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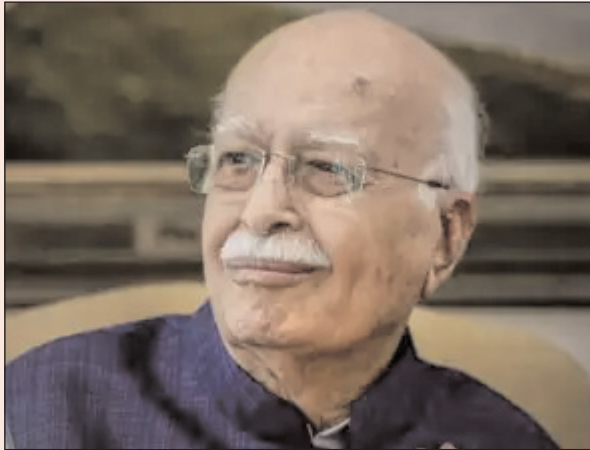
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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

LK Advani expresses gratitude for Bharat Ratna

NEW DELHI: In a heartfelt response to being conferred with the Bharat Ratna, veteran politician Lal Krishna Advani expressed his deep appreciation, considering the honor not just a personal achievement but a recognition of the ideals and principles he has diligently championed throughout his career.

Advani, who has been an influential figure in Indian politics, especially within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), conveyed his sentiments, saying, "Not only an honour for me as a person but also for ideals and principles that I strove to serve." He reflected on his journey, emphasizing that since joining the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he has sought reward solely in the dedicated and selfless service of his beloved country, embracing any task life assigned to him. Advani extended his sincere thanks to



President Murmu and Prime Minister Modi for bestowing the prestigious Bharat Ratna upon him. The recognition comes as a culmination of his longstanding commitment to Indian politics and his significant role in shaping the political landscape over the decades. Born on November 8, 1927, 96-year-old Advani served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004. He is the longest serving minister of home affairs serving from 1998 to 2004. He is also the longest serving Leader

of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He was the prime ministerial candidate of the BJP during the 2009 general election. The Prime Minister took to his personal X handle to announce the highest civilian award for LK Advani and informed that he also congratulated the party veteran on being conferred with the nation's highest civilian honour. "I am very happy to share that LK Advani will be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I also spoke to him and congratulated him on being conferred this

honour..." PM Narendra Modi tweeted. Notably, Bharat Ratna is the nation's highest civilian award, given as a mark of recognition for exceptional & distinguished service. Advani is widely credited as one of the tallest leaders who scripted BJP's rise from 'oblivion to prominence'. It was after his Rath Yatra in 1990s that catapulted the saffron party into national politics. For the unversed, LK Advani is the second BJP stalwart to be conferred with Bharat Ratna. Prior to him, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also honored with Bharat Ratna in 2015. Meanwhile, several political leaders welcomed the Centre's decision to confer Bharat Ratna on veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani. Union home minister Amit Shah hailed the decision to award Bharat Ratna to BJP veteran.

Alliance with TMC unlikely in Assam: Congress

SILCHAR:

Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah hinted on Saturday that the party might reconsider its plans for seat-sharing with TMC in the state for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. This was in response to TMC's refusal to form an alliance with Congress in Bengal. "In Bengal, Trinamool offered two of the 42 Lok Sabha seats to Congress, which had demanded six. TMC chief and CM Mamata Banerjee rejected any possibility



of an alliance with Congress. Therefore, you can understand our possible stand in Assam, where there are 14 Lok Sabha seats," said Borah, currently touring southern

Assam's Barak Valley. In 2019, BJP secured nine seats in Assam, while its allies - AGP and BPF - failed to win any. Congress managed to secure three, while AIUDF and an Independent won one seat each. Borah urged Congress members to take personal responsibility for their designated booths, aiming to strengthen the party's presence across Barak Valley. "Assam PCC will help and assist each and every party worker," he said.

Uttarakhand cabinet defers talk on UCC, likely to pass Bill on Feb 6

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand cabinet on Saturday gave its nod to 16 proposals, which included a new film policy 2024 for the Himalayan state, but the issue of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) was not discussed.

According to sources, another cabinet meeting is scheduled on the morning of Feb 6 and on the same day, the Bill on UCC will be tabled in the state assembly. The cabinet is also likely to pass UCC on the same day. Notably, a five-member

panel had handed over the UCC draft to CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday after which the govt's legal team has been involved in studying the panel's recommendations. Meanwhile, among the proposals to which the cabinet

gave its nod include the new film policy, under which the maximum subsidy has been raised from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 3 crore (up to 30% of the amount spent in the state) for movies made in Hindi and other recognised languages

Enforcement Directorate moves court against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for ignoring summons

NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate on Saturday moved a special court here seeking compliance to repeated summonses issued to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before the investigating officers of the agency probing the alleged Delhi liquor scam in which AAP government's excise policy was allegedly rigged to favour a cartel of liquor traders. The court has scheduled a hearing on February 7, said sources.

A day after Kejriwal disregarded the fifth summons issued to him, ED filed a fresh complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at a local court, with additional solicitor general SV Raju appearing before it to seek direction to the CM to appear for questioning before ED.

Both Raju and ED were unavailable for comments. There was no reaction either from the Delhi CM on the fresh developments.

In its plea before the additional chief metropolitan magistrate Divya Malhotra, ED flagged to the court "non-attendance in compliance of Section 50 of PMLA received (by the CM) by way of assignment" which can be checked. After a brief hearing on the complaint filed by ED, the judge posted the matter for hearing on February 7. Kejriwal has already skipped five summonses issued to him, dubbing them as illegal on grounds that he was not an accused in the case. The plea in the court against the Delhi CM marked a switch of tack on part of ED which last week arrested Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren after the latter refused to respond ED officials maintain that Kejriwal's disregard of summonses can be seen as him being evasive and not cooperating with the investigation: reason enough for the agency to arrest him and approach the court for custodial interrogation.

Congress welcomes Bharat Ratna for Advani, but takes dig at PM

NEW DELHI: In a laconic reaction, Congress on Saturday welcomed the Centre's decision to confer Bharat Ratna on BJP veteran LK Advani, but offered a left-handed compliment by stating that he presented the reality of PM Modi before the country as a "brilliant event manager".

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said, "What has been



given to Advani, its "In 2002, Advani okay. We welcome it." saved Modi. AICC spokesman Then PM Atal Bihari Jairam Ramesh said, Vajpayee had remind-

ed the then CM of Gujarat of his 'raj dharma' and was about to remove him. But one person who saved him in Goa (at a BJP meeting) was Advani... On April 5, 2014, in Gandhinagar, Modi and Advani were going to fill the nomination papers. Advani gave a famous statement, which will be written in golden letters in our history—"Modi is not my disciple.

New India won't tolerate pirates, warns Rajnath

VISAKHAPATNAM: Defence minister Rajnath Singh commissioned survey vessel INS Sandhayak into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard here on Saturday. The event marked the formal induction into the Navy of the first of four survey vessel (large) ships, being constructed by Garden Reach



Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata. Dec 4, 2023. Singh said those involved in maritime piracy and smuggling will not be

tolerated under any circumstances, calling it the "pledge of New India". Praising the Navy for averting five piracy attempts and assisting ships attacked by drones and missiles in the last few days, he said Navy is facilitating safe trade in the Indian Ocean region, while ensuring peace and prosperity.

BJP MLA fires on ally leader at thana, opposition attacks Maharashtra govt

KALYAN: BJP's Kalyan East MLA Ganpat Gaikwad, who fired on Shiv Sena Kalyan unit chief Mahesh Gaikwad inside the senior inspector's cabin in Ulhasnagar's Hill Line police station late Friday, was arrested on Saturday even as the shooting triggered a political controversy with the governing

Mahayuti alliance under attack from opposition MVA for the violent feud between functionaries of BJP and the CM Eknath Shinde-led Sena. Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, also the home minister, said he has asked the DGP to conduct an inquiry and submit a report. "The Kalyan incident is seri-

ous. Everyone is equal before the law," Fadnavis said. Sena's Mahesh Gaikwad is critical and Sena functionary Rahul Patil, who was also shot at, is stable, doctors said. Ganpat Gaikwad's son Vaibhav and four other BJP workers have also been booked in the case.

Inauguration of Kriyayoga camp on Akshayavat Marg today

Prayagraj.

Today marks the inauguration of the Kriyayoga camp on Akshayavat Marg with world-renowned Kriyayoga Master, Guruji Swami Shree Yogi Satyam. Kriyayoga classes will be held daily and will be broadcast LIVE! on Guruji's YouTube channel. Guruji's invaluable teaching has already reached thousands of views on YouTube not only from viewers in



India but throughout the world. Through the

practice of Kriyayoga meditation, practitioners can evoke divine power within enabling the practitioners to cross all limits in all walks of life. Stars nor astral signs cannot rule nor dictate human activities when one practices Kriyayoga meditation.

