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

Long wait ends, Ayodhya in euphoria on eve of new dawn

● After the consecration, the temple will open its doors to devotees. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has requested people to plan their temple visit"



AYODHYA: The air is fragrant with incense and flowers, and the skyline is a luminescent kaleidoscope. The streets have just had another wash, just in case a speck of dust went unnoticed on the previous occasion. Every few hundred metres, a stage comes alive with folk artists going through their paces in a vibrant medley of sights and sounds. Ram Path, the holy town's artery, marches to a rhythm divine as a relentless stream of visitors make their way through it, singing "Ram aayenge" and "Ek hi naara ek hi naam, Jai Sri Ram Jai Sri Ram". On the eve of Ram Lalla's consecration, Ayodhya has travelled

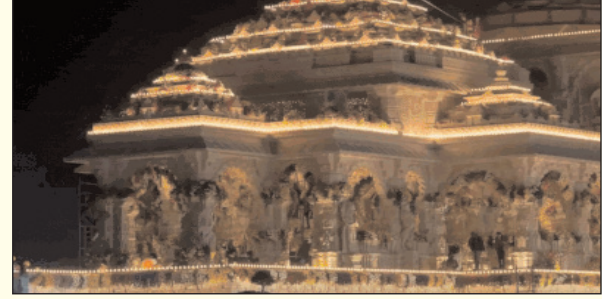
back in time to recreate in the present age all the grandeur and fervour of Ram's homecoming in Treta Yug. At the stroke of 12.29.08pm Monday, 121 Vedic priests will perform the "pran pratishtha" (consecration) of the 51-inch idol of Ram Lalla in the presence of PM Narendra Modi, for whom it will be the culmination of an 11-day spiritual journey that started from Kala Rama temple in Nashik on January 12. Music instruments from 25 states will be played for nearly two hours to produce "mangal dhvani" before the start of the main rituals, sources said. The "mool muhurt" in which the consecra-

tion is to take place will last 84 seconds, during which Modi will remove the idol's blindfold from behind and apply kajal with a small gold stick. He will then show a small mirror to the deity. This will be followed by a 'maha arti' by illuminating 108 diyas, concluding the consecration ceremony. The PM will also interact with labourers involved in the construction of the temple and visit the Kuber Tila, where the ancient Shiva temple has been restored. He will perform a puja at the shrine. Fifteen 'yajmans' drawn from different social groups will accompany Modi. Modi is scheduled to

reach the temple around 11am and remain inside the complex for about three-and-a-half hours for the ceremony, followed by a public meeting. President Droupadi Murmu wrote to the PM Sunday, saying the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya would mark the completion of "an important civilisational journey". After the consecration, the temple will open its doors to devotees. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has requested people to plan their temple visit after January 27, by which time it expects the initial rush to ebb.

Kashi Dom Raja to join PM Modi as 'yajman' at consecration event

AYODHYA: Fifteen people from across the country, including Kashi Dom Raja Anil Choudhary, will join PM Modi as 'yajman' (host) at the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on Monday. Prominent BJP leaders, including home minister Amit Shah and others, will watch the ceremony live from various temples across the country with common people. This is being seen as a gesture of solidarity with millions of Ram devotees, who wanted to be in the holy town for the event



but were advised to plan their visit after Jan 22. 'PM Modi will be main 'Yajman' of Ayodhya Ram temple consecration': Principal acharya Laxmikant Dixit 'Sandhya Aarti' performed at Saryu Ghat in Ayodhya on eve of Ram temple 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony

Kashi Dom Raja (the king of the cremation ground) Choudhary and his family members, including mother Jamuna Devi and wife Sapna Chowdhary, have reached Ayodhya. A religious procession amid the beats of 'damru' was taken out from the cremation

ground to mark his departure from Varanasi on Saturday. The family members carried a silver 'trishul' and an offering for the Ram temple. BJP leaders, meanwhile, will witness the ceremony live from various temples. Shah, along with his family, will watch live-streaming of the three-hour ceremony from Birla temple, Mandir Marg, in the national capital and also celebrate Diwali by lighting earthen lamps when the 'pran pratishtha' ceremony takes place.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has two word warning for cryptocurrency

New Delhi Cryptocurrency investors rejoicing in India after the recent jump in valuations globally, take note. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has a 'warning' for you. This

crypto 'party' is not without risks, said Das. He made these remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Despite recent surges in cryptocurrency prices, Das cautioned investors, raising concerns about the poten-

tial harm these "instruments with no underlying value" pose to emerging market economies like India. Das' remarks come just days after the US Securities and Exchange Commission approved bitcoin

exchange-traded funds. "While others might see a renewed cryptocurrency party, we see significant risks," Das stated. He emphasized that India's regulatory approach would not simply mirror other countries'.

Never thought temple would be built in my lifetime: Ayodhya 'raja'

King of Ayodhya, Bimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, member of Ram Janmabhoomi Theertha Kshetra Trust, witnessed the consecration of Ram Lalla in his lifetime. Ayodhya, once dull, will regain its grandeur after the removal of a curse by Mata Sita. Ayodhya is becoming a top religious and tourist destination, with increased business and employment opportunities. Never thought temple would be built in my lifetime: Ayodhya 'raja' King of Ayodhya, Bimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, who is also a member of the Ram Janmabhoomi Theertha Kshetra Trust, said that he had never thought that Ram temple would be built in his lifetime but with Ram Lalla's consecration, the temple town is set to regain its lost grandeur. "I never thought that I would witness Prabhu Ram's 'pran pratishtha' in my lifetime. Ayodhya udaseen thi, iski shree chali gai thi (Ayodhya had turned dull, all its glory had faded away). It is said that after questions were raised on her integrity after her return from Lanka, Mata Sita had cursed Ayodhya that no one would remain happy in the temple town. She again went into exile. It seems that the curse has been removed now," said Mishra, who is affectionately called 'Pappu Raja' or 'Pappu Bhaiyya' by residents. Mishra, who had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election on a BSP ticket in 2019, said: "Ayodhya is on its way to becoming one of the greatest places in the world in terms of religious and tourist destinations. All aircrafts landing at Maharishi Valmiki International Ayodhya Airport (MVIAA) have full occupancy. Soon, the state government will also launch helicopter service that will boost tourism. Influx of pilgrims and tourists will increase business and employment opportunities." He said that after 'pran pratishtha', over one lakh pilgrims would visit Ayodhya everyday. "To handle the pressure, roads have

Focus on 'urban Naxals': Amit Shah to security forces

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday stressed on the need for Chhattisgarh police and other law enforcement agencies to identify the supporters of left-wing extremism, commonly referred to as 'urban Naxals', and run a thorough check on their finances as part of strategy to choke Maoist funding and deal a final blow to the left-wing extremism (LWE) "eco-sys-



tem". While chairing a high-level review meeting in Raipur on LWE situation - the first after a BJP government was installed in Chhattisgarh, a change likely to help the final

meeting was attended by Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai and the two deputy chief ministers, state DGP, CRPF DG, Intelligence Bureau director and senior officers of the central and state government. The time-bound action-plan includes further shrinking the geographical area under LWE influence by sending counter-Naxal forces deeper into 'liberated' Maoist zones.

Nripendra Misra: Man behind Ram temple and consecration ceremony

AYODHYA: PM Narendra Modi's go-to officer and chairman of the Ram temple construction committee, Nripendra Misra is a key architect of the consecration ceremony too. On the eve of the event, Misra was busy overseeing and supervising preparations for the 'pran pratishtha' which will see the presence of the PM, 550 state guests and 7,000 invitees. 78-year-old officer also helmed construction of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya in Delhi, a



key project driven by the Modi government. Misra told that being entrusted with the responsibility of Ram temple construction was "divine blessing". "What more could I have asked for? I am not saying I will call it a day. But what has come so far to me is

from the Lord who alone will chart my next course," Misra had said when asked what could be his next assignment. The former civil servant, who served as principal secretary to Modi from 2014 to 2019, was given a one-line brief by him — build a temple that will last at least 1,000 years. Misra's appointment in the committee was seen as a clear message from the PMO that he will be the bridge between the Centre, state government and other members of the panel.

Jet crashes in Afghanistan after Gaya refuelling, 4 of 6 survive

A Russian private jet carrying six people crashed in a remote area of rural Afghanistan but the pilot and some of the others on board survived, the Taliban said Sunday. Four people survived and two are unaccounted for, air transport agency Rosaviatsia later said. Jet crashes in Af after refu-



elling in Gaya, 4 of 6 survive. The Indian aviation ministry said the plane was not a scheduled commercial flight or an Indian chartered aircraft. The aircraft was a DF-10 Dassault Falcon. A

Taliban statement from Abdul Wahid Rayan, a spokesman for the Taliban's information and culture ministry, described the plane as "belonging to a Moroccan company". The air ambulance was flying from Thailand to Moscow and did refuelling at a Bihar airport.

North Korea says Putin willing to visit Pyongyang 'soon'

SEOUL: Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his willingness to visit Pyongyang soon when he met with North Korean foreign minister Choe Son Hui in Russia last week, North Korea's state news agency KCNA reported Sunday. Putin also thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for his invitation to visit, KCNA said, citing North Korea's foreign minister's assistant office. It would be the Russian leader's first trip to North Korea in more than two decades. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Russia hoped a Putin visit to North Korea, at Kim's invitation, would take place "in the foreseeable future", but he said no date had yet been agreed.

Army gets logistics drones in bid to cut manpower, mules march into history



NEW DELHI: The sturdy and surefooted mules of the Army, who have been transporting crucial loads to forward border posts through treacherous routes under extreme weather and terrain conditions for over a century, are now slowly but steadily marching into history. The Army is progressively inducting logistics drones, robotic mules, all-terrain vehicles and rough-terrain vehicles, in conjunction with the improvement in border infrastructure and better last-mile connectivity, to replace its existing animal transport fleet. Under the overall "force

restructuring and optimization" plan under way in the 12-lakh strong Army to reduce manpower by around one lakh personnel by 2027, apart from other measures, animal transport companies and other "legacy units" are being gradually disbanded. The Army has already reduced by 1,500 the number of its "mountain artillery mules", who carry 120mm mortars and their ammunition to far-flung forward posts where proper roads or tracks do not exist. "The few remaining such mules will go by 2025," an officer said.

11 convicts in Bilkis case surrender in jail before deadline

VADODARA: The 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case surrendered at Godhra sub-jail in Gujarat's Panchmahal district around 11.30pm Sunday, half an hour before the deadline set by Supreme Court was to end. While two of the 11 men walked into the sub-jail, the rest arrived

by car. Two vehicles ferrying the convicts were seen entering the premises one after the other. Throughout Sunday, there was a sense of anticipation outside the prison as senior police officers and advocates flitted in and out. A security contingent that included crime

branch and special operations group personnel stood guard outside. The surrender came two days after the apex court dismissed the convicts' appeal for time to turn themselves in. They had given reasons ranging from impending surgery to marriage in the family and harvesting.

