as Russia and Ukraine war along with the Red Sea crisis demonstrates that some of these crises are having an impact on the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. Along with these wars, the rise of China is also posing a substantial challenge to the Greater Indo-Pacific encompassing major countries of the "Eurasian Heartland" in the phraseology of Halford Mackinder, like India, the US, Japan, South East Asian countries, South Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Russia and Kazakhstan. Though the idea appears to be entirely imaginary, understanding the present geopolitical complexities is necessary to consider the Greater Indo-Pacific concept. Both the US and Russia should learn from Israel's and Saudi



Arabia's relations. Improved relations between Moscow and Washington can enhance peace and security in West Asia, the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific regions as well also in the post-Soviet space. Bringing these above-mentioned regions into a Greater Indo-Pacific framework can give impetus to peace and security in the region as well as enhance economic cooperation. A Greater Indo-Pacific can also provide a necessary challenge to China's hegemonic geopolitics. In this context, India can play a vital role in giving the necessary leadership to Greater Indo-Pacific. The prolonged crisis in the "heartland" in the form of a war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the onset of the war between Israel and Hamas and its spiral impact in the form of the Red Sea crisis, is providing a new kind of geopolitical equation in

the global map. One thing is sure: phrases like alliances and block politics (though not in an ideological framework) and issues relating to armament and disarmament are currently gaining broader importance in geopolitical discourses. The two wars, as discussed above, demonstrate the significance of the metaphor of "Eurasia" as coined by British geopolitical thinker Halford J Mackinder in his classic work Democratic Ideals and Reality published in 1919, where he eulogised the concept of "World Island" and also "Heartland" in the lexicon of geopolitics. The reason for discussing the metaphor of "Eurasia" or "Heartland" in the present strategic polemics on the Indo-Pacific is to highlight how these two trajectories can be relevant in the context of the geopolitics of the region. Though Mackinder has not talked about the concept of

Indo-Pacific, his article titled Geographical Pivot of History. published in 1904, discussed the concept of "Inner "Outer Crescent" and Crescent", where much of the Indo-Pacific comes under the ambit. For instance, India is in the inner crescent of Eurasia and Japan and the United States are in the outer crescent as per Mackinder. Highlighting the strategic significance of both "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", Mackinder, in his book Democratic Ideals and Reality, suggested that "The actual balance of political power at any given time is, of course, the product, on the one hand, of geographical conditions, both economic and strategic, and, on the other hand, of the relative number, virility, equipment, and organization of the competing peoples" (p.192). Similarly, German geopolitical analyst Karl Haushofer in his seminal work Geopolitics of the Pacific Ocean, published in 1924, outlined the strategic significance of this region in the global geopolitics. Describing the strategic significance of this region, Haushofer describes this region as a "giant space is expanding before our eyes." He further highlights that this region "awaits the dawn of the Pacific age, the successor to the ageing Atlantic, the over-age Mediterranean and the

Weigert, H. W. (1942). Reviewed work(s): geopolitik des pazifischen ozeans by Karl Haushofer (Review: Haushofer and the Pacific_). Foreign Affair_, 20(4), 732-742). Similarly, Nocolas J Spykman in his classic work Geography of Peace, outlines the concept of Rimland where countries like Japan, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, located to adjacent Heartland can play a greater role. In this context, he highlights Rimland's logic, which contrasts the Mackinder approach. Spykman stated, "Whoever rules the Rimland commands Eurasia, and whoever rules Eurasia commands the world." The necessity for delving into some of the issues relating to theoretical polemics of Indo-Pacific, as highlighted in the above works of both Mackinder, Haushofer and Spykman is to trace out the significance of the concept of Indo-Pacific, which is gaining much importance in the present-day geopolitical analysis. One may recall here that Indian scholar Kalidas Nag, in his work Greater India, explains India's role in global geopolitics. In the same book, Nag highlights that "India, through the hands of Ashoka, showered her blessings of peace and progress over this symbolic union of Asia, Africa and Europe with the ties of Internationalism"(p.127). Nag's work further highlights European era." (as quoted in India's inroad.

How women are navigating challenges and taking centre stage?

Amid rapid digitization, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a buzzword but has emerged as a priority for businesses across industries. Whether it is voice assistants like Siri and Alexa fulfilling our wishes at a simple voice command, the ETA of cabs we book, or Natural language processing (NLP) and Machine learning (ML) algorithms-enabled chatbots resolving our queries instantly, AI is revolutionizing different aspects of our lives. However, to ensure its impactful development, equal and inclusive participation is essential. And women are rising to the occasion to prospective explore opportunities and break barriers with a vision to shape the future of AI. In an industry historically dominated by men,

to occupy a prominent position in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sector. They have made significant strides in facilitating AI and ML advancements. In fact, women are credited with being one of the most prominent pioneers in the field of AI. Dating back to the mid-19th century, Ada Lovelace, known as the world's first comprogrammer, puter worked collaboratively with Charles Baggage on the design of the Analytical Engine. Even in the mid-20th century, Katherine Johnson was instrumental in the success of the first manned space flights and went on to become a role model for women in the STEM field. Closer home, several women are

women have defied bias leading the AI revolution. India has the highest skill penetration rates, and women are contributing by being at the forefront of AI research and develop-

How India's South-South cooperation in Africa's agricultural sector is a win-win game

Exciting things were happening in Nairobi at the end of February. Indian models for Global South coopera-

tion were in focus over

a few days. This was

particularly evident at

the 11th Sankalp Africa

summit session on scal-

ing agricultural innova-

tion through South-

As many as 1500 peo-

impacting the develop-

South collaboration.



ment. Take Aakanksha Chowdhery, for instance. She is a staff research scientist at DeepMind Google extensive whose research and contributions extend to fields like signal processing, ML, edge computing, Additionally, etc. strong-headed women like Tessy Thomas at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ishu Jain leading central analyt-

ics at Swiggy and Divya Mittal, Director of data science at American Express, among others, are shining examples of female excellence in the field.

ment of their communities gathered at this annual event from across Africa. Investors and impact financiers looked at them and

interacted to find solutions. Many sessions focused on possible solutions using the success of models in different countries, particularly India. The agriculture and

South-South cooperation session aimed at creating a deeper understanding of the challenges that agriculture value chains face in Africa. The role of agricultural innovations and how targeted interventions and sustainable development approaches could positively impact them and consequently benefit small farmers were emphasised. These have particular relevance for an enhanced understanding of the enabling aspects, barriers to technology transfers, and their adaptability.