Come and join Guruji at the Akshayavat Marg to learn the ancient yet ever-new Kriyayoga meditation.

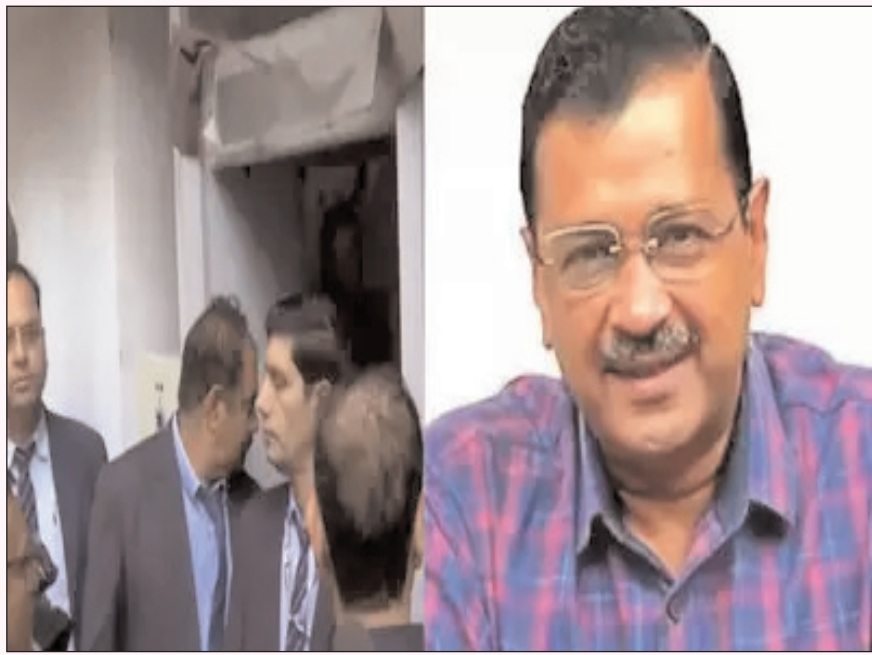
PM Modi calls Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik 'mitra'



BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Odisha on Saturday added grist to swirling speculation about a potential alliance between BJD and BJP ahead of Lok Sabha elections, as both he and CM Naveen Patnaik displayed rare bonhomie during an event at IIM Sambalpur. "Odisha governor Raghubar Das ji, CM and my mitra (friend) Shriman Naveen Patnaik ji. It's a remarkable day in the journey of development in Odisha," PM Modi said while inaugurating the perma-

nent campus of IIM Sambalpur from where he launched projects worth Rs 68,000 crore for the state. In response, Naveen praised Modi for India's economic progress. "Honourable PM has set a new direction for India. We are on the path to become an economic powerhouse," he said. Later, at a public meeting in Sambalpur, Modi refrained from targeting Naveen or BJD and highlighted achievements and schemes of Centre, benefiting various sections of society in Odisha over the past decade.

Poaching allegations: Crime Branch officials revisit CM Kejriwal's residence



NEW DELHI: Delhi police crime branch officials on Saturday revisited chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, seeking evidence for the Aam Aadmi Party's claim that the BJP was attempting to buy its MLAs. On Friday, police arrived at residences of Kejriwal and minister Atishi to serve them notices. However, the notices couldn't be served as the cops were informed that the two were 'busy' and unavailable. Police's attempt to serve notice on Kejriwal came days after a delegation of BJP leaders met police commissioner Sanjay Arora and submitted a complaint regarding the poaching allegations made by the CM. Kejriwal had earlier claimed that BJP was trying to topple his

government and had offered Rs 25 crore each to seven legislators to leave AAP. He had alleged that BJP had claimed to be in touch with 21 MLAs but his party had knowledge of seven who were approached with the offer of money and ticket to contest the next elections. "But all of them refused," he wrote on X on Jan 27.

Delhi court convicts accused even as rape survivor, witnesses turn hostile

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has convicted a man of raping a minor under sections of Indian Penal Code and POCSO, despite the victim and other witnesses turning hostile and changing their statements. The court of additional sessions judge (POCSO) Amit Sahrawat said that although the survivor, along with other public witnesses, had turned hostile, these witnesses were influenced by the accused and they did not depose honestly. "Without sexual intercourse, DNA of the accused could not be present on the private



parts of the survivor and this fact conclusively proves that accused had sexual intercourse with the child victim. Further, it is immaterial whether such intercourse took place with or without the consent of victim," the court said. The survivor was 14 years and four months of age when she was sexually assaulted in 2017.

Cyber frauds taking hawala route: Police

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

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

CAPSULES

Bengaluru: After FASTag glitches, man goes to court, wins Rs 10,000

BENGALURU: After a FASTag purchased through Paytm malfunctioned, a Bengaluru resident had to pay penalties at toll plazas despite having maintained sufficient balance. The man approached a city consumer court, which recently ordered Paytm and its operator to refund with interest the Rs 1,645 the man had paid as penalties at all plazas, aside from paying a compensation of Rs 10,000. On Dec 23, 2019, Basavanagudi resident Harishesh purchased three FASTags from Paytm for his family's cars and began using them. While the tags on the vehicles functioned properly till Feb 2022, one started developing problems on Feb 13 that year. During drives, it began showing nil balance and the Bengalurean was penalised by being made to pay double toll on highways even though he had maintained sufficient balance in the account. He soon lodged a complaint with the Paytm helpline but received no assistance. As more money started getting deducted at toll plazas, Harishesh sent Paytm a legal notice on March 24, 2022. In Nov 2022, he approached the Bengaluru Urban first additional district consumer disputes redressal commission in Shantinagar with a complaint against Paytm.com and its operator One97 Communications Ltd for service deficiency. He demanded refund of the money he had lost and suitable compensation for the trouble. While the man was represented by his lawyer, Paytm's counsel slammed the complaint as baseless and frivolous.

Illegal parking was a problem from Bankhandi Temple to Town Hall

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on alleged that rampant illegal parking had been happening around the Town Hall and Hardayal Library complexes in Chandni Chowk and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was aware of it. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed that illegal parking was a problem from Bankhandi Temple to Town Hall and around Hardayal Library. "After AAP started running MCD in Jan 2023, illegal encroachments have increased in the entire Old Delhi. In the Town Hall-Hardayal Library



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

HC clears paves way for reconstruction of collapsed building after 25 years

MUMBAI: Bombay high court has cleared decks for the redevelopment of a 7 storeyed building at Kherwadi, Bandra (E) that had collapsed over 25 years ago. It has permitted Kherwadi Rajhans CHS to appoint a new developer to undertake the construction. "Late in the evening on Monday, 3rd August 1998, at about 8 pm, Govinda Tower collapsed. The description... is that it came down like a pack of cards. The ensuing panic and pandemonium are even now... a full quarter century later, no less alarming than they must have been then," said Justices Gautam Patel and Kamal Khata in the December 13 verdict released on Monday. Govinda Tower was constructed on a Mhada leased plot by Apex Gas Services Pvt Ltd. Initially four floors were proposed and then three were



added. There were two tanks of 20,000 litres above the seventh floor. The judges noted that when the building collapsed "as many as 80 people" were injured and there were "at least 33 confirmed deaths; the number may be more, as high as 42." Developer Jairam Chawla of Apex Gas and hotelier Dilip Datwani had agreed initially to reconstruct the building. As the redevelopment failed, the residents moved HC in 2001 to direct Mhada and BMC to reconstruct the build-

ing and provide them with free houses. In 2009 A A Estate Pvt Ltd offered to reconstruct the building. In February 2014 it entered into a development agreement with the society but thereafter nothing happened. In August 2022 the residents moved HC to appoint a developer of their choice. Their plea was allowed in August 2023. It was opposed by resolution professional (RP), appointed in insolvency proceedings against AA, saying there is a moratorium and the RP is in possession.

Those who are meant to come will come to us: AIADMK

CHENNAI: Former AIADMK minister D Jayakumar on Saturday said arch-rival DMK was moving ahead in finalizing seat sharing out of fear that allies would switch sides to the AIADMK. "The DMK runs an unpopular government and won't succeed in the Lok Sabha elections," he told reporters. The AIADMK has set up a seat-sharing committee which is yet to officially seal electoral tie-ups with allies. Jayakumar said party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami would announce the parties that would join the AIADMK-led alliance. "The DMK's hurry to hold alliance talks and finalise seat-sharing is



due to fear that the allies would switch sides and move to the AIADMK's side. But no matter what they do, those who are meant to come will come to us. There is no point rushing to complete ahead of us," Jayakumar said, hinting at changes in political equations at the eleventh hour.