Tribals with land rights must get PM-Kisan benefits: Government



Data for the last 25 days show that over 26,700 PVTGs have been linked to PM-Kisan; over 37,000 PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts have been opened; around 50,000 caste certificates have been made and new FRA pattas given to over 12,000

Delhi: Government has written to states to ensure eligible tribals with land rights (patta) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) also get the income support benefit of Rs 6,000 per annum under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, on par with landholder farmers under the same

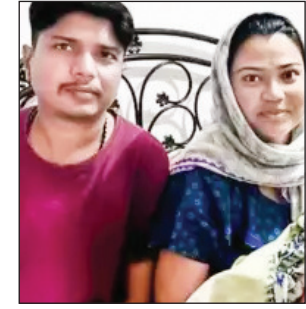
scheme. With the ministry of tribal affairs (MoTA) and agriculture monitoring closely, over the past three weeks around three lakh tribals and other traditional forest dwellers holding land lease rights under FRA have been linked to PM-Kisan. There are over 23.4 lakh individual land rights holders

under FRA as of the records of the ministry of tribal affairs. The letter sent to states stated that the ministry of tribal affairs and the ministry of agriculture both led by minister Arjun Munda have decided to cover all FRA beneficiaries holding individual land rights with PM-Kisan According to offi-

cial, agriculture ministry had through a notification in 2019 extended the PM Kisan benefits to scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers with land 'pattas'. However, there was no separate database available to show as to how many rights holders under FRA were benefiting

from PM-Kisan and how many were unable to get the benefit due to lack of documents or because the land records may not have been updated on ground. "Now that gap is being filled and states have also been asked to take measures to help correct errors in the documents of genuine eligible beneficiaries," an official said. The drive to link FRA rights holding farmers to PM-Kisan first started in the last week of Dec 2023 as part of the newly-launched flagship PM-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) scheme to register people from particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) for various welfare schemes.

Maharashtra cop who won sex change battle becomes a father



MUMBAI: On the occasion of Makar Sankranti on Jan 15, Beed constable Lalit Salve, who had successfully moved Bombay high court five years ago to undergo a sex change operation, had another reason to cheer: his wife delivered a baby boy. In 2018, after he won the court battle, Salve approached doctors in state-run St George's Hospital, near CST, for the series of surgeries, but was overwhelmed to hear for the first time that he was genetically a male. "I still remember how he started crying on hearing that he was a male by birth," said plastic surgeon Dr Rajat Kapur, who operated on Salve.

Salve thus only needed a genital reconstruction surgery. "He had an underdeveloped penis and one unde-

scended testicle," said Dr Kapur, and added that by the time the surgeries were over, the medical team realised Salve would have normal sexual function and would have normal sperm. "It is hence not surprising that he had a child," he said. Unlike Salve, those who undergo sex change operations are sterile.

On Saturday, before going to work, Salve spent a busy morning getting his newborn vaccinated. His wife, Seema, underwent a caesarean section on

Jan 15, and has been recuperating at home thereafter. "We are very happy at the moment," said Salve, who was brought up as a girl by his family and even underwent a surgery for removal of one of his testes in his childhood. However, he has said that he was always uncomfortable being a girl and decided to undergo a sex change operation after turning 30. "I want to give my child a good upbringing and values, and give him an opportunity to become a big IAS or IPS officer," he told TOI. Meanwhile, Dr Kapur, who has since been transferred to JJ Hospital, Byculla, said he often refers patients seeking sex change to the OPD at St George's Hospital. The St George's OPD was set up following Salve's discharge, but its func-

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



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

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

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

MP and Maharashtra

GRAP Stage-3 limitations lifted as Delhi pollution improves

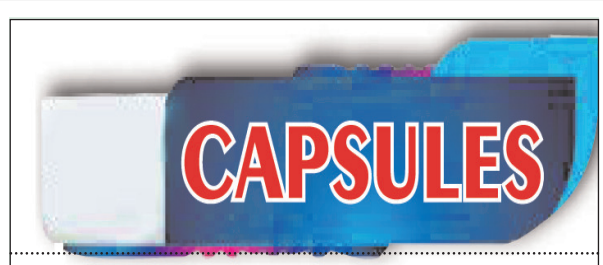


Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) subcommittee revoked Stage-3 of GRAP in the Delhi-NCR with immediate effect, halting construction and demolition except for essential government projects, mining, and stone crushing, and banning BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles in Delhi and surrounding areas. "AQI of Delhi has been progressively improving and has been recorded as 316 at 2.00 pm, which is about 85 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the Grap Stage III actions (Delhi AQI 4 0 1 - 4 5 0). Preventive/mitigative/restrictive actions under all Stages up to Stage III are underway, so there is likelihood of

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

Shops selling meat may remain closed on Jan 22

New Delhi: Delhi Meat Merchant Association general secretary Irshad Qureshi has appealed to all traders in Delhi selling meat and fish to close their shops on Jan 22 in honour of the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. "The motive behind the appeal is to promote unity and harmony between the two communities and bring people together," Qureshi said. He said that all slaughter houses in the capital along with shops selling meat and fish have been asked to keep their businesses closed for the day, respecting the sentiments of the people for the "pran pratishtha" ceremony in Ayodhya. "Shutting the business for a day would not impact the traders as much," Qureshi added.



Babri Masjid 'systematically snatched' from Muslims, claims Asaduddin Owaisi

BENGALURU: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday claimed that the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was "very systematically snatched from the Muslims". He told media that Ram Mandir did not exist when Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) was formed, and Mahatma Gandhi never mentioned anything about it. "...the Muslims had offered namaz in the area for 500 years. When Congress' GB Pant was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, idols were placed inside the masjid. A collector named Nair shut down the masjid and started performing puja there. In the 1950s, Nair became the Jan Sangh's first member of Parliament," Owaisi said. Taking potshots on opposition parties and the BJP, Owaisi questioned Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's decision to organise Sunderkand Paath and Hanuman Chalisa at government schools, raising concerns about imposition of religion in educational institutions.

'Fan' made Rashmika Mandanna's fake clip to get followers, held post 3-month probe

NEW DELHI: After a three-month-long investigation, a 23-year-old 'fan' who allegedly created and first uploaded a video of actor Rashmika Mandanna on social media has been tracked to Andhra Pradesh by Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Ops (IFSO) unit. **Rashmika Mandanna deepfake** According to special commissioner R P Upadhyay, Eemani Naveen, a BTech graduate with expertise in picture and video editing, operated fan pages of three film stars, including Mandanna, and committed the act allegedly to boost the follower count. Naveen hadn't expected the severe backlash and nationwide outrage, including tweets calling for action from actors like Amitabh Bachchan, and so deleted the video and changed the page name. By then, however, it had gone viral and shared and downloaded by innumerable users.

After an FIR was registered, a police team led by DCP Hemant Tiwari investigated the case. The cops sought details such as 'originator address' from social media sites like Instagram. They got some IP addresses, scrutiny of which helped them track the suspect, officers revealed. "The suspect works from home and provides Photoshop and Instagram channel promotion services, YouTube video creation/editing and search engine optimisation," said Upadhyay. He has undertaken online certification courses from Google and YouTube. During interrogation, Naveen claimed to be a big fan of Mandanna.

Food subsidy bill for FY24 to breach 2L cr



Delhi: The government's food subsidy bill for fiscal year 2024 is likely to overshoot the budgeted estimate of 1.97 lakh crore, prompting the food department to seek additional funds primarily to support its flagship programmes. The revised allocation for the ongoing fiscal year is expected to go up by 3% to 2.02 lakh crore, a top official of the department of food and public distri-

bution. The department needs an extra 5,600 crore for decentralised procurement of foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

scheme, and sugar subsidy for families covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana programme, this official said, declining to be identified. India's food subsidy likely to go up next year as well, as the government recently extended the PMGKAY scheme. Its flagship food welfare programme, for another five years ahead of this year's general election

Punjab Congress worried about losing 'identity' if Congress-AAP contests Chandigarh mayoral race



Delhi: INDIA bloc partners Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) decided to jointly contest the mayoral elections in Union Territory of Chandigarh, Punjab's capital.

Congress leaders and party cadre in Punjab fear the ruling party could dent its identity and vote bank in the State established over the years. Even though the Congress, the State's main Opposition party, has been aggressively criticizing the ruling AAP government's "poor governance" in its past two years, a section of Congress leaders and workers

believe that if the party joins the ruling party, it could damage its identity among the people. A faction of the party believes the Congress would fail to capitalize on anti-incumbency emotions against the AAP government, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) or Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) could take over as the "main Opposition".

IIM Calcutta removes director over sexual harassment complaint

KOLKATA: The Indian Institute of Management Calcutta has removed Sahadeb Sarkar as director-in-charge following a sexual harassment complaint against him. IIM-C said in a press statement on Tuesday that its internal complaints committee (ICC) had recommended the removal after receiving a written complaint under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (POSH) Act and that the allegations were being investigated. The next senior-most faculty, Saibal Chattopadhyay, has taken over as the new director-in-charge. The ICC in its recommendation had expressed concerns over holding a free and fair probe, including accessing witnesses, staff, faculty and institute documents, while Sarkar remained in his post. With the ICC's recommendations being binding on the



institute under the POSH Act, its board of governors held a special meeting on January 6 to remove Sarkar till a formal inquiry was completed. He was also relieved with immediate effect of any other administrative charges that he held. The board, however, clarified that its acceptance of the ICC's recommendations in no way reflected its opinions on the merits or demerits of the allegations. When contacted, the institute authorities refused to comment on the developments.

Sarkar's removal makes him the third IIM director in three years to leave his position before expiry of tenure. Earlier, director Uttam Kumar Sarkar resigned in August 2023 after serving only two of his five-year term. In March 2021, then director Anju Seth had resigned in the fourth year of her term. Both allegedly resigned over differences with the board's chairperson, Shrikrishna G Kulkarni.