One of the areas that was focused on was South-South collaboration through innovative

agricultural enterprises, which could perple with ideas for haps foster cross-border partnerships. This is relevant as the East Community African expands to include more countries and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area takes more steps towards implementation. A focused discussion brought together major stakeholders like development partners, policymakers, representatives of farmers, innovative agricultural enterprises, and investors. The Indian model of a bustling innovative agricultural ecosystem, which has been impacted by innovative enterprises serving 15 million farmers, was in focus. The context was set by discussing how India-Africa cooperation has traditionally focused on the private sector and heavily on agriculture. Even bilateral cooperation at the government-to-government level and through the India-Africa summits has had agriculture at its core. Agriculture features in PM Modi's 10-point action plan for Africa, enunciated in

Uganda in 2018. Yet, do government-togovernment initiatives always work? As per a recent book, The Factor, Harambee many of these initiatives, like seed demonstration centres, rural technology centres, farm science centres, and the like, were offered by India to African countries, but these were not easily absorbed by African governments. Wherever the private sector or civil society is involved, the absorption is better and more conducive to backward integration. This approach was then discussed with several partners at the session. There were two entrepreneurs: Giraffe Bioenergy and Everest Enterprises. They were complimented investing companies, the Delta 40 and the Katapult VC. The World Bank and the Gates Foundation also participated, as did the CEO of the Cereal Growers Association of Kenya, which brings together half a million cereal growers for better marketing.

India presses on land borders amid Chinese expansionism in Indian Ocean

Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that on maritime disputes , "China has been exercising a high degree of restraint. [....] In face of infringements, deliberate China will take justified actions to defend its rights in accordance with the law. In face of unwarranted provocation, China will respond with prompt and legitimate countermeasures. China also urges certain countries outside this region not to make provocations, pick sides, or stir up trou-

Member of the Political bles and problems in the South China Sea." Wang Yi's statements on the South China Sea come at a key point where India is mounting pressure on the India-China land border. It has redeployed 10,000 soldiers from its western border to the Indo-Tibetan border in the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These troops will join 9,000 troops already guarding the 532 km stretch of the Indo-China border in these states, Bloomberg reported. The area consists of some of Hinduism's holiest sites, known as the Char Dham

(four holy abodes, as defined report by Reuters. The armed by Adi Shankaracharya). "China is committed to working with ble and ready to give a befit-India to safeguard the peace ting reply if anyone casts an and stability of the border areas," Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, said. "We believe that India's practice is not conducive to safeguarding peace and is not conducive to easing tensions." Mao added that "India's increase in military deployments in border areas does not help to calm the situation in the border areas or to safeguard peace and safety in these areas," according to a

forces are well equipped, capaevil eye on India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said recently against the backdrop of the nearly four-year border row with China in eastern Ladakh and concerns over Chinese military forays into the Indian Ocean. Maldives' new Islamist, anti-India President Mohamed Muizzu signed a military assistance pact with China earlier this week, surprising analysts from his own country.





Akhand Bharat Sandesh

SPORTS

05

India thrash England by an innings to seal series 4-1

NEW DELHI:

Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin grabbed a famous fifer in his landmark 100th Test as India hammered England by an innings and 64 runs in the fifth and final game in Dharamsala to seal the series 4-1 on Saturday.

Handing England their heaviest defeat in the 'Bazball' era, India wrapped up the contest inside eight sessions as England selfimploded on the third day.Veteran James Anderson reached 700 Test wickets early in the morning session to be just the third bowler to achieve the feat, but the tourists were never in the game after India took a massive 259-run lead. Ashwin then returned figures of 5 for 77 to help bowl out England for 195 in the afternoon session at the picturesque Dharamsala stadium. As It Happened

With the series already in bag, India were playing for crucial World Test Championship points and England made their job simpler



with yet another reckless batting performance.

Joe Root was the lone ranger for his team and batted beautifully for his 84 off 128 balls. He was the last batter to dismissed. be England's second innings moved at a rather frenetic pace as

the batters went on the offensive in their bid to survive against the Indian spinners but failed yet again. The game appeared to

able success considerbe going only one way when India took a huge

ing they had the likes of Kohli Virat Mohammed 259-run first innings unavailable throughlead in the morning out. The youngsters, session by posting 477

led by Yashasvi Jaiswal, all out in response to grabbed the opportu-England's 218 on day nities in the seniors' one. Ahead of the final absence to give the game of their long tour, team management Stokes had dismissed more options.

theories of the depar-

ture lounge syndrome

but with the way his

batters performed, it

seemed they were in a

hurry to get back

The attack at all costs

approach clearly did

not work for them in

India and the debacle

has given them plenty

to ponder before the

start of the English

summer. For India, the

series was a remark-

and

Shami

home.

When I feel I am not good enough, I will retire, but...': Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI: Former England batter Geoffrey Boycott might have opined that Rohit Sharma is past his best but the Indian skipper made it clear that he is currently playing the best cricket of his life. Rohit led his team from the front in the absence of match-winners like Virat Kohli and KL Rahul in the five-match Test series against England. India inflicted an innings and 64 runs defeat on England to wrap up the Dharamsala Test inside three days and win the series 4-1. Talking about his own performance after the match, Rohit stated that the day he believes he is not up to

the mark, he won't hesi-

tate to retire. "One day, the team out of the trouwhen I wake up and feel, ble on many occasions in I am not good enough the series. "Rohit Sharma has been then I will retire straight away but in the last few exceptional in this years I am playing the series. In Rajkot, when we were 3 down inside best cricket of my life," the first hour, we need-Rohit said.

DREAMI

Head coach Rahul Dravid also lavished praise on Rohit, saying the skipper stepped up and bailed

Nasser Hussain lambasts England's 'Bazball' approach

NEW DELHI: Former England captain Nasser Hussain offered reflections on England's 1-4 series loss in India, particularly highlighting the importance of individual performances in chal-İenging conditions. Despite facing criticism for the pitches, Hussain defended them and

commended a depleted Indian team for securing their 17th consecutive home series victory. Ravichandran Ashwin's five-wicket haul in his 100th Test played a pivotal role in breaking down England's batting line-up, leading to India's comprehensive win by an innings and 64

runs in Dharamsala. The defeat served as a setback for England's 'Bazball' school of cricket, and Hussain acknowledged the challenges posed by the Indian team in their home conditions. "The final Test was like the old-school England in India in the last decade.

ed someone to get us

that hundred. In Ranchi

also, he batted amazing-

ly," Dravid said.



Nuwan Thushara hat-trick hands Sri Lanka T20 series win over Bangladesh

SYLHET (Bangladesh): Nuwan Thushara grabbed a maiden over hat-trick and finished 5-20 while Kusal Mendis hit a career-best 86 to help Sri Lanka pummel Bangladesh in Saturday's Twenty20 series decider.Bangladesh were bowled out for 146 in the final over in Sylhet despite late efforts by Rishad Hossain and Taskin Ahmed, who top-scored with 53 and 31 respectively. Mendis set up the win for Sri Lanka with his 55-ball knock of six fours and as many sixes, guiding the visitors to 174-7 after they were put in to bat by the tourists for the third and final match. Thushara, bowled skipper Najmul Hossain (one) and Towhid Hridoy (nought) off the second and third delivery of his first over in the series, finishing the hat-trick by trapping Mahmudullah Riyad Ibw. "I'm really happy, it was the first hat-trick in my life," he said afterwards. "In a match like this, I'm just pleased to be able to help the team." Bangladesh, already one down with part-time spinner Dhananjaya de Silva removing Liton Das (seven), suffered another Thushara strike in his next over, rattling the stumps of Soumya Sarkar (11) to leave the hosts reeling at 25-5. Rishad delayed the inevitable with his enterpris-

ing knock off 30 balls before Maheesh Theekshana ended his innings. His maiden T20 fifty saw seven sixes. Taskin also entertained the sparse crowd with a brief cameo off 21, including two sixes off consecutive balls from Thushara. Man of the match Thushara completed his maiden five-wicket haul by forcing Shoriful Islam to give a catch at midwicket.