As for the BJP, it was the AIADMK's opponent, and they would continue to criticize their erstwhile ally. Meanwhile, TMC leader G K Vasan, a former AIADMK ally, on Saturday told reporters that the party's general council meeting would be held on February 12 to discuss elections and alliance matters

and the decision would be made known at an appropriate time. The RS MP, who was nominated to the Upper House, during the AIADMK regime, had called on Palaniswami twice in recent weeks. "I get along with all leaders and continue to meet them," Vasan said.

All 4 power dis-coms in Mumbai get A+ rating for operational reliability

MUMBAI: All the four power utilities in Mumbai - which includes Tata Power, Adani Electricity, BEST and MSEDCL - have scored an A+ rating for "operational reliability" in the national consumer service ratings of discoms across India, the latest chart released by the Power ministry showed. When it came to overall rating for services which also included metering, billing, providing customer services such as restoration of faults and grievance redressal, Adani was top on chart in city with overall A grade followed by Tata Power with B+ grade and BEST and MSEDCL scoring B grade each, the chart showed. "This 'A' rating reflects our commitment to reliable, sustainable power at competitive rates," said Adani Electricity managing director Kandarp Patel

Magic show organized at S.S. Bal Sadan Senior Secondary School



Magician SN Sharma gave a strong message against superstition

Kaithal: A magic show was organized at the local S.S. Bal Sadan Senior Secondary School located at Chandana Gate. SS Society Chairman Ravi Bhushan Garg and Principal Rajrani Garg were present as the

chief guests in the magic show. Students from classes Nursery to 12th participated in the program. In the magic show, magician Sanjeev Sharma enthralled the children with his magic. Magician SN Sharma told about ribbon trick, rope trick, illusionary gold chain trick etc. At the end of the magic show, the magician tying himself with a rope several times and the magician freeing himself from captivity in the blink of an eye won a lot of applause.

The magician made a strong attack on superstition and said how in the present times, outsiders come and cheat innocent people through tricks. He told that we should not fall into the trap of fake babas. Therefore, magician S. Sun Sharma gave the message to the children to avoid. Addressing on this occasion, MD Ravi Bhushan Garg said that it is time for examination. This magic show was organized by the school to refresh the minds of the children.

Muslims behind AMU gave up its minority status in 1920

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

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

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

Gaurav Samman: Dr Ritu has been working for ISRO

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

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

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

CAPSULES

Lord Shri Ram is a dedicated campaign: CM Yogi

Lucknow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAPITAL SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED'S IPO OF EQUITY SHARES OPENS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

GURUGRAM: Capital Small Finance Bank Limited (the "Bank" or "Capital SFB"), shall open the initial public offering of its Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. ("Offer") The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The Offer will open on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 for subscription and will close on Friday, February 9, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹ 445 to ₹ 468 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum

of 32 Equity Shares and in multiples of 32 Equity Shares thereafter. The initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to 4,500 million [₹ 450 crore] ("Fresh Issue") and an offer of sale of up to 1,561,329 Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholders ("Offer for Sale") and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"). The Bank proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue towards augmenting the Bank's Tier - I capital base to meet its future capital

requirements. As the Bank continues to grow its loan portfolio and asset base, the Bank expects to require additional capital in order to continue to meet applicable capital adequacy ratios with respect to its business. The Bank intends to grow its loan advances which would require Tier - I capital to comply with the applicable capital requirements. Further, the proceeds from the Fresh Issue will also be used towards meeting the expenses in relation to the Offer. (the "Objects of the Issue").

Sapling to Shoreline: Godrej & Boyce's pledge to wetland wonder on World Wetlands Day

Gurugram: The need to conserve wetlands is on a rise now more than ever. India has nearly 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area over 15. million hectares. These wetlands are crucial to human and plant life with more than a billion people depending on them for a living. In an effort to strengthen its commitment towards environmental stewardship, Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group has been contributing towards the conservation of wetlands, especially the mangroves through strategic partnerships and community engagement. On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, Tejashree Joshi, Head



(Environment & Sustainability), Godrej & Boyce commented, "Wetlands serve as the lifeblood of communities, sustaining both livelihoods and biodiversity. At Godrej & Boyce, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation are not mere principles but an unwavering commitment. For decades we have been at the forefront of wetland conservation, in particular the Mangroves. We invite active participation from not only our teams, other corporates but also the local

communities around these areas. This has resulted into improvement on the knowledge on mangroves conservation through research and spreading awareness on the importance of these ecosystems which in turn has also benefited the community with livelihood protection, sustenance and increase in their income. Our dedication to wetland preservation extends far beyond ecological boundaries, positively impacting human lives." In addition

to various industry collaborations with CII, MoEF, WWF India and others, the 125-year-old Indian conglomerate also conserves the expansive 'Lungs of Mumbai' in Vikhroli for close to 7 decades; along the western banks of Thane creek constituting an important part of the one of India's recognized wetlands under the Ramsar Convention. Their commitment is celebrated through initiatives like 'Magical Mangroves.'

BJP functionary fails to get relief from HC in defamation case

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has refused to stay the trial court proceedings against Bharatiya Janata Party national secretary Manjinder Singh Sirsa in a criminal defamation case filed by former Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) president, Manjit Singh GK. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma stated that prima facie, there was no infirmity in the order passed by the magistrate summoning Sirsa or the sessions court order dismissing a revision petition filed by the BJP leader against the magistrate's order. "Thus, upon a prima facie examination of the impugned order and without going much into the merits of the case, lest it affects the case of the petitioner or respondent no. 2 (the complainant) at a later stage before this court or trial court, this court finds that the learned ASJ has examined in detail, the issue of registration of FIR in relation to letter dated April 4, 2016.

Editorial

Junta does not reveal its losses but experts

This is the sixth successful coup since 1962 in February 2021 by the Myanmar military, also called Tatmadaw or Sit Tat. Junta forces have inflicted coups more times than any other military in the world with profound coup expertise. But this is the first time that a national resistance has been cobbled to try to unhinge the coup and military rule though the opposition hasn't thought about the end game. Resistance Forces consist of Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), local militias and People's Defence Force (PDF) a majority Burman ethnic group created by the National League of Democracy's (Aung San Su Kyi) parallel National Unity Government (NUG). EAOs have enjoyed autonomy following ceasefire agreements with the military. Not all have submitted to ceasefire arrangements. For instance, the powerful Arakan Army (AA) which operates in Rakhine and Arakan states broke its ceasefire in November last year and went on the offensive to defeat the Junta in these two states. It is believed that Rohingyas may have joined AA. Take a look back. On 7 September 2022, the Special Advisory Council of International Experts Supporting Democracy released a paper which showed Junta controls 72 of 333 major towns and 17 per cent of the land area. EAOs were reportedly controlling 52 per cent of the territory while 23 per cent was contested. Those were early days. Two major offensives were launched in October and November last year called 1027 and 1111, (the last two figures denoting the month and the next two figures the date of operation) by an Alliance of three EAOs along with PDF and militias, these operations stretched from Rakhine in the south to all of the North East up till Lashio. The AA seized control of territory bordering India including the Sagaing region, and pockets in Mandalay and Bago. The biggest setback for the Junta was in northern Shan state and Kokang Special Region where Junta lost Laukkai, one of its seven operational command centres. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) which spearheaded attacks in the north scored major successes and closed down five border trade centres and crossing points with China. Several Chinese living in the north had to flee to Yunnan (China). Gen Peng Deren commander of MNDA said wresting control of the north from Junta and restoring its writ to end criminal activities was sweet revenge. The Chinese after a series of negotiations, brokered a ceasefire with the Junta on 12 January which some EAOs in MNDA did not acknowledge.

Clearly, these offensives in the north and north east could not have been launched without Chinese complicity. For some time now, the Chinese have wanted to stop and eliminate various drug and gambling rackets that have been going on with the knowledge and possible cooperation of the military Junta's retaliation for its losses has come mainly through artillery shelling, strafing by helicopters and jets of towns that it evacuated after being outgunned. Many Brigadier Generals, Colonels and soldiers surrendered without fighting. Sui Lee Wei writing in the New York Times on 23 December, reported that around 4,500 (this figure varies and rises to 6,000) personnel could have defected among a total of 21,000 estimated casualties. Junta does not reveal its losses but experts estimate that Junta's strength is still around 300,000 to 400,000 soldiers with modern weapons. They are encountering difficulties in making up shortfalls as last year, only 83 cadets joined the defence academy compared to 1,000 in 2022. On New Year's Day, coup General Min Aung Hlaing issued honorary

titles for combatants and praised the Junta forces for their dedication.