Ayodhya Temple marks new cycle of resurgence of nation: President Murmu

● "His focus on justice and welfare of the people, too, is reflected in the governance outlook of our country"



NEW DELHI: On the eve of the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, President Droupadi Murmu said in a letter to PM Narendra Modi that his 11-day "rigorous anushthan" is not only a sacred ritual but also a "supreme spiritual act of sacrifice and submission to Prabhu Shri Ram." "The nationwide celebratory atmosphere around the inauguration of the grand temple of Prabhu Shri Ram in Ayodhya Dham is an uninhibited expression of the eternal soul of India. We all are fortunate to witness the commencement of a new cycle in the resurgence

of our nation," the President said, adding that the PM will be completing a "unique civilisational journey" that will be reflected in the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "The universal values that Prabhu Shri Ram represents, such as courage, compassion and constant focus on duty, will be taken closer to the people through this magnificent temple," she said. The President said Ram signifies the best aspects of India's cul-

tural and spiritual heritage, represents the good which is in constant battle with evil and that his life and principles influenced many episodes in Indian history, including inspiring nation-builders such as Mahatma Gandhi, who derived strength from Ramanama till his last breath. President Murmu added that Ram's message of treating everyone with love and dignity, irrespective of their social back-

ground, also appealed to the intellect of path-breaking thinkers, pointing to the PM's own policy initiatives as reflective of these values. "His focus on justice and welfare of the people, too, is reflected in the governance outlook of our country. In fact, as an illustration of this, you released the first instalment of various benefits to the people of vulnerable tribal communities under PM-JANMAN initiative.

Wife's cruelty no ground to deny maintenance: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI: Delhi High Court has clarified that the findings of cruelty against a wife in divorce proceedings cannot be the sole ground to deny her maintenance under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The high court's recent order stressed the independent nature of maintenance claims under the Act and underscored the importance of considering each legal provision in its specific context. It also observed that a revision petition could be filed with the high

court against an order passed by the sessions court in appeal under Section 29 of the Domestic Violence Act, when the ground of cruelty alone has been invoked to argue that an estranged wife can be denied maintenance. The ruling came in response to a woman's plea against a sessions court order that set aside a magistrate's order directing the husband to pay her Rs 1 lakh per month towards maintenance and compensation. The case involves a marriage that took

place in 1991, where a child was born the same year. However, over the next decade and a half, the union soured, leading her to file a complaint under the Domestic Violence Act in 2009. Headway was made when they reached a settlement agreement after the court referred the matter for mediation. The magistrate's order, which held that the wife had suffered domestic violence at the hands of the husband, was, however, challenged by him before the sessions

court. The sessions court remanded the matter back to the trial court for a de novo trial, without fixing any interim maintenance to be paid to the wife, resulting in the wife approaching the high court for further and specific relief. The high court held that the writ petition filed by the wife was maintainable and directed the husband to pay a monthly sum of Rs 50,000 as interim maintenance from Dec 16, 2009, until Nov 01, 2019.

Pay Rs 30k for dirty toilets: Consumer forum to Indian Railways

NEW DELHI: A Delhi District Consumer Commission has directed Indian Railways to pay Rs 30,000 "on account of physical and mental agony" to a passenger who complained to have suffered due to dirty toilet and unavail-

ability of water. The bench of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission-I (North District), comprising Divya Jyoti Jaipuria, president and Harpreet Kaur Charya, member, said that the railways failed to pro-

vide basic amenities of clean toilet and water, as required under the 'Citizen's Charter', which definitely amounts to deficiency in services. Representing the complainant, advocate Manan Agarwal said

that the railways "have totally failed to provide the hygienic condition of the compartments and the toilets to the public who pay full price of ticket and still suffers from the lack of basic needs on long journeys in the train".

Cold wave grips Delhi: Flights, trains delayed as dense fog blankets national capital

NEW DELHI: The national capital experienced another cold morning on Sunday with temperatures dropping to single digits. This caused delays in several flights and trains, inconveniencing passengers. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that visibility at Delhi-Palam decreased from 400 meters at 2:00 am to 100 meters at 2:30 am on Sunday, and further reduced to 0 meters from 3:00 am onwards. The minimum temperature recorded in Delhi on Sunday morning was 8.5 degrees Celsius, according to IMD.

The IMD also stated in a post on X that a thick layer of fog was visible over the plains of north India, including Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, northwest Rajasthan, and north Madhya Pradesh at 6:30 am. The weather department added that dense to very dense fog was observed in isolated areas of Delhi, North Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, and West Madhya Pradesh.

Due to the dense fog conditions, nearly a dozen passenger trains to Delhi were delayed, including the Amritsar-Nanded Express, Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Exp, Ambedkarnagar-Katra, and Manikpur-Nizamuddin Express. Similarly, at Delhi airport, passengers experienced long wait times as flights were delayed by several hours. Some flights were even canceled, causing inconvenience to the travelers. Neha Beniwal, a passenger from Bahrain, shared her experience, saying, "My flight was delayed because of fog. It was supposed to land here at 4:45 am, but it landed at around 5:35 am."

In response to the foggy conditions, Delhi airport authorities issued an advisory, urging passengers to contact their respective airlines for updated flight information. The IMD has also predicted very dense fog conditions until January 22, with foggy conditions likely to persist until January 27. People in Delhi were seen gathering around bonfires to keep themselves warm as the cold wave continued. On Saturday, low visibility due to fog caused inconvenience to passengers traveling by train and air in various parts of Northern India.

30 new cancer hospitals built in last 9 years, work on to add 10 more: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: India has added 30 new cancer hospitals in the last nine years, and work is underway on 10 new cancer hospitals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of Shri Khodaldham Trust-Cancer Hospital in Gujarat via video message, Modi said treatment of a serious disease like cancer



becomes a big challenge for any person and family. "The government is trying to ensure that no patient faces difficulties in cancer treatment," the PM said. PM Modi feeds cows at his resi-

dence He underlined the importance of detecting cancer at the right stage for its treatment. In India, cancer already starts to spread by the time the people of the villages get diagnosed. To avoid such situations, PM said, the central government has built more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs at the village level where the emphasis is being laid on the early detection

of many serious diseases including cancer. "When cancer is detected early, doctors also get a lot of help in its treatment," he added. Modi said that women have also benefited greatly from the efforts of the central government as he mentioned Ayushman Arogya Mandir playing an important role in the initial detection of diseases like cervical cancer or breast cancer.

AIIMS Delhi reverses decision to shut till 2:30 pm on Ram temple ceremony day

NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here will remain open on Monday, reversing its earlier decision to shut OPD services till 2:30 pm on the occasion of the consecration ceremony at the Ayodhya Ram temple. "In continuation of the Office Memorandum dated January 20, all clinical services including the Outpatient Services (OPD) shall remain open to prevent any

inconvenience to patients and to facilitate patient care services," a fresh office memorandum issued by AIIMS said on Sunday. Later in the day, the Lady Hardinge Medical College too announced that all services, including OPD and emergency, will be functional throughout Monday. On Saturday, an official memorandum by AIIMS, Delhi, had noted that the government has

declared a half-day holiday on January 22 because of the Ram temple consecration ceremony. "It is notified for information of all the employees that the Institute will remain half day closed till 14.30 pm on January 22. All Chiefs of Centres, Heads of the Departments, Units and Branch Officers are requested to bring this to the notice of all staff working under them."

Dal Makhani vs. butter chicken: Which is more nutritious

Who invented butter chicken and dal makhani? The row came to light, when restaurant chain Moti Mahal sued one of the renowned eateries of the country Daryaganj for taking credit for inventing the two dishes. Both butter chicken and dal makhani

have made it to several global food charts and represent the rich taste of Indian food everywhere. Moti Mahal claims that both dishes were invented by their predecessor, the Late Kundal Lal Gujral. They have accused Daryaganj of misleading people into believing that

both are the iconic dishes are their creations. Meanwhile, Daryaganj claims that their predecessor Late Kundal Lal Jaggi was the inventor of these two dishes. As per Moti Mahal owners, the existence of the two global dishes happened when their predecessor came up

with the idea to rehydrate cooked chicken with a special sauce to prevent them from drying out quickly. The butter-based sauce made the chicken juicy and gave it a tangy, sour, and exceptional taste that soon became a household name in the country.

Crackdown on tax defaulters: 74 properties attached in a wk

New Delhi: Taking action against the property tax defaulters, the assessor and collection department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched a coercive action. In all the zones, 668 properties have been attached. During the last week, 74 commercial and industrial properties have been attached involving Rs 23.8 crore defaulting tax, which includes property of a builder in Khyber Pass. These attached properties are located in the area of Rohini, Mahipalpur, Dwarka, Mahavir Enclave, Netaji Subhash Place, Wazirpur Industrial area, Saket District Centre, Anand Parvat, Sakurpur, Saroop Nagar, Rithala, Budh Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, and Siraspur. In case the taxpayers fail to pay their outstanding tax, further action for auctioning of such property will be initiated. Moreover, online notices were issued to more than 5 lakh taxpayers who had not filed tax either in 2021-22 or in 2022-23.

Delhi government plans to switch schools to hybrid mode due to bad weather

Delhi Education Minister instructs officials to develop hybrid learning strategy to safeguard schools from adverse weather conditions. The directive integrates DMVS program with physical school model. Atishi Marlana states, "Through DMVS, we will make all Delhi government schools hybrid so that our children's education does not suffer from the vagaries of weather." Atishi Marlana, the Education Minister of Delhi, instructed officials to develop a hybrid learning strategy for schools. The objective is to ensure that classes remain unaffected by adverse weather conditions like heat waves and fog. The directive entails integrating the Delhi Model Virtual Schools (DMVS) program with the traditional physical school model

implemented by the Delhi government, as stated in an official announcement. "Schooling in Delhi gets frequently disturbed due to adverse weather like heat waves during summer and fog in winter. Through DMVS, we will make all Delhi government schools hybrid so that our children's education does not suffer from the vagaries of weather," Atishi said. The Delhi government plans to establish a hybrid learning environment in all schools through the DMVS initiative to safeguard students' education from being disrupted by adverse weather conditions, as noted by the minister. She further added, "For those children who cannot reach school, the Delhi government is taking the finest education to them through DMVS."

'Fan' made Mandanna's fake clip to get followers, held

NEW DELHI: After a three-month-long investigation, a 23-year-old 'fan' who allegedly created and first uploaded a video of actor Rashmika Mandanna on social media has been tracked to Andhra Pradesh by Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Ops (IFSO) unit. According to special commissioner R P Upadhyay, Eemani Naveen, a BTech graduate with expertise in picture and video editing, operated fan pages of three film stars, including Mandanna, and committed the act allegedly to boost the follower count.

Naveen hadn't expected the severe backlash and nationwide outrage, including tweets calling for action from actors like Amitabh Bachchan, and so deleted the video and changed the page name. By then, however, it had gone viral and shared and downloaded by innumerable users. After an FIR was registered, a police team led by DCP Hemant Tiwari investigated the case. The cops sought details such as 'originator address' from social media sites like Instagram. They got some IP addresses, scrutiny

of which helped them track the suspect, officers revealed. "The suspect works from home and provides Photoshop and Instagram channel promotion services, YouTube video creation/editing and search engine optimization," said Upadhyay. He has undertaken online certification courses from Google and YouTube. During interrogation, Naveen claimed to be a big fan of Mandanna. However, the fan followers on her page numbered just 90,000 against lakhs on the pages of two other celebrities he ran.