Harmanpreet Kaur's sensational 95 propels MI to WPL playoffs

NEW DELHI: Captain Harmanpreet Kaur played a blistering unbeaten innings of 95, propelling Mumbai Indians to a convincing seven-wicket victory over Gujarat Giants in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match in Delhi on Saturday.

This triumph secured Mumbai Indians' spot as the first team to qualify for the playoffs. Chasing Gujarat's total of 190 for seven, Harmanpreet's explosive knock came in just 48 balls, featuring 10 fours and five sixes. Alongside



Yastika Bhatia, who con-72 runs off 30 balls. Harmanpreet, dropped tributed 49 runs in 36 balls, the defending on 40, switched to champions successfully "beast mode" and took chased down the target, charge of the innings,

Sneh Rana, reduced the required runs to a manageable 23 off 12 balls. Mumbai Indians sealed the win, placing them at the top of the chart with 10 points.

Earlier, Gujarat Giants had posted a competitive total of 190 for seven, driven by dynamic fifties from skipper Beth Mooney (66 runs) and D Hemalatha (74 runs). The duo's explosive second-wicket partnership of 121 runs set a strong foundation for Gujarat's innings, but Mumbai's successful chase secured their dominance.

Rohit and I don't decide contracts, we only select playing XI: Rahul on lyer, Kishan omission

NEW DELHI: The fate of sidelined cricketers Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan has sparked widespread debate following their omission from the BCCI central contract list. However, India head coach Rahul Dravid on Saturday expressed reluctance to shut the door on their prospects.

Ishan Kishan, absent Africa, has been diligently preparing for the upcoming IPL alongside Mumbai Indians' teammate Hardik Pandya at spasms. However, he a private facility in subsequently played in



Baroda. In defiance of the semifinal against from the two-Test the BCCI's directive to Tamil Nadu and is slatseries against South participate in domestic ed to feature in the

cricket is in the mix. It's just a question of, hopefully, them getting back and fit, playing cricket, and forcing the selectors to pick them again." However Dravid steered cleared when the sensitive issue of central contract cropped up. "I don't decide contracts, right? Contracts are decided by the selectors and the board. I don't even know what is the criteria (for inclusion). Me and Rohit select the (playing) 11. We have never discussed whether somebody has a contract or not.

reaching 191 for three with a ball to spare. Despite losing wickets before reaching 100 within 13.3 overs, Mumbai faced a chalopener lenging task of needing

forming a crucial partnership of 93 runs with Amelia Kerr. Harmanpreet's boundary-laden onslaught, especially in the 18th over against off-spinner

matches, lyer initially withdrew from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal, citing back

final against Vidarbha starting Sunday. "They are always in the mix. Nobody is out of picture. Everyone who's playing domestic

Mooney fifties power Gujarat Giants to 190/7 against MI in WPL

NEW DELHI: Dynamic fifties by skipper Beth Mooney and Hemalatha propelled Gujarat Giants to a competitive 190 for seven against defendchampions ing Mumbai Indians in their Women's Premier League match on Saturday. Mooney (66, 35b, 8x4, 3x6) and Hemalatha (74, 40b, 9x4, 2x6) added 121 runs for an electrifying second-wicket alliance in a little over 11 overs after the Gujarat side elected to bat first. Their power walk started after the early departure of opener Laura Wolvaardt (13), who was cleaned up by Hayley Matthews.

Both Mooney, who struck his second fifty a row, and in Hemalatha slipped into overdrive straightaway. While Hemalatha was severe on MI spinners, the veteran Mooney focused on the opposi-

the

other



tion pacers. A straight runs. Mooney reached six of pacer Nat-Sciver her fifty in 27 balls and Brunt and back-to-back minutes later fours off Shabnim Hemalatha too crossed Ismail, who recently the mark off 28 balls as breached the 130 the Giants moved ahead in a brisk clip. kmph-barrier, helped Mooney to chug along But the dismissal of at a scoring rate of over Mooney in the 14th 200. The introduction over, right after the pacer Pooja Vastrakar Strategic Time prompted Mooney to Out.applied breaks on take her batting to Gujarat scoring. The attempt to pull offanother level as two scoops behind wicketspinner Sajana Sajeevan made her keeper gave her as many maximums. At hear the deathly clatter of stumps.Hemalatha end, Hemalatha picked up soon fell to Ismail as leg-spinner Amelia Kerr the Gujarat side lost four wickets while for punishment as the right-hander smashed adding 28 runs but her for 4, 6, 4 in the they have already 10th over to collect 15 reached.

Pietersen, Gambhir hail BCCI secretary Jay Shah for new **Test incentive scheme**

BCCI's MUMBAI: announcement of introducing a new Test incentive scheme for India's senior men's team has come in of favour Kevin Pietersen with the former England captain lauding BCCI secretary Jay Shah for the "highly commendable" action. Shortly after India thrashed England by an innings and 64 runs to win the fifth and final Test at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala to clinch the series 4-1, BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced the initiation of the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' for the senior men's team. According to the new initiative, the BCCI will give an additional match fee to India's senior men's team regulars with cricketers who play more than 75



per cent of Test matches in a season for India set to receive an additional fee of Rs 45 lakh per Test match. Hailing Jay Shah as a "powerful leader" Pietersen said, "NOW WE TALKING! Highly commendable that @JayShah is doing his utmost to protect Test Cricket! We need powerful leaders to stand up for Test Cricket like this? Thank you!" Pietersen wrote in a

post on X (formerly

Twitter). The incentive

scheme serves as a financial boost for the players who prioritise playing Test cricket and comes on top of the existing match fee of INR 15 lakh per match. "I am pleased to announce the initiation of the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' for Senior Men, a step aimed at providing financial growth and stability to our esteemed athletes." "Commencing from the 2022-23 season, the 'Test Cricket

Incentive Scheme' will serve as an additional reward structure on top of the existing match fee for Test matches, set at INR 15 lakh," wrote Shah on his 'X' account.

According to the incentive structure posted by Shah, players featuring in more than 50 per cent of Tests in a season since 2022/23, will benefit the most.. A player who plays five to six Tests in a ninematch season will receive INR 30 lakh per match as a playing eleven incentive, while 15 lakh per match is been around for a little kept as a non-playing eleven incentive. Every player who features in at least 75 per cent of matches (which is seven or more matches in a ninegame season), will get a playing incentive.