Political stability reduces uncertainty

However, this has not been the case with the current government in India. The interim budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman demonstrates the incumbent government's confidence about its electoral outcomes in upcoming general elections. One might argue that this is the rationale behind the government's reluctance to indulge in giveaways, but the present administration prioritises fiscal responsibility and long-term economic growth through reforms. The focus of the government in the last decade has been on an inclusive welfare model and economic reforms. This is precisely why the Indian economy has

witnessed profound positive transformation, with the fruits of development reaching the people at scale. The government's development philosophy covers all elements of inclusivity, including social inclusivity through coverage of all strata of society, and geographical inclusivity through development of all regions of the country. According to empirical evidence, based on the National Family Health Survey, there's no evidence of the government playing favourites with any particular religious group or discriminating against any minority groups. There's also no bias in providing bare necessities. The idea is to tar-

get each and every household and individual, through initiatives such as 'housing for all', 'har ghar jal', electricity for all, cooking gas for all, bank accounts and financial services for all, in record time. The 'Direct Benefit Transfer' of Rs 34 lakh crore from the government using PM-Jan Dhan accounts has led to savings of Rs 2.7 lakh crore for the government, realised through avoidance of leakages prevalent earlier. The government's efforts have resulted in significant reduction in multidimensional poverty. With the pursuit of 'Sabka ka Saath' in these ten years, the government has assisted 25 crore people to get

freedom from multi-dimensional poverty. At the same time the government is also working towards minimising both inclusion and exclusion errors in the welfare schemes. On the macroeconomic front, from 2014 to 2024, India witnessed a significant economic transformation, moving from the 10th to the 5th largest economy globally. This was underpinned by robust policy reforms and strategic investments. The approach to 2014 was marked by challenges, including high fiscal deficits, inflation, and stagnating growth, necessitating a shift towards more sustainable and inclusive economic strategies.

Resource centres on "Ergonomic Agricultural Small Tools"

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

high-protein, and micronutrient-rich convenience mixes, and initiated the "Nutri Smart Villages" programme in 75 villages nationwide to combat undernutrition. The institute launched Shree Anna (Millet) Gramme, a nationwide initiative to mainstream millets in lifestyle, and developed apps on reproductive health care and effective renting. Parenting Index for Rural Families (PIRF) and an Intervention Package on



"Effective Parenting of Young Children" were created and assessed for efficacy. ICAR-CIWA has implemented various interventions through crop-based modules, vermicompost, horticulture, dairy and vegetable production, apiary, mushroom production, nutritional gardening, goatery, poultry, duckery, fodder and livestock modules. These efforts aim to promote economic returns and livelihood security for women engaged in agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW) conducted three significant studies to understand the specific needs of women in agriculture. These studies cover diverse aspects, such as the adoption of gender-friendly tools (GFTs) to reduce drudgery, schemes to improve women farmers' access to extension services, and issues related to credit avail-

ability through Kisan Credit Cards. The recommendations from these studies emphasise disseminating success stories, promoting GFTs, and providing gender-disaggregated data for lending to women farmers.

The government is implementing various schemes and programmes for farmers and agripreneurs, with a specific focus on women farmers. These schemes, including Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), encourage states and implementing agencies to allocate funds for women farmers.

The Central Sector Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan

Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) aims to provide financial assistance to landholding farmer families, including women farmers. The recently approved 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme, with an outlay of Rs 1,261 crore, plans to provide training to 30,000 women from 15,000 selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) on using drones for agricultural purposes.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is actively implementing Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). This programme systematically invests in enhancing women's participation and productivity and creating sustainable livelihoods for rural women. The mission promotes agricultural enterprises and conducts training programmes like the Krishi Sakhis initiative to encourage women's active involvement in natural farming.

With 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established across the country, the ICAR plays a crucial role in technology assessment, demonstration, and capacity building for farmers. KVKs organise training programmes specifically for farm women, focusing on various agricultural topics.

The government's multifaceted approach aims to promote women's involvement in decision-making processes related to farming and ensure equitable access to resources. These targeted measures underscore the Government of India's commitment to uplifting and strengthening the position of women farmers, recognising their indispensable contribution to the agricultural sector.

In the realm of sustainable agricultural development, a paradigm shift is imperative. It necessitates a transformation in the mindset of policymakers, government functionaries, extension workers, researchers, and students alike. Creating awareness about gender roles and shedding light on the nuanced issues in sustainable agriculture is paramount. Equipping individuals with knowledge of sustainable development in the context of gender and agriculture is a vital step forward. Capacity-building initiatives in gender research within the agricultural sector will pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future. The fields, once considered male-dominated territories, are now witnessing the indomitable spirit of women breaking through barriers. As we envision the future.

Interim Budget: A pleasant non-surprise

Budget 2024-25 is also unsurprising, given the Narendra Modi government's commitment to fiscal prudence and infrastructure building. It may be recalled that even during the Covid-19 pandemic when economic experts of statist disposition (that is, most of them) were beseeching the finance minister to loosen the purse strings on the grounds that the situation warranted it, the government didn't oblige them. Neither the purse strings were loosened nor capital expenditure went southwards. February 2024 is also different because the general elections are a few months away, but the government doesn't seem bothered about that. It believes that there would be continuity, as Prime Minister

Modi said that on Wednesday—that is, a day before the Budget. Since liberalization in 1991, seldom has an incumbent government seemed so confident. So—unlike in the last Interim Budget of 2019 in which it announced Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) and a hike in the standard deduction for salaried persons raised from Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000—there was no relief to the middle class in terms of income tax. In general, no tax rates, corporate as well as personal income, were touched. "In the last five years, our focus has been to improve taxpayer services," Sitharaman said. "The age-old jurisdiction-based assessment system was transformed with the intro-

duction of faceless assessment and appeal, thereby imparting greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability... Average processing time of returns has been reduced from 93 days in the year 2013-14 to a mere ten days this year, thereby making refunds faster."

The Interim Budget withdrew the outstanding direct tax demands up to Rs 25,000 pertaining to the period up to 2009-10, and up to Rs 10,000 for 2010-11 to 2014-15. This, she said, is expected to benefit about a crore tax payers. That may be true, but Sitharaman should have been more considerate towards the middle class. One hopes that the Modi government, if re-elected, would rectify this mistake in the full Budget for 2024-25.

No, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman did not run away with the ball

Companies like Volvo, Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Toyota, Suzuki and Hyundai, which are ensconced in automobile manufacturing and assembly in India, need to be further encouraged to become global hubs operating out of India. Will the government take Arvind Panagariya's advice in July and lower tariffs at least in line with the ASEAN countries?

The overall logistic costs are to be brought down from 14 per cent to about 8 per cent with the ongoing efforts of this government on road, rail, air, and port infrastructure. This is commendable and dramatic because it is now credible and will have profound consequences for the confidence generated amongst foreign investors in India-based manufacturing and exports.

The stress on government capex continues; another Rs11.1 lakh crore will be allocated. This was the biggest announcement and it is indeed less than the Rs13 lakh crore it should have been if the momentum of the present fiscal was to be maintained into 2024-25. However, the sector accounts for almost 4 per cent of GDP now and is the main growth driver.

The government is cutting its market borrowing programme in fiscal 2024-25 to reduce its debts as private sector investment increases

compared to before. This indicates greater confidence in the economy. Some of the government's friends, big boys all, are not afraid. Meanwhile, the government's fiscal deficit, at 5.9 per cent, is to be reduced to 5.1 per cent in 2024-25, en route to meeting the target of 4.5 per cent in FY 2025-26. Will this 5.1 per cent hike lead to interest rate cuts? RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, most likely, will not react to intentions and wait for the attainment of 5.1 per cent first.

Changes in direct and indirect taxes remain untouched for now, but the implication is that there may be some benefits announced in the full budget of July 2024.

The prominent mention of rooftop solar for one crore households to generate 300 units of free electricity with connectivity to sell overages has enthused energy stocks such as IREDA, Websol Energy, Suzlon Energy, and Sterling and Wilson.

However, this initiative may do better in the countryside and with new construction in smaller towns and cities. The technology associated with solar panels also needs to evolve. Likewise, electric vehicle (EV) stocks rallied on the reiteration of the adoption of EVs in public transportation. India is also working hard on green hydro-

gen technologies as an alternative to EVs.

Interestingly, divestment targets, after the success of returning Air India to the Tatas, have actually been reduced. There are more important things for the government to concentrate on, with a dramatic turnaround in many PSU stocks connected with aatmanirbhar initiatives and defence manufacturing. The middle class will be helped to build their own houses or purchase their dwellings. But there is no indication that the government intends to ramp up the real estate sector in general, despite its potential to become a massive employer of skilled and unskilled jobs, if it goes up from \$120 billion at present to \$1 trillion by 2030. Millions of people, men and women, from the rural surplus could be absorbed, apart from those who go into management, sales, and so on. It would need incentives, loans and industry status.