Editorial

Emerging situations in Myanmar require proactive responses from India

The pace of unfolding events on our eastern borders with Myanmar is fast evolving and needs a closer look by Indian decision-makers. Sharing close to 1600 km of borders with India, Myanmar is at one of the critical points of its nationhood, growth, and survival, all three of which are substantially mixed at this juncture. Myanmar, the name it adopted from its erstwhile name of Burma with effect from June 18, 1889, has been under British India as early as 1886 onwards. Except for the short duration during World War II when it came under Japanese occupation, it continued to remain part of British India. It got some kind of separate geographical identity in 1937 but became independent only on January 4, 1948, from the British as a follow-up to the Burma Independence Act passed by the British Parliament on December 10, 1947. Both the Independence Acts as well as the grant of independence to Myanmar (then Burma) were later in time frame as compared to the Indian Independence Act, which was passed on July 18, 1947, and Indian independence, which was granted on August 15, 1947. By all standards, international norms, and ethical conduct, Britishers should have made Myanmar a part of India, which became the primary successor of British India. The British policy of 'Divide and Rule' was modified by the Britishers as 'Divide and Destroy' wherein they ceded different parts of erstwhile British India to different countries, separating them from India. The above historical context is important to understand the country's old and close linkages between India and Myanmar, which stand at crossroads as of now. The dynamics of the country are fast changing since the military junta took over power on February 1, 2021, close to two years now, when they dismissed the civilian government running the state of affairs. It was hoped that the initial emergency of a year's duration may result in fresh elections to install a civilian democratic government, but that does not appear to be the intention of the current military government. India has four of its critical northeastern states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram, bordering Myanmar, and therefore the ongoing situation in Myanmar is affecting India 'in general' and these states 'in particular'. As against the 'wait, watch, and then act' response, a more mature and proactive response is the need of the hour. The dynamics of these challenges emanate from the British policy of disregarding human relationships while drawing boundaries between nations. They did it while drawing the British India and Afghanistan border in the form of the 'Durand Line', where Pashtuns and some other tribes were divided on both sides of this line, resulting in even current-day problems between Pakistan and Afghanistan. They did the same while partitioning India and Pakistan by drawing the Radcliffe line with a similar population split into two parts. In this case, it resulted in large-scale migrations and millions of deaths, the scars of which reverberate even today. The same was done by Britishers in the context of Myanmar; first, they disassociated this geographic entity from India on April 1, 1937, though both geographies continued under the British crown till they won their respective independence. The borders were not clearly demarcated, and their larger alignment had the same phenomenon—tribes split on both sides of the border. Though a land border agreement was signed between India and Myanmar on March 10, 1967, and a maritime boundary agreement was signed in 1982, challenges on the land borders are far too many, and they are becoming complicated in the current military regime.

What does Iran's rocking of the status quo mean for West Asia and the world?

Iran has set a new agenda for the region and the rest of the world, even if it is unclear how it is going to make it relevant and work on the ground for long, if not indefinitely. Iran's tri-nation attacks on Pakistan, Iraq and Syria, not necessarily in that order, is possibly the first time that any nation in West Asia has trained its guns on three adversaries simultaneously after Israel in 1967. Of course, Iran is a limited attack at present, but Tehran's strategy would have provided for possible, if not plausible counter-

attacks from one, if not two or all three nations that it had targeted. In the Six-Day War that June 1967, Israel shocked the enemy and surprised the world by destroying Egypt's air force almost completely on the ground, and also took on a half-hearted Jordan, and later Syria, simultaneously, forcing them all to sign a truce pact on Tel Aviv's terms, all within 10 days. This time round, no one is talking about the complete annihilation of Iran's adversary or adversaries, and certainly not their annihilation, as with Egypt's

enmity decades ago. Yet, Iran has set a new agenda for the region and the rest of the world, even if it is unclear how it is going to make it relevant and work on the ground for long, if not indefinitely. For the sheer audacity of the attacks bordering on insanity, Tehran needs to be watched for its subsequent moves, political, diplomatic and military. It's because Tehran is already a pariah to much of the 'international community'. If not on their own, many if not most Western nations look up to the U S for guid-

ance and direction that used to be the UK's until the latter voluntarily abdicated it all in the decades following the Second World War. Iran is now a no-no again after the US had sought to mend fences under President Obama, but has remained intransigent during the incumbency of Joe Biden, who followed in the footsteps of maverick Trump. In a re-election year when Trump is vastly emerging as his Republican challenger, Biden's hands are tied, and his choices limited.

New India champions global gender equality and equity at Davos

As India's economic performance grows, its soft power grows in proportion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the charismatic leader of this 75-year-old republic and ancient civilisational culture, is thought to have answers to the dilemmas of the currently divided and troubled world. From a country that used to deliver unwanted lectures to the world, it is now much sought after. Modi's 'one world family' messaging during the recent G20 year hosted by India, ended by including the 55 nation African Union into its fold. India made the effort, achieved unanimity for the move, and successfully included the most exploited and savaged continent on earth onto the leading global platform where its ills can be addressed. Domestically, the inclusive tone is set by 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Viswas', despite the inevitable mockery and accusations of Hindu triumphalism. Together, these ideas resonate in an old-fashioned way in a world with two ongoing wars, one in Europe and the other in West Asia and the tendency to form opposing axes. A polarisation not seen since WWII is developing in a very worrisome way.

Meanwhile, the fact that India has drawn closer to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel



than ever before, in practical, material, ways, gives the lie to the criticism of Hindu communalism. In addition, America has become a firm strategic partner with military and technological benefits for both. France is now a firm friend and defence manufacturing partner too, along with Russia. Other relationships have also undergone massive positive transformations, such as the one with Japan. Modi, a grey eminence with unbounded energy, in his 73rd year now, is widely regarded as one of the most respected and influential voices in the pantheon of global leaders.

That this global prominence has grown steadily over the last ten years is not surprising. Not only have the prime minister and external affairs minister been indefatigable in their diplomatic efforts, but India has also come from 10th to 5th position in its economy. This fact has given India great credibility.

With a gross domestic product growth of around 7 per cent per annum going forward, India is expected to occupy the 3rd position in the world by 2027. It will be behind only the US and China, with a GDP of \$10 trillion, up from its current \$4 trillion. It is the world's most successful economy now. By 2047, India's 100th year since Independence, it is expected to have become a highly developed country. It will also have multiples of its present per capita income for its vast population, expected to touch 1.70 billion by then. It is expected to have an economy of over \$30 trillion by then. That India's soft power is growing alongside all this is not surprising, nor is it unprecedented. Ancient India was famed for its wealth, the greatest in the ancient world. That it set off a series of marauding conquests and occupations was the other side of the coin not likely to

be repeated in the 21st century. Its cultural, civilisational and dharmic influence spread all over the Far East including China and Japan. Without any aggression, attempt at domination or conquest. West Asia was also heavily influenced by Indian learning and innovation. And not a few so called inventions and discoveries claimed by the West were shamelessly lifted from India without acknowledgement. Davos, used to hosting world's leaders, its finest minds and economic thinkers, for over half a century now, witnessed a major presence from India this year, building on the interest generated last year. This in the presence of leaders from 300 countries. The rate of foreign direct investment into India has trebled, and is slated to grow exponentially into high technology areas such as chip-making, defence manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and other relocations of manufacturing from China. For its latest soft power projection, India deployed the thoroughly confident and articulate Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Smriti Irani. She led the charge for global gender equality and equity. This is the first time a woman minister has been sent to represent India's government, and over 1.4 billion people at Davos. This gender initiative is supported by the

Bill and Melinda Foundation, the Davos Summit founder, and over 10,000 global corporate houses. The gender alliance is intended to bring together global good practices, knowledge sharing, and most importantly, investment in women's health, education, and support for women-led enterprises. Smriti Irani has also recently returned from a path-breaking trip to Mecca and Medina. She had gone there to improve the Indian and Saudi government supported facilities for Indian pilgrims on the Umra or Haj, required of devout Muslims at least once in their lifetime. She was received warmly by the Saudi clerics and authorities, despite being sent out to do what was seen as a 'man's job'. But the whole question of gender equity and equality has had a chequered career in India so far. The government recognises the problems associated with it, and has attacked it at various levels including banning gender determination using sonograms at the pre-birth stage, and the crime of infant matricide/patricide of female children. Later in the trajectory, people are exhorted to educate girl children. The process is working, as gender ratios and school statistics bear out, but there is a long way to go towards equal participation in the workforce.

How 'Financial Times' latest hitjob on Ram Mandir shows new selling point of Western

Thousands of pages of evidence, much of it based on archaeological study, with letters from KK Muhammed of the Archaeological Survey of India, were cited as evidence for the existence of a non-Islamic structure at the site that finally allowed the construction of a temple awaited by Hindus for centuries.

X/ @SriRamJanmBhumi In their latest hit piece against the Indian government, the Financial Times continued their descent into desperation as Indian elections are nearing. Marking the mood of the nation, the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya awaits massive footfall as Hindus across the globe await its grand re-opening and the Pran Pratishthan of Sri Rama after over five centuries. It is this symbol of grand reawaken-

ing that has the British publication seething this time. As it is reclaimed from the violent history of the Turkic-Mongol invader Babar and his hordes of Islamic zealots who destroyed one of the most important sites of Hinduism and a monument reminiscent of centuries of history, it is important to remember the thousands of Hindus who fought to retain the intergenerational memory of the temple by visiting and conducting prayers even through Islamic rule and British imperialism. Generations of the citizens of Ayodhya carried on circumambulating the structure as their ancestors did around the temple, invoking all that the precious site stood for. Numerous attempts to retake it over years

include the Nihang Sikhs led by Baba Fakir Singh conducting a hawan and installing a symbol of Sri Bhagwan (Sri Rama) and writing Ram Ram on the walls of the then taken temple that had a mosque built over it.

In a happenstance of fate and faith coming together, the eighth descendant of Baba Fakir Singh, Baba Harjit Singh Rasalpur will be conducting the "langar sewa" for the thousands of devotees expected on the 22nd of this month. Despite Nihang Sikhs now unfortunately known to kill strangers in rural gurudwaras on mere suspicion of "sacrilege", in ways absolutely unfamiliar to anything preached in Sikhi by the ten Sikh Gurus revered in Sikh and Hindu traditions.