'Ageing' Shami needs to take cue from Anderson: McGrath NEW DELHI: Legendary Australian pacer Glenn McGrath believes that the current Indian pace attack has much to offer before the next generation can take over. McGrath also encouraged Mohammed Shami to draw inspiration from the longevity of England veteran James Anderson.McGrath made these remarks on the day when India secured an impressive 4-1 Test series victory over England at home. "We have to wait and see the next generation coming through. (Jasprit) Bumrah has still got a bit to go, (Mohammed) Shami is a little older, and (Mohammed) Siraj has

while but still has plenty

left. So, the (current

Indian) bowling attack has

still some life left,"

on the sidelines of an

MRF Pace Foundation

McGrath told PTI.

event in Chennai.

Saturday 10 March, 2024

ECONOMY

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Bombay HC reserves for order plea for stay on Centre's FCU rule

MUMBAI: Justice A S Chandurkar of the Bombay high court on Thursday concluded hearing interim applications for a stay on the Centre's fact check (FCU) unit and reserved it for orders. The Centre through its General Solicitor Tushar Mehta sharing video clips of 'deep fakes' and instances of online posts and news he said were found to be fake and related to government departments, said no stay was required as the rule only flags as 'fake, false or misleading content on social media related to the Centre's working.

06

It requires initially at best a disclaimer to be added, and protects the interest of the public at large from incorrect facts in relation to the Central government, said the SG adding not just India, the world is now dealing with a medium which has no geographical limits, and posts instantly can be accessed by millions.

Mehta said while he did last April make a



statement before the HC that the Centre would not notify the FCU till next date and continued it till the split verdict last month, now has had no instructions from the Indian government to extend it. On Jan 31, the division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale after hearing at length a challenge raised originally by standup comic

under the Information technology Act, delivered two differing opinions. The issue of constitutional validity of the rule that enables Centre to set up the FCU thus was sent to a third Judge. Pending the final hearing Kamra's senior counsel citing the 'marketplace of ideas'

jurisprudence Celebrated US Justice Oliver Holmes sought stay on notifying the FCU, arguing that the Kunal Kamra, and othrule, though meant for ers including Editors Guild of India, News intermediaries has a 'chilling effect' on Broadcasters & Digital users and would flout Association, their right to free

Association of India Magazines to a 2023 amendment to intermediary guidelines



Delhi:

Stipends, insurance, and academic credits awarded to are fourth-year undergraduates who complete research internships. Participating enterprises must pay interns a set amount, according to UGC norms provided to higher education institutions. Nodal officers for research internships will negotiate with corporations for the program at higher education institutions.

institutions may also seek group internships. The Four Year Undergraduate Programme's fourth year will include the research internship. Every student will have an internship supervisor to help them finish their work on time. The UGC solicit-

ed stakeholder input on this guidelines draft. UGC chairperson M Jagdish Kumar said it implemented a credit framework at undergraduate the Higher education level following the

Policy 2020. He claimed the internship is mandatory to boost student employability. Educational institutions will survey local market demand for research internships. Surveys and courses will inform internship projects. Educational institutions must publish internship projects and mentor information.Industry representatives should have been in career counseling, it said.

ED attaches flats-plots worth Rs 64 crore of Kamla Landmarc

ferred

through

(one of the

MUMBAI:

of

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 64 crore belonging to Kamla Landmarc group companies, owned by builder Jitendra Jain and partner Parvath Shetty, in connection with a money laundering case.

In a press release issued Subsequently, Parvath on Thursday, the ED stat-Shetty transferred ownered that Jitendra Jain, in a ship of the assets created in Kamla Landmarc to his criminal conspiracy with Parvath Shetty, transrelatives in order to conceal the original ownerownership of Kamla Landmarc Builders ship.The attached assets include various flats Kamla Landmarc group compaworth Rs 33 crore in the nies) to Parvath Shetty city, agriculture lands forgery. worth Rs 16 crore.



Rohit Pawar wanted case dropped against man who threatened Fadnavis: BJP MLA

MUMBAI: BJP MLA Ram Kadam on Thursday alleged in the state assembly that NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar group) MLA Rohit Pawar had called a police station to release Baramati resident Yogesh Sawant who is accused in a case of threats issued to Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in a viral clip. The presiding officer of the state assembly directed the government to conduct an in-depth inquiry and take the required action. Rohit Pawar has clarified that the man is an activist from his party and that his only role was to post the video of a social activist on his social media page. The allegation comes just two days after an SIT probe was ordered into who instigated Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange to lead protests and use abusive language against Fadnavis. BJP MLAs claimed that NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) was behind the protests. Speaking in the state assembly on Thursday, Kadam said, "A clip has gone viral which shows a man saying he will kill Fadnavis. He also says he will finish the entire Brahmin community within three minutes.

The man also says only Marathas will rule in Maharashtra." Kadam said a case had been lodged against the man in the clip at Santacruz police station. Kadam then said Rohit Pawar called the police station and asked for the accused to be released. "The police have identified the person. He is Yogesh Sawant from Baramati. We also got to know that Rohit Pawar called the senior police inspector and demanded that he should be set free. What is Rohit Pawar's connection to this man?" asked Kadam.

Touch of Gond: Solo exhibition by Ram Singh Urveti celebrates artistic legacy of Pradhan Gond

speech. SG Mehta, dis-

agreeing with Seervai,

said a few individuals.

'Another Master' exhibition, featuring more than fifty works by Ram Singh Urveti, in various mediums, including paper and canvas are on display till March 10 at Delhi's Ojas Art Gallery. One of the senior-most artists from the Pradhan Gond tribe, Urveti started his career in 1991, incorporating his folk traditions in a contemporary and evocative style, and the paintings on display cover more than three decades of his prolific working life. One of the highlights of the exhibition is Sur aur Taal ki Kahani (The Story of Divine Music),



unique and rare 12 fuse his perceptions of folio-set from 2008the modern world with 2009, narrating the his tribe's unique symage-old Gond legend of bolism. Rife with the divine music and how it tree-of-life motifs and curved silhouettes, his was brought to earth. In all his works, Urveti's primitive imagery trancaptivating visuals and scends the canvas, intuitive storytelling inviting you to closely

observe the natural world in all its plenitude. In his book, Indian Contemporary Art, Herve Perdriolle "With observes, Jangarh Singh Shyam, Ram Singh Urveti is one of the most important figures in contemporary Indian tribal art. Encouraged by Jagdish Swaminathan, he was one of the first to make the transition from ephemeral art to painting on canvas in the early 1990s." His pieces exude an otherworldly quality: buffalos, soulsearching, serpents and Mahua trees commingle in a striking outburst of animism.