Small disputed income tax demands, some going back to 1962 and subject to much contention, have been withdrawn for up to Rs 25,000 till FY 2009-10 and Rs 10,000 up to FY 2014-15. This is a welcome thing, but a curious and somewhat trivial item to introduce here. Defence and railway stocks declined somewhat, probably not excited.

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



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

● **The airport, located in Hampshire County about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southwest of London, applied last year to increase its maximum number of flights from 50,000 to 70,000 a year.**

Rebellion, say private jets are much more polluting than commercial passenger airliners. Flights to and from Farnborough Airport carried an average of 2½ passengers per flight in 2022, the group said. "It is clear that private jets are incompatible with ensuring present and future living conditions on this planet,"

Thunberg said in a video that Extinction Rebellion posted on social media. "We're not going to let this continue. We're not going to let the rich few who are responsible for the majority of aviation emissions get away with sacrificing people and the planet," she added. Farnborough Airport said that it was an important hub for business and corporate travel, and that it recognized the importance of reducing its environmental impact. "The airport's environmental footprint is a fraction that of a traditional commercial airport, yet it serves as one of the largest employment sites in the region," it said in a statement. Thunberg, 21, a Swedish environmental campaigner who inspired a global youth

HDFC Bank Starts with Comprehensive Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops

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

District". The SKY 2.0 is unlike any other venue; is an experiential trailblazer that promises memorable evenings literally under the Skies, offering world-class entertainment, ground-breaking technology and exemplary service are all guaranteed. Innovative and experiential, SKY 2.0 offers an interactive experience by employing modern technology in the venue. Bendable screens, Grand Lighting Design, and a Vivacious & Jaunty Sound System wrap the walls of the Sphere-Shaped Venue. Enigmatic and designed to perfection, the architectural marvel of SKY 2.0 emerges from a seamless fusion of visionary nightlife experts and international architects, resulting in a masterpiece that captivates the

senses. Sky 2.0 Club has hosted hundreds of Star-Studded Events while The King of Indian Film Industry "Shah Rukh Khan", The Indigenous Rap Star "Badshah"; The International Rap Sensation "Little Baby"; The American Rap King "50 Cent"; The Moroccan Star "French Montana" and many more. SKY 2.0 recorded about USD 22.10 Million of gross revenues accrued from the business during 2023, with about 38.80% Net Profit Margin and about 36% Growth in revenues registered while comparing with the Preceding Year. The nightclub business on the global level aggregates about USD 31.46 Billion while accelerating at a CAGR of 8.07%, whereas on one hand the home turf for VLL.

Cyber frauds taking hawala route: Police

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

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

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



HC clears paves way for reconstruction of collapsed building after 25 years

MUMBAI: Bombay high court has cleared decks for the redevelopment of a 7 storeyed building at Kherwadi, Bandra (E) that had collapsed over 25 years ago. It has permitted Kherwadi Rajhans CHS to appoint a new developer to undertake the construction.

"Late in the evening on Monday, 3rd August 1998, at about 8 pm, Govinda Tower collapsed. The description... is that it came down like a pack of cards.

The ensuing panic and pandemonium are even now... a full quarter century later, no less alarming than they must have been then," said Justices Gautam Patel and Kamal Khata in the December 13 verdict released on Monday.

Govinda Tower was constructed on a Mhada leased plot by Apex Gas Services Pvt Ltd. Initially four floors were proposed and then three were added. There were two tanks of 20,000 litres above the seventh floor. The judges noted that when the building collapsed "as many as 80 people" were injured and there were "at least 33 confirmed deaths; the number may be more, as high as 42."

Developer Jairam Chawla of Apex Gas and hotelier Dilip Datwani had agreed initially to reconstruct the building. As the redevelopment failed, the residents moved HC in 2001 to direct Mhada and BMC to reconstruct the building and provide them with free houses. In 2009 A A Estate Pvt Ltd offered to reconstruct the building. In February 2014 it entered into a development agreement with the society but thereafter nothing happened.

Burj Khalifa wrapped n CCL's spirit, stars of Punjab De Sher witnessed the moment

Chandigarh: Celebrity Cricket League kicked off the 10 season with a spectacular show in Dubai as Burj Khalifa adorned the colours and spirit of league last night in the presence of top stars of Punjab De Sher including team captain - Sonu Sood, Actor Singer and Co-owner Navraj Hans and team owner Puneet Singh. Others who also marked the occasion includes superstars and captains from all other seven teams of CCL, including Kichcha Sudeep, Sohail Khan,



Arya and Jiiva, Thaman & Sudheer Babu, Jissu Sengupta, Indrajit Sukumaran and Unni Mukundhan watched it live in Dubai. The league is scheduled to start on 23 February in Sharjah, continuing

for another three weekends in India with 20 action-packed and entertaining matches. Team owner Puneet Singh said, "CCL has turned out to be an empathic mode of connection and bond

between entertainers and their fans. We, at Punjab De Sher, will leave no stone unturned to lift the cup at this edition of CCL."

Sonu Sood also shared his thoughts on the stunning visual on the Burj Khalifa - "Being alongside superstars representing 8 vibrant film industries of our great nation, standing together in front of the world's tallest iconic structure watching the launch of something the whole India passionately love to is an amazing experience."

Amid urban glare, father-son duo intact people's faith by preparing temple models

Craftsmen from Kullu district are turning out big hits at SARAS fair.



Chandigarh, Amidst Modernization and urban glitz, the faith still persists which is proved by craftsmanship of father-son duo from Kullu district during the ongoing SARAS fair being organized at Sector 34. Pradeep Kumar and his son Balbir from village

Rogana in Bhuntar tehsil of Kullu are offering a wide range of hand-made ancient temples and musical instruments at their stall. This third generation is engaged in this style of work which is intacting century old tradition. Balbir said temples are being made by local wood of deodar

and stones which takes around two days to about a week. Models are ranging from eight inches to five feet in height as temples of Bhimakali, Chain Kothi, Bijli Mahadev, Hadimba Mata, Parashar and Ram temple in Ayodhya are in trend. Apart from that duo also makes traditional musical instru-

ments which have made a good place in temples as well as in people's drawing rooms. These musical instruments are made from brass and copper metals. Balbir said that earlier they used to take only orders from the Govt and temple trusts but now people have faith in keeping temples in their homes, which gives them encouragement in their work. To ensure that this form of art does not vanish, Pradeep Kumar imparts skills to local school dropout youth and makes them capable of earning.

New lease of life for iconic Roxy Cinema, one of finest Art Deco structures in city

Kolkata: Bucking the trend of drawing curtains on single-screen theatres and making way for shops, restaurants, multistoried offices and shopping plazas, a century-old opera-turned cinema house rich in history and architecture that was on the verge of decay is now on the revival path. KMC has joined hands with a platform representing the city's leading developers to repair and restore Roxy, a single-screen theatre that had started off as an opera house in 1908 before transforming into a cinema hall in 1941. In the past, KMC had restored two other theatres — Star and Minerva. KMC has already floated the tender for the external repair and restoration of Roxy. The Bengal chapter of Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai-Bengal) will take up the theatre's interior

work. Considered one of the finest specimens of Art Deco architecture, the Empire theatre was constructed by the global theatre entrepreneur Maurice Bandmann in partnership with 19th Century Armenian real estate developer and hotelier Arathoon Stephen. Academic and theatre critic Ananda Lal said among the many personalities to have performed at the Empire was Rabindranath Tagore. He had delivered a lecture in March 1919 and then, in August 1923, staged Bisarjan at the age of 62. "He acted the role of the young Jayasingha in these performances," he said. The Empire building was modified and opened as Roxy cinema in 1941 and continued to screen movies till the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. A KMC official said the civic body would do the civil work repairs.

"Guniting technique will be used for repairs to extend the building's life," he said. Guniting is used to apply mortar or concrete to a surface using a spray gun to enhance its longevity. Credai-Bengal president Siddharth Pansari said the plan for the interior work had already been approved by the KMC Heritage Committee and work on floor, toilets and air conditioning will start as soon as the civil work is over. "Since Roxy was originally a theatre, the auditorium has circular galleries. The original structure of Roxy will be retained," he said. The revival of the theatre that was facing the demolition axe in 2015, when then mayor Sovon Chatterjee had scoffed at its historical and architectural significance, prompting citizens to file a PIL at the Calcutta High Court, has brought cheer to heritage activists and enthusiasts.