Why BJP deserves credit for Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

"Goli nahin chalegi (police will not open fire)," the late Kalyan Singh remembered his words in a Hindi-language interview in 2009. He was speaking of the time when lakhs of karsevaks had gathered in Ayodhya in December 1992, and he was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. The interviewer was not happy. 'So you let it happen just to save a hundred lives,' he demanded. Again, Kalyan Singh tried to explain. The crowd was in lakhs. If the police had opened fire, there would have been a stampede. Thousands would have died. But the 'liberal' interviewer would not give up on his bloodthirsty line of questioning. 'So what if a thousand people had died?' he asked. 'You let India's secular foundation be hurt just to save a thousand lives?' In case you are wondering, the interviewer was not a representative of the British Empire. Nor was he a lawyer for General Reginald Dyer, who had insisted that the firing at Jallianwala Bagh had been necessary to save the foundations of the Empire. He was just from NDTV. But this is only an example of the attacks that the BJP has faced from the 'secular' establishment over the years. And the sacrifices that the party has made. The disputed structure in Ayodhya fell on December 6, 1992. That evening, Kalyan Singh resigned.



Within hours, the central government, led by the Congress, dismissed the state government. From Ram Mandir to Ram Rajya: Convergence of never-ending faith and good governance. But nobody shed any tears for the elected state government in 1992. The Congress party had ruled India more or less continuously since 1947. In that period, India had become an economic basket case. Compared to the world, the average Indian was now three times poorer than in 1950! The country had been to the IMF seven times to ask for money. The latest was 1991. But for politicians, activists and the media, there was only one villain in 1992. That was the BJP, which stood accused of harming 'secularism'. Well, times change. The date for pran pratishtha at Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has been set for January 22. The ceremony will be performed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, head of the BJP government at the center, elected with full majority in 2014 and 2019. He will be accompanied by Yogi

Adityanath, the BJP chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. As the date approaches, there is joy and excitement across the nation. Hotels in Ayodhya are fully booked. It is just not enough. They are making new ones on a massive scale. The new airport has just been completed. The existing railway station has been expanded to cope with the wave of arrivals. BJP workers and those of the Sangh parivar are going door to door, with akshat (whole rice) in preparation for the grand event. Newspaper reports say that Gita Press in Gorakhpur has run out of copies of Ramcharitmanas. There is no way they can print 4 lakh additional copies in such a short time. Such is the Ram sentiment sweeping the nation. Ram aayenge... Ordinary Hindus understand that this is a historic moment. They instinctively understand the parallels with the return of Ram from 14 years of vanvaas. This time, it has been 500 years. The old secular establishment cannot understand this idiom. They are too cut off from Hindu society.

Hyundai will spend \$4bn on production



Delhi: Hyundai aims to invest \$4 billion (Rs 33,200 crore) in India to increase car manufacturing to one million units and launch a variety of new vehicles and technologies, including electric and batteries, in one of its greatest growth programs. India investments would exceed \$9 billion since the corporation began operations here in 1996. At the World Economic Forum in Davos later this week, the business will tell state government leaders about its acquisition of General Motors' Talegaon facility in Maharashtra.

Hyundai would invest over Rs 26,000 crore in

● **Hyundai, India's second-largest manufacturer, sold over 4 million units in 2023, but other companies are investing in the local market**

Tamil Nadu (its first plant and component ecosystem) and over Rs 7,000 crore in Maharashtra at Talegaon facility.

"We want to grow with India and its people and communi-

ty. "We want to be a homegrown brand," Hyundai India MD & CEO Un Soo Kim announced intentions for a stronger India presence. He spoke after the business released a new Creta premium SUV priced at Rs 11 lakh (ex-showroom).

Hyundai, India's second-largest manufacturer, sold over 4 million units in 2023, but other companies are investing in the local market. Maruti, India's largest automaker, is investing Rs 1.3 lakh crore by 2030-31 in production capacity, new models, electric, powertrains, and a battery plant.

Will fight non-tariff barriers: Piyush Goyal

Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal warned that India will deploy non-tariff obstacles against countries that use these methods, including unnecessary registration and compliance requirements or pesticide norms and levels. My stance on other nations is severe. I have stated that we will put two barriers if you erect them. He mentioned this at a Board of Trade (BoT) meeting where the Centre, states, and business meet.

He advised enterprises to flag these restrictions: "Today we face issues because we do not have data of their (other countries) non-



tariff barriers." India has used some of the instruments to negotiate with trade partners like the EU and the US over textiles, food, and other exports that have faced recurring obstacles due to countries setting their own standards and disrespecting international rules. With the EU and UK utilizing carbon border tax to raise steel and other metal

import taxes, the minister's comment comes as environmental criteria are set.

The government claims these are non-tariff barriers, which are illegal worldwide. Goyal asked the sector for methods to ease business, reduce compliance and logistics costs, decriminalize minor offenses, and attract investments.

Apple overtakes Samsung as world's top smartphone seller

Delhi: Apple has overtaken Samsung as the world's top smartphone seller, ending the Korean tech firm's 12-year run as industry leader. The iPhone took the top spot in 2023 with 234.6m units sold, according to figures from the International Data Corporation (IDC), overtak-

ing Samsung's 226.6m units. IDC said the crowning of Apple, which released the iPhone 15 in September, was due to trends including the increasing popularity of high-end devices, which now account for more than 20% of the market. "The last time a company

not named Samsung was at the top of the smartphone market was 2010, and for 2023 it is now Apple," IDC said. "A sort of shifting of power at the top of the largest consumer electronics market was driven by an all-time high market share for Apple and a first time at the top."

India Slaps 50% Export Duty on Sugar's Molasses

Delhi: The Indian government has implemented a 50% export duty on molasses due to concerns about a potential decrease in domestic sugar production this season. The export duty, effective from January 18, 2024, aims to address the situation, as per an official notification from the Ministry of Finance. Molasses, a by-product of sugar, is crucial for ethanol production, contributing to a greener economy. Cane juice-derived ethanol comprises 25-30% of the total ethanol production, while over 60-65% comes from B heavy molasses. Ethanol from C-heavy molasses and grains makes up the remaining share. Earlier in December, the Food Ministry instructed sugar mills not to use cane juice or syrup for ethanol production.



However, in mid-December, the central government permitted the use of both juice and B-heavy molasses for ethanol production, with a capped diversion of sugar at 17 lakh tones for the current marketing season. India has already introduced 20% blended fuel, E20, in a phased manner starting April 2023, with wider availability anticipated in the coming days.

Indonesia allows Boeing 737 Max 9 planes to resume flying after checks

● **The Alaska Airlines jet had a door plug blow out shortly after takeoff when the plane was at 16,000 feet**



Delhi: Three Boeing (NYSE:BA) 737 Max 9 planes that belong to Indonesia's budget airline Lion Air have been allowed to resume flying after a temporary grounding following the Alaska Airlines incident earlier this month. Transportation Ministry spokesperson Adita Irawati told reporters that following inspections, it was found that the three Boeing 737 Max 9 planes operating under Lion Air

apparently had different configurations with the Alaska Airlines' Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft, which suffered an in-flight blowout earlier this month, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The door system is apparently different from the Alaska Airlines. We have inspected it, communicated with Lion Air and Boeing. They

are allowed to fly again," said the spokesperson. This latest development comes as Boeing is facing a number of issues on its aircraft.

On January 5, the Alaska Airlines jet had a door plug blow out shortly after takeoff when the plane was at 16,000 feet, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the

AWS to invest over \$15 bn in Japan to expand data centres

Delhi: Amazon (NASDAQ:AMZN) Web Services (AWS), the cloud arm of e-commerce giant Amazon, announced that it will invest about \$15.5 billion (about 2.3 trillion yen) in Japan over five years between 2023 and 2027. The company will use the amount to expand data centres -- key facilities for cloud computing services -- and strengthen business operations, reports Nikkei Asia. This comes on top of the 1.51 trillion yen (about \$10.1 billion) that was invested in



Japan to increase cloud capacity between 2011 and 2022. The purpose behind this investment is to tap into the strong demand for cloud computing from Japanese companies and governments. The focus is on responding to genera-

tive AI, which is expected to expand in the future, the report noted.

In May last year, AWS announced plans to invest Rs 1,05,600 crore (\$12.7 billion) into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030 to

meet growing customer demand for cloud services in the country. The investment followed AWS's investment of Rs 30,900 crore (\$3.7 billion) between 2016-2022, bringing AWS's total investment in India to Rs 1,36,500 crore (\$16.4 billion) by 2030. AWS has two data centre infrastructure regions in India -- the AWS Asia Pacific (Mumbai) Region, launched in 2016, and the AWS Asia Pacific (Hyderabad) Region, launched in November 2022.

The Centre warns Amazon on selling sweets as Ayodhya Ram Temple 'Prasad'



Delhi: Amazon was warned by the Centre of "deceptive trade practices" in selling sweets under the name 'Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad.' Amazon was accused by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) of deceiving customers by selling sweets as "prasad" from the Ayodhya Ram Temple, which is yet to be inaugurated.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) says such activities misrepresent product qualities, influencing customers' purchase decisions. "Online food sales that misrepresent product qualities deceive consumers. Such technique falsely affects customers to make purchasing decisions they might not have made if product features were accurately

mentioned." CCPA statement. Amazon lists 'Sri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad - Raghupati Ghee Ladoo, Ayodhya Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad, Khoya Khobi Ladoo, Ram Mandir Desi Cow Milk Peda,' among others. According to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Amazon has seven days to respond to the CCPA's warning or face legal action.

Paytm earns Rs 2,850 Cr and loses Rs 222 Cr in Q3 FY24

● **"The company spent Rs 1.13 every rupee of operating income in Q3 FY24. After hitting a 52-week high at Rs 990 a share in October 2023"**

Delhi: Fintech powerhouse Paytm revealed its third-quarter financial figures for the year ending March 2024. The earnings report shows a slight topline rise and a considerable bottomline improvement. According to its consolidated financial statistics posted on its website, Paytm's income from operations rose 13.2% to Rs 2,850.5 crore in the quarter ended December 2023 from Rs 2,518.6 crore Q2 FY24. Paytm operating revenue rose 38.2% from Q3 FY23's Rs 2,062.2 crore. Merchant payment services accounted for 38% of revenue. Revenue from this ver-



tical rose 69% to Rs 1,081 crore in Q3 FY24 from Rs 640 crore in Q2. The company earned Rs 598 crore from consumer payment services, Rs 514 crore from commerce & cloud services, and Rs 658 crore from other operations in the quarter. Q3 FY24 employee benefit spending were 37% of total expenses. This cost stayed at Rs 1,187.2 crore. This includes Rs 378.5 crore for ESOP. Another large expense was payment processing, which rose 20% to Rs 982.2 crore in Q3, and marketing and promotional, which was Rs 275.2 crore.

Paytm's quarterly software, cloud, and data center costs were Rs 170.4 crore, bringing its overall expenditure to Rs 3216.3 crore, up 9.5%. Q2 FY24 costs totaled Rs 2,936.7 crore.