BENGALURU: A NIFT team from Bengaluru, led by two faculty members and three students, had the prestigious task of designing the ground uniform for the Gaganyaan astronauts. They presented 70 designs to Isro, with the asymmetrical theme turning out to be the head-turner. The team the dark and light blue said they studied the ground uniform of the uniform of various space agencies including Nasa and SpaceX. Gaganauts' ground suit designed by NIFT Bengaluru team has asymmetry as theme When the four astro-

Gaganauts' ground suit designed by NIFT Bengaluru team has asymmetry as theme

nauts selected for mission Gaganyaan proudly stood on the dias, displaying the wings the prime minister had just pinned on their ground suits on Tuesday, it was a team at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bengaluru, that was beaming in pride. For, astronauts was designed by a team of two faculty and three students in the tech capital.Prof Jonalee D Bajpai and Prof Mohan Kumar V, under the guidance of the then

NIFT director Susan Thomas, and assisted by three students of knitwear design batch 2022 - Lamia Anees, Samarpan Pradhan and Tuliya D - were assigned with the prestigious task of designing the suit. Of the 70 designs they had presented to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the

and also create a very positive outlook towards the indigenous capabilities. The appearance of the astronaut should reflect that excitement with a strong visual impact. Very bold and unusual panelling on the garment is a head-turner and a loud announcement of India's entry to one that the gaganauts the elite club of space travel capability Mohan Kumar said of the design. "The standing out design boldly states the arrival of India in the world of human space flight. The use of uncon-

wore was selected. Asymmetry is the theme that the NIFT team has played with. "Gaganyaan has the potential to create excitement in the 1.4 billion people of India

(NDN)

(NCRPD),

manifesto addresses a

wide spectrum of

to health insurance,

cal inclusion, eco-

nomic participation,

climate change, gen-

der equality, sports,

of the key demands

include greater focus

on persons with dis-

abilities in the budget

with a minimum of

with

No rift in Hockey India, say **Tirkey, Bhola Nath**

BENGALURU: The skeletons have begun to tumble out of the Hockey India closet with two top officials a coach and CEO both foreigners, handing in their resignations in quick succession and both pointing towards administrative bungling as the primary cause. Senior women's team chief Janneke coach Schopman accused the federation of gender discrimination, lack of respect and a non-conducive working environment while Elena Norman, the CEO of 13 years, was more forthright when she said she was the victim of power struggle and factions in Hockey India. Since the start of the new regime in 2022, it hasn't been a smooth ride for former India skipper Dilip Tirkey, who assumed office as president with Bhola Nath Singh as HI secretary. It is



learnt that Bhola Nath, spirit, our entire focus who is a close aide of remains on growing our talent, ensuring all FIH president Tayyab Ikram, has been underhosted events are conmining the powers of ducted with utmost the president. A few professionalism and exchanges of emails, in our national teams are possession of TOI, sugreceiving the best supgest the same. But on port to support their Thursday, the men in performance on the global stage.," they power issued a joint statement to defuse stated. Reacting to Norman's comments, the situation. "Hockey India is an they said, "Recently autonomous and prothere have been statefessional body dedicatments by outgoing ed to the development officials, claiming that of Indian Hockey. Our there are divisions primary objective as within the organizaan organisation has tion. This is not corbeen and continues to rect. We remain united remain the welfare in working together, and progress of the and as always in the sport of Hockey and best interest of the

sport."

our athletes. In this

Ahead of polls Persons with disabilities release 'manifesto'

NEW DELHI: With the Lok Sabha polls round the corner, persons with disabilities came together on Thursday to release a manifesto demanding that political parties must prioritise mainstreaming of people with disabilities in their 5year action plans for the upcoming elections.

From health insurance cover to making way for 5% reservations in governance to policies around pension, health and employment - the manifesto also calls for making way for representation of persons with disabilities in the upper House of Parliament as nominated members. The 'Manifesto For and By Citizens with Disabilities' was launched by disability rights groups,



led by National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with the National Disability Network (NDN). "As Lok Sabha the Elections 2024 draw near, citizens with disabilities, who form 7% of the population of India and there are more than 1 crore registered voters as

Election per the Commission, it is essential that the voices of persons security, socio-politiwith disabilities are heard in the discussions around the 2024 General Elections," Arman Ali, executive director of NCPEDP emphasised. He shared that the disability manifesto represents the culmi-5% of the total budgnation of extensive national and regional et.

Digantara gets additional \$2 million

Bengaluru: Space Situational Awareness (SSA) startup Digantara consultations. Wednesday announced NCPEDP, in collaborathe closure of an extended \$2 million financing to its prevition with the National Disability Network ously raised \$10 million and the National Committee Series A round. The new funding saw participaon Rights of Persons tion from investors like Disabilities Aditya Birla Ventures, invited the venture capital arm inputs from more of the Aditya Birla than 10,000 people Group, and the Small with and without dis-Industries Development abilities across the Bank of India (SIDBI). country. The disability "This marks the first both time these investors have ventured issues ranging from into the space technolobudgetary allocation gy sector, showing their commitment accessibility, social Digantara's vision of enabling safe and sustainable space operations," the Bengaluruheadquartered company said. and education. Some

Digantara CEO Anirudh Sharma said the support from leading institutions indicates accelerating momentum in India's space ecosystem poised for global leadership in innovation.

REGION

Core sector growth slows to 15-

month low of 3.6% in January

sector growth slid to a

15 month low of 3.6% in

January 2024, with con-

tractions emerging in

refinery products and

fertilisers, and a sub-1%

rise in natural gas.

Encouragingly, the other

five components dis-

played a moderate-to-

healthy expansion, rang-

GDP growth at 8.4% in 3rd quarter, fastest in 1.5 years



NEW DELHI: The economy grew at its fastest pace in six quarters in the three months to Dec, led by robust manufacturing and construction sector growth. The strong growth has boosted govt's track record of handling the economy against the backdrop of global challenges ahead of general elections.Data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) showed the economy grew by a faster-than-expected 8.4% in Oct-Dec, higher than upwardly revised 8.1% in the previous quarter and above 4.3% in the third quarter of 2022-23. Now, NSO estimates 2023-24 GDP

growth at 7.6%, above earlier estimate of 7.3%, making India world's fastest-growing major economy. has revised NSO upwards the second and first quarters while revision to 2022-23 quarters also led to a favourable effect. GDP growth for FY23 was revised to 7% from 7.2%. The Q3 growth was also higher than RBI's projection of 6.5%. The central bank had revised its projection to 7% for 2023-24 from 6.5%. Capture 2 Growth broad-based, driven by investment

demand: Finmin Robust 8.4% GDP growth in Q3 2023-24 shows the strength of

its potential. Our efforts will continue to bring fast economic growth which shall help 140 crore Indians lead a better life and create a Viksit Bharat," PM Modi posted on microblogging site X after the data release. The finance ministry said India continues to be an outlier and remains the fastestgrowing major economy in the Oct-Dec 2023 quarter and it builds on the momentum of the previous quarter. It said growth was broad-based, driven by robust investment demand.The manufacturing sector

recorded a doubledigit growth of 11.6%.