Announces plotted development under Hero Earth

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

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

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

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

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

Temasek offloads 8% in Manipal Health, Mubadala picks up stake

Temasek offloads 8% in Manipal Health, Mubadala picks up stake Bengaluru: Singapore's sovereign wealth fund Temasek Holdings has offloaded 8% in Bengaluru-based Manipal Health Enterprises (MHE) paring its stake to 51%, sources told TOI. New investors -- Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), Novo Holdings and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) -- have bought a minority stake from Temasek, the company said in a statement. Post the transaction, Temasek will continue to hold a majority stake in MHE.

Camilla Macapili Languille, head of life sciences at Mubadala, said, "Given the ever-increasing demand for high-quality hospital care across India, we look forward to supporting Manipal's growth journey in the years ahead."

The Centre places a 15% import charge on gold and silver findings



Delhi: "Gold or silver findings" are little components like hooks, clasps, clamps, pins, catches, and screw backs that hold jewelry. A Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs announcement boosted gold, silver, and coin import duty to 15% through 5% Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC). The move is meant to prevent gold and silver import duty abuse. According to the

notification, "gold or silver findings" denote a minor component such as a hook, clasp, clamp, pin, catch, or screw back used to hold jewelry in place. In addition, the finance ministry raised import tariffs on precious metal-containing used catalysts. The duty has been raised to 14.35 percent, including 10 BCD and 4.35 AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess) with SWS exemption. Since gold imports have

increased in the last two months, a government official told Reuters that the action intends to prevent tariff circumvention on gold and silver bars. Just click here Financial minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed an agriculture infrastructure and development cess (AIDC) on alcohol, gold, silver, cotton, peas, apples, petrol, and diesel in the 2021-22 budget. Government imposed 2.5% AIDC on gold, silver, and dore bars.

The government is seeking proposals to establish ACC units for battery storage under the PLI

The Center declared that selected bidders would be able to establish massive battery production facilities with a 10 GWh capacity and an estimated budget of Rs 3,620 crore by participating in rebidding under a PLI initiative for Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC). Starting on Wednesday, the global tender documents can be seen online. Bids will be accepted on April 23, 2024, and the deadline is April 22, 2024. Manufacturing of technology-neutral ACC in India is encouraged by the PLI project 'National



Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage'. "With this bidding process, the prospective applicants can submit their bids to set up a domestic manufacturing facility for ACC, which will help them qualify for incentives under the PLI ACC scheme," the ministry

of heavy industry said. The country's capital goods, automotive, and heavy electrical equipment industries are the three that the ministry supports in their development and expansion. Mahendra Nath Pandey, the Union Minister of Heavy Industries, stated that the ministry is fully committed to advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and self-sufficient India. It is also supporting the expansion of India's manufacturing capabilities and exports in the automotive and automobile component sector.

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Who is Harsh Mander?

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

Tata Steel reports a profit in Q3 despite losses in Europe's operations

Delhi: Despite its European business continuing to lose funds, Tata Steel managed to turn the corner in the quarter that concluded on December 31 because of improved profitability in its India operation. In comparison to a loss of ₹2,502 crore in the same quarter last year and ₹6,511 crore in the previous quarter, the company recorded a consolidated profit of ₹522 crore during the quarter. The domestic division of Tata Steel, which posted a pre-tax, depreciation, and interest profit of 8,257 crore as opposed to 5,335 crore the previous year, was the main driver of the turnaround. A loss of 2,872 crore before tax, depreciation, interest, and special items was declared by Europe in the

● "He added that the margins of the better-performing Netherlands company were also affected by the muted demand."

meantime. "The end-of-life state of several of its heavy end assets continues to cause production shortfalls for the UK business," stated Koushik Chatterjee, executive director and chief financial officer of Tata Steel.

He added that the margins of the better-performing Netherlands company were also affected by the muted demand. Tata Steel's managing

director and chief executive, T.V. Narendran, insisted that the business climate remained challenging even if the company made progress during the quarter.

"Global operating environment has been complex, with economic slowdown in China and geopolitics weighing on commodity prices in general," he stated. According to him, China exported 7-8 million tonnes of steel per month during the December quarter, the most since 2015. This has hurt profitability as well as global steel pricing, he claimed. "Despite this context, Tata Steel India has delivered better margins aided by higher deliveries as well as realisations on a QoQ basis," he stated.

HDFC Bank expects ROE to return to pre-merger levels in 4-5 years

HDFC Bank's return on equity was above 17% before the merger with Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC), but it dropped to 15.8% as of December-end. It expects to restore a key financial metric to pre-merger levels after 4-5 years. "We will see a period of consolidation for 4-5 years during which growth rates and some metrics will differ from what we were used to in the bank, but this is a different institution after the merger," Reuters said. "We are focused on prof-



itable growth and will see return on equity return to pre-merger levels in 4-5 years," the person said. The source added the economic environment and the bank's strategy deci-

sions to adapt will affect other indicators including net interest margin, deposit and loan growth. HDFC Bank shares have fallen more than 15% since the institution released

its third-quarter FY24 earnings on January 16. The bank saw a 33% YoY increase in net profit to ₹16,372 crore and a 24% YoY increase in net interest income to ₹28,470 crore. Analysts worry about the bank's profitability and deposit growth. Retail deposits increased 2.9% QoQ while the bank's deposit base grew 1.9%. Since March 2023, management has prudently lowered the wholesale deposit base from ~17% to 16% of total deposits in December 2023.

Payments Bank banned from selling new FASTags

EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

PAYMENTS BANK

Delhi: After an audit discovered that Paytm Payments Bank was not complying with the service level agreement, Indian Highways Management Company (IHMCL), NHAI's toll division, prevented the bank from issuing new FASTags. New toll plazas in the National Electronic Toll Collection, which covers the whole NH network, are also prohib-

ited. IHMCL has also asked why Paytm Payments Bank should not be penalized for noncompliance. However, the bank's FASTag customers will be unaffected. Paytm is a major Electronic Tolling Tool issuer. Paytm Payments Bank ignored inquiries and requested delays. NHAI officials said other businesses are under investigation and may face similar action in the coming

weeks. After the RBI froze savings bank account openings, the move was made. IHMCL said it imposed limitations after an audit after many customer complaints.

"During the audit, various complaints were received from the auditor that the bank did not cooperate with them in carrying out the audit," the agency acknowledged as "a matter of concern".

Air India was fined Rs 1.10 crore by the DGCA for safety infractions

The aviation regulator DGCA fined Air India Rs 1.10 crore for operating Boeing 777 aircraft that were leased to the United States in breach of safety regulations. This is Air India's second penalty in a week from the regulator. A former Air India pilot filed a complaint with the regulator, claiming that the airline was operating Boeing 777 aircraft to the US without the necessary emergency oxygen supply system in place. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducted a thorough inquiry into the situation and served the airline with a show-cause notice. "Since the said operations of the leased aircraft were not in line with regulatory/ OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) performance limits, DGCA



has initiated enforcement action and imposed a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on Air India," according to a notification from DGCA. Air India did not immediately respond to inquiries regarding the punishment. The announcement said that following receipt of a voluntary safety report by an airline employee accusing Air India aircraft on specific long-range terrain-critical routes of safety violations, the regulator conducted a thorough investigation. A show-cause notice was

sent to Air India, according to the DGCA, since the investigation's first findings suggested the airline was not in compliance.

The press release omitted certain details. Before pursuing enforcement action, the DGCA examined the airline's answer to the show cause notice in light of the performance limitations outlined in the documents provided by the OEM and the requirements outlined under applicable statutory provisions, according to the

announcement. The pilot, who had been a B777 commander, lodged a complaint with the airline on October 29, 2023, over its policy of not having the necessary emergency oxygen supply equipment on board. According to reports at the time, the issue was that Air India was using leased B777 aircraft on flights that had a chemically manufactured oxygen system that lasted for around 12 minutes. As a result, the aircraft shouldn't have been used for Air India's direct flights to and from San Francisco. The airline must account for the fact that, in the event of a depressurization emergency, all crew members and passengers must have access to enough oxygen for any duration exceeding twelve minutes.

Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value

Growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20, according to data analyzed by CRIF High Mark. Loans above Rs 75 lakh accounted for nearly 30% of new mortgage originations in April-June 2023. Home loans see shift from affordable to higher value. There are signs that growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes. The average size of home loans has increased by 22% to Rs 24.7 lakh in FY23 from Rs 20.2 lakh in FY20. According to data on home loans analysed by credit bureau CRIF High Mark, there is a shift in originations, both by value and volume, from the ticket size range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 35 lakh to Rs 75 lakh. The data shows that loans above Rs 75 lakh.

2nd Test: Jasprit Bumrah puts India in command on Day 2 after Yashasvi Jaiswal's double century

Jasprit Bumrah took six wickets to consolidate the advantage given by Yashasvi Jaiswal's double hundred as India took a good grip on the second Test against England on the second day here on Saturday. After making 396 in their first innings, India bundled out England for 253 in their first essay for a lead of 143 runs.