In Q3, Paytm cut losses by 24% to Rs 221.7 crore from Rs 291.7 crore. Last year's Q3 FY23 loss was Rs 392.1 crore. The company spent Rs 1.13 every rupee of operating income in Q3 FY24. After hitting a 52-week high at Rs 990 a share in October 2023, the company's share price fell to Rs 610 crore in December.

UltraTech Cement Q3 Results: Net profit rises 68% to Rs 1,777 crore

Delhi: Cement manufacturer Ultratech declared its highest-ever profit of Rs 1,777 crore for the quarter ended December, up 68% from Rs 1,058 crore last year. Revenue from operations climbed 8% YoY to Rs 16,740 crore from Rs 15,521 crore in the third quarter of last year. Profit and revenue results were in line with ET Now poll forecasts of Rs 1,725 crore and Rs 16,705 crore, respectively. With 77% capacity utilization, the company's volumes climbed 5% YoY in the reporting quarter. Grey cement domestic volumes rose 5% to 25.44 million tons, while white cement rose 18% to 0.48 million tons. December quarter consolidated sales (including foreign) rose 6% to 27.32 million tons.

My social media followers jumped after 12th Fail released on OTT

Delhi: It is the best time for debutant Medha Shankr, who played the character of Shradha, Manoj's (Vikrant Massey) love interest in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail. She is not only earning praises for her performance but even her social media followers have soared high instantly, from 16K to 1.4M. She says, "It's overwhelming and I feel grateful. When we were making the film, we were proud of what we had made. We knew that the honesty we put into the film would resonate with people, but the kind of response it got was unprecedented." The actor tells us that she is the kind of actor who has never focused on her social media profiles ever before. "Before I was locked in for the film, I had 16K followers because I never cared about Instagram and didn't post content regularly. After the OTT release, it grew massively and it's more than a million now, I am slowly realis-



Sethupathi says his Merry Christmas role with Katrina startled people

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

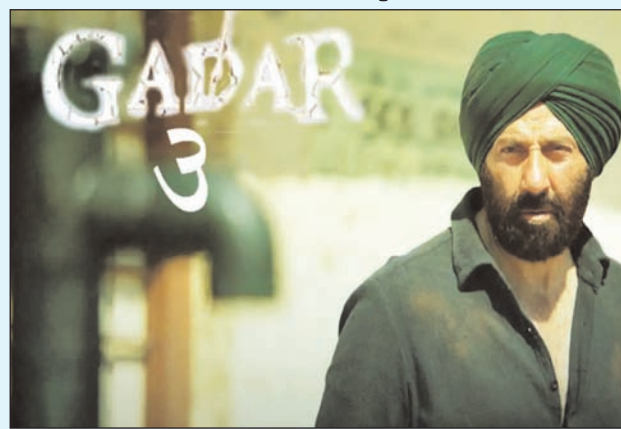
reviewers and audiences love Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas. Katrina recently revealed that she had to research Vijay when the director told her he might place him opposite her.

ing the power of social media," says the 27-year-old, adding, "Now I am understanding that you are considered a star not only because you are a great actor but also because your social media blew up. As an actor, this has become important now. Most importantly, great

opportunities will come my way because the film did well and my performance is being appreciated as well. But, considering social media, we have to agree that it pays a lot, it is a great way to make money on the side. It will open up a lot of brand collaboration for me."

Sunny Deol starts Gadar 3 with Anil Sharma, latest update

Delhi: Sunny Deol's 2023 comeback film Gadar 2 broke records. Gadar 2, starring Ameesha Patel and Utkarsh Sharma, grossed Rs 525.7 crore worldwide. Director Anil Sharma appears ready for Gadar 3. Recently, Zee Studios, Anil Sharma, and Sunny Deol completed the first round of paperwork. An insider told Pinkvilla in its newest exclusive report, "Gadar 2 ended with a promise of Gadar 3 and that wasn't an announcement made for eyeballs. Since the film's premiere, Anil Sharma and his team of writers have been discussing ideas for Gadar's third chapter, and they've finally settled on the



fundamental idea. The source further said the third film will be set during the Indo-Pak conflict, like the others.

The source says expanding the idea involves a lot of writing, but the crew knows where Tara Singh, Sakina, and Jeete's journey will begin in the

third section. If all goes as planned, Gadar 3 might launch by 2025, according to reports. After the box office success of Gadar: Ek Prem Katha and Gadar 2: The Katha Continues, the makers will work hard to make Gadar 3 greater than the others.

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

Prabhas donates Rs 50 crores to Ayodhya Ram Mandir before inauguration



It was reported that Prabhas donated Rs 50 crores to the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. Ayodhya's Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple opens January 22. PM Narendra Modi, Bollywood stars, and athletes are expected to attend the occasion. It's unclear if Prabhas would attend the ceremony, but a viral report claims he gave Rs 50 crores to the temple. Finally, Andhra Pradesh MLA Chirla Jaggireddy said Prabhas will pay for the inaugural meal. A team member commented on the rumors before Prabhas did.

Salaar is now available on OTT in four languages

Delhi: Prabhas' Prashanth Neel-director Salaar was a commercial success after a long period. The film grossed over 600 crores in its theatrical run, bringing fans great relief. Prithviraj Sukumaran played Prabhas' friend. Netflix lets you watch the film in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada with English subtitles.

Ananya Panday says her 'self-belief' is 'pretty low'

Delhi: Ananya Panday is currently garnering applause for her movie Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, that released on OTT a few weeks back. Next, Ananya will be seen in a cyber thriller, tentatively titled Control, directed by Vikramaditya Motwane. In an interview, Ananya opened up on how she is grateful for the opportunity and was in initial shock. She told Galatta Plus that working with Vikram sir was actually a dream for her, because she had watched Udaan countless times, a movie that happened to be her mum's favorite. When her team informed her that Vikram sir wanted to meet her, she initially expressed disbelief, questioning



the purpose of the meeting and wondering if he intended to work with her. Upon meeting him, Ananya even asked, 'Are you sure you're directing this film?' It took her some time to register the fact that she was working with Vikram sir. Ananya further admitted that self-belief is very low in her. She's

a validation-seeking sort of person. So even when on set, she needs her directors to confirm like 10 times that the shot was okay. She's always like, 'Was it okay? Should I do one more?' Even when someone praises her work or compliments her, her first reaction is, 'Really? Are you sure? Me?' So she has that, which she's trying to get better at. She doesn't know where it comes from. She thinks it's always been in her personality. Motwane, known for critical hits such as 'Udaan', 'Lootera', 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero' and 'AK vs. AK', said his new movie has a modern-day appeal and is very relevant for the current times.

Throwback! Nysa corrected Paps to pronounce her name correctly

Delhi: With time, paparazzi are known to call celebrities hysterically to draw their attention, and celebs playfully engage with them. Throwback to the time when, in the previous year, in yet another playful episode of celebrity encounters, the paparazzi managed to capture the lively moments of Nysa Devgan and Orry, who recently made a splash on social media with their delightful rendezvous with Bollywood celebrities. The duo was spotted at a bustling restaurant in Bandra,



creating quite a stir as they left in their car. Nysa Devgan is the daughter of the famous Bollywood couple Ajay Devgn and Kajol, and being a star kid, she is accustomed to the limelight and was the talk of the town for the hilari-

ous way that the paparazzi mispronounced her name. "Mera naam Nysa hai" is how Nysa playfully asked the photographers to pronounce her name correctly in an earnest but slightly annoyed way, displaying a hint of

confusion at the ongoing misunderstandings of her name. 'Nysa', a version used by many, received a correction from the young celebrity herself. With a dash of humour, she hopped inside the vehicle and clarified that her name was not Nysa. Adding to the entertaining episode is Orry, a multi-talented person known for his work as an executive assistant, fashion designer, composer, social media influencer, shopper, and, at times, football player. His unique profile has drawn notice.

'Fighter' to screen teasers for 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' and 'Shaitaan'



Delhi: The countdown has begun for the much-anticipated release of the first mega film of 2024, 'Fighter' starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, directed by Siddharth Anand. Advance bookings for the film opened on Saturday, and within a short period, 5,000 tickets have already been sold. The audience is eagerly looking forward to 'Fighter' and producers are capitalising on this confi-

dence by providing glimpses of their upcoming projects to keep the audience engaged. a close source revealed that a 1-minute 41-second teaser of Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff's 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' will be screened with 'Fighter' and said that while the teaser is not hard attached to the prints of 'Fighter'; the producers of BMCM - Vashu and Jacky Bhagnani have struck a deal with the national

chains as also some of the single screen associations to screen the teaser before the film or in the interval. The source further added that 'Shaitaan' is a supernatural thriller and the makers want to reach out to a wide section of the audience with their first teaser. It's a tight spooky cut and has some shock element too. While the digital launch will take place soon, the theatrical experience for the 'Shaitaan' teaser begins from January 25.

Salman strikes a pose with legendary Hollywood star Anthony Hopkins in Riyadh

Delhi: Salman Khan recently attended an award show in Riyadh where he was invited by the dignitaries to be a special guest. Now, a photo of the Bollywood star posing with legendary Hollywood star Anthony Hopkins has gone viral on the internet. Salman Khan donned a lavender shirt paired with a violet-grey suit, complemented by a moustache and beard. He graced the stage to present an award to a senior Egyptian actor. Notably, in 2022, Salman had previously been honored with the Personality of the Year award at the same event. Apart from Salman, Alia Bhatt also made her presence felt at the event. Dressed in her stylish best, the 'Darling' actress made heads turn at the event with her charm and beauty. Meanwhile, Salman Khan's latest release was 'Tiger 3' during Diwali, and it achieved a remarkable gross business of Rs 466.63 crore worldwide. Salman Khan, Arhaan Khan, Helen & More arrive for Arbaaz Khan's wife Shura Khan's birthday bash. Speaking to ANI on the occasion, Salman expressed his joy, saying, "The Tiger franchise has received widespread love since



Confirmed! Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal' to release on OTT with extended cut

Delhi: The rumours are true! Ranbir Kapoor's blockbuster film, 'Animal,' is set to make its digital debut with an extended cut now! The film which makes its long-awaited OTT debut on Netflix, on Republic Day, January 26,

the first film, whether in theaters, on satellite, or on streaming platforms! It's amazing to see how the third installment, Tiger 3, was initially a hit in theaters and is now being appreciated on streaming platforms. I stay connected with my audi-

2024, will release with some new footage. Amidst buzz that the film has an extended cut, reports now confirm that the OTT release will be a few minutes longer than the original theatrical release, generating renewed excitement among fans.

ence through social media, and I can see the overwhelming love now that Tiger 3 is available on OTT. As an actor, my main and only job is to thoroughly entertain people, and I'm happy that Tiger 3 is bringing joy to audiences worldwide."