remained strong. Data released by the commerce and industry minon Thursday istry showed eight core sec-Indian economy and tors, spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, grew 3.6% in January, slower than 4.9% in the previous months and below 9.7% recorded January last year. "Core SoftBank cuts stake in Paytm

NEW DELHI: Growth in the country's key infrastructure sector slowed

to a 15-month low in January, dragged down

by contractions in refin-

ery products and fertilis-

ers, while steel and

sectors

in

cement

MUMBAI: SoftBank has cut another 2.1% stake in Paytm, reducing its shareholding in the fintech firm to 2.8%, the company said in a recent stock exchange filing. The Japanese investment behemoth which bets heavily on tech firms had invested over \$1 billion into Paytm and held about

18% stake in the Noidabased company at the time of its initial public offering in 2021. Even as SoftBank has been offloading its stake in the firm, the developments come at a time when Paytm Payments Bank has come under regulatory scrutiny due to persistent non-compliance. Paytm founder

and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the largest shareholder. in PPBL with a 51% stake while Paytm parent One97 Communications holds 49% stake in the banking entity whose operations have been restricted by RBI. The central bank has directed PPBL to stop accepting money.

ing from 5.2% to 10.2%

in January 2024," said

Aditi Nayar, chief econo-

mist at ICRA. Separate

data showed fiscal

deficit at January-end

was at Rs 11 lakh crore

or 63.6% of the revised

annual estimates, nar-

rower than 67.8% in the

corresponding period.



Government releases 2 tranches of tax devolution

NEW DELHI: Government has authorised release of two installments of tax devolution amounting to Rs. 1.4 lakh crore on Thursday to strengthen hands of state governments for financing various social welfare measures and infrastructure development schemes. This release is in addition to tax devolution of an installment of Rs 71,061 crore made on February 12.

With this release, states have received total of three installments of tax devolution in February, according to the finance ministry.

Uttar Pradesh will receive Rs 25,495 crore, followed hy Bihar which will get Rs 14,295 crore. Madhya Pradesh will receiver Rs 11157 crore and West Bengal Rs 10,692 crore. The release of the tex devolution comes ahead of the national elections likely to be held in April-May.

Reliance Industries, Disney deal gets thumbs up from D-St

MUMBAI: Most brokerage houses are positive on the deal that Reliance Industries and Walt Disney struck on Wednesday to merge their media operations in India. The Disney India-Viacom18 joint venture, with near-monopoly in cricket broadcasting rights in India, is expected to push up advertisement rates and turn the broadcasting industry highly competitive, especially for smaller players. Analysts from various broking houses estimated that the merger would be value accretive to RIL's stock price - it is expected to add between Rs 35 and Rs 45 per share. On Thursday, RIL shares on the BSE were marginally up.

Zepto launches subscription programme for users as competition in quick commerce space

MUMBAI: At a time when consumers are taking to the idea of instant grocery deliveries and competition in the space is rising with deep pocketed players Swiggy and Zomato betting big on their grocery businesses, Zepto is launching a price war with its subscription programme Zepto Pass. The pass, which will be available to most of the customers at a monthly fee of Rs 19-39 will give users access to unlimited free deliveries besides an additional discount of up to 20% on all grocery products.

customers make orders worth Rs 99 and above. Co-founder and CEO Aadit Palicha claimed that the company has been able to leverage its low operating cost structure to roll out the benefits for customers. The idea is to get a larger share of the consumer's wallet and speed up adoption of quick commerce. "We are about two quarters away from being close to PAT (profit after tax) positive even with Zepto Pass because our cost structures on the back end have reduced dramatically," For now, the benefits can Palicha told TOI.

been piloted with 5% of the startup's user base prior to a broader roll out showed that consumers with Zepto Pass subscriptions spent 30% more on and their groceries monthly retention improved by 10%, the company said. "The pass is like an avenue to offer more value to customers and as a result, they are spending more with Zepto," said Palicha. The company also expects average order value said. (AOV) to get a boost with the service. The level of discounts will depend on the size of shopping baskets and the company will analyse every cus-

tomer's order data to offer them a customised AOV which will enable broader discounts if they are willing to match. (if their purchases total that AOV) it. "We want to become an attractive option even when compared to best discount grocers in the offline space. If we can give consumers access to better prices, 10-minute deliveries, why won't they

The insurance industry settled Rs 80,000 crore of health insurance

MUMBAI: Non-life insurance companies have said they can help government by providing standardised rates for medical procedures. On , the SC asked cenral govt to consult with states and implement a law that would mandate notification of standard rates for medical procedures. "The insurance industry

be unlocked only when The service which had

buy from Zepto?" Palicha

Rival Swiggy Instamart already offers customers the benefits of free deliveries and discounts to consumers on orders above.

settled Rs 80,000 crore of health insurance claims regarding bills from nearly 40,000 hospitals. This data is available if the ministry wants to bring in data trans-

parency to curb high charges," said Tapan Singhel, chairman of Council and MD & CEO

Insurance. According to Singhel, even if hospitals were the General Insurance required to disclose their schedule of of Bajaj Allianz General charges for various pro-

cedures, it would significantly enhance transparency. "We have initiated the effort to provide cashless treatment in all hospitals...," .

BANCE

Strong momentum to continue in Q4, says CEA Anantha

NEW DELHI:

The strong momentum of the economy is expected to continue in fourth quarter of current financial year, chief economic advisor Anantha

Nageswaran said on Thursday and hoped the farm sector will stage a rebound in next quarter.

"So the actual performance of the economy has continued to defy expectations and do better than what many had projected, underscoring the fact that a structural transformation of the economy is indeed underway, both in terms of physical infrastructure and digital infrastructure as well as inclusion agenda, boosting the purchasing power of Indian households," Nageswaran told reporters after release of GDP data. The farm sector con-

said

tracted 0.8% during Q3 of 2023-24 largely due



to impact of patchy and there has been a monsoon rains. CEA decline in India's prospects of uncertainty index. robust rabi harvesting Nageswarn said moderation in overall inflaand expectations of fading away of El Nino tion and core inflation and forecast of a nor-(minus food and fuel) mal monsoon augured is expected to boost well for a better-thanconsumption. He said normal kharif sowing. prospects of healthy He said strong growth rabi harvesting, suswas linked to vibrant tained manufacturing underlying demand profitability adding underlying conditions, service economy has shown resilience to support strong resilience to economic activity in global vulnerabilities 2024-25.

Government clears 3 semiconductor manufacturing projects worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore

NEW DELHI:

Government on Thursday cleared proposals for three semiconductor manufacturing units worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore, including the country's first fab manufacturing plant by Tata Group and Taiwanese Powerchip Semiconductor Corp Manufacturing (PSMC) in Gujarat. This will be a big push to India's electronics manufacturing set-up as the chips will be made within the country for the

first time. The Cabinet nod, which also includes a project involving Japanese Renesas Electronics, follows Rs 22,000 crore testing and packaging unit project of US company Micron, that was approved in June last year (production is

and



expected to happen by close of this year).