Jasprit Bumrah put up an exhibition of fast bowling on a seemingly flat Vizag pitch on Saturday, following Yashasvi Jaiswal's breakthrough double hundred, that led to England being bowled out for 253 in their first innings, putting India in a commanding position at Stumps on Day 2 of the second Test.

India, starting the day at 336 for six, ended up getting a total of 396 in their first innings.

Jaiswal's remarkable innings of 209 off 290 deliveries was a stand-



out performance in an otherwise challenging batting display.

In response, England succumbed to Bumrah's prowess in the final session, lasting only 55.5 overs and conceding a 143-run first-innings lead to the hosts.

India openers, Rohit Sharma (13*) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (15*), needed to face five overs before the end of play and took their team to 28 for no loss in the second innings. It gives India an overall lead of 171 runs, with three full days left to play.

Zak Crawley's aggressive start for England

(76 off 78) was curtailed by Bumrah, who achieved his 10th five-wicket haul with figures of 6 for 45 in 15.5 overs, marking his best performance in India. Bumrah also reached the milestone of 150 wickets, becoming the second-fastest Asian fast bowler after Pakistan's Waqar Younis. Bumrah's key wickets included Joe Root (5), Ollie Pope (23), Jonny Bairstow (25) and Ben Stokes (47), all victims of Bumrah's exceptional bowling, especially the yorker that castled Pope.

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

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp plans to take a break from football for a year once his time in charge at Anfield finishes at the end of the season. Klopp said he lacked the energy to go on as he made a shock announcement on Friday that he will step down in May. The 56-year-old German has previously been linked with the German national team. But Klopp, who has won the Champions League and Premier League among seven trophies since taking over at Liverpool in

2015, said his immediate plan was for a break and that he would never manage another English club. "Whatever will happen in the future I don't know now but no club, no country for the next year. No other English club ever, I can promise that," said Klopp at a press conference.

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

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

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

"When I said Liverpool 2.0 that didn't include me obviously for the next 10 years.

Don't know what Stokes was thinking': Jasprit Bumrah

NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah, showcasing his prowess with the ball in the second Test against England, believes that there's no necessity to seek magic when the ball is reversing. The 30-year-old demonstrated his artistry on the second day, deliver-

ing a series of magical deliveries that resulted in his best figures in India. Across three destructive spells in the last two sessions, Bumrah managed an impressive six wickets for 45 runs in 15.5 overs. His remarkable exploits played a pivotal role in

the hosts bundling out England for 253, securing a significant 143-run lead in the first innings. While the crafty bowler reaped rewards from reverse swing in the series opener, on Saturday, he elevated his performance to an even higher level.



Selectors wait on Virat Kohli's availability, KL Rahul may be back for 3rd England Test

NEW DELHI: The national selection committee is waiting for a clarity on Virat Kohli's availability for the remainder of the ongoing Test series against England. TOI understands that the selectors and Indian cricket board (BCCI) will check on Kohli one final time before naming the team for the last three Tests. Kohli had pulled out of the first two Tests citing personal reasons. Sources said that the BCCI doesn't really want to push Kohli if he isn't at a place to play in this series. However, they will check with him once given the vulnerability of the inexperienced middle order. "The call will be entirely on Kohli. The board respects his personal space. If he agrees to play any part in the series, then there's nothing like that. But it will be his call," a BCCI source told. The inexperience of the India's young middle order has come to the fore in the first two matches so far where they have failed to convert starts into big scores. The team management has been compelled to bat Axar Patel at No. 6 in the second Test match as wicketkeeper KS Bharat's batting abilities have not been inspiring. However, the selectors are optimistic about KL Rahul coming back into the team after pulling out of the second Test due to strained quad. "Rahul seems to have been recovering well. There's a strong chance that he will be back for the third Test match," the source said. Ravindra Jadeja, who picked up a hamstring injury during the first Test, is likely to be ruled out for the entire series.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma expecting their second child

NEW DELHI: Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers has put all the speculations regarding Virat Kohli's absence from the first two Tests against England to rest, revealing star India batter and his wife Anushka Sharma expecting the birth of their second child.

De Villiers also came out in support of Kohli's decision to skip the matches, lauding him to give priority to his family and said he can't be judged for taking a



break to be with his loved ones during this significant phase of his life.

"All I know is he is fine. He is spending a bit of time with his family, that is the reason he is missing the first two Test matches. I am not going to confirm anything else. I cannot wait

to see him back. He is fine, he is doing well," de Villiers said in his YouTube show on Saturday.

"Let me just see what he said. I just want to at least give you (fans) a little bit of love," he added. "So I wrote to him 'Been wanting to check in with you (sic)

for a while now biscuits. How are you?'. He said 'Just need to be with my family right now. I am doing well.'. "Yes, his second child is on the way. Yes, it's family time and things are important to him. If you are not true and genuine to yourself, you lose track of what you are here for. I think most people's priority is family. You can't judge Virat for that. Yes, we miss him. But he has made absolutely the right decision," he added.

'In India, you have to learn how to...': Jasprit Bumrah shares his success mantra

NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah's menacing afternoon spell on Saturday against England saw pundits and fans doffing hats to the India pace spearhead.

Registering his third best career figures in the longest format, sensational Bumrah left England batters absolutely stunned and put India on top in Vizag. After his remarkable bowling performance, that also saw an unplayable yorker flooring Ollie Pope, Bumrah shed light on success mantra on the Indian tracks, which often



favour spinners more than the fast bowlers. The India pacer, in the post-match chat revealed how he used the reverse swing to his

advantage, highlighting the manner in which he used the delivery to outsmart the opposition batters. "In India reverse swing plays a

big role. Born in this country, you know how to use it to your advantage. In India, you have to learn how to bowl reverse. I've grown up watching reverse swing set ups, legendary bowlers bowling magical deliveries. To be able to do it now, very happy with that. When you bowl reverse, people try to bowl magical deliveries every other ball. You have to be patient with that. Have to set the batters up. Have to use deliveries wisely. Can't just bowl inswing outswing, inswing outswing," Bumrah said.

'Mental Yorker, Beyond Amazing': Bumrah's 'guided missile' sets social media abuzz



NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah's menacing yorker that sent Ollie Pope's middle and leg stumps flying on Saturday set the social media on fire as the India pace spearhead garnered high praise for his stupendous delivery on the second day of the Vizag Test.

Bumrah's 'guided missile' came in the 28th over of England's innings when a set Pope looked absolutely clueless against this big,

beaming in-swinging yorker from the India quick. As Bumrah murdered two innocent stumps, fans were quick to react to the magical toe-crusher from the prolific India speedster.

"After that Pope delivery, I had in mind they'll be looking out for the inswinger.

Was keeping an eye on what the batters were looking to do. Very happy. Try and avoid looking at numbers.

When you do that, you build pressure and don't enjoy yourself," Bumrah added. Bumrah burst on the second day helped India England bowl out for 253 in reply to 396 in the first innings. The hosts took a solid 143-run lead after bundling out England and had openers Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal unbeaten on 13 and 15 respectively in the second innings at the close of play.

'In India we have a habit...': Gambhir cautions against over-hyping Jaiswal double ton

NEW DELHI: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir on Saturday congratulated Yashasvi Jaiswal for scoring his maiden double ton in Vizag but also cautioned against over-hyping the achievement of the youngster.

Pointing out the fact that it puts added pressure of expectations, Gambhir told everyone let the young batter play his natural game.

On the second day of the second Test against England, Jaiswal notched up his maiden Test double hundred to become the third-youngest Indian to achieve the feat in his nascent-but-remarkable career. Playing only his sixth Test, the 22-year-old's sensational knock of 209 off 290 balls single-handedly powered India to 396 all out in 112 overs on the second day of the match.

Jaiswal's accomplishment marked him as the first Indian left-hander since Gambhir to score a double hundred in the



traditional format. Gambhir achieved the feat in 2008 against Australia.

"I want to congratulate the youngster for his achievement but, more importantly, I want to tell everyone that let the young man play. We have seen in the past that in India we have a habit, especially the media, to overhype their achievements and give them tags and make them look like heroes," Gambhir told PTI during an interaction.

"The pressure of expectation gets the better of them and the players are not able to play their natural game. Let him grow and enjoy his cricket," added Gambhir.

While Jaiswal has excelled with the bat so far in the Test series, Shubman Gill and middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer have struggled for runs, and the 42-year-old cricketer-turned-politician backed the under-performing players, saying they should be given more time.