Shoaib and Sania divorce: What went wrong in the paradise

A few days ago, rumours of the former captain of the Pakistan cricket team, Shoaib Malik, and ace Indian tennis star Sania Mirza's divorce resurfaced again when Sania shared a cryptic post about marriage and divorce. "Marriage is hard. Divorce is hard. Choose your hard," Sania's post read. And now, on January 20, 2024, Shoaib Malik surprised everyone by posting pictures of his wedding with Pakistani actress Sana Javed on social media. Sana Javed too took to Instagram where she shared her wedding pictures with Shoaib Malik. She even changed her name on Instagram to Sana Shoaib Malik. Just before Shoaib Malik got married to Sania Mirza in 2010, a woman named Ayesha Siddiqui from Hyderabad, India claimed that she had been married to the Pakistani cricketer since 2002, and this had created a huge controversy back then.

You can't bat again...': Villiers on Rohit second Super Over batting



NEW DELHI: The question on everyone's mind during the third and final India-Afghanistan T20I was whether Rohit Sharma had retired hurt or was retired out. In the penultimate ball of the first Super Over, the Indian skipper walked back, leaving fans curious about the nature of his departure. Rohit, who made a return to the T20I series after more than a year, faced challenges in the first two matches, being dismissed without troubling the scorers. However, in the third T20I, he made a solid comeback and scored a remarkable 121* off 69 balls, propelling India to a total of 212

for 4 in 20 overs. Afghanistan then matched India's score of 212, leading to a Super Over at the J. A. M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. In the first Super Over, Afghanistan set a target of 16 runs. Chasing 17 to win, Rohit, having scored 13 runs in the fifth delivery, was retired out. The Super Over concluded in a tie, prompting another Super Over. Rohit's return to bat in the second Super Over sparked a massive debate. According to the rules, if a player is not declared out in the first Super Over, they are eligible to bat

again. So, how did Rohit manage to bat again in the second Super Over? South Africa batting legend AB de Villiers clarified that one cannot bat again if declared out in the first Super Over. However, he emphasised that Rohit was retired hurt, permitting him to bat in the second Super Over. "Double Super Over unbelievable (smiles). You can't bat again if you are declared out in the first super over. I think maybe they will claim that he was retired hurt due to an injury and maybe it was a scoring mistake to show him out," De Villiers said on his YouTube channel.

IND vs ENG: Kohli inches closer to another milestone

NEW DELHI: India batting star Virat Kohli already has a plethora of records to his name and the run machine is on the verge of adding another feather to his illustrious cap. Virat recently broke master blaster Sachin Tendulkar's record of most ODI centuries during the ICC ODI World Cup 2023. The 35-year-old notched up his 50th ODI century against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in November last year, going past Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries. Virat's next assignment is the five-match Test series against England and the 35-year-old is



set to complete 9000 Tests so far and needs 152 to reach the milestone. If he manages to score 152 or more runs, he will still remain fourth in the most run-getters tally of Indian batsmen. He has 29 fifties and 30 centuries under his belt.

The opening Test of the five-Test series between India and England will begin in Hyderabad on January 25. Virat, who is the fourth-highest run-getter for India in Tests, has 8848 runs in 113

Dhoni's tips will help me...': Jurel, son of Kargil war veteran

NEW DELHI: Dhruv Chand Jurel became a household name in Agra's Defence Colony when he captained the India Under-19 team to win the Asia Cup title in September 2019. He was famous as 'Captain Dhruv' in his locality. If you ask for Dhruv there,

in the Defence Colony, people will help you reach his doorstep. Recently, the buzz has returned to his residence. Now, if you ask locals about him, they will say Dhruv, jo Virat aur Rohit ke saath khelne wala hai (Dhruv, the one who is set to

play alongside Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma) A Kargil war veteran's son, Jurel, who represents Rajasthan Royals in IPL, was given a call-up to the Test team for the upcoming series against England, starting in Hyderabad on January 25.

Gavaskar feels Virat Kohli could be the difference in India vs England

In Test cricket, Virat Kohli boasts an impressive record of 29 centuries and 30 fifties, a fact highlighted by the legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar. Gavaskar suggests that Kohli's remarkable consistency and conversion rate may play a pivotal role in determining the outcome of the upcoming five-match Test series. Emphasizing further, Gavaskar anticipates a tough challenge for the aggression-driven 'Bazball' approach, especially against the



Indian spinners who enjoy the advantage of playing in spin-friendly home conditions. England have been pretty vocal about their successful 'Bazball' tactics ever since former

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, nicknamed 'Baz', took over the coaching job of the English Test team. But batting legend Sunil Gavaskar believes that India has

'Viratball' to counter the visiting team's aggressive approach to Test cricket. "With Virat Kohli, he has as a similar amount of hundreds and fifties (in Tests). That means he has a good conversion rate. The way he's been batting, his movement looks good. With the form that he's in, we have Viratball to counter Bazball," said Gavaskar, Speaking to Star Sports ahead of the first Test that begins January 25 in Hyderabad.

Ashwin one of the...': Michael Atherton

NEW DELHI: Former England opener Michael Atherton predicted an India series win against England, pointing out that spinners will play a big part and the hosts have a better spin-heavy bowling attack. The five-match series begins on January 25 in Hyderabad and the England team -- currently sweating out at a training camp in Abu Dhabi -- is scheduled to land in India on Monday. India have R Ashwin leading the spin attack and veteran offie will be having the assistance of Ravindra Jadeja,



Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel against the Englishmen Atherton hailed the 'very different' India spin attack and went on to label Ashwin as one of the greatest of all time. "I think India will win. Their spinners are better than England's, and that will be the defining

thing in the end. If you go to India, spin will play a big part, it historically has done and I suspect it always will do. India do have a very strong seam attack as well. India's four spinners are very different to England's. They have two left-arm finger spinners in Ravindra Jadeja and

Axar Patel. They have a wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin is one of the greatest spinners of all time," Atherton said on Sky Sports. "England have a solid left-arm spinner in Jack Leach and then three very inexperienced spinners after that with Tom Hartley, Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed. It will be a particular challenge for them but the selectors see a high ceiling for them," Atherton added. The last time India lost a series at home was in 2012 when England won 2-1.

Dan Lawrence to join England squad for India series as Brook returns home



NEW DELHI: Middle-order batter Dan Lawrence was on Sunday added to the England squad as a replacement for Harry Brook for the upcoming 5-Test series against India, starting January 25 in Hyderabad. The replacement comes after Brook withdrew from the squad citing personal reasons. Brook has already returned home the ECB

announced earlier in the day. Brook had travelled to Abu Dhabi with the team for a preparatory camp ahead of the series. Lawrence, a 26-year-old from Surrey, will join the rest of his teammates on Monday before travelling to India. "Harry Brook is set to return home with immediate effect for personal reasons from the England Men's Test tour of

India. He will not be returning to India," the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement. "The Brook family respectfully requests privacy during this time. In light of this, the ECB and the family kindly request the media and the public to respect their wish for privacy and refrain from intruding on their private space," it further said.

Premier League: Sheffield United hold West Ham thanks to late penalty drama

Oli McBurnie scored a penalty 12 minutes into stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Sheffield United against West Ham in chaotic climax at Bramall Lane on Sunday. Both sides were also shown red cards in injury time as West Ham threw away the chance to close to within six points of the top four. Twice David Moyes' men led through Maxwel Cornet and James Ward-Prowse's penalty. But Ben Brereton Diaz's strike on his Premier League debut for the Blades and McBurnie's late spot-kick edged them to within seven points of safety. The visitors were without the injured Lucas Paqueta and Michail Antonio, suspended Said Benrahma and Mohammed Kudus, who is representing Ghana at the Africa Cup of Nations. Their absence was felt as West Ham failed to gain control of the game in blustery conditions. But they went in front



when Cornet smashed home his first goal for the club after Danny Ings' deflected shot looped up at the back post. Diaz failed to score a single goal during his six-month spell at Villarreal, but has made an quick impact on his return to English football. The Chile international reacted quickest to fire home the rebound after Alphonse Areola denied William Osula. Diaz missed a great chance at the start of the second period

to turn the game around. But Sheffield United looked destined for a 16th defeat in 21 Premier League games this season when Gustavo Hamer's ill-timed challenge on Ings conceded a penalty 12 minutes from time and Ward-Prowse coolly slotted home the spot-kick. The home side's hopes appeared to have gone when Rhian Brewster was shown a straight red card for a wild challenge on Emerson Palmieri after a VAR review.

Keshav Maharaj's special message ahead of Pran Pratishtha

NEW DELHI: Legendary cricketers Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad have reached Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh to attend the Ram Temple 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony on Monday. The star-studded guest list for the event includes Sachin Tendulkar, World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev, the 'little master' Sunil Gavaskar, as well as Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Sourav Ganguly, Virendra Sehwag, and Indian cricket coach Rahul Dravid. In anticipation of this special occasion, South Africa's star spinner Keshav Maharaj conveyed a beautiful message to the Indian community a day before the Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha ceremony. Maharaj shared a video message on social media, expressing his sentiments. "Namaste everyone. I just want to wish Mahesh (diplomat) and the Indian community here in South Africa all the best for the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya tomorrow.

CAPSULES

Ahead of consecration ceremony, preparations for celebrations start in all big temples of the country

Ayodhya

As the much-anticipated consecration ceremony of Lord Rama in the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya is only a few hours away, preparations for celebrations have started in temples across the country. Prior to the event on January 22, various temples have appealed to devotees to celebrate Deepotsav, engage in bhajan-kirtan, and focus on the Shri Ram Sadhana on this day. It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have also urged people to clean and sanitize their nearby temples and participate in chanting the name of Lord Rama before this event. Additionally, everyone is encouraged to illuminate the Ram Jyoti in their homes through the festival of Deepotsav. Greetings for the new Diwali have been extended to the entire country from the social media handle X of Salasar Balaji Dham Temple. The post from the handle mentions that the moment of having the darshan of Ram Lalla in his temple in Ayodhya, which the country has been waiting for over 500 years, has arrived. The Lord will now be seated on his throne. Every devotee of Lord Rama is urged to dedicate themselves to the service of the lord by writing 'Jai Shri Ram', it adds. Similarly, from the official handle X of Shri Mahakaleswar Ujjain, a post featuring the image of Lord Rama has been shared, describing his divine presence. Meanwhile, the Kedarnath Temple Shrine Board shares an image of the idol of Lord Rama to be consecrated with the caption "Mere Raghav." Appeal to celebrate with great enthusiasm Greetings have been extended to all devotees of Lord Rama from the official handle of Kashi Vishwanath Temple as well for the historic occasion of the consecration ceremony scheduled for January 22. An appeal has also been made for all citizens to celebrate this festival with great enthusiasm. People are encouraged to clean the surrounding temples, engage in bhajan-kirtan and celebrate Deepotsav by lighting lamps collectively after sunset. Various other temples have also appealed to people to celebrate the occasion through their social media handles. A picture of the grand temple of Shri Ram Lalla was shared from the account of 12 Jyotirlinga of Mahadev. The post says that Shri Ram Janmabhoomi is being decorated with flowers to welcome Ram Lalla. Alongside, an appeal has been made through the Bhagavad Gita for followers to comment "Jai Shri Ram" 1008 times in response to the image of Lord Rama's idol. Followers are also urged to like, share, and spread the post.

Entire India will be visible in Ayodhya on January 22

Ayodhya

The historic moment that has been awaited for 500 years will finally turn into a reality on January 22. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself took charge of the entire arrangement for the grand event. He monitored the arrangements regularly and gave instructions to organize the event successfully. On January 22, the whole of India will be seen in Ayodhya. There will be cultural performances by 200 artists from the regional cultural centers of the Ministry of Culture. The performances will introduce guests to the cultures of Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, along with the host state Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, artists like Malini Awasthi and Kanhaiya Mittal will grace the colorful evening. There will also be eco-friendly fireworks and laser show at Ram Ki Paidi. Following the consecration ceremony, various events will be organized in Ayodhya. This includes Rameela by Shri Ram Bharti Kala Kendra at Ramkatha Park from 6 pm onwards. Following this, under the guidance of the Tourism Department, from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Sarayu Aarti will take place at Ram Ki Paidi. Until 7:00 pm, a projection show is scheduled on the same platform. From 7:00 to 7:45 in evening, there will be a laser show on Ram Ki Paidi. After this, an eco-friendly fireworks display will be presented. In the evening, the atmosphere, will turn melodious with Padma Shri Malini Awasthi and Kanhaiya Mittal performing. From 8:00 to 9:00 pm at Tulsi Udyan, Malini Awasthi will be presenting her program. During the same period, Kanhaiya Mittal will be presenting Ram Katha at Ramkatha Park.

Consecration ceremony to begin with 'Mangal Dhvani' on January 22

Ayodhya

In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to make the consecration ceremony of Lord Ram in Ayodhya a historic event, arrangements have been made to begin the ceremony with 'Mangal Dhvani' (auspicious sound) on January 22. More than 50 enchanting musical instruments from various states will be played for almost 2 hours to produce Mangal Dhvani. This grand musical program will be a significant occasion for every Indian, symbolizing the unity of diverse traditions in honor of Lord Ram. This auspicious musical program is conceived by Yatindra Mishra, a renowned author, Ayodhya's cul-



tural expert, and an artist. He is also the coordinator of the program. He has been supported in this work by Kendriya Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi. Musical performance will begin right before the Muhurta on the sacred and historic occasion of the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, 'Mangal

composed to bring joy and to mark auspiciousness of an occasion and produced before the deity.

He said that in this context, the consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram is a proud moment for every Indian, and to mark this grand occasion, traditional musical instruments from various regions and states of India will be played to produce Mangal Dhvani in front of Shri Ram Lalla. This consecration ceremony will be concluded in Ayodhya with the auspicious playing of twenty-five prominent and rare musical instruments from different states. It will be presented by artists skilled in those languages.

After consecration, Mahaprasad made of pure desi ghee will be given to the guests

Ayodhya

In a few hours from now, the consecration ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla will be taking place at the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya Dham. The Yogi government has decorated Ayodhya Dham like a bride to make the ceremony grand and divine. As part of the preparations, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has readied 'Mahaprasad' for the VIP guests, who will be



attending the Pran Pratishtha programme. The Mahaprasad will be given to the guests after Pran Pratishtha. Apart from this, food prepared with desi ghee will also be served to

the guests on the temple premises. Mahaprasad is being prepared by Gujarat's saffron army called 'Bharti Garvi Gujarat' and Sant Seva Sansthan under the guidance of

Shri Ram Janbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. National President of the institute, Kamal Bhai Rawal said that three responsibilities have been assigned to him by the Trust, including preparing Mahaprasad along with making arrangements for the stay and food of the saints. He added that Mahaprasad has been prepared with more than 5,000 kg of ingredients by a team of about 200 people.

Yogi govt strengthens measures against cyber fraud linked to Ram Temple

Ayodhya

Amid the growing concern over surge in cybercriminal activity related to the consecration program of Lord Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya Dham, the Yogi Government has sprung into action to deal with the issue. As false messages claiming to collect donations for Ram Janmabhoomi, along with deceptive promises of providing free Prasad, VIP passes and entry passes, are circulating, the Yogi government is

taking proactive measures to address and counteract these malicious activities. Instructions have been issued to the entire state police, particularly Ayodhya Police, to maintain heightened vigilance. In a recent incident, Ayodhya Police acted swiftly, arresting an Indian American citizen involved in similar activities and putting him in jail under relevant sections. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is

also alerting all devotees about these deceptive practices. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust cautions people. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has issued an appeal to all the devotees to not respond to requests or WhatsApp messages from unknown individuals without verification and to avoid making donations without proper authentication, highlighting the various cyber fraud.

Majestic greenery from Maharashtra adorns the Ram Janmabhoomi Complex

Ayodhya

Leading up to the consecration ceremony, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex is undergoing a divine transformation with the plantation of 7,500 saplings brought from Maharashtra. As the consecration program, scheduled for January 22, approaches, more than eight thousand visitors, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, are expected to be captivated by the lush greenery within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department are collaborating to decorate the premises with seven and a half thousand pots containing various indigenous and foreign flowers. The burst of colors springing from these plants aims to captivate visitors within the temple courtyard, providing an experiential journey reminiscent of the Ramayana period. Campus adorned with over 7500 plants from Maharashtra in preparation for the consecra-

tion of Shri Ram Lalla on January 22, the entire complex is elaborate decorations. Alongside flower decorations, more than seven and a half thousand pots and plants have been brought in from Maharashtra, enhancing the premises. The fragrance of the trees and plants is poised to mesmerize visitors. The Forest Department, under the directives of Teerth Kshetra Trust and Chief Minister Yogi, is diligently undertaking preparations. Plants enhancing the grandeur of the campus. The Ram Mandir premises.

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Culture Department has made all preparations to accord a grand welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. To make this occasion grand and historic, 2500 folk artists will perform on 100 stages prepared by the Culture Department. Through various forms of dance, music, and singing, they will showcase the splendor of Treta Yuga in Ayodhya. A rehearsal for this event was conducted

CM Yogi takes selfie with sand sculpture of Lord Ram in Ayodhya

Ayodhya

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath saw the sand sculpture of Lord Shri Ram created by Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik in Ayodhya on Sunday and also took a selfie here with the sculpture.



The sand sculpture has been awarded the certificate of the largest sand sculpture of Lord Shri Ram by the World Records Book of India. CM Yogi presented this certificate to Shradha Shukla, Director of State Lalit Kala Academy, on Sunday. It is noteworthy that on the occasion of Ramotsav 2024, a sand art camp was organized by the State Lalit Kala Academy, Uttar Pradesh Culture Department. Renowned sand artist Padmashree Sudarsan Pattnaik, resident of Puri, Odisha, had built it along with his team, including Santosh Kumar Nayak, Bulu Mohanty, Jitendra, Pramod Biswal, Maheshwar, Kenny Kawasi and Vishbar Pattnaik. The sculpture measures 55 feet in length, 35 feet in width, and 23 feet in height. This artistic creation, depicting Lord Rama, is aligned with the upcoming arrival of Lord Rama in Ayodhya after 500 years, and it incorporates 500 miniature artworks of the Ram Temple. Also present on the occasion were Cabinet Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, and Avinish Awasthi, among others.

Ayodhya to be equipped with 200 TPD solid waste management facility

Ayodhya

In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to develop Ayodhya as the most beautiful and cleanest city, the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation has started the process of establishing a Solid Waste Management Facility with the capacity of handling 200 tonnes per day (TPD) of the waste generated. The establishment of the plant is part of the implementation of the action plan for efficient management of waste disposal and solid waste management in Ayodhya, which was approved by CM Yogi.

Parking arrangements made for over 22K vehicles at 51 places in Ayodhya for consecration

Ayodhya

The Yogi government has made comprehensive arrangements for parking at 51 designated locations in Ayodhya Dham for the Shri Ram Lala Pran Pratishtha ceremony. With a capacity for 22,825 vehicles, these places are conveniently marked on Google Maps to facilitate access of guests. Special parking provisions have been made for VVIPs, VIPs, and other guests, ensuring a well-organized and

equipped setup, including wireless and PA systems. Parking arrangements have been made at following places ADG Traffic BD Paulson informed that 51 places have been identified to park the vehicles of the guests coming for Shri Ram Lala Pran Pratishtha program in Ayodhya Dham. The designated locations offer simultaneous parking for approximately 22,825 vehicles. These include 5 spots on Rampath, 1 on

Bhakti Path marg, 4 on Dharma Path marg, 5 on Parikrama Marg, 2 on Bandha Marg, 1 on Tehri Bazaar Rampath to Mahobra Marg and 7 places on Tehri Bazaar Rampath to Unwal Marg. Additionally, parking arrangements cover two spots on the Ayodhya to Gonda route, ten on NH 27, seven in Tirtha Kshetra Puram, three around Karsevak Puram tent city, and four at Ramkatha Mandapam tent city.

2500 folk artists set to perform on 100 stages in Ayodhya to welcome Lord Ram

Ayodhya

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Culture Department has made all preparations to accord a grand welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. To make this occasion grand and historic, 2500 folk artists will perform on 100 stages prepared by the Culture Department. Through various forms of dance, music, and singing, they will showcase the splendor of Treta Yuga in Ayodhya. A rehearsal for this event was conducted

on January 21. In the presence of the Prime Minister on January 22 in Ayodhya, Lord Ram will be seated in his divine and grand temple. A grand welcome will be accorded to PM Modi on his arrival. The cultural program will be held on 100 platforms including in front of Airport Gate Number 3, in front of Gurudev Palace, in front of Disha Coaching, in front of Jeevan Sathi Marriage Lawn, Sanket Puri Mod, before and after Mahobra Bridge, in front of Mahesh Yogi Ramayana, in front of Surya Palace Hotel, Janaki Rasoi Multi-level

Parking, Saket Petrol Pump, towards Lata Chowk, from Lata Chowk towards Shriram Path, in front of Ram Janmabhoomi Gate Number 1, from Arundhati Complex to Tedhi Bazaar intersection next to LED Wall, near Gate No. 1 of Saket Degree College, next to the Circuit House Gate, Rampath Pramada, Parag Dairy, from Shri Ram Mandir Gate towards Lata Chowk, Hotel Raja Ram Palace. Entire Uttar Pradesh will be seen in Ayodhya. Not only Awadh, but entire Uttar Pradesh.