Untitled design (94) "India has taken a giant leap today in gaining a foothold in the coveted manufacturing chip eco-system. With these units, semiconductor manufacturing and its ecosystem will get established in India," communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.Tata Electronics will set up a Rs 91,000 crore semiconductor fab project with PSMC at Dholera in Gujarat. The plant will have a capacity to produce 50,000

wafers per month. PSMC is renowned for its expertise in logic and memory foundry segments.Tata Electronics said it is proud to lead India's entry into global semiconductor fabrication, and said construction for the project will begin this year. "This will also accelerate our progress towards providing high-technology employment opportunities for the youth," Randhir Thakur, CEO and MD of Tata Electronics, said. Minister of state for IT & another one lakh indielectronics Rajeev rect ones.

Chandrasekhar said a slew of new proposals are in the pipeline and added that govt expects a total investment outlook of nearly Rs 2.2 lakh crore.Cabinet has also approved semiconductor unit of Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test (TSAT) in Assam at an investment of Rs 27,000 crore. Renesas Electronics and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics's project in Sanand in Gujarat at an investment of Rs 7,600 crore has also got green signal. Govt is close to approving a Rs 90,000 crore proposal of Israel's chipmaker Tower Semiconductors. Vaishnaw said all the units will create nearly 26,000 direct jobs and

Drop in share of imported coal in consumption saves Rs 82 k crore forex outgo

NEW DELHI: The share of imported coal in overall consumption in the country has come down to 19.3% in the April-December period of the financial year ending March 31 from 21% in the previous corresponding period, translating into Rs 82,264 crore worth of forex savings, the coal ministry said on Thursday. The decline in the consumption of imported coal is a result of rising domestic production on the back of a concerted government push garnished with a slew of reforms to clean up the system and incentives announced since 2014. The steady rise in coal production and improved availability has seen the CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of imported coal consumption plummeting to about -2.7% between 2014 and 2024 from 13.7%.

Sunday 10 March, 2024

STATE

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Pre-2014 era marked a 'dark age' in the country: Yogi



Chandauli Chief Minister Yogi

80

Adityanath, on Saturday, drew a comparison between India before Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014 and after to highlight the transformation witnessed in the country in the recent years. He characterized the pre-2014 era as a 'dark age' and contrasted it with the emergence of a 'New India' under the curn t leadership.Addressing a public meeting organized in Rampur Machiya on Saturday, the Chief Minister said, "There was an atmosphere of distrust, declining respect for Indians, a string of

scams, and widespread anarchy. Naxalism, and extremism prevailed across the country. However, he highlighted the transformation, stating, "But, the India you are witnessing today is a New India. Security is guaranteed here, culture is being promoted and the nation is achieving unprecedented economic prosperity."On this occasion, the CM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 78 development projects worth Rs 743 crore. He expressed confidence that, under Prime Minister Modi's third term, India is poised to become the world's third-largest power.CM Yogi empha-

sized that the doubleengine government would prioritize the welfare of the youth and uphold the trust of the citizens. "It is the result of the strength. of the government that the medical college is ready in Chandauli."Attacking the previous governments, he highlighted despite that the Chandauli district being established in 1997, essential infrastructure such as a police line and residential and non-residential buildings for the tehsil was not provided even after 27 years. "Today, the foundation stone for the construction of residential and nonresidential buildings.

By formulating over 40 policies in 10 years, PM Modi has presented an exemplary model of a policydriven state, shaping the country's economy: Amit Shah

New Delhi: Basanti, the celebrated fashion house, is set to make waves with its debut at the Jaipur Times Fashion Week on the 10th of March 2024, hosted at the luxurious Jaipur Marriott. The event promises to be a spectacle, showcasing the brand's commitment to innovation and growth through its groundbreakcollection, ing "Renaissance: A Rebirth for BASANTI."Divided into two distinct chapters, each segment captures the essence of Basanti's evolution and the brand's deep understanding of the modern Indian woman's diverse lifestyle.Chapter One: Prints and Resort Wear, Continuing the journey, the collection moves into a captivating array of prints and resort wear, where Basanti has long been a pioneer in India's fast fashion landscape. This chapter embodies freedom and exploration, offering a fusion of style

..........



and comfort for the conern temporary woman who seeks both elegance and ease Chapter Two: Glamour and Sophistication for the Modern Bride, The grand finale unfolds with a chapter exuding glamour bility, and sophistication, dedicated to the modern bride and tailored for special occasions. Drawing inspiration from the desires and aspirations of their clientele, this segment is a tribute to accessible luxury that resonates with the mod-

Indian woman."Basanti's creative process is deeply rooted in the preferences and evolving needs of their clients. The collection seamlessly blends style, quality, and accessi-

ensuring that each piece becomes a timeless wardrobe essential for the modern woman. This collection is not just a reflection of our brand's journey; it's a celebration of the modern Indian woman and her boundless spirit of reinvention.



CM Yogi warns officials against negligence in resolving people's issues Chief Minister listens to problems of 500 people at Janata Darshan Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday warned officials against any laxity, or negligence in resolving people's issues, emphasizing that addressing problems of people and ensuring its prompt, transparent and satisfactory disposal is the priority of his government. CM Yogi issued these instructions to officials while hearing problems of around 500 people at the Janata Darshan held outside Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan in Gorakhnath temple complex. Referring people's applications to the concerned authorities, he gave instructions for prompt disposal of all their issues. He assured people that no injustice would be done to anyone during his tenure, underscoring the government's determination to solve the problems of every victim. Furthermore, CM Yogi instructed officials to take strict legal action against those bullying the poor and encroaching on people's lands illegally. To those seeking financial aid for treatment, CM Yogi pledged complete government's support. He forwarded their applications to the concerned officials and directed them to expedite the cost estimation process and submit it to the government at the earliest. The Chief Minister also directed officials to resolve matters related to revenue and police with complete transparency and impartiality, emphasizing that no injustice to anyone should be tolerated.

Acid attack survivors felicitated in Kolkata on the eve of International Women's Day

KOLKATA: Even after surviving acid attacks the survivors continue to battle with physical deformity. On Friday on the eve of International Women's Day few such brave acid attack survivors who had defied deformities to go ahead in life, were felicitated in Kolkata. They said that support from Soul Foundation (BSF) has made their journey easier. Poly Debnath, one such survivor has been left blind in one eye after an acid attack in 2014. After days in hospital care she survived. But the attack



had also left her with deranged bite, malocdeformities and with clusion, and injuries to dental issues. "The the jaws that may organisations like Brave journey ahead after the necessitate maxillectoacid attack would have my or mandibulectomy. The psychological toll is been tough if it was not for organisations standequally extensive, maning behind us," said ifesting as dental anxiety. Moreover, in the Debnath. Doctors said that acid attack suraftermath of such trauvivors often grapple matic incidents, victims with intricate dental may experience physiincluding cal deformations, with issues,

within a year.In the three installments for

manifestations oral ranging from a shrunken and narrow mouth to a loss of its full range of motion. These chalsignificantly lenges impact essential functions like eating and speaking. 'As dental professionals, we are aware of the profound impact that acid attacks can have on oral health. Acid attacks often lead to severe dental erosion, compromising not only the physical wellbeing but also the emotional and psychological aspects of survivors,' Dr Biswajit Panda during the event on Friday.