How Sumit Nagal overcame fund crunch, injury and Covid

NEW DELHI: Last year when Sumit Nagal spoke about the "hardships" and "lonely battles" he faces on the ATP Tour, India's best men's singles player also pointed out the consequent "funds-related issues" he encounters to sustain his tennis career. Sumit, in a fervent appeal, had said that he had just 900 euros (approximately Rs 80,000) left in his bank account and needed a "big sponsor" to prolong his tennis career. After his confession, Gatorade, renowned for its history of supporting athletes globally, entered into a partnership with Sumit. "At one point last year, he (Sumit) faced acute financial problems due to lack of sponsors. He had a steady sponsor early in his career. It was a big corporate, but they too pulled out when Covid started.

"Make Modi Prime Minister for the third time & India will become the 3rd largest economy"

Sant Kabirnagar

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged the public to support Prime Minister Modi for a third term in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, emphasizing that it would propel India to become the third-largest economy. "This means a change in the life of every citizen and an increase in per capita income," he added. Speaking at the closing ceremony of Maghar Kabir Mahotsav-2024, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted the substantial progress made over the last six years. He noted that 6 crore people in Uttar Pradesh and 24 crore people across the country have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty, attributing this success to the government's inclusive policies. "As a result of the government, everyone is getting the benefits of all the government schemes (housing, toilets, Ayushman card,



roads, highways, railways, airports, two lane-four lane connectivity) without any discrimination," the Chief Minister said. During the event, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 114 development projects worth Rs 360 crore. He also attended the mass marriage ceremony of 600 couples at Sant Kabir Sthali, offering his blessings. Furthermore, Chief Minister Adityanath inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) and enjoyed various programs, including bhajans performed by the renowned singer Swati Mishra. He said, "The country is changing, and the pride of 140

crore people has increased in the new India under the leadership of PM Modi. A powerful and empowered nation brings prosperity, and as evidence of this, India has now become the fifth-largest economy in the world." Highlighting the significance of Maghar and the transformative influence of Saint Kabir, the Chief Minister expressed that Maghar was once considered hell, but the saint's miracles turned it into a blessed land. Despite its initial barrenness with saline soil and water, Saint Kabir's miracles transformed the area into a prosperous one. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of Kabir Mahotsav as the identity of this place.

Students hold march to raise wetlands awareness

Kolkata: Students of 10 schools located either within the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) or its fringes participated in a walk on Friday to create awareness on the need to conserve the Ramsar site. The walk aimed at triggering minds to care for the biodiversity and sustainable practices to preserve the unique ecosystem of the EKW and its sewage-fed farms. It was flagged off from Bamanghata bridge by former Hidco CMD Debashis Sen and American Center Kolkata director and US consulate general Kolkata public affairs officer Elizabeth Lee. Officials from the German consulate and Max Mueller Bhavan also

participated in the walk. The walk was organised by Disappearing Dialogues Collective, which has been raising awareness about EKW and empowering communities to uphold traditional practices to seek alternative solutions. Students from Calcutta International School, The Heritage School, Mahavir Institute of Education and Research, Ektara, Bamanghata High School, Kheadaha High School, Chowbaga High School, Narayanpur High School and Bhojerhat Sarada Deshapriya Balika Vidyalaya participated in the walk. "It was a collective initiative to walk together for the conser-

vation of the wetlands and our future well-being. We need to conserve the wetlands that are there for a balanced environment. EKW is the life-line for Kolkata and we need to protect them for us and future generations," said Sen. Disappearing Dialogues Collective founder director Nobina Gupta said the 'Walk for the Wetlands' was a youth-led initiative to recognise the importance of EKW and its ecosystem. **Kolkata:** Students of 10 schools located either within the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) or its fringes participated in a walk on Friday to create awareness on the need to conserve the Ramsar site.

Tamparam Corporation removes hoardings and banners

CHENNAI: The Tamparam Corporation removed 14 hoardings and 139 digital banners in Sembakkam, East Tamparam, Perangalathur and Pammal on Saturday. More billboards and unapproved banners will be removed in the coming weeks. This is part of a beautification project



which includes removal of solid waste and installing thematic paintings in

identified areas. Officials have appealed to people and organisations to avoid placing advertisement banners and posters on roads and electric poles. The civic body said violators would be fined. If necessary, it would initiate legal action including filing police complaints.

CAPSULES

IIM experts to train ADMs on efficient use of technology in disaster management in UP

Lucknow

The Yogi government is embarking on a crucial initiative to enhance disaster management capabilities of Uttar Pradesh by organizing a comprehensive training camp for Additional District Magistrates (ADM) posted across the state. The camp aims at building on the expertise of these officials in handling a spectrum of disasters, ranging from pandemics and floods to droughts, excessive rainfall, lightning, and more, ensuring effective management and mitigation. The training camp, divided into three phases, will cater to 25 ADMs each from diverse districts. Esteemed experts from renowned institutions, including Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), with specialization in climate change, sustainability, and disaster management, will conduct insightful training sessions during the camp. The inaugural phase of this transformative initiative is scheduled to take place at IIM Lucknow on February 6 and 7, where 25 ADMs will actively participate. The camp will consist of four sessions, focusing on crucial topics such as climate change, sensitivity, disaster management, relief logistics, stakeholder management, digital initiatives, and design thinking. Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Sudhir Garg emphasized CM Yogi's unwavering commitment to minimizing loss of life due to disasters. He highlighted the significant progress made in reducing casualties over the past six and a half years, attributing it to the Chief Minister's foresight and the proactive approach of alerting officials in advance.

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

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

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

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

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

CM Yogi expresses happiness over govt's decision to award Bharat Ratna to Lal Krishna

Lucknow

In a momentous decision by the Indian government, the esteemed Bharat Ratna award is set to be bestowed upon Lal Krishna Advani, a founding member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former Prime Minister. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed his elation over this significant announcement, hailing it as a well-deserved tribute to Advani's extraordinary

efforts and unparalleled contributions. Taking to the social media platform X, CM Yogi conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to Lal Krishna Advani, emphasizing the veteran leader's pivotal role in fostering national unity and contributing to cultural rejuvenation. Admiring Advani's enduring efforts, Yogi termed them an inspiration for individuals across the nation. CM Yogi underscored

Advani's pivotal role not just as a founding member of the BJP, but also as a guiding light for countless party workers in India and beyond. Yogi highlighted Advani's decades of unwavering public service and commitment to the nation's integrity, acknowledging the veteran's establishment of high standards of integrity and ethics in his political journey. In praising the decision to confer the Bharat Ratna upon

Advani, Yogi reiterated that this honor is a testament to the veteran leader's exceptional contributions, setting him apart as one of the oldest and most prominent leaders of the BJP. It is worth noting that Prime Minister Modi himself shared this momentous announcement through a social media post, signaling the recognition of Advani's enduring legacy and impact on Indian politics.

Opposition should think above the parochial party politics

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during the commencement of the session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature for the year 2024 on Friday, appealed to all opposition members to think above party politics and engage in constructive discussions in the House for the development of the

state. Before the start of the session, he noted that the positive image cultivated about the state, both nationally and globally, would be advantageous for opposition parties as well. He urged them to actively participate in constructive discussions. CM Yogi expressed, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone on the successful completion of the grand consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya. Today marks the beginning of the session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature for the year 2024, and I extend a heartfelt welcome to all honourable members on this auspicious occasion." He further mentioned that the session would commence with the address by the Honourable Governor.

The Governor's speech is an important document highlighting the achievements of the government and the upcoming plans. The first session of any year begins with the Governor's address in the Legislature. The Chief Minister said that as this is a budget session, the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 will be presented in the Uttar Pradesh Legislature and the income and expenditure for the year will be discussed in the House. He further informed, "Before the commencement of the session, meetings were held with party leaders and, preceding that, with the Business Advisory Committee to finalize the agenda. The government has made full preparations based on the action plans decided in these meetings.

SP opposes Shri Ram in Ayodhya and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Kannauj: Yogi Adityanath

Kannauj

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday lambasted the Samajwadi Party (SP), stating that had they been in power, the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya would never have been built. Yogi asserted that the SP not only opposes the veneration of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, but also stands against the legacy of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar in Kannauj.

Addressing a gathering at the boarding ground of KK Inter College in Ashok Nagar, the Chief Minister emphasized the efficiency of the double-engine government in completing developmental projects while respecting



faith. On this occasion, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 59 projects worth Rs 352 crore in Kannauj. CM Yogi also paid homage to late Shri Om Prakash

Pathak, the father of Kannauj MP Subrat Pathak, on his fifth death anniversary. Commending MP Subrat Pathak for annually providing artificial limbs and tri-

cycles to the differently abled (Divyangjans), Yogi highlighted the potential achievements of Divyangjans with the support of society and government.

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

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