NCC plays vital role in disciplining youth & discipline is essential for achieving success: CM Yogi

Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that the National Cadet Corps (NCC) plays vital role in disciplining the youth, emphasizing the significance of discipline in achieving success in life. Addressing a gathering after performing the bhoomi-pujan and laying the founda-National Cadet Corps (NCC) Training Academy in Siktaur (Talkandla), Gorakhpur, Yogi added: "Discipline is essential for achieving success in any sphere of life. Discipline is born out of

self-discipline, inspiring for unity and discia person to walk the pline."He stressed Prime right path to achieve Minister Modi's vision of their goals. From this integrating the NCC into perspective, NCC plays a the lives of today's youth. He said that to crucial role in imparting practical knowledge of carry forward this vision discipline of PM in mission mode, to the youth."Notably, NCC Training Academy is The Training Academy of being established in Gorakhpur. This acade-Group NCC Headquarters, my will serve as a hub Gorakhpur, will be confor fostering unity and tion stone for the structed in an area of 10 discipline, nurturing remarked. He said that acres at the cost of Rs 55 social cohesion to crore. The Chief Minister strengthen national stated further. "NCC. unity, he remarked. The Chief Minister asserted formed by an Act of Parliament in 1948, is that when an individual the largest uniformed or organization initiates organization in the efforts, the government world to inspire youth extends its cooperation

by taking two steps forward. The Gorakhpur Headquarters demonstrated this cooperative spirit in establishing the NCC Training Academy. Given Uttar Pradesh's status as the state with the largest population in the country,

this academy holds immense significance for UP, CM Yogi out of the 11 districts falling under NCC Group Headquarters Gorakhpur, 4 districts namely Siddharthnagar, Balrampur, Shravasti and Bahraich are aspirational districts.

UP govt provides Rs 111.61 crore to 2.74 lakh pregnant women

Lucknow

Effectively implementing the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yoiana 2.0, initiated by the Central Government to address the health and nutrition needs of pregnant and lactating women in the state, the Yogi government has disbursed Rs. 111.61 crore to 2.74 lakh pregnant women

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the

beneficiaries. In the

initial phase, women

will receive Rs. 5,000 in

first phase, Rs 2534.11 the first child. In the crore has been paid to subsequent phase, a 47.53 lakh beneficiartotal of Rs. 11,000 will ies from 2017-2023. be provided, compris-Subsequently, in the ing Rs. 5,000 in two second phase spaninstallments for the ning from April 2023 to first child and Rs. 6,000 the present, over Rs. for the second child (if 111.61 crore has been it's a girl). Special regisprovided to 2.74 lakh tration campaign conbeneficiaries.It is noteducted in various worthy that the phasesIn the second has been phase of the scheme, a scheme implemented by the total of Department women registered by Health March 4, 2024, out of through the State Planning Family which 2.74 lakh have Innovation Service received its benefits, Agency (SIFPSA) since totaling Rs. 111.61 crore.Bahraich ranked the year 2017. The Government of India first in terms of maxihas decided to launch mum registrations PMMVY 2.0 as part of with 25,678 registered women, followed by the Mission Shakti initiative, effective from Varanasi April 2022.Several Ghaziabad (18,131), modifications have Rampur (15,057), and been introduced under Basti (12,760).To accelscheme to erate progress, the enhance ease and Health Department effectiveness for the conducted special regStage set for establishment of big industrial parks in UP

Lucknow

541,782

(19,667),

istration drives in

accordance with the

Government of India'.s

The Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC@4.0), organized by the Yogi government, has played a pivotal role in attracting substantial investments, shaping the economic landscape of Uttar Pradesh. Private industrial parks have emerged as key contributors to this economic boom, with investors pouring capital into various districts across the state. Notably, the establishment of 13 major industrial parks is currently in progress, promising a substantial investment of Rs 14,634 crores and the creation of employment for 2.70 lakh people in the state. The Industrial Park being established in Kanpur alone is expected to generate 2.5 lakh employment opportu-Additionally, nities. industrial parks are being set up in

Baghpat, Barabanki, Bareilly, Chandauli, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Meerut, Saharanpur, and Shahjahanpur. It is noteworthy that in February, the Yogi government through GBC@4.0 introduced over 14,000 projects with an investment of over Rs 10 lakh crores across the state, potentially creating 34 lakh employment opportunities.Creation of job opportunities in KanpurIn a significant achievement regarding private industrial parks, Kanpur is gearing up to provide the employment most opportunities. The Mega Leather Cluster Development (UP) Pvt. Ltd. is establishing a private industrial park in Kanpur at a cost of Rs 5,850 crores. This industrial park is set to generate employment for a record 2.5 lakh people. This is the largest number of jobs

being created through the industrial park. This initiative will strengthen Kanpur's industrial identity and establish it as a hub for employment. Crescendo Interiors is setting up a private industrial park in Ayodhya at a cost of Rs 500 crore, creating employment for 100 individuals. Additionally, Lucknow H.M. Green City Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a private industrial park in Barabanki at a cost of Rs 150 crores, providing employment for people. 200 Shahjahanpur is also contributing to these establishments with LatestPlus Apparel Pvt. Ltd. investing Rs 5,000 crores in an industrial park that will offer jobs to 1,000 people. Furthermore, in Bareilly, Realply LLP Plywoods is launching a project worth Rs 408 crores,

aiming to employ 1,000 people. In DRS Chandauli, Developers is managing employment for 150 people through a project funded with an investment of Rs 50 crores under the P l e d g e Scheme.Industrial park will provide thousands of jobs PaschimanchalIndustri al parks are also being established on a large scale in the western part of the state. Under this, BMR Buildcon Projects Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a 30acre industrial park in Baghpat with an investment of Rs 200 crores, expected to create jobs for 1,200 individuals Additionally, Kalindi Estate Pvt. Ltd. is establishing a 25-acre industrial park in Baghpat itself with an investment of Rs 200 crores, providing employment.

After drilling into shop at Chromepet, gang flees with goods worth 30 lakh

Chennai: An unidentified gang drilled a hole in the wall of a textile shop and a mobile shop run by two brothers at Chromepet and escaped with cell phones and clothes worth more than 30 lakh early on Thursday. Police said Ansari runs a mobile phone shop and his brother Mansoor run a garment store adjacent to each other on GST Road near Chromepet signal. Though Ansari checked the CCTV footage of the shop on his mobile phone till 1.30 a.m on Thursday, he did not find anything amiss. On Thursday morning, Madhavan, a staffer of the clothing shop, found garments and accessories strewn